

44th SEASON



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 3, 2023

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SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES 2023-2024 SEASON FALL SCHEDULE

Fall highlights include:

The return of SFP audience favorites Ian Bostridge, Stephen Hough, and Isata Kanneh-Mason

The SFP debuts of Miranda Cuckson, Conor Hanick, and Dublin Guitar Quartet

New works by Stephen Hough, Timo Andres, Mark-Anthony Turnage, and Mark Mellits

**A celebration of the Alexander String Quartet's 35 years
as SFP's Quartet-in-Residence**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – August 3, 2023 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) opens its 44th season on **Friday, September 29**, with a gala and concert celebrating the **Alexander String Quartet's** 35th Anniversary as SFP's Quartet-in-Residence. This concert is part of the fundraising gala for San Francisco Performances' arts education programs.

The **Alexander String Quartet** captured the world's attention in 1985 as the first American quartet to win the London International String Quartet Competition. They have worked with many composers including Aaron Copland and Elliott Carter, and have long enjoyed a close relationship with composer-lecturer **Robert Greenberg, Ph.D.** Together with Greenberg, the Quartet performs the popular Saturday Morning series for SF Performances, bringing chamber music alive in a unique concert/lecture format.

The following week, on **October 6**, the highly acclaimed pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason** returns to SF Performances. This Leonard Bernstein and Opus Klassik Award winner for best young artist presents a program of works by Haydn, Fanny Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, and Chopin.

Award-winning young Australian guitar phenomenon **Stephanie Jones** makes her SF Performances debut on **October 7** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. A "guitarists' guitarist," she is highly regarded among her peers and is an audience and critical favorite. Her program includes works by Piazzolla, Jobim/Dyens, Sérgio Assad, and others.

The versatile **Calder Quartet** makes its first of two appearances in our 2023-24 season on **October 10** with acclaimed pianist/composer **Timo Andres** and a program that includes the West Coast premiere of a new work by Andres. (The Calder Quartet returns in the spring with an innovative program featuring the Bay Area's Urban Jazz Dance Company and its founder/director Antoine Hunter.)

English tenor **Ian Bostridge** returns to SFP (**October 21**) for a recital of Schubert's engrossing song cycle *Winterreise*. Bostridge's credentials as an artist and Schubert biographer lend a depth and breadth of insight and understanding to these gloriously brooding settings of 24 poems that evoke facets of love and loss.

The Grammy®-nominated **JACK Quartet** is hailed as one of the most respected experimental string quartets performing today. JACK presents works by Pulitzer and Grammy® Award-winning composer John Luther Adams on **October 26**.

On **October 28**, SFP launches this season's popular **Saturday Morning Series** with the **Alexander String Quartet** and **Robert Greenberg**, SFP's Music Historian-In-Residence. *Music as a Mirror of Our World: The String Quartet from 1905 to 1946* is a series of six concerts in which they'll explore in music and words some of chamber music's most intriguing and important composers, their works, lives, and times. The series continues on November 11, January 27, March 2, March 23, and April 27.

November 2 marks the Bay Area recital debut of two internationally celebrated young artists, noted for their innate expressivity, musical dexterity, and boundlessly evident love for music and live performance. Violinist **Miranda Cuckson** and pianist **Blair McMillen** pair up for a program of works by Beethoven, Prokofiev, Janáček, and Ross Lee Finney.

SF Performances audiences know exuberant cellist **Jay Campbell** as a member of the JACK Quartet and Junction Trio. He returns **November 8** with pianist **Conor Hanick**—another accomplished interpreter of music new and old. They dig in to an eclectic program of works by Eric Wubbels, Schubert, Ligeti, and Poulenc.

Three of our November concerts are 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. Included are the **Dublin Guitar Quartet**, **Stephen Hough**, and the **Castalian String Quartet**.

Dublin Guitar Quartet (November 10) is a rare foursome devoted to contemporary music, from the celebratory to the cerebral. Their SFP debut will include include works by Philip Glass, Wojciech Kilar, Rachel Grimes, and a new work, Marc Mellits' *Titan*. This program is presented in association with OMNI Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Pianist **Stephen Hough**'s astonishing career can be traced over three decades of satisfying SF Performances

recitals highlighting his thoughtful selection of music, emotional resonance, and a style full of joy and wit. He returns **November 14** for a thrilling evening of works by Mompou, Scriabin, Debussy, Liszt, and an original work of his own composition.

In an ingenious chain of inspirations spanning 220 years, the **Castalian String Quartet's** program (**November 15**)—and the new Turnage commission featured on it—mark the 100th anniversary of Janáček's *Kreutzer Sonata* quartet. For his new quartet, Turnage returned to words by the Beethoven sonata's original dedicatee for inspiration.

Our fall concerts wrap up on **December 2** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church with **Beijing Gutar Duo**, who bring their powerful, accomplished style to works by Franck, Debussy, Fauré, Granados, Albéniz, and Piazzolla. This program is presented in association with OMNI Foundation for the Performing Arts.

All programs take place at Herbst Theatre unless otherwise noted.

FALL DEBUTS:

- **Dublin Guitar Quartet** – SFP debut
- **Miranda Cuckson**, violin, and **Blair McMillen**, piano – Bay Area recital debuts
- **Conor Hanick**, piano (with Jay Campbell, cello) – SFP debut
- **Stephanie Jones**, guitar – SFP debut

FALL PREMIERES:

- **Timo Andres**: New piano quintet (performed by Calder Quartet and Timo Andres)
- **Mark-Anthony Turnage**: *Awake* (composed for Castalian String Quartet)*
- **Marc Mellits**: *Titan* (new arrangement, Dublin Guitar Quartet)*
- **Stephen Hough**: *Partita* (performed by Stephen Hough)*

* Included in the inaugural [California Festival](#), a statewide celebration of new music.

VENUES

Herbst Theatre

401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister), San Francisco

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1111 O'Farrell Street (at Franklin), San Francisco

TICKET INFORMATION

Subscriptions are still available for the 2023-24 Season.

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

Single tickets go on sale August 15.

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

Senior, Student, and Group discounts are available. See sfperformances.org for details.

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2023-24 SEASON FALL CALENDAR

All dates, times, artists, programs, and prices are subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Alexander String Quartet

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 | 7:00pm

Herbst Theatre | **\$50**

A special event celebrating the **Alexander String Quartet's** 35th Anniversary as San Francisco Performances' Quartet-in-Residence. Tickets for the concert are \$50; tickets for the full Gala Evening start at \$500. Proceeds benefit San Francisco Performances' arts education programs.

OCTOBER 2023

Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre | **\$70/\$60/\$50**

PROGRAM: HAYDN: Piano Sonata No. 60 in C Major, Hob. XVI/50; **FANNY MENDELSSOHN:** Easter Sonata; **ROBERT SCHUMANN:** *Kinderszenen*, Op. 15; **CHOPIN:** Piano Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58

A Leonard Bernstein and Opus Klassik Award winner for best young artist, **Isata Kanneh-Mason** returns to SF Performances as she continues to move and inspire audiences worldwide.

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Stephanie Jones, guitar

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023 | 7:30pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church | \$60

PROGRAM: Works by **PIAZZOLLA**, **JOBIM/DYENS**, **SÉRGIO ASSAD**, and others

Award-winning young Australian guitar phenomenon **Stephanie Jones** makes her SF Performances debut. A "guitarists' guitarist," she is highly regarded among her peers as well as an audience and critical favorite. "The classical guitar has found a brilliant interpreter in Stephanie Jones. She delivers a magical sound with the deepest musical expressions." — Sérgio Assad

This program is presented in association with OMNI Foundation for the Performing Arts.

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Calder Quartet

Timo Andres, piano

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre | \$70/\$60/\$50

PROGRAM: ANDRES: *Machine, Learning*; plus a new piano quintet; **SCHUBERT:** *Rosamunde* Quartet in A Minor; **ANN SOUTHAM:** *Remembering Schubert*

The versatile and vibrant **Calder Quartet** excels equally at composer collaborations and standard-setting performances of classics. They present two programs this season, mixing it up with chamber music milestones and thrilling new voices. For this performance, the quartet is joined by acclaimed pianist/composer **Timo Andres** for a program that includes the West Coast premiere of a new work by Andres.

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Ian Bostridge, tenor

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre | \$75/\$65/\$55

PROGRAM: SCHUBERT: *Winterreise*

Awarded the Cooper Prize for non-fiction for his book, *Schubert's Winter Journey: Anatomy of an Obsession*, English tenor **Ian Bostridge** brings the receipts for this recital of Schubert's engrossing song cycle. His credentials as an artist and biographer lend a depth and breadth of insight and understanding to these gloriously brooding settings of 24 poems that evoke facets of love and loss.

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JACK Quartet

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre | \$70/\$60/\$50

PROGRAM: JOHN LUTHER ADAMS: "Rising" from *Untouched*; *Lines Made by Walking*; and *The Wind in High Places*

Through close collaboration with today's most exciting and sought-after composers, **JACK Quartet** inspires and infuses new works with tremendous energy and riveting attention.

Saturday Mornings

Alexander String Quartet with **Robert Greenberg**, Music Historian-in-Residence

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023, 10am

Herbst Theatre | \$75/\$65/\$55

Music as a Mirror of Our World: The String Quartet from 1905 to 1946

Program 1 | AUSTRIA

SCHOENBERG: String Quartet No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 7; **WEBERN:** *Langsamer Satz*; Five Movements for Strings

The esteemed and popular **Alexander String Quartet** has enlivened SF Performances seasons for more than three decades, joined by Music Historian-in-Residence **Robert Greenberg**. This season, in a series of six concerts, they'll explore in music and words some of chamber music's most intriguing and important composers, their works, lives, and times.

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NOVEMBER 2023

Miranda Cuckson, violin

Blair McMillen, piano

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre | \$70/\$60/\$50

PROGRAM: Works by **JANÁČEK**, **BEETHOVEN**, **PROKOFIEV**, and **ROSS LEE FINNEY**

This is the Bay Area recital debut of these two internationally celebrated young artists, noted for their innate expressivity, musical dexterity, and boundlessly evident love for music and live performance.

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Jay Campbell, cello

Conor Hanick, piano

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre | \$70/\$60/\$50

PROGRAM: **ERIC WUBBELS:** *Gretchen am Spinnrade*; **SCHUBERT:** Two Impromptus for Piano (A-Flat Major, F Minor), Op. 90; **GYÖRGY LIGETI:** Three Etudes (*Fanfare, Arc-en-ciel, L'escalier*); **POULENC:** Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 43

SF Performances audiences know exuberant cellist **Jay Campbell** as a member of the JACK Quartet and Junction Trio. This season welcomes his return with pianist **Conor Hanick**—both accomplished interpreters of music new and old. They dig in to an eclectic program.

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Dublin Guitar Quartet

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Herbst Theatre | \$70/\$60/\$50

PROGRAM: **PHILIP GLASS:** String Quartet No. 2 *Company*; Piano Etudes No. 2, 9, 16, and 20; String Quartet No.

3 *Mishima*; **WOJCIECH KILAR**: *Orawa*; **RACHEL GRIMES**: *Book of Leaves*; **MARC MELLITS**: *Titan* (selected movements); **ARVO PÄRT**: *Summa*

A rare foursome devoted to contemporary music, from the celebratory to the cerebral. The **Dublin Guitar Quartet** has piloted an impressive list of premieres, new work, and original arrangements from compositional giants—and works audiences clamor to hear—delivered with tremendous vitality and style. “A wonderful ensemble. The Dublin Guitar Quartet has carved a place for itself in the world of classical music.” — Philip Glass

This program is presented in association with OMNI Foundation for the Performing Arts

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Saturday Mornings

Alexander String Quartet with **Robert Greenberg**, Music Historian-in-Residence

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023, 10am

Herbst Theatre | \$75/\$65/\$55

Music as a Mirror of Our World: The String Quartet from 1905 to 1946

Program 2 | RUSSIA

STRAVINSKY: Three Pieces for String Quartet; Concertino for String Quartet; **PROKOFIEV**: String Quartet No. 1 in B Minor, Op. 50

The second of six concerts this season in which the **Alexander String Quartet** and Music Historian-in-Residence **Robert Greenberg** explore some of chamber music’s most intriguing and important composers, their works, lives, and times.

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Stephen Hough, piano

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre | \$80/\$70/\$60

PROGRAM: MOMPOU: *Cants Mágics*; **SCRIABIN**: Piano Sonata No 5, Op 53; **DEBUSSY**: *Estampe*;

HOUGH: *Partita*; **LISZT**: *3 Petrarch Sonnets; Dante Sonata*

Stephen Hough’s astonishing career can be traced over three decades of satisfying SF Performances recitals witnessing his thoughtful selection of music, emotional resonance, and a style full of joy and wit.

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Castalian String Quartet

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre | \$70/\$60/\$50

PROGRAM: JANÁČEK: String Quartet No. 1 *Kreutzer Sonata*; **MARK-ANTHONY TURNAGE**: *Awake* (composed for Castalian String Quartet, premiering 2023); **MENDELSSOHN**: Quartet in F Minor, Op 80

In an ingenious chain of inspirations spanning 220 years, the **Castalian**’s program— and the new Turnage commission featured on it—mark the 100th anniversary of Janáček’s *Kreutzer Sonata* quartet. For his new quartet,

Turnage returned to words by the Beethoven sonata's original dedicatee for inspiration.

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DECEMBER 2023

Beijing Guitar Duo

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 | 7:30pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church | **\$60**

PROGRAM: **FRANCK:** Prélude, Fugue et Variation Op. 18; **DEBUSSY:** *Petite Suite*; **FAURÉ:** *Dolly Suite*, Op. 56; **GRANADOS:** *Valses Poéticos*; **ALBÉNIZ:** *Bajo la Palmera; Castilla*; **PIAZZOLLA:** *Tango Suite*

Boasting a powerful, accomplished style and the ability to perform practically anything, the **Beijing Duo** is credited with inspiring and energizing the next generation of classical guitarists. Legendary guitarist Manuel Barrueco proclaimed them "the best guitar duo in the world."

This program is presented in association with OMNI Foundation for the Performing Arts.

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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.

For selected high-resolution images of the 2023-2024 season please visit:

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

or contact Terry Conway at terry@sfperformances.org

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