

44th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

October 27, 2023

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET**



**Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – October 27, 2023 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the compelling **Castalian String Quartet** on **Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. This concert is included in the inaugural [California Festival](#), a statewide music celebration showcasing the most compelling and forward-looking voices in performances of works written in the past five years.

**Tickets are \$70/\$60/\$50 and can be purchased at [sfperformances.org](https://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.**

“We are delighted to welcome back this exciting young British ensemble. Their special program, spanning more than 200 years, features a new work by Mark-Anthony Turnage that marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Janáček’s *Kreutzer* Sonata quartet. For this new quartet, Turnage returned to words by the Beethoven sonata’s original dedicatee for inspiration. We’re looking forward to hearing both the ‘call’ of the Janáček and the response of the Turnage as performed by this powerful, expressive ensemble.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

**ABOUT CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET**

Since its formation in 2011, the London-based **Castalian String Quartet** has distinguished itself as one of the most dynamic, sophisticated young string quartets performing today. They are an Artist in Residence at the Wigmore Hall in London and are the inaugural Hans Keller String Quartet in Residence at the Oxford

University Faculty of Music. They are also the recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society's 2019 Young Artists Award.

The Castalian Quartet will tour North America in the 2023-24 season with performances in Dallas, San Francisco, Louisville, Chicago, Houston, and many other cities. Another highlight will be their collaboration with pianist Stephen Hough, who will join them for concerts in Costa Mesa, Carmel and Napa, CA; New York, NY; Rockport, MA; and Washington, D.C.

The Quartet works with many living composers, including recent premieres of works by Mark-Anthony Turnage, Charlotte Bray, and Edmund Finnis. They have also established a strong presence abroad, with performances of the complete Haydn Op.76 Quartets at Wigmore Hall; at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Berlin Philharmonic, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Paris Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus, Montreal's Salle Bourgie, Carnegie Hall, the Spoleto USA Festival, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. They have played at the Heidelberger Frühling, East Neuk, Kuhmo, Edinburgh, Lockenhaus, and Banff International Festivals. Further afield, they undertook tours of China and Colombia.

In spring 2022, the Castalian Quartet released its first recording, *Between Two Worlds* (Delphian), featuring works by Thomas Adès, Beethoven, and first violinist Sini Simonen's own arrangements of early works by Orlando de Lassus and John Dowland.

The Castalian Quartet studied with Oliver Wille (Kuss Quartet) at the Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media, graduating with a Master's degree. In addition to the above, awards include Third Prize at the 2016 Banff Quartet Competition and First Prize at the 2015 Lyon Chamber Music Competition. The Quartet was selected by Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT) in 2016. They have received coaching from Simon Rowland-Jones, David Waterman and Isabel Charisius.

Their name is derived from the Castalian Spring in the ancient city of Delphi. According to Greek mythology, the nymph Castalia transformed herself into a fountain to evade Apollo's pursuit, thus creating a source of poetic inspiration for all who drink from her waters.

Sini Simonen\*, violin  
Daniel Roberts, violin  
Ruth Gibson\*, viola  
Steffan Morris, cello

\*Sean Lee and Natalie Loughran have graciously agreed to perform with the Castalian String Quartet during Sini Simonen's and Ruth Gibson's maternity leave.

[Watch](#) Castalian String Quartet

**The evening's program will be as follows:**

**JANÁČEK:** String Quartet No. 1 *Kreutzer Sonata*

**MARK-ANTHONY TURNAGE:** *Awake* (composed for Castalian Quartet, premiering 2023)

**BEETHOVEN:** String Quartet in B Flat, Op. 130 with *Gross Fuge* ending, Op. 133

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**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.

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## **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**

### **CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 7:30pm

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

**PROGRAM:** **JANÁČEK:** String Quartet No. 1 *Kreutzer Sonata*; **MARK-ANTHONY TURNAGE:** *Awake* (composed for Castalian Quartet, premiering 2023); **BEETHOVEN:** String Quartet in B Flat, Op. 130 with *Gross Fuge* ending, Op. 133

**CONCERT TICKETS:** \$70/\$60/\$50

**CONTACT:** (415) 392.2545; [sfperformances.org](https://sfperformances.org)

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

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