

44th SEASON



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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
JACK QUARTET**



**Thursday, October 26, 2023 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – October 3, 2023 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the visionary **JACK Quartet** in a celebration of composer John Luther Adams on **Thursday, October 26, 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 welcome back the eminent, groundbreaking JACK Quartet in a program honoring the 70th birthday of composer John Luther Adams. With two recent Grammy nominations for recordings of his work, the JACK dedicates a full evening to performances of this extraordinary composer's evocative music. Their concert promises to be an expansive celebration of music and the natural world.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

ABOUT JACK QUARTET

JACK Quartet is praised as one of the most acclaimed, renowned, and respected experimental string quartets performing today. Comprising violinists **Christopher Otto** and **Austin Wulliman**, violist **John Pickford Richards**, and cellist **Jay Campbell**, JACK operates as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the performance, commissioning, and appreciation of new string quartet music. The quartet was selected as Musical America's 2018 “Ensemble of the Year,” nominated for Grammy© Awards for recordings in 2018 and 2022, named to WQXR's “19 for 19 Artists to Watch”, and awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

JACK returns to SFP to celebrate the 70th birthday of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Luther

Adams. Their concert at the Herbst will feature Adams' lauded string quartets *The Wind in High Places* and *Lines Made by Walking*.

John Luther Adams emerged from decades of full-time environmental activism with a rich artistic voice and a belief that music can do more to change the world than politics. Adams' vision of a musical expression searching for its future home through a grounded presence in our natural world has inspired JACK Quartet to create nine quartets with him, including the ensemble's Grammy®-nominated album, *Lines Made By Walking*. Letting the natural resonance of the quartet's strings ring out as if swept by the wind atop a mountain or tracing the steps of Adams' daily walks in the Montana foothills, the music is an invitation to inhabit space and sound and to rediscover a fascination with music's very relationship to the natural world.

JACK is also featured in major celebrations of John Zorn's 70th birthday this season, including performances of his complete string quartets and new work with regular collaborator Barbara Hannigan. Venues include the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), KunstFestSpiel Herrenhausen, Great American Music Hall (San Francisco), and Cite de la Musique (Paris), among others in anticipation of JACK's release of a recording of his eight string quartets. Other season highlights include a three-concert day at London's Wigmore Hall, featuring the European premieres of works by Vicente Atria, Juri Seo, and Amy Williams. In 2024, JACK premieres Natacha Diels' *Beautiful Trouble* at Penn Live Arts in Philadelphia, embarks on an Australian tour, and celebrates the 5th edition of its commissioning and composer development initiative, JACK Studio.

Through intimate relationships with today's most creative voices, JACK embraces close collaboration with the composers they perform, leading to a radical embodiment of the technical, musical, and emotional aspects of their work. The quartet has worked with artists such as Julia Wolfe, George Lewis, Helmut Lachenmann, and Caroline Shaw, with upcoming and recent premieres including works by John Luther Adams, Catherine Lamb, Liza Lim, Tyshawn Sorey, Wadada Leo Smith, Amy Williams, and John Zorn. JACK's all-access initiative, JACK Studio, funds collaborations with a selection of artists each year, who receive money, workshop time, mentorship, and resources to develop new works for string quartet.

JACK has performed to critical acclaim at Carnegie Hall (USA), Lincoln Center (USA), Berlin Philharmonie (Germany), Wigmore Hall (United Kingdom), Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ (Netherlands), The Louvre (France), Kölner Philharmonie (Germany), the Lucerne Festival (Switzerland), La Biennale di Venezia (Italy), Suntory Hall (Japan), Bali Arts Festival (Indonesia), Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico), and Teatro Colón (Argentina). Additional awards include Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award, New Music USA's Trailblazer Award, and the CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

According to Musical America, "many of their recordings are must-haves, for anyone interested in new music." Nominated for multiple Grammy® Awards, most recently their albums of music by John Luther Adams were nominated in the 2022 and 2023 Best Ensemble Performance category. Other albums include music by Helmut Lachenmann, Du Yun, Elliott Sharp, Zosha di Castri, Iannis Xenakis, and upcoming releases of the complete quartets of John Zorn and Elliott Carter.

Committed to education, JACK is the Quartet in Residence at the Mannes School of Music, where they provide mentorship to Mannes's Cuker and Stern Graduate String Quartet. They also teach each summer at New Music on the Point, a contemporary chamber music festival in Vermont for young performers and composers, and at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. JACK has long-standing relationships with the

University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program, where they teach and collaborate with students each fall and spring, as well as with the Lucerne Festival Academy, of which the four members are all alumni.

Watch JACK Quartet play John Luther Adams' [The Wind in High Places - String Quartet No. 1, 3](#).

The evening's program will be as follows:

JOHN LUTHER ADAMS: "Rising" from *Untouched*

Lines Made by Walking

The Wind in High Places

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

ARTIST NAME, INSTRUMENT

WHEN: Thursday, October 26, 2023, 7:30pm

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

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

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

CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; sfperformances.org

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

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