

44th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

April 4, 2024

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
COUNCIL  
PEKKA KUUSISTO | VIOLIN, PIANO, VOCALS  
GABRIEL KAHANE | PIANO, GUITAR, VOCALS**



**Friday, May 3, 2024 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – April 4, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents its final concert of the 2023-24 season: **Pekka Kuusisto** and **Gabriel Kahane**, performing together under the name **Council**, on **Friday, May 3, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. **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.**

Of their musical partnership, Kahane writes, “Within a few minutes of meeting, this exuberant, quick-witted Finn with a mop of blonde hair and piercing blue eyes had invited me to his festival in Finland, and a friendship was born. Over the ensuing years, we made music occasionally, but it wasn’t until I began a residency with San Francisco Performances that an opportunity presented itself for deliberate collaboration. Now, over the last nine months, we’ve spent time writing together in focused bursts; twice in Finland, once in Portland.”

Listen to [Bright Forms](#), a new recording by Council.

**ABOUT PEKKA KUUSISTO**

Violinist, conductor, and composer **Pekka Kuusisto** is renowned for his artistic freedom and fresh

approach to repertoire. Kuusisto is Artistic Director of Norwegian Chamber Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor & Artistic Co-Director of Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra from the 2023/24 season. He is also a Collaborative Partner of San Francisco Symphony, and Artistic Best Friend of Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen.

In the 2023/24 season, Kuusisto performs with Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchester, Helsinki Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo and Boston Symphony Orchestra. He appears as guest conductor with Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre de chambre de Paris. As *Council*, Kuusisto also tours North America and Australia with American singer-songwriter Gabriel Kahane.

In the 2022/23 season Kuusisto debuted with Berliner Philharmoniker and performed with Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra. He returned to orchestras such as The Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestras, Gürzenich-Orchester Köln, and Mahler Chamber Orchestra. Kuusisto made his debuts as a conductor with Philharmonia Orchestra and Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra. He is also Sinfonieorchester Basel's Artist-in-Residence with whom he appeared as conductor, soloist, and recitalist.

Kuusisto is an enthusiastic advocate of contemporary music and a gifted improviser and regularly engages with people across the artistic spectrum. Uninhibited by conventional genre boundaries and noted for his innovative programming, recent projects have included collaborations with Hauschka and Kosminen, Dutch neurologist Erik Scherder, pioneer of electronic music Brian Crabtree, eminent jazz-trumpeter Arve Henriksen, juggler Jay Gilligan, accordionist Dermot Dunne and folk artist Sam Amidon.

In 2023, Kuusisto's releases included an album for BIS on which he features as conductor of Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra performing the first recording of Jaakko Kuusisto's Symphony, Op.39, and another for Alba as violinist with Malin Broman and Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra performing works by Tarrodi, Byström, Larsson and Zinovjev. In 2022, Kuusisto released his first album as conductor, partnering with Vilde Frang and Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, presenting the Stravinsky and Beethoven Concerti for Warner (for which he is nominated in the concerto category of the 2023 Gramophone Awards) and as soloist performing the world premiere recording of Ades' *Märchentänze* for violin and orchestra with Nicholas Collon and Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra for Ondine. With Pentatone, Kuusisto and Norwegian Chamber Orchestra presented the album *First Light* in 2021 featuring the world premiere recording of Nico Muhly's violin concerto, *Shrink*. Other recent releases include Ades' Violin Concerto *Concentric Paths* recorded with Aurora and Nicolas Collon for Deutsche Grammophon, Hillborg's *Bach Materia* and Bach's Brandenburg Concertos No.3 and No.4 with Swedish Chamber Orchestra and Thomas Dausgaard for BIS and Daniel Bjarason's Violin Concerto with Iceland Symphony Orchestra with the composer conducting for *Sono Luminus*.

## **ABOUT GABRIEL KAHANE**

**Gabriel Kahane** is a musician and storyteller whose work increasingly exists at the intersection of art and social practice. Hailed as "one of the finest songwriters of the day" by *The New Yorker*, he is known to haunt basement rock clubs and august concert halls alike, where you'll likely find him in the green room,

double-fisting coffee, and a book.

He has released five albums as a singer-songwriter including his most recent LP, *Magnificent Bird* (Nonesuch Records), which received widespread critical acclaim. As a composer, he has been commissioned by many of America's leading arts institutions, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Carnegie Hall, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the Public Theater, which in 2012 presented his musical *February House*.

In 2019, Kahane was named the inaugural Creative Chair for the Oregon Symphony, following the premiere in Portland of his oratorio *emergency shelter intake form*, a work that explores inequality in America through the lens of housing issues. The piece was released as an album in March of 2020, and is scheduled for performance by half a dozen other American orchestras in the coming years.

In his 2023-24 season, Kahane embarked on a new collaborative commissioning project with the Attacca Quartet, Pekka Kuusisto, and Roomful of Teeth as part of a two-year initiative with San Francisco Performances, with additional performances scheduled around the U.S. and Europe. Season highlights include the European premiere of *emergency shelter intake form* in London with the BBC Concert Orchestra, duo recitals with Jeffrey Kahane, a conducting appearance with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the New York premiere of his piano concerto *Heirloom* by Jeffrey Kahane and The Knights. Venues include UCLA's Nimoy Theater, Seattle's Meany Center, and New York's 92NY.

Kahane's discography also includes the highly praised *Book of Travelers*, *The Ambassador*, which received an acclaimed staging at BAM, directed by Tony and Olivier Award-winner John Tiffany; an album of chamber music, *The Fiction Issue*, with the string quartet Brooklyn Rider and vocalist/composer Shara Nova; a recording with The Knights of his orchestral song cycle *Crane Palimpsest*; as well as the original cast album for *February House*.

A frequent collaborator across a range of musical communities, Gabriel has worked with an array of artists including Paul Simon, Sufjan Stevens, Andrew Bird, Phoebe Bridgers, Caroline Shaw, and Chris Thile. After nearly two decades in Brooklyn, Kahane relocated with his family to Portland, Oregon, in March of 2020. Their freakishly self-possessed cat, Roscoe Greebletron Jones III, when not under investigation for securities fraud, continues his fruitless attempts to monetize his Instagram account.

### **The evening's program is to be announced**

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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**

**COUNCIL: PEKKA KUUSISTO, VIOLIN, PIANO, VOCALS, and GABRIEL KAHANE, PIANO, GUITAR, VOCALS**

**WHEN: Friday, May 3, 2024, 7:30pm**

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

**PROGRAM: To be announced**

**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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