

44th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
LEILA JOSEFOWICZ | VIOLIN  
JOHN NOVACEK | PIANO**



**Saturday, February 24, 2024 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – January 30, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents a thrilling duo: violinist **Leila Josefowicz** and pianist **John Novacek**, in recital on **Saturday, February 24, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. Tickets are **\$75/\$65/\$55** and can be purchased at [sfperformances.org](http://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**.

“SF Performances is honored to present this acclaimed duo once again. Their carefully constructed programs and inimitable artistry are sure to make for another compelling evening of great music.” —  
Melanie Smith, SFP President

**ABOUT LEILA JOSEFOWICZ**

**Leila Josefowicz**’s passionate advocacy of contemporary music for the violin is reflected in her diverse programs and enthusiasm for performing new works. A favorite of living composers, Josefowicz has premiered many concertos, including those by Colin Matthews, Luca Francesconi, John Adams and Esa-Pekka Salonen, all written for her.

Artist-in-Residence of Iceland Symphony Orchestra for the 2023/24 season, Josefowicz will perform Helen Grime’s Violin Concerto with Daniel Bjarnason and Bartók’s Violin Concerto No.2 with Eva Ollikainen, as

well as present a solo recital at Harpa Hall. Elsewhere, Josefowicz's season includes engagements with Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Musikkollegium Winterthur, London Philharmonic Orchestra, and Lahti, Milwaukee, Taipei and Antwerp symphony orchestras. Josefowicz also presents the world premiere of Jüri Reinvere's Concerto for Violin and Harp alongside Trina Struble and The Cleveland Orchestra, and tours Germany and Austria with Junge Deutsche Philharmonie with concerts Berlin, Vienna and Dresden.

Highlights of recent seasons include appearances with Berliner Philharmoniker; Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich; Royal Concertgebouw; Konzerthausorchester Berlin; Dresden Philharmonie, Oslo, Helsinki and Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestras; NDR Elbphilharmonie; the Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, The Cleveland, and The Philadelphia orchestras, where she worked with conductors at the highest level, including Matthias Pintscher, John Storgårds, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Louis Langrée, Hannu Lintu and John Adams.

Josefowicz enjoyed a close working relationship with the late Oliver Knussen, performing various concerti, including his violin concerto, together over 30 times. Other premieres have included Matthias Pintscher's *Assonanza* with Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, John Adams' *Scheherazade.2* with New York Philharmonic, Luca Francesconi's *Duende – The Dark Notes* with Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Steven Mackey's *Beautiful Passing* with BBC Philharmonic.

Together with John Novacek, with whom she has enjoyed a close collaboration since 1985, Josefowicz has performed recitals at world-renowned venues such as New York's Zankel Hall and Park Avenue Armory, Washington DC's Kennedy Center and Library of Congress and London's Wigmore Hall, as well as in Reykjavik, Trento, Bilbao and Chicago. This season their collaboration continues with recitals in California, appearing at Festival Mozaic, UC Santa Barbara, San Francisco Performances and Los Angeles Philharmonic's Colburn Celebrity Recital series.

In recognition of her outstanding achievement and excellence in music, she won the 2018 Avery Fisher Prize and was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship in 2008, joining prominent scientists, writers, and musicians who have made unique contributions to contemporary life.

## **ABOUT JOHN NOVACEK**

Versatile Grammy®-nominated pianist **John Novacek** regularly tours the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia as solo recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloist; in the latter capacity he has presented over thirty concerti with dozens of orchestras. He begins his current season with an appointment to the Piano and Collaborative Piano faculty of The Mannes School of Music at The New School's College of Performing Arts.

John Novacek's major American performances have been heard in New York City's Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' David Geffen and Alice Tully halls, 92nd Street Y, Columbia University's Miller Theater, Merkin Concert Hall, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Symphony Space, Washington's The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Boston's Symphony Hall, Chicago's Symphony Center and Los Angeles' Hollywood Bowl, while international venues include Paris' Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Salle Gaveau and Musée du Louvre, London's Wigmore Hall and Barbican Centre and Tokyo's Suntory, Opera City and Bunkamura halls. He is also a frequent guest artist at festivals worldwide, including New

York City's Mostly Mozart Festival, California's Festival Mozaic and those of Aspen, Cape Cod, Caramoor, Chautauqua, Colorado College, Great Lakes, Mendocino, Mimir, Music in the Vineyards, Ravinia, Seattle, SummerFest La Jolla, Wolf Trap, and more.

Often heard on radio broadcasts worldwide, John Novacek has appeared on NPR's *Performance Today*, *St. Paul Sunday* and, as both featured guest composer/performer, on *A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor*. He was also seen and heard on television, including *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*, *Entertainment Tonight* and *CNN International*. Recently, Mr. Novacek has been prominently featured in discussion and performance on the highly successful PBS/Great Performances series *Now Hear This*.

John Novacek is a highly sought-after collaborative artist and has performed with Joshua Bell, Renaud Capuçon, Jeremy Denk, Matt Haimovitz, Leila Josefowicz, Cho-Liang Lin, Yo-Yo Ma, Truls Mørk, Elmar Oliveira and Emmanuel Pahud, and, as well as the Afara, Colorado, Harrington, Jupiter, New Hollywood, St. Lawrence, SuperNova and Ying string quartets. As a tireless advocate for contemporary music, Mr. Novacek has also given numerous world premieres and worked closely with composers John Adams, Kenji Bunch, Gabriela Lena Frank, John Harbison, Jennifer Higdon, George Rochberg, Robert Sierra, John Williams and John Zorn.

John Novacek's original compositions have been widely performed and frequently recorded by major international soloists and ensembles. Commissioning entities include: New York Philharmonic, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Pacific Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Fresno Ballet, Accordo/Schubert Club (film score), Fuji TV, Seattle Commissioning Club, Scotia Festival, Eastman School of Music, McGill University, West Texas A&M University, The 5 Browns, Concertante, Ensemble Liaison, Millennium, Manasse/Nakamatsu Duo, Harrington String Quartet, Ying Quartet, Quattro Mani.

He has recorded over 35 CDs, encompassing solo and chamber music by most major composers from Bach to Bartók, as well as many contemporary and original scores.

[Watch](#) Leila Josefowicz

[Watch](#) John Novacek

**The evening's program will be as follows:**

**DEBUSSY:** Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor, L140

**SZYMANOWSKI:** *Mythes "Trois Poèmes"* Op. 30

**ERKKI-SVEN TÛÜR:** *Conversio* for Violin and Piano

**STRAVINSKY:** Divertimento from *The Fairy's Kiss*

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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**

**LEILA JOSEFOWICZ, VIOLIN and JOHN NOVACEK, PIANO**

**WHEN: Saturday, February 24, 2024, 7:30pm**

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

**PROGRAM:** **DEBUSSY:** Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor, L140; **SZYMANOWSKI:** *Mythes "Trois Poèmes"* Op. 30; **ERKKI-SVEN TÛÜR:** *Conversio* for Violin and Piano; **STRAVINSKY:** Divertimento from *The Fairy's Kiss*

**CONCERT TICKETS:** \$75/\$65/\$55

**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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