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SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCES ITS 39th SEASON

2018-19 Highlights Include:

The 100th Anniversary of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*
with Sean Jones, trumpet and Regina Carter, violin

90th Birthday Celebration of pianist LEON FLEISHER
with Leon Fleisher and Jonathan Biss, piano

SF Debut of Violinist PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA

SF Debut of Cellist JEAN-GUIHEN QUEYRAS—All-day Marathon of Bach's *Cello Suites*

2018 Gilmore Artist Pianist PIANIST IGOR LEVIT

BROOKLYN RIDER—*Healing Modes*

West Coast Premiere of a new string quintet by Samuel Carl Adams
Alexander String Quartet/Joyce Yang, piano

New percussion quartet by Philip Glass
Third Coast Percussion

SFP Debut of JESSICA LANG DANCE

SF Debut of ROSIE KAY DANCE

PIVOT Year IV: Vox Populi
with singer/songwriter Gabriel Kahane—*8980: Book of Travelers*

Introducing Turkish Tenor ILKER ARCA YÜREK

Series Subscriptions on Sale April 18—Single Tickets on Sale August 6.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – April 11 – President Melanie Smith today announced the 2018-19 season of San Francisco Performances (SFP), marking the organizations' 39th season, which runs from September 28, 2018 through May 21, 2019. This is the first season fully curated and programmed by Smith, following SFP Founder Ruth Felt's retirement in 2016. The season features over fifty-seven artists in chamber music, piano, dance, guitar, vocal recitals, special events, family matinees and engagement activities across five venues.

The 2018-19 season presents masters of the music of history as well as artists giving voice to our time through programs and events that are relevant and reflective of the world around us. **Rosie Kay Dance** (SF debut) performs the deeply moving piece *5 Soldiers*, based on the training modern soldiers undertake to prepare for combat (April 11-13); returning PIVOT artist **Gabriel Kahane** unveils his new song cycle *8980: Book of Travelers*, the result of his decision the day after the 2016 presidential election, to set out on an 8,980 mile train trip to better understand the country (Jan 26); Israeli pianist and PIVOT artist **Ran Dank** performs Frederic Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*, variations on the Chilean political song that protested an oppressive government in the 1970s (Jan 24), and **Brooklyn Rider** returns to the SFP stage with a program about the dynamic healing powers of music (Nov 16).

Performing beloved repertoire classics are 2018 Gilmore Artist **Igor Levit** with a program of Bach, Brahms, Busoni, Wagner and others (Nov 1); **Mark Padmore**, tenor and **Paul Lewis**, piano delve into Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann (Jan 13); and the **Tetzlaff-Tetzlaff-Vogt Trio** perform a program of Mozart, Shostakovich and Dvořák (April 27).

The season also offers deep and satisfying explorations into specific composers. Cellist **Jean-Guihen Queyras** performs the complete Bach suites for solo cello in two ticketed programs (Oct 28); young Turkish tenor **Ilker Arcayürek's** San Francisco debut will be an all-Schubert program (Feb 20), and pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** performs two all-Brahms programs, beginning a multi-year series during which he will perform the composer's complete works for solo piano (Feb 21 and Mar 28).

For those whose interests run to even earlier music SFP is excited to present the vocal ensemble **TENET** with the early music group **Quicksilver** in a program full of music from the Italian Baroque era, featuring works by Claudio Monteverdi (Oct 12); violinist **Daniel Hope** and friends, perform his program *Air: A Baroque Journey* (Oct 27), and pianist **Inon Barnatan** and the young **Calidore Quartet** present an all-Bach program including selections from "The Art of the Fugue" (Jan 29).

New music is also featured throughout the season including SFP's own **Alexander String Quartet** with pianist **Joyce Yang**, who will perform the West Coast Premiere of Samuel Adams' Quintet (Feb 14). The ever inventive **Third Coast Percussion**, (2017 Grammy Award winners for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble performance for their recording of Steve Reich's works for percussion), will perform the Bay Area premiere of the first percussion quartet written by Philip Glass (Apr 3) who accepted the commission to feed his interest in new challenges. And cellist **Matt Haimovitz** and genius jazz composer-performer pianist **Vijay Iyer** have dreamed up a program with Iyer's own compositions alongside the music of Zakir Hussein, J.S. Bach, Ravi Shankar, and Billy Strayhorn (Mar 9).

SFP is known for introducing new contemporary dance companies to Bay Area audiences. Our dance series next year includes debuts of **Jessica Lang Dance** (Feb 28-Mar 2), **Rosie Kay Dance** company (Apr 11-13), and the return of **Dorrance Dance** after their 2017 sold-out San Francisco debut (May 9-11).

SFP is committed to inviting artists to explore projects and ideas that they are particularly interested in. SFP Artist-In-Residence, trumpeter **Sean Jones**, envisioned creating a jazz-inflected version of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* with violinist **Regina Carter** in celebration of the 100 anniversary of this iconic piece. Remarkably enough, the date of this performance occurs on the actual date of its world premiere September 28, 1918 in Lausanne, Switzerland. It will also be an integral part of the 39th season Gala.

This season SFP has also identified sub-themes for many performances to help guide subscribers in making their own series based on personal interests. These themes provide opportunities for patrons to exploring genres and ideas that appeal to them and highlight connections between concerts and artists, adding depth and richness to the performance experience. The themes are **Classics, Baroque Beauty, Important Debuts, New Works** and **Lean In/Listen** which offers deep explorations of specific composers.

In the 2018-19 season SFP will use venues that include Herbst Theatre, YBCA Theater, St. Mark's Lutheran Church (San Francisco), St. John's Presbyterian Church (Berkeley), and the Atrium Theater, War Memorial Veteran's Building.

2018-19 SEASON BY SERIES

Dates, artists, and programs are subject to change.

HEAR NOW AND THEN SERIES

All Hear Now and Then series performances will be held at Herbst Theatre.

The music of our time often holds a mirror to what's happening in our world and how we perceive it. The past was often no different—some of history's most insightful social commentary can be found in music. How people live and love, win and lose, learn and grow can be expressed with remarkable difference and pointed familiarity by composers who lived hundreds of years apart. This series explores the differences and commonalities between historical and contemporary music.

The New York based early music vocal ensemble **TENET** will collaborate with the Baroque instrumental ensemble, **Quicksilver**, led by violinist **Robert Mealy**, for a program of 17th century Italian Baroque music, featuring Claudio Monteverdi, one of that period's envelope-pushing contemporary composers (Oct. 12). Celebrated program innovator and violinist **Daniel Hope** returns with a small ensemble of string players for a special program called *Air: A Baroque Journey*, a sonic history of the violin and the musical form the "air" through works by composers spanning three centuries (Oct 27). Cellist **Matt Haimovitz**—who has spent a career successfully rethinking how and where music is performed and heard—joins forces with genius jazz composer-performer pianist **Vijay Iyer** with a program that showcases Iyer's own compositions alongside music of Zakir Hussein, J.S. Bach, Ravi Shankar, and Billy Strayhorn (Mar 9). **Third Coast Percussion** completes the series with an eagerly anticipated new percussion piece by Philip Glass (Apr 3).

THE PIANO SERIES

All piano series performances will be held at Herbst Theatre.

Big and bold works and larger-than-life interpretations by accomplished performers at the peak of their careers headline the piano series next season. **Garrick Ohlsson** will perform two programs of Brahms, beginning a multi-year series during which he will perform the composer's complete works for solo piano (Feb 21 & Mar 28). 2018 Gilmore Artist **Igor Levit** celebrates how the great Romantics reinterpreted composers of earlier eras with a program of Schumann, Busoni, Wagner and Liszt (Nov 1). Korean wunderkind and Chopin Competition Gold Medalist **Seong-Jin Cho** (Oct 22) makes his SFP debut with music by Bach, Schumann, Chopin and Mussorgsky and electrifying young keyboard artist **Benjamin Grosvenor** brings a fiery German and Russian program of Schumann, Prokofiev and Scriabin (Mar 13). Finally, perennial piano favorite **Piotr Anderszewski** returns with Beethoven's Diabelli Variations and Bach selections (Apr 13).

THE SHENSON CHAMBER SERIES

All chamber performances will be held at Herbst Theatre.

This season's chamber series maps musical terrain from composers' reactions to the idea and ideals of America to the scientifically demonstrated restorative powers of music, and from the fruits of mutual collaboration to the enduring emotional impact of historical masterworks. It's hard to imagine a greater range of ensembles, including masters of the classics, trail-blazing pioneers of new music, and artists who are redefining the roles of music and musicians for the 21st century. The award-winning young **Dover Quartet**, which often balances its pyrotechnic style with programs centered around insightful social commentary, will perform a program they're calling *Made in America* which features quartets begun in America by Britten, Bartok and *Dvořák* (Oct 7). Iconoclastic **Brooklyn Rider**—which NPR credited with "recreating the 300-year-old form of string quartet as a vital and creative 21st-century ensemble"—performs a program called *Healing Mode* that combines Beethoven's great String Quartet No. 15, Op. 132 with other new works written in response to it, based on the idea of music that heals (Nov 16). SFP has co-commissioned a new work by Samuel Adams for the **Alexander String Quartet**

in a program with pianist **Joyce Yang** which also includes two Mozart piano quartets (Feb 14). The **Elias Quartet** returns to SFP with a program representing three centuries of chamber music including works by Sally Beamish, Britten, and Schumann (Apr 1).

THE ART OF SONG (formerly called the *Vocal Series*)

All vocal performances will be held at Herbst Theatre.

Next year's vocal series is designed to showcase the breadth of this art form, reminding audiences that vocal music is not just about Lieder. The series begins with a program called *Carnival of the Animals*, performed by **Christopher Maltman**, that starts with Poulenc and Ravel and ends with comic songs from the British music hall (Nov 13). **Luciana Souza** returns with a new jazz-inspired project called *Book of Longing* in which she sets texts by Leonard Cohen and Emily Dickinson to her own music, and also performs pieces by some of Brazil's greatest musicians, Hermeto Pascoal and Milton Nascimento (Nov 30). There is also traditional Lieder, with a joint recital by **Mark Padmore** and pianist **Paul Lewis** (Jan 13), followed by a program of American song from soprano **Deborah Voigt**, including works by Amy Beach, William Bolcom, and Leonard Bernstein (May 2).

DANCE

Dance performances will be held at YBCA Theater and the Atrium Theater (War Memorial Veteran's Building).

Celebrating the powerful voices of women in the creation and performance of dance, this season SFP presents three companies that energize ballet, tap and contemporary movement with electrifying new meaning and technical daring. SFP introduces choreographer **Jessica Lang** and her company with three pieces, including live performances of Grieg and Beethoven with a pianist and a string quartet and the Bay Area premiere of *This Thing Called Love*, set to music performed by Tony Bennett (Feb 28-Mar 2). In April, SFP presents the debut of the British company, **Rosie Kay Dance**, in three performances at the Atrium Theater in the Veterans Building. They will perform a full length work called *Five Soldiers*, which is a timely look at how the human body is used in war. It provides an intimate view of the training that prepares soldiers for the sheer physicality of combat, for the possibility of injury, and the impact conflict has on the bodies and minds of everyone it reaches. The piece was inspired by input from serving and former soldiers (Apr 11-13). **Dorrance Dance** returns to SFP in another co-presentation with YBCA bringing their signature, high energy piece *ETM: Double Down* in which the performers use "tap instruments" created by Nicholas Young not only to dance, but to create live music (May 9-11).

GREAT ARTISTS AND ENSEMBLES (formerly called the *Virtuosi Series*)

All performances will be held at Herbst Theatre.

Alone, paired up, or five at a time, this series offers some of the world's greatest musicians who have selected programs of works they are especially passionate about. French virtuoso **Jean-Guihen Queyras** takes a deep dive into Bach's sublime suites for solo cello based on Baroque dance forms that swing from moody sarabandes (banned in Spain in the 1500s) to galloping gavottes. His two different programs, at 2:00pm and 7:00pm, will be an all-day Bach Cello Suites extravaganza (Oct 28). Powerhouse violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**, who serves as this year's Artistic Director for the Ojai Festival, also has a knack for clever programming as seen in her mostly French program with works by Poulenc, Ravel, Enescu, and *Bartók* (Dec 12). Pianist **Inon Barnatan** and the **Calidore Quartet** bring a spontaneous vibrancy back to Bach with their sensuous interpretations of the Baroque master's keyboard concertos (Jan 29). **Christian Tetzlaff** and **Lars Vogt** perform with **Tanya Tetzlaff**, as the **Tetzlaff-Tetzlaff-Vogt Trio** in a program of Mozart, Shostakovich and *Dvořák* (Apr 27).

SPECIALS

Events will be held at the War Memorial Veterans Building.

“**39th Season Gala**” takes place on **Friday, September 28** in the War Memorial Veterans Building featuring a pre-concert cocktail reception (6pm), a concert of Stravinsky’s *L’Histoire du Soldat* (7pm), and a post-concert dinner in the Green Room (8pm). Proceeds benefit San Francisco Performances’ education programs. Tickets start at \$500. For more information, patrons should call **415.677.0326**.

The concert brings SFP Artist-in-Residence, trumpeter **Sean Jones**, violinist **Regina Carter**, and friends for a jazz-inflected performance of *L’Histoire du Soldat* (The Soldier’s Tale), plus an all-star set of jazz favorites. Stravinsky’s hybrid theatrical work created on the eve of Europe’s Jazz Age, was first performed on this same date in 1918. Based on a Russian folktale about the choice between greed and happiness, *L’Histoire* features seven instruments and a narrator that tell the story of an AWOL soldier’s encounter with the devil. (Concert-only tickets are available in side and rear orchestra, boxes, dress circle and balcony.)

SFP favorite **Jonathan Biss**, will celebrate native son **Leon Fleisher**’s 90th birthday with a special concert with works by Bach, Kirchner, Schubert, *Dvořák* and Ravel, played by Fleisher, Biss and Katherine Jacobson (Feb 12). Born in San Francisco, Fleisher has enjoyed an epic career, which began with his professional debut at age 16 with the New York Philharmonic when conductor Pierre Monteux called him “the pianistic find of the century.” True to Monteux’s prophetic words, the pianist is regarded as one of the great performers of the 20th century.

GUITAR

The guitar Series concerts will be held at Herbst Theatre and St. Mark’s Lutheran Church.

The Guitar Series, in association with OMNI Foundation for the Performing Arts presents a range of accomplished artists who are supreme interpreters of music from legendary Spanish and Latin American composers to complex transcriptions of the Baroque and Romantic. The series begins with the very dynamic duo of **Sharon Isbin** and **Romero Lubambo** (Oct. 13), followed by the classical guitarist **Paul Galbraith** (who is known for his unusual guitar technique of holding the guitar like a cello). Galbraith performs a beautiful program featuring Schubert’s “Arpeggione” sonata, plus Villa-Lobos and Gnattali (Nov 3) with cellist **Antonio Meneses**, formerly of the Beaux Arts **Trio**. Croatian guitar master **Ana Vidovic** plays an evening of works by Bach, Giuliani, Tarrega, Mangore, Scarlatti and Piazzolla (Dec 8). Brazilian-born brothers **Sérgio and Odair Assad**, who have played a major role in creating and introducing new music for two guitars, perform February 9. In March, the Spanish “rock star” of classical guitar, **Pablo Sainz Villegas** (Mar 2), performs a “Tribute to Segovia” celebrating the 125th anniversary of his birth.

DISCOVERY SERIES (formerly called Young Masters)

All Discovery series concerts will be held at Herbst Theatre.

SFP has a highly regarded record of discovering and introducing the next generation of great stars—often in their Bay Area and West Coast debuts. The **Telegraph Quartet** who were winners of the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 2016, are now in residence at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Their 2018-19 SFP program (Dec 9) will contain works by Schuloff, *Dvořák*, and Weinberg . Young Turkish vocalist **Ilker Arcayürek** was voted among the top ten of a “new generation of rising stars” by *Opera Now Magazine* and will perform an all-Schubert program (Feb 20) in his San Francisco recital debut. Meticulous Swiss firebrand **Francesco Piemontesi** was a protégé of legendary pianists Murray Perahia and Alfred Brendel, whom he credits with teaching him to “love the detail of things.” Piemontesi brings a program of Bach, Debussy and Rachmaninoff for his San Francisco debut (May 21).

SATURDAY MORNINGS:

ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET and ROBERT GREENBERG, host and lecturer

The Berkeley Saturday Morning Series will be held at St. John's Presbyterian Church; San Francisco Saturday Morning Series will be held at the Herbst Theatre. All programs are 10am on Saturdays

The Saturday Morning series with SFP resident artists the **Alexander String Quartet** and host and lecturer **Robert Greenberg**, feature performances of complete works, preceded by Greenberg's commentary, which brims with information, personal glimpses of the composers' lives, and often humorous details. The 2018-19 Saturday Morning series in Berkeley continues with Part II of "The Complete Shostakovich String Quartets"—**Dec 1, 8 and 15, 2018 and Jan 12 and 26, 2019**. The series in San Francisco will have an enticing new theme, "Brahms and the Schumanns: A Love Triangle for the Ages," **Feb 2 and 9, Mar 23, and May 18, 2019**.

PIVOT

The PIVOT Series will be held at Herbst Theatre.

Now in its fourth year, this innovative exploration of new adventures in the performing arts has become a success—partnering music, dance and spoken word around themes that resonate with today's audiences. This season's 4-day festival presents artists and works with political observations and meanings, shining a light on the power of music as the voice of the people to underscore the urgency of our time and is subtitled **Vox Populi**.

Each performance will reflect the voice of the people, starting with Israeli pianist **Ran Dank** (Jan 24) performing Frederic Rzewski's major work from the 1970's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*—a set of 36 variations on a political song popular in Chile prior to the overthrow of Allende, and continuing with the beloved jazz singer **Paula West** (Jan 25) for a program of **Bob Dylan songs**. Another singer/songwriter, **Gabriel Kahane** (Jan 26), returns to PIVOT with his newest song cycle, *8980: Book of Travelers*, which offers compassionate portraits of people he met on the 8,980 mile trip he took the morning after the 2016 presidential election. Then, bass baritone **Dashon Burton** (Jan 27), steps out of his acclaimed role as a classically trained concert and choral artist and member of Roomful of Teeth, with a program of Civil War and Civil Rights anthems of protest, called *Songs of Struggle and Redemption*.

FAMILY MATINEES

Family matinees will be held at Herbst Theatre and YBCA Theater.

SFP's Family Matinees engage young audiences in performances by artists of the highest caliber. In the 2018-19 season, these hour-long programs include performances by **Jessica Lang Dance** (Mar 2) and **Dorrance Dance** (May 11), in addition to providing a showcase for some great, young Bay Area talent, as the **Alexander String Quartet** (Jan 27) is joined by the wonderful **Meraki Quartet** (who recently performed in a 2017-18 SFP Salon together). Mixing it up even more, students from our in-school programs in the East Bay will perform once again with SFP-Artist-in-Residence, trumpeter **Sean Jones** (Mar 16).

SALON SERIES

Due to a scheduled renovation of the Hotel Rex, the Salon series programming will be announced later in the year.

RESIDENT ARTISTS

SFP's continuing artists-in-residence (a four-year cycle) in the 2018-19 season includes trumpeter **Sean Jones**, and tenor **Nicholas Phan**, who work directly with students and teachers in public schools around the Bay Area.

In addition, bass baritone **Dashon Burton** will begin a new residency in the spring of 2019, and guitarist **Jason Vieaux** will return for his second mini-residency with SFP in the fall of 2018. Our artists-in-residence program provides arts education in schools and community centers, builds new audiences, and furthers the careers of talented artists by providing the time and freedom necessary to explore new ideas and develop new works.

DEBUTS

TENET (SFP debut)

QUICKSILVER (SFP debut)

SEONG-JIN CHO (SFP recital debut)

DEBORAH VOIGT (SFP recital debut)

JESSICA LANG DANCE (SFP debut)

ROSIE KAY DANCE (SF debut)

JEAN-GUIHEN QUEYRAS (SF debut)

PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA (SF debut)

CALIDORE QUARTET (SFP debut)

ILKER ARCA YUREK (SF debut)

RAN DANK (SF recital debut)

DASHON BURTON (SFP solo appearance debut)

FRANCESCO PIEMONTESE (SF debut)

PREMIERES

Philip Glass, untitled (*Bay Area Premiere*) performed by Third Coast Percussion
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019, 7:30pm, Herbst Theatre

Samuel Carl Adams, untitled (*West Coast Premiere*) performed Alexander String Quartet/Joyce Yang
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019, 7:30pm, Herbst Theatre

Jessica Lang, *This Thing Called Love* (*Bay Area Premiere*) performed by Jessica Lang Dance
THURSDAY-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2, 2019, 7:30pm, YBCA Theater

Rosie Kay, *5 Soldiers* (*Bay Area Premiere*) performed by Rosie Kay Dance
THURSDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 11-13, 2019, 7:30pm, AtriumTheater

Michelle Dorrance, *ETM: Double Down* (*Bay Area Premiere*) performed by Dorrance Dance
THURSDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 9-11, 2019, 8:30pm, YBCA Theater

2018-19 VENUES

Herbst Theatre

401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister), San Francisco

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

St. Mark's Square at 1111 O'Farrell Street (at Franklin Street), San Francisco

YBCA Theater

700 Howard Street (at Third Street), San Francisco

St. John's Presbyterian Church

2727 College Avenue, Berkeley

Atrium Theater

401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister), 4th Floor, San Francisco

TICKET INFORMATION

Subscriptions are on sale April 18, 2018

Subscribers receive benefits, including savings on single ticket prices, priority seating, free ticket exchange privileges and invitations to two gift concerts. Call SF Performances' subscriber hotline at **(415) 677-0325** or visit **sfperformances.org**.

Single-event tickets go on sale August 6, 2018

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

For selected high-resolution images of the 2018-19 season please visit:

<https://sfperformances.org/media/1819/selectphotos.html>

or contact **Nancy Bertossa** at nancy@sfperformances.org

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