

44th SEASON



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September 14, 2023

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
ISATA KANNEH-MASON | PIANO**



**Friday, October 6, 2023 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – September 14, 2023 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the highly acclaimed pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason** in recital on **Friday, October 6, 2023, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. **Tickets are \$70/\$60/\$50 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.**

“We are delighted to welcome back Isata Kanneh-Mason for her second appearance with us. Her star has risen significantly since her San Francisco debut in our 2021-22 season, and we look forward to this next opportunity to hear her in another wonderful program.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

This performance is presented in memory of the groundbreaking pianist André Watts, a longtime friend and supporter of San Francisco Performances. Mr. Watts played a key role in the formation of SFP, and performed at our inaugural concert in 1980. He passed away in July of this year.

ABOUT ISATA KANNEH-MASON

Pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason** is in great demand internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. She offers eclectic and interesting repertoire, with her recital programs encompassing music from Haydn and Mozart, via Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann, Chopin and Brahms, to Gershwin and beyond. In

concerto, she is equally at home in Felix Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann, whose piano concerto featured on Isata's chart-topping debut recording, as in Prokofiev and Dohnányi.

Highlights of the 23/24 season include performances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra Ottawa, London Mozart Players, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on tour in the USA and Germany, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Cleveland Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, and Stockholm Philharmonic. With her cellist brother, Sheku, she appears in recital in Japan, Singapore, and South Korea in addition to an extensive European recital tour. Isata also gives a series of solo recitals on tour in the US and Canada as well as at London's Wigmore Hall, the Lucerne Festival, and across Germany.

In 2022/23 Isata made successful debuts at the Barbican, Queen Elizabeth and Wigmore halls in London, the Philharmonie Berlin, National Concert Hall Dublin, Perth Concert Hall and Prinzregententheater Munich. As concerto soloist, she appeared with orchestras such as the New World Symphony Miami, City of Birmingham Symphony, Barcelona Symphony, Geneva Chamber Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic and was the Artist in Residence with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Isata is a Decca Classics recording artist. Her 2019 album, *Romance – the Piano Music of Clara Schumann*, entered the UK classical charts at No. 1, Gramophone magazine extolling the recording as "one of the most charming and engaging debuts". This was followed by 2021's *Summertime*, featuring 20th-century American repertoire including a world premiere recording of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Impromptu in B minor and 2023's endearingly titled album *Childhood Tales* is a tour-de-force showcase of music inspired by a nostalgia for youth.

2021 also saw the release of Isata's first duo album, *Muse*, with her brother Sheku Kanneh-Mason, demonstrating the siblings' musical empathy and rapport borne from years of playing and performing together. Isata and Sheku were selected to perform in recital during the 2020 BBC Proms, which was a vastly reduced festival due to the Covid-19 pandemic and they performed for cameras to an empty auditorium. She made her BBC Proms solo debut this summer, this time to a fully open Royal Albert Hall, alongside Ryan Bancroft and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Isata was an ECHO Rising Star in 21/22 performing in many of Europe's finest halls and she is also the recipient of the coveted Leonard Bernstein Award, an Opus Klassik award for best young artist and is one of the Konzerthaus Dortmund's Junge Wilde artists.

Watch Isata Kanneh-Mason play [Scherzo No. 2](#) by Clara Schumann

The evening's program will be as follows:

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

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

ISATA KANNEH-MASON, PIANO

WHEN: Friday, October 6, 2023, 7:30pm

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

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

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

CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; sfperformances.org

For high-resolution images, contact Terry Conway at terry@sfperformances.org

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