



SAN FRANCISCO  
**PERFORMANCES**

presents...

GALA PERFORMANCE

**JEFFREY KAHANE** | Piano

**GABRIEL KAHANE** | Piano

Friday, October 10, 2025 | 7:00pm

Herbst Theatre

**GABRIEL KAHANE** Heirloom

**Additional works to be announced from the stage**

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

Steinway Model D, Pro Piano, San Francisco.

## ARTIST PROFILES

Jeffrey Kahane makes his eighth appearance with *San Francisco Performances* and celebrates the 40th anniversary of his series debut in 1985.

Gabriel Kahane appears for the thirteenth time. He made his *San Francisco Performances* debut in March 2017 on the PIVOT Series and curated two consecutive seasons of PIVOT in 2024 and 2025.



Celebrated for his “imagination, devotion and supreme musicianship” (*Los Angeles Times*), **Jeffrey Kahane** is now in the fifth decade of an expansive and eclectic musical career. As a pianist, conductor and scholar, his career highlights run the gamut from concertos with the New York Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony, to recitals with Yo-Yo Ma and Joshua Bell, and European tours at the podium of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, along with countless lectures and artistic collaborations.

Kahane is currently Music Director of both the San Antonio Philharmonic and the Sarasota Music Festival. During his 20 seasons as Music Director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, he led the orchestra on tours of the United States and Europe. He was instrumental in the creation of several new series. In addition to the dozens of works commissioned or premiered by the orchestras where he has served as music director, Kahane has premiered piano concertos written for him by composers Kevin Puts and Andrew Norman. He has also given many performances of *Heirloom*, a new concerto written for

him by Gabriel Kahane, as a way of tracing the connections between music and three generations of family history.

When not on the road, he teaches a small class of gifted pianists and coaches chamber music at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music, and occasionally guest conducts the USC Thornton Symphony.



**Gabriel Kahane** is a musician, writer, and storyteller.

Highlights of the 2025–26 season include collaborations with Roomful of Teeth, Attacca Quartet, and Jeffrey Kahane; conducting debuts with Santa Fe Pro Music and the San Antonio Philharmonic; composer-in-residence posts with the University of Iowa and the Charlotte Symphony; the world premiere of a new set of songs at the 92nd Street Y; and the Carnegie Hall premiere of *If love will not swing wide the gates*, a clarinet concerto written for Anthony McGill.

An avid theater artist, Kahane opened last season at Playwrights Horizons with the off-Broadway debut of two solo pieces, *Magnificent Bird* and *Book of Travelers*, the latter of which chronicled the composer's 8,980-mile railway journey in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election. His album and stage spectacle, *The Ambassador*, was produced at the BAM Next Wave Festival in 2014, under the direction of Tony-winner John Tiffany. A musical, *February House*, written with the playwright Seth Bockley, received its New York premiere at the Public Theater in 2012. In 2018, Kahane made his Broadway debut with the score for Kenneth Lonergan's play

*The Waverly Gallery*, starring Elaine May, Lucas Hedges, and Michael Cera.

Kahane is known for tackling politically thorny subject matter in his work with subtlety and grace, perhaps most notably in his orchestral oratorio, *emergency shelter intake form*, which addresses economic inequality through the lens of homelessness and housing insecurity, and has been heard from London to New York to Chicago to San Francisco and beyond. He is also increasingly productive as a writer, with prose appearing in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Via the newsletter *Words and Music*, Kahane publishes bi-weekly essays on a variety of topics, all of which can be accessed at [gabrielkahane.substack.com](http://gabrielkahane.substack.com).

Gabriel's wide-ranging discography includes five albums as a singer-songwriter, several orchestral projects, a disc of chamber music (with the string quartet Brooklyn Rider), as well as various other collaborative albums. He has worked with an array of artists spanning the aesthetic gamut—from Phoebe Bridgers, Paul Simon, Sylvan Esso, Chris Thile, and Sufjan Stevens to the Danish String Quartet, Caroline Shaw, and Pekka Kuusisto, with whom he plays as the duo Council. The recipient of a 2021 Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Kahane relocated to Portland, OR in the spring of 2020, where he lives with his family and serves as Creative Chair of the Oregon Symphony, a post he has held since 2019.

## PROGRAM NOTES

In celebration of Nonesuch Records' release of *Heirloom*, a piano concerto composed by Gabriel Kahane for his father, Jeffrey, the father-son duo join forces for a singular recital. The program surveys both folk and concert music, including works by J.S. Bach, Samuel Barber, Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon, as well as several pieces by the younger Kahane. At the center of the program is a contemporary take on the “dueling pianos” tradition, alternating solo piano works (performed by Jeffrey) with songs for piano and voice (written and performed by Gabriel). The evening will culminate in an encore performance of the epic *Final Privacy Song*, commissioned by San Francisco Performances and first presented in 2021, and the world premiere of a two-piano transcription of the rollicking, joyous finale from *Heirloom*.