



presents...

## ***PIVOT Festival***

### **ATTACCA QUARTET**

Amy Schroeder | Violin  
Domenic Salerni | Violin

Nathan Schram | Viola  
Andrew Yee | Cello

### **ROOMFUL OF TEETH**

Cameron Beauchamp | Artistic Director

Estelí Gomez  
Jodie Landau  
Virginia Kelsey

Steven Bradshaw  
Caroline Shaw  
Cameron Beauchamp

Martha Cluver  
Thann Scoggin

### **GABRIEL KAHANE** | Voice, Piano, Electric Guitar

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024 | 7:30pm** *Attacca Quartet*

**Thursday, January 25, 2024 | 7:30pm** *Roomful of Teeth*

**Friday, January 26, 2024 | 7:30pm** *Attacca Quartet/Roomful of Teeth*

*Gabriel Kahane appears as special guest on all three programs*

Herbst Theatre

#### **ALL THREE PROGRAMS TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE**

Launched in 2016, **PIVOT** is a San Francisco Performances series created for adventurous audiences interested in truly unique arts experiences, driven by a philosophy of innovation, creativity and artistic excellence that pushes the boundaries of the traditional concert experience.

For the ninth year of PIVOT, guest curator Gabriel Kahane and friends dig deep into music that asks enduring and enlightening questions about our ever-changing world and seeks the uplift of answers rooted in shared experience.

**PIVOT: New Adventures in the Performing Arts** was developed under a grant from:



**Gabriel Kahane** is represented by MKI Artists  
70 S Winooski Ave., #318, Burlington, VT 05401 [mkiartists.com](http://mkiartists.com)

**Attacca Quartet** is represented by Polyarts, a HarrisonParrott Group company,  
South Wing, Somerset House, The Strand, London, WC2R 1LA [harrisonparrott.com](http://harrisonparrott.com)

**Roomful of Teeth** is represented by Pink Noise Agency, a BIG Arts Group company, Brooklyn, NY [bigartsgroup.com](http://bigartsgroup.com)  
Steinway Model D, Pro Piano, San Francisco



SAN FRANCISCO  
**PERFORMANCES**

presents...

# PIVOT FESTIVAL

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre

## Attacca Quartet Gabriel Kahane | Piano & Vocals

**MAURICE  
RAVEL**

**String Quartet**  
*I. Allegro moderato*

**GABRIEL KAHANE**

**Red Letter Days**

**PAUL WIANCKO**

**Benkei's Standing Death—Part I**

**KAHANE**

**To Be American**

**RAVEL**

**String Quartet**  
*II. Assez vif*

**KAHANE**

**Klee** [World Premiere, revised version of 2023]

**INTERMISSION**

**KAHANE**

**Little Love**

**RAVEL**

**String Quartet**  
*III. Très lent*

**WIANCKO**

**Benkei's Standing Death—Part II**

**RAVEL**

**String Quartet**  
*IV. Vif et agité*

**KAHANE**

**Final Privacy Song** [World Premiere Arrangement]



## ARTIST PROFILES

This year's PIVOT series marks Gabriel Kahane's fifth, sixth and seventh appearances for San Francisco Performances. He made his debut with us in March 2017.

Attacca Quartet makes its San Francisco Performances debut with this engagement.

Roomful of Teeth returns for the first time since its April 2017 SF Performances debut.

**Gabriel Kahane** is a musician and storyteller whose work increasingly exists at the intersection of art and social practice. Hailed as "one of the finest songwriters of the day" by *The New Yorker*, he is known to haunt basement rock clubs and august concert halls alike, where you'll likely find him in the green room, double-fisting coffee, and a book.

He has released five albums as a singer-songwriter including his most recent LP *Magnificent Bird* (Nonesuch Records), hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "a gorgeous, intimate collection of musical snapshots." As a composer, he has been commissioned by many of America's leading arts institutions, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Carnegie Hall, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the Public Theater, which in 2012 presented his musical *February House*.

In 2019, Kahane was named the inaugural Creative Chair for the Oregon Symphony, following the premiere in Portland of his oratorio *emergency shelter intake form*, a work that explores inequality in America through the lens of housing issues. The piece was released as an album in March of 2020, and is scheduled for performance by half a dozen other American orchestras in the coming years.

In his 2023–24 season, Kahane embarks on a new collaborative commissioning project with the Attacca Quartet, Pekka Kuusisto, and Roomful of Teeth as part of a two-year initiative with San Francisco Performances, with additional performances scheduled around the U.S. and Europe. Season highlights include the European premiere of *emergency shelter intake form* in London with the BBC Concert Orchestra, duo recitals with Jeffrey Kahane, a conducting appearance with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the New York premiere of his piano concerto *Heirloom* by Jeffrey Kahane and The Knights. Venues include UCLA's Nimoy Theater, Seattle's Meany Center, and New York's 92NY.

Kahane's discography also includes 2014's *The Ambassador*, which received an acclaimed staging at BAM, directed by Tony and Olivier Award-winner John Tiffany; an album of chamber music, *The Fic-*

*tion Issue*, with the string quartet Brooklyn Rider and vocalist/composer Shara Nova; a recording with The Knights of his orchestral song cycle *Crane Palimpsest*; as well as the original cast album for *February House*.

A frequent collaborator across a range of musical communities, Gabriel has worked with an array of artists including Paul Simon, Sufjan Stevens, Andrew Bird, Phoebe Bridgers, Caroline Shaw, and Chris Thile. After nearly two decades in Brooklyn, Kahane relocated with his family to Portland, Oregon, in March of 2020. Their freakishly self-possessed cat, Roscoe Greebletron Jones III, when not under investigation for securities fraud, continues his fruitless attempts to monetize his Instagram account.

Two-time Grammy-award winning **Attacca Quartet** are recognized and acclaimed as one of the most versatile and outstanding ensembles of the moment—a true quartet for modern times. Gliding through traditional classical repertoire through to electronic, video game music and contemporary collaborations, they are one of the world's most innovative and respected ensembles.

In 2021, the quartet released two albums that embody their redefinition of what a string quartet can be. The first Album, *Real Life*, featuring guest artists such as Tokimonsta, Daedalus, and Anne Müller, was followed up by *Of all Joys*, which features works from Phillip Glass, Arvo Pärt, and music of the Renaissance period. Passionate advocates of contemporary repertoire, the quartet are dedicated to presenting and recording new works. Their 2019 release *Orange*, in collaboration with Caroline Shaw, saw them win the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance, with their





## ARTIST STATEMENT

As the performing arts rebound following the gut punch of the global pandemic, it has become a truism to suggest that we cherish live performance now more than ever. As artists, we are grateful for the energy we derive from audiences, and vice versa. All of us, it seems, are more finely attuned to the necessary, numinous exchange between maker and receiver, each alive to his need for the other. But more than that, for those of us whose livelihood is art-making, there is a newfound awareness of the communion we experience in the rehearsal room, and on stage, among our colleagues. Indeed, the pandemic has underlined the extent to which music-making is a social act.

When Melanie Smith invited me, in July of 2021, to dream up a series of collaborations for this festival, my mind gravitated toward potential co-conspirators who are not only great artists, but great people: folks with whom, to borrow a formulation from political pollsters, “I’d like to have a beer with.” The 12 individuals who comprise Roomful of Teeth and Attacca Quartet are all thoughtful, funny, considerate, strange, and inspiring people. It has been a supreme pleasure getting to know them better through the process of writing new works for each ensemble, works that you’ll hear at the PIVOT Festival.

It’s my hope that, through an array of music spanning from the seventeenth century (François Couperin) to the twenty-first (Caroline Shaw), you’ll leave these concerts not only enriched by a cosmos of sound, but with a feeling for the humanity of this extraordinary cadre of artists, and with a sense that a community—of which artists and audience alike are members—will have sprung up within the walls of the Herbst Theatre.

—Gabriel Kahane

follow-up album *Evergreen* winning the 2023 award in the same category. The quartet continue to perform in the world’s best venues and festivals.

Recent highlights include Lincoln Center’s White Light Festival and Miller Theatre, Carnegie Hall, Phillips Collection, Chamber Music Detroit, Chamber Music Austin, and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston as well as Ojai Festival, BRIC Arts, and Big Ears Festival. Outside of the US, performances include Kings Place and in Oslo at the Vertavo Haydn Festival as well as performances at Gothenburg Konserthuset, MITO Settembre Festival in Italy, Sociedad Filarmónica de Bilbao, Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam, Strings of Autumn Festival Prague, Thüringer Bachwochen, Sala São Paulo in Brazil, Fundación Beethoven in Chile, National Theatre of Panama, and Teatro Mayor in Bogota.

The founding members of the Attacca Quartet met while all studying at the Juilliard School in the early 2000s and they made their professional debut at the Carnegie Hall in 2003. Other accolades include First Prize at the 7th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, the Top Prize and Listeners’ Choice award winners for the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, and Grand Prize Winners of the 60th annual Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition.

The Attacca Quartet has engaged in extensive educational and community outreach projects, serving as guest artists and teaching fellows at the Lincoln Center Institute, University of Texas, Juilliard School, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and Bravo! Vail Valley among

others. They are expert programmers and communicators, and beautifully mix existing works with those by living composers.

**Roomful of Teeth** is a Grammy-winning vocal band dedicated to reimagining the expressive potential of the human voice. By engaging collaboratively with artists, thinkers, and community leaders from around the world, the group seeks to uplift and amplify voices old and new while creating and performing meaningful and adventurous music.

Founded in 2009 by Brad Wells, the band was incubated at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in North Adams, Massachusetts, where members studied with some of the world’s most extraordinary singers and teachers. Through experimentation, exploration, and plenty of failures, the group learned that the boundaries of the human voice are never what they seem, that rules can be bent, even broken, and perhaps they should be.

Through their unique collaborative process, Roomful of Teeth has worked with many of today’s most compelling musical creators to build a significant and continuously growing repertoire. They have collaborated with a wide range of artists and ensembles spanning genres and art forms.

As the world rapidly changes, Roomful of Teeth is cultivating deeper relationships with technology, continuing to explore and expand the artistic reach of the human voice. They are excited about new collaborative projects focused on stories of place, home, and community in diverse environments around the world. They explore, learn, and collaborate with passionate curiosity, contagious enthusiasm, and deep gratitude.