

37TH SEASON



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, August 5, 2016

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Edgar Meyer

Brentano String Quartet

Sol Gabetta

Christian Gerhaher

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES 2016 FALL SCHEDULE

Debuts, Premieres and Audience Favorites Highlight the Fall Season

*A **Heartfelt Gala** honoring Founder Ruth A. Felt upon her retirement (Sept 30)*

*Pianist and curator **Jonathan Biss** with **Brentano String Quartet** present the first two of thematic four-part concert series "Late Style" exploring composers' late works (Oct 15 & 19)*

*San Francisco Performances Debut of **Dover Quartet** with double bassist **Edgar Meyer** including premiere of Meyer's landmark Quintet for Strings (Oct 30)*

*SF debut of Argentinian cellist **Sol Gabetta** with Italian pianist **Alessio Bax** (Nov 15)*

*Jazz composer-pianist **Arturo O'Farrill** in a rare solo appearance (Nov 19)*

*The return of the **Los Angeles Guitar Quartet** (Dec 9)*

*The return of German baritone **Christian Gerhaher** with pianist **Gerold Huber** in an all-Mahler program (Dec 13)*

www.sfperformances.org

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – August 5, 2016 –San Francisco Performances (SFP) kicks off its 37th season on **Friday, Sept 30, at 6:30pm** with **A Heartfelt Gala**, honoring Founder and President Emerita, Ruth A. Felt's retirement. The evening includes a cocktail reception and seated dinner at San Francisco City Hall, a gala concert at the Herbst Theatre, and a post-concert dessert reception in the Veterans Building Green Room. The talent assembled for the gala concert represents the breadth of SFP's programming and includes iconoclastic American composer/pianist **Philip Glass**; Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano **Sasha Cooke**; groundbreaking composer/pianist **Jake Heggie**; SFP's Jazz Artist-in-Residence, trumpeter/composer **Sean Jones**; and violinist **Jennifer Koh**, Musical America's 2016 Instrumentalist of the Year. For remaining tickets call 415.677.0326.

SFP is thrilled to welcome back pianist and curator extraordinaire **Jonathan Biss**. Audiences will remember Biss' four-concert thematic series in 2012-13, *Schumann Under the Influence*, which set a new standard for artist-led curatorial programming. Biss now returns with **Late Style**, a project spanning more than 400 years of late works of composers. Like the Schumann programs, Biss devised this new series specifically for SFP, at the request of Ruth Felt. The **Brentano String Quartet** will join Biss in the first two of the four concerts with an all-Beethoven concert on **Saturday, Oct 15** and a mixed program comparing the music of Bach, Elgar, Gesualdo and Mozart in their last years on **Wednesday, Oct 19**. These programs will travel to Carnegie Hall, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Amici della Musica in Florence.

Composer and double bass virtuoso **Edgar Meyer** has developed a devoted following through his many appearances in San Francisco since 1991. Now he joins the fast-rising **Dover Quartet, Sunday, Oct 30** in its SFP debut. The Quartet leapt into the world chamber music spotlight when it won all four prizes at the 2013 Banff International Competition. A highlight of the concert will be the San Francisco premiere of Meyer's landmark *Quintet for Strings*. Additionally at **11:00am on Sunday, Oct 30**, SFP will present **Edgar Meyer** in a Family Matinee recital.

Argentinian cellist **Sol Gabetta** makes her much-anticipated San Francisco debut **Tuesday, Nov 15** joined by the remarkable Italian pianist **Alessio Bax**. Since winning Cr dit Suisse Young Artist Award in 2004 Gabetta has been in constant demand throughout Europe. *The Scotsman* writes, "Richly satisfying on many levels ... combined an interesting and rewarding choice of music with outstanding artistry, musically and technically." The program features works by Schumann, Brahms and Prokofiev.

Also making an SF Performances debut in a rare solo concert on **Saturday, Nov 19** is Grammy Award-winning pianist, composer and band leader **Arturo O'Farrill**. O'Farrill is the son of the late Chico O'Farrill, one of the master architects of Afro Cuban Jazz. In 2007 he founded the nonprofit Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, dedicated to preserving the music and heritage of big band Latin jazz and educating young people in the understanding of this important cultural treasure.

Over the past 30 years the Grammy-winning **Los Angeles Guitar Quartet (LAGQ)** has appeared with SFP 11 times. Comprised of four uniquely accomplished musicians— John Dearman, Matthew Greif, William Kanengiser and Scott Tenant—the LAGQ will bring a new energy to the concert stage **Friday, Dec 9** with a program ranging from bluegrass to Bach. The following morning at **11:00am, Saturday, Dec 10** LAGQ will perform a special holiday-themed family matinee, including selections from their popular arrangement of the Tchaikovsky Nutcracker Suite. "However it helps you to think about the LAGQ, keep the emphasis on superlatives for its unrivaled joy, technical  lan and questing spirits." (*Los Angeles Times*)

The Saturday Morning Series with resident artists the **Alexander String Quartet** and music historian-in-residence **Robert Greenberg**, bring their series "Beethoven: Before, During, and After" to Berkeley—**Dec 3, 10, and 17** at St. John's Church in Berkeley.

German baritone **Christian Gerh her**, who opened the 2014-15 SFP season to critical raves with his San Francisco debut, returns **Tuesday, Dec 13** with his longtime collaborator, **Gerold Huber**. Their all-Mahler program features the signature works of the composer in his mature glory: the intimacy and spirit of songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* and the *R ckert-Lieder*, as well as the valediction of *Das Lied von der Erde*, are fully realized by these inimitable interpreters of poetry set to music.

All programs take place at Herbst Theatre unless otherwise noted.

SFP will announce the second season of its new **PIVOT** series (launched in March 2016) in mid-August. The popular **SALON** series held at the Hotel Rex will also be announcing its fall performances in the next few weeks.

VENUES

In the 2016-17 season, SFP will present at the Herbst Theatre, Davies Symphony Hall, YBCA Theater, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, SFJAZZ Center, the Strand Theater, Taube Atrium Theater, St. Mark's Lutheran Church and St. John's Presbyterian Church (Berkeley).

TICKET INFORMATION

Single tickets may be purchased by calling the main box office line, **(415) 392-2545** or visiting the website at **sfperformances.org**.

2016-17 SEASON FALL CALENDAR

All dates, times, artists and programs are subject to change.

SEPTEMBER- 2016

37th Season: A Heartfelt Gala

Honoring Founder Ruth A. Felt

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

San Francisco City Hall/Herbst Theatre

Tickets start at \$500

For more information, call 415.677.0326

OCTOBER- 2016

Brentano String Quartet / Jonathan Biss, piano: "Late Style"

TWO PERFORMANCES:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016, 7:30PM

Herbst Theatre | **\$65/\$55/\$40**

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM: Sonata in G Major for Violin and Piano, Op. 96 (Mark Steinberg & Jonathan Biss); Sonata in C minor for Piano, Op. 111 (Jonathan Biss); String Quartet in F Major, Op. 135 (Brentano String Quartet)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016, 7:30PM

Herbst Theatre | **\$65/\$55/\$40**

BACH: Selections from *Art of the Fugue*

ELGAR: Piano Quintet in A minor, Op. 84

GESUALDO: Selected Madrigals

MOZART: String Quintet in E flat Major, K. 614 (with Hsin-Yun Huang, viola)

Edgar Meyer, double bass

Herbst Theatre | **\$10 Children/\$15 Adults**

FAMILY MATINEE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016, 11:00AM

Program: To be announced

Dover Quartet / Edgar Meyer, double bass

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016, 7:00PM

Herbst Theatre | **\$65/\$55/\$40**

MOZART: Divertimento for strings, K. 136

ROSSINI: Duo for bass and cello

DVORAK: Quartet in F Major, Op. 96, "American"

MEYER: Quintet for Strings [San Francisco Premiere]

NOVEMBER- 2016

Sol Gabetta, cello / Alessio Bax, piano

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016, 7:30PM

Herbst Theatre | **\$65/\$55/\$40**

SCHUMANN: *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73

BRAHMS: Sonata No. 1

PROKOFIEV: Adagio from *Cinderella*, Op. 97 bis; Sonata in C Major, Op. 119

Arturo O’Farrill, piano

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016, 7:30PM

Herbst Theatre | **\$60/\$40/\$30**

Program: To be announced from stage

DECEMBER- 2016

Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg

BEETHOVEN: BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER

SATURDAYS AT 10AM / DECEMBER 3, 10, 17

St. John’s Presbyterian Church, Berkeley | **\$45**

PROGRAM 1: DECEMBER 3, 2016

MOZART: Quartet in A Major, K. 464

BEETHOVEN: Quartet in A Major, Op. 18, No. 5

PROGRAM 2: DECEMBER 10, 2016

BEETHOVEN: Quartet in F minor, Op. 95

MENDELSSOHN: Quartet in F minor, Op. 80

PROGRAM 3: DECEMBER 17, 2016

BEETHOVEN: Piano Quartet, No. 3 in C Major

GREENBERG: *Invasive Species* (with Roger Woodward, piano)

Los Angeles Guitar Quartet

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016, 11AM

Herbst Theatre | **\$10 CHILDREN/\$15 ADULTS**

Special holiday-themed family matinee program including selections from their popular arrangement of the Tchaikovsky Nutcracker Suite.

Christian Gerhaher, baritone / Gerold Huber, piano

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016, 7:30PM

Herbst Theatre | **\$65/\$55/\$40**

ALL-MAHLER PROGRAM: *“Die Einsame im Herbst”* and *“Der Abschied”* from *Das Lied von der Erde* (Mahler’s own piano arrangements); *Sieben Lieder aus letzter Zeit*

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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 37th season and runs under the artistic direction of its president, Melanie Smith. 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, Taube Atrium 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.

For selected high-resolution images of the 2016-17 season, go to

<http://sfperformances.org/press/1617/selectedphotos.html>

or contact Nancy Bertossa at nancy@sfperformances.org

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