

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Thursday, September 15, 2016  
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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCES  
“A CONCERT OF GRATITUDE”  
WITH THANKS FROM RUTH A. FELT**  
(SFP Founder/President emeritus)

**FEATURING  
THE ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET  
PIANIST MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN  
VIOLINIST MIDORI**

**SUNDAY, OCT 23, 2016 | 7:00PM | HERBST THEATRE | ALL SEATS \$37**



*Top: Alexander String Quartet; Bottom L-R: pianist Marc-André Hamelin and violinist Midori*

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Thursday, September 15, 2016. San Francisco Performances (SFP) announces a special **“Concert of Gratitude”** on **Sunday, October 23, 2016, at 7pm, Herbst Theatre**. This concert is SFP founder and president emeritus **Ruth A. Felt’s** expression of thanks to Bay Area audiences for their support of the organization she founded 37 years ago.

“It has been an honor and a privilege for me to build San Francisco Performances from its inception in 1979 to become the vibrant, internationally regarded performing arts organization it is today. The artists we have introduced to our audiences have helped shape the rich cultural landscape of the Bay Area. I am tremendously proud of this legacy, and grateful to all of you for your support. I hope you will share this special evening with me, as a gift of thanks to you,” offers Felt.

This celebratory program features some of the artists who are most closely associated with Ruth Felt’s legacy and her artistic vision—the **Alexander String Quartet**, pianist **Marc-André Hamelin** and violinist **Midori**.

**The program for the evening is as follows:**

**BEETHOVEN:** Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Serioso, Op. 95  
*Alexander String Quartet*

**BRAHMS:** Intermezzi, Op. 117  
*Marc-André Hamelin, piano*

**BACH:** Sonata No. 1 in G minor for Solo Violin, BWV 1001  
*Midori, violin*

**SCHUMANN:** Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44  
*Marc-André Hamelin, piano & Alexander String Quartet*

Tickets for this special concert will be priced at a symbolic \$37 for any seat in Herbst Theatre and will be reserved seating. Tickets will go on sale **September 22**, and can be purchased online at [sfperformances.org](http://sfperformances.org) or by phone at **415-392-2545**.

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### **Alexander String Quartet**

Having celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 2011, the **Alexander String Quartet** has performed in the major music capitals of five continents, securing its standing among the world's premiere ensembles. Widely admired for its interpretations of Beethoven, Mozart, and Shostakovich, the quartet's recordings of the Beethoven cycle (twice), and the Bartók and Shostakovich cycles have all won international critical acclaim. The quartet has also established itself as an important advocate of new music through over 25 commissions from such composers as Jake Heggie, Cindy Cox, Augusta Read Thomas, Robert Greenberg, Martin Bresnick, César Cano, and Pulitzer Prize-winner, Wayne Peterson. A new work by Tarik O'Reagan commissioned for the Alexander by the Boise Chamber Music Series, will have its premiere in 2016.

The Alexander String Quartet is a major artistic presence in its home base of San Francisco, **servicing since 1989 as Ensemble-in-Residence for San Francisco Performances** and Directors of the Morrison Chamber Music Center in the College of Liberal and Creative Arts at San Francisco State University.

### **Marc-André Hamelin**

Pianist **Marc-André Hamelin** is ranked among the elect of world pianists for his unrivaled blend of musicianship and virtuosity in the great works of the established repertoire, as well as for his intrepid exploration of the rarities of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries—in concert and on disc.

Hamelin was inducted into the *Gramophone* Hall of Fame in June 2015. Also awarded the 2006 lifetime achievement prize by the German Record Critic's Award (*Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik*), Hamelin has recorded some 70 CDs for the Hyperion label, most recently a double disc of Mozart Sonatas and two recordings with the Takács Quartet featuring the piano quintets by Shostakovich and Franck. Hamelin's discography ranges from the neglected masterpieces of Alkan, Ives, Medtner and Roslavets to brilliantly received performances of Schumann, Brahms, Chopin, and Debussy. A series of recordings of Haydn sonatas and concertos was particularly well-received, putting Hamelin on "the shortlist of most revelatory Haydn interpreters on record" (*BBC Music Magazine*, June 2015).

**Marc-André Hamelin made his SFP debut in 2003** and returns later in the 2016-17 season with Leif Ove Andsnes for a two-piano/four-hands recital on **Tuesday, April 25, 7:30pm, 2017 at Herbst Theatre**.

### **Midori**

Midori is one of the legendary violinists of this generation. In addition to performing at the highest levels internationally, she has also been recognized by the United Nations and the World Economic Forum for her exceptional commitment to education and community engagement throughout the USA, Europe, Asia and the developing world. More recently, Midori has been making a sustained commitment to the violin repertoire of the future, commissioning several new concerto and recital works.

Midori is recognized as an extraordinary performer, a devoted and gifted educator and an innovative community engagement activist. In 1992 she founded Midori & Friends, a non-profit organization in New York which brings music education programs

to underserved New York City schoolchildren in every borough each year. Two other organizations, Music Sharing, based in Japan, and Partners in Performance, based in the U.S., also bring music closer to the lives of people who may not otherwise have involvement with the arts. Her commitment to community collaboration and outreach is further realized in her Orchestra Residences Program. In 2007, she was named a Messenger of Peace by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

**Midori made her SFP debut in 1998**, and most recently appeared in March 2013, performing Bach's complete solo works for the violin.

#### **About Ruth A. Felt**

Before founding San Francisco Performances, Felt was the Company Administrator for the San Francisco Opera Association from 1971 to 1979. Prior to that time, she served as Assistant Concert Manager for the UCLA Department of Fine Arts Productions for five years, and as an assistant in speechwriting in the Office of Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States. A native of Willmar, Minnesota, Felt received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from UCLA in 1961.

Felt has served on the Board of Directors of Chamber Music America and the International Society for the Performing Arts. She was a founding board member for Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS. Currently she serves on the Advisory Boards of the San Francisco Community Music Center and Omni Foundation for the Performing Arts.

In January 2005 Felt received Chamber Music America's highest honor: the Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award; and from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, the William Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence.

Felt announced her retirement in 2015 and was succeeded August 1, 2016 by Melanie Smith as President of San Francisco Performances.

#### **About San Francisco Performances**

San Francisco Performances (SFP) is recognized as one of the leading presenters in the world. Founded by Ruth A. Felt in 1979 with a season of seven concerts, the organization is now in its 37<sup>th</sup> season under the artistic direction of its president, Melanie Smith, who succeeded Ms. Felt in August 2016. SFP proudly features more than 60 mainstage performances of chamber music, recitals, contemporary dance, guitar, vocal, and jazz in a variety of venues in San Francisco including Herbst Theatre, Davies Symphony Hall, YBCA Theater, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, SFJAZZ Center, the Strand Theater and St. John's Presbyterian Church (Berkeley). The organization also presents two smaller series; one held at the Hotel Rex in Union Square called SALONS and the other held in varying venues throughout San Francisco, called PIVOT. Through the years, SFP has presented more than 100 premieres and San Francisco debuts, introducing such acclaimed artists in recital as composer/pianist Thomas Adès, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, pianist Evgeny Kissin, and soprano Dawn Upshaw as well as presenting single choreographer-led international dance companies such as Ohad Naharin's Batsheva Dance Company from Israel and Company Wayne McGregor from England.

Through successful partnerships with artists, Bay Area schools and community organizations, SFP has also established one of the most recognized and respected performing arts education programs in the country. Anchored by the artist residency program that brings artists into classrooms and community workshops, the arts education projects help expose new audiences, young and old, to the great performers of our time. SFP's outreach promotes active engagement with the performing arts, deepening the experience while opening events to diverse audiences.

#### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

(Please include [our name as the presenter](#) and check to be sure you have [our updated website address](#)--many thanks!)

#### **SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

##### ***A Concert of Gratitude***

WHEN: Sunday, October 23, 2016, 7:00pm

WHERE: Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister)

TICKETS: All seats \$37

CONTACT: **415-392-2545** or [sfperformances.org](http://sfperformances.org)

For more information, hi-resolution images or to book an interview with Ruth Felt or SFP President Melanie Smith

please contact Nancy Bertossa at  
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