

44th SEASON



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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
CAMILLE THOMAS | CELLO
JULIEN BROCAL | PIANO**



**Tuesday, April 23, 2024 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – March 27, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents cellist **Camille Thomas** and pianist **Julien Brocal** in recital on **Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**.

This performance is free to SFP Season subscribers and donors; tickets are \$45 for the general public and can be purchased at sfperformances.org or by calling 415.392.2545. Tickets can also be purchased at the door as available, including 50% off student rush tickets and 20% off senior rush tickets.

“It’s always a pleasure for SFP to introduce the world’s finest young artists to Bay Area audiences, and our Gift Concert with Camille Thomas and Julien Brocal is no exception. For this performance, Ms. Thomas will play the Stradivarius Feuermann cello, which belonged to Frederic Chopin’s dear friend and collaborator Auguste-Joseph Franchomme. Chopin dedicated his final published work — his sonata for cello and piano — to Franchomme. The program on April 23 will feature this piece, along with several of Franchomme’s own transcriptions of Chopin’s works, from piano to cello. This thoughtful and beautiful program is sure to be a highlight of our season!” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

ABOUT CAMILLE THOMAS

Optimism, vitality, and joyful exuberance are elements of **Camille Thomas**’s rich and compelling personality. The young Franco-Belgian cellist, who signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon in 2017, understands art’s power to bring people together, and to unite individuals from

diverse cultures, countries, and backgrounds. Her charismatic artistry is driven by a passion for life and a desire to inspire others to open their hearts to the wonder and emotion of classical music. "Music gives hope for the beauty and greatness of the human soul," she says.

Camille's recent debuts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Paolo Bortolameolli and the Houston Symphony and Gemma New, and recitals in Boston and New York captivated her audiences and inspired standing ovations at all her performances.

Camille Thomas kicked off her 2023/2024 season with a series of concerts at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, followed by recitals in Duzniki, Biarritz, and the Kronberg Festival. In addition, Camille Thomas makes her debut with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC this season under the baton of Gustavo Gimeno and her recital debut in the Bay Area with San Francisco Performances. She will also showcase her talents at summer festivals across Europe and at Tippet Rise Art Center, and with the Portland (ME) Symphony Orchestra, Stuttgart Philharmoniker, Sinfonieorchester Aachen, and Philharmonie Zuidnederland.

In addition to her live performances, Camille released in June 2023 a new project with Deutsche Grammophon: *The Chopin Project*, which pays tribute to Chopin's favorite instrument, the cello. It is a trilogy of albums that showcases Camille's deep understanding of Chopin's music and its relationship with the cello. The first chapter, *The Franchomme Legacy*, explores the close relationship between Chopin and his cellist colleague Auguste Franchomme. The second chapter, *Complete Chamber Music*, features a complete collection of Chopin's works for chamber ensemble, performed by Camille and a group of world-class musicians. The third chapter, *Cello Arrangements*, presents a unique collection of Chopin's most famous works arranged for the cello by great musicians from all eras.

Ms. Thomas is conquering the world stage at a staggering pace. She has already worked with such conductors as Gemma New, Paolo Bortolameolli, Paavo Järvi, Mikko Franck, Darrell Ang, Kent Nagano, and Stéphane Denève and with the Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Academia Santa Cecilia, Staatsorchester Hamburg in the Elbphilharmonie, the Orchestre National de Bordeaux, Brussels Philharmonic, RTE National Symphony Ireland, and the Korean Symphony Orchestra in Seoul.

ABOUT JULIEN BROCAL

Named *BBC Music Magazine's* 2018 Revelation of the Year, Julien Brocal began learning the piano at the age of 5 and first performed at the Salle Cortot (Paris) at the age of 7. He was trained by Erik Berchot at the Conservatoire National de Région de Marseille and Rena Shereshevskaya at the École Normale de Musique de Paris Alfred Cortot.

In 2013, he was spotted by Maria João Pires during an advanced course at the Cité de la Musique (Paris). She subsequently invited him to take up an artistic residency at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Belgium. She presented him in numerous concerts around the world, including at the Warsaw Philharmonic for the prestigious Chopin Festival, the Florence Opera in the Great Artists series, the Sheldonian Theatre (Oxford), the Alfredo Kraus Auditorium (Las Palmas) and the Philharmonie de Paris.

Following this introduction, he also gave numerous recitals around the world, including at Wigmore Hall (London), New York Town Hall, Piano Days de Flagey, Festival Classique au Vert, Piano aux Jacobins,

Festival Chopin de Nohant and Tippet Rise Art Center in the USA (Montana), Cambridge Music Festival, Chopin Society (London) and NCPA (Beijing), filling in at short notice for renowned pianists Fazil Say and Nelson Goerner.

Highlights of his season include the autumn 2024 release of his third solo album, *Here*, dedicated to his compositions recorded at the Tippet Rise Art Center before the pandemic, a tour of the United States, and the release of a second album on Deutsche Grammophon with cellist Camille Thomas.

Music is often identified as entertainment, but it is also a tool that Julien proposes as a vector of care and therapy. Together with Doctor of Emotional Psychology Ilios Kotsou, he is initiating regular Musical Breathing sessions, which will soon be distributed via an open-source mobile app.

His first album released in 2017 is dedicated to the repertoire of Frédéric Chopin with the *24 Preludes Op. 28* and *Sonata No. 2, Op.35*. The recording was unanimously acclaimed by the international press, with *BBC Music Magazine* calling it a "bewitching Chopin," awarding it 5 stars and presenting it as its best instrumental album of the month.

[Watch](#) Camille Thomas

[Watch](#) Julien Brocal

PROGRAM

CHOPIN: Prelude, Op. 28, No. 4

Prelude, Op. 28, No. 15 "Raindrop" (*Arr. Franchomme*)

Sonata in G Minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 65

Nocturne in B Minor, Op. posth. (*Arr. Mischa Maisky*)

Valse No. 3 in A Minor, Op. 34, No. 2 (*Arr. Franchomme*)

FRANCHOMME: Nocturne, Op. 15, No. 1

Air Russe Varié, Op. 32, No. 2

DAVID POPPER: Hungarian Rhapsody, Op. 68

Please note our health and safety protocols: Masks and up-to-date vaccinations are encouraged but not required to attend our performances. This policy will be adjusted if city or state health orders change.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES

San Francisco Performances has been a leader in the Bay Area cultural scene since our founding in 1979. With a strong curatorial vision and adventurous programming, we are the city's premier presenter of intimate concerts and solo performances.

We have introduced hundreds of established and emerging classical music, jazz, and dance artists to audiences, including Yo-Yo Ma, the Juilliard String Quartet, Philip Glass, Wendy Whelan, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. We also champion a new generation, committed to building a contemporary and equitable repertoire. Performers like the Catalyst Quartet, violinist Jennifer Koh, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and pianist/composer Vijay Iyer are moving their art into the present and future, making it accessible to

younger audiences while converting many traditionalists to new possibilities. They represent the path forward.

Quality, intimacy, and connection are the hallmarks of San Francisco Performances. We nurture unique relationships with today's best artists to create an accessible, warm, and engaging arts experience.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

(Please include [our name as the presenter](#) --many thanks!)

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

CAMILLE THOMAS, CELLO and JULIEN BROCAL, PIANO

WHEN: Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 7:30pm

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

PROGRAM: CHOPIN: Prelude, Op. 28, No. 4; Prelude, Op. 28, No. 15 "Raindrop" (*Arr. Franchomme*); Sonata in G Minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 65; Nocturne in B Minor, Op. posth. (*Arr. Mischa Maisky*); Valse No. 3 in A Minor, Op. 34, No. 2 (*Arr. Franchomme*); **FRANCHOMME:** Nocturne, Op. 15, No. 1; Air Russe Varié, Op. 32, No. 2 **DAVID POPPER:** Hungarian Rhapsody, Op. 68

CONCERT TICKETS: \$45

CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; sfperformances.org

For high-resolution images, contact Terry Conway at terry@sfperformances.org
or click [here](#)

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