

44th SEASON



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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
ILKER ARCAYÜREK | TENOR
SIMON LEPPER | PIANO**



**Thursday, March 21, 2024 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – February 28, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents tenor **Ilker Arcayürek** and pianist **Simon Lepper** in an all-Schubert recital on **Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. Tickets are **\$65/\$55/\$45** 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**.

“A singer in the tradition of the great European interpreters of Lieder, Ilker Arcayürek is a rare find. We had the honor of introducing him to Bay Area audiences several years ago, and the pandemic kept him away for longer than we had hoped. It’s a delight to have him return to SF Performances, once again with renowned collaborative pianist Simon Lepper, for another evening of song, this time entirely dedicated to the works of Franz Schubert.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

ABOUT ILKER ARCAYÜREK

Born in Istanbul and raised in Vienna, tenor **Ilker Arcayürek** has emerged as one of the most exciting and versatile vocal artists in recent years. He is a winner of the International Art Song Competition of Germany’s Hugo Wolf Academy, a finalist of the 2015 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World and was a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. He was also selected to perform at Ronaldo Vilazon’s “Stars of Tomorrow” for ARTE.

In 2017 Champs Hill Records released his first solo album *Der Einsame*, featuring Schubert songs, accompanied by Simon Lepper, to great critical acclaim. His latest recording with Simon titled *Path of Life* for Prospero Classical was nominated for 2 OPUS KLASSIK Awards.

Arcayürek's versatility has led him to a busy and varied career on the opera stage, symphonically and on the recital platform. He has worked with orchestras such as Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Tonkünstler-Orchester, Tokyo Philharmonic, RSO Vienna, Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Orchestre National de Belgique, Orchestre National de Lyon, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Antwerp Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Northern Sinfonia under conductors such as Mariss Jansons, Ivor Bolton, Laurence Equilbey, Marin Alsop, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Philippe Herreweghe, Riccardo Minasi, Mikhail Pletnev, Lars Vogt, Simon Halsey and Adam Fischer.

Recent highlights have included Liszt *Eine Faust-Sinfonie* with Sinfonieorchester Basel, a fourteen date European tour of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the Orchestre des Champs Elysees and Collegium Vocale Gent, a return to Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Haydn's *Die Schöpfung* with WDR Sinfonieorchester at Kölner Philharmonie, Verdi Requiem with Antwerp Symphony and with Opera National de Montpellier, tenor arias in *St Matthew Passion* with Residentie Orkest in the Hague, Mozart's *Requiem* with London Philharmonic Orchestra and *Mass in C* with Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin.

On the opera stage, recent successes include his Canadian Opera Company debut as Tamino *Die Zauberflöte*, Ferrando *Così fan tutte* with Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, for Opera Vlaanderen performing the roles of Ariel, Pater Ecstaticus in Schumann's *Szenen aus Goethes Faust* and the role of Alfred in *Die Fledermaus* at Musikverein Graz. He returned to the Edinburgh International Festival in summer 2023 for a semi-staged version of *Die Zauberflöte* conducted by Maxim Emelyanychev.

Ilker has been a member of the studio of Zürich Opera (2009-2013) a member of the ensemble of the Stadttheater Klagenfurt (2013-2015) and Staatstheater Nürnberg (2015-18) singing various roles such as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, the title role in *Idomeneo*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*. As a guest artist he has performed at Teatro Real Madrid in Kasper Holten's production of Wagner's *Das Liebesverbot*, Munich Opera Festival of the Bayerische Staatsoper in the world premiere of Nikolaus Brass' *Die Vorübergehenden*, Salzburg Festival in Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia*, Volksoper Wien in Lortzing's *Zar and Zimmerman* and for Opera Graz the role of Lyonel in Flotow's *Martha* and as the title role in Weber's *Oberon*.

Often described as having the gift of storytelling, Ilker is a passionate exponent of Lied and this continues to form an important output of his work. He performs with pianists such as Simon Lepper, Hartmut Höll, Ammiel Bushakevitz, Daniel Heide and Wolfram Rieger and has presented programs at Edinburgh International Festival, Wigmore Hall, Wiener Konzerthaus, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg and Hohenems, Oper Frankfurt, Schubertiada Vilabertran, de Singel Antwerp, Life Victoria Barcelona, at the Innsbruck Festwochen and Hugo Wolf Academy Stuttgart. He made his highly anticipated United States recital debut in February 2019 at the Park Avenue Armory in New York and with San Francisco Performances, accompanied by pianist Simon Lepper and returns to both venues this season.

ABOUT SIMON LEPPER

Simon Lepper read music at King's College, Cambridge before studying piano accompaniment with

Michael Dussek at the Royal Academy of Music and later with Ruben Lifschitz at the Fondation Royaumont. He is a currently professor of collaborative piano and a vocal repertoire coach at the Royal College of Music, London where he also in charge of the collaborative piano course. Since 2003 he has been an official accompanist for the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition.

Performance highlights have included an invitation from the Wigmore Hall, London to present a three concert project on the songs of Joseph Marx; recital tours with Stéphane Degout which have included the Ravinia and Edinburgh Festivals and the opera houses of Bordeaux, Dijon, La Monnaie, Lausanne and Lyon; recitals at Carnegie Hall, New York with Karen Cargill and Sally Matthews and at the Frick Collection with Christopher Purves; performances of the Schubert song cycles with Gerald Finley as well as Mark Padmore including at the Schubertiade, Hohenhems, recitals with Christiane Karg at Frankfrut Opera and the Rheingau Fesitval and recitals with Angelika Kirchschrager in Verbier and at the Wigmore Hall.

He has presented an all-Schubert program with Ilker Arcayürek in Barcelona, Zürich, New York (Park Armory), and at the Wigmore Hall where further appearances have included recitals with Dame Felicity Palmer, Karen Cargill, Sally Matthews and Mark Padmore. With Benjamin Appl he toured to India including recitals in Mumbai and Chennai and gave the opening performance for the highest concert hall in the world in Shenzhen with Aida Garifulina. Future highlights include a European tour with Stéphane Degout, recitals at the Wigmore Hall and with singers including Ilker Arcayurek, Karen Cargill, Simon Bode, Elizabeth Llewlyn and Gweneth Ann Rand.

His discography includes 2 volumes of Debussy Songs and a Strauss disc with Gillian Keith, a disc of Mahler songs with Karen Cargill, the complete songs of Jonathan Dove with Kitty Whately and a CD of contemporary violin works with Carolin Widmann which received a Diapason d'or. Recent releases include a song recital disc with Dame Felicity Palmer, a CD of Schubert songs with tenor Ilker Arcayürek, a disc of ballads with Stéphane Degout as well as recital disc *Poèmes d'un jour*, which was a *Gramophone* Magazine editor's choice. Future CD releases include French Song with Karen Cargill, a second Schubert disc with Ilker Arcayürek, and the songs of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor with Elizabeth Llewlyn.

[Watch](#) Ilker Arcayürek and Simon Lepper

PROGRAM: All Schubert

Fischerweise, D. 881

Liebhaber in allen Gestalten, D. 558

An Silvia, D. 891

Alinde, D. 904

Willkommen und Abschied, D. 767

Dass sie hier gewesen, D. 775

Du bist die Ruh, D. 776

Auf dem Wasser zu singen, D. 774

Auf der Brücke, D. 853

Die Sterne, D. 939

Bei dir allein, D. 866

Lachen und Weinen, D. 777

Der Wanderer, D. 489

Der Unglückliche, D. 713b
Die Götter Griechenlands, D. 677
Du liebst mich nicht, D. 759
An die Freunde, D. 654
Des Fischers Liebesglück, D. 933

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

ILKER ARCA YÜREK, TENOR and SIMON LEPPER, PIANO

WHEN: Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7:30pm

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

PROGRAM: All Schubert: *Fischerweise*, D. 881; *Liebhaber in allen Gestalten*, D. 558; *An Silvia*, D. 891; *Alinde*, D. 904; *Willkommen und Abschied*, D. 767; *Dass sie hier gewesen*, D. 775; *Du bist die Ruh*, D. 776; *Auf dem Wasser zu singen*, D. 774; *Auf der Brücke*, D. 853; *Die Sterne*, D. 939; *Bei dir allein*, D. 866; *Lachen und Weinen*, D. 777; *Der Wanderer*, D. 489; *Der Unglückliche*, D. 713b; *Die Götter Griechenlands*, D. 677; *Du liebst mich nicht*, D. 759; *An die Freunde*, D. 654; *Des Fischers Liebesglück*, D. 933

CONCERT TICKETS: \$65/\$55/\$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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