

44th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
2024 PIVOT Festival**

**Performances by:  
Gabriel Kahane, Guest Curator  
Attacca Quartet  
Roomful of Teeth**



**January 24, 25, and 26, 2024 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – December 15, 2023 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the **2024 PIVOT Festival, January 24-26, 2024** at **Herbst Theatre**. This season, Guest Curator **Gabriel Kahane**, an exceptional composer and musician in his own right, brings together two of his favorite ensembles – **Attacca Quartet** and **Roomful of Teeth** – for three nights of music that expands the boundaries of chamber music. Kahane is composing music for and will perform on all three nights; on January 24, he performs with Attacca Quartet; on January 25, with Roomful of Teeth; and the Festival culminates with a performance by all three on January 26.

**Single tickets are \$65/\$55/\$45, and series tickets for all three performances are \$180/\$150/\$120. Both can be purchased at [sfperformances.org](http://sfperformances.org) or by calling 415.392.2545. Single tickets can also be purchased at the door as available, including 50% off student rush tickets and 20% off senior rush tickets.**

“Our 9th PIVOT Festival brings an artist who we first introduced in PIVOT several years ago, Gabriel Kahane. His extraordinary creativity, vision, and ability to capture the moment in words and music make him the ideal choice to curate our festival this season.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

About his vision for PIVOT, Kahane writes about the influence of the pandemic on his work: “For those of us whose livelihood is art-making, there is a newfound awareness of the communion we experience in the rehearsal room, and on stage, among our colleagues. Indeed, the pandemic has underlined the extent to which music-making is a social act.

“When Melanie Smith invited me to dream up a series of collaborations for this festival, my mind gravitated toward potential co-conspirators who are not only great artists, but great people: folks with whom, to borrow a formulation from political pollsters, ‘I’d like to have a beer with.’ The individuals who comprise Roomful of Teeth and Attacca Quartet are all thoughtful, funny, considerate, strange, and inspiring people. It has been a supreme pleasure getting to know them better through the process of writing new works for each ensemble, works that you’ll hear at the PIVOT Festival.

“It’s my hope that, through an array of music spanning from the seventeenth century (François Couperin) to the twenty-first (Caroline Shaw), you’ll leave these concerts not only enriched by a cosmos of sound, but with a feeling for the humanity of this extraordinary cadre of artists, and with a sense that a community—of which artists and audience alike are members—will have sprung up within the walls of the Herbst Theatre.”

## **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 embarks on a new collaborative commissioning project *In the Garden of the Gift* 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.

### **ABOUT ATTACCA QUARTET**

Two-time GRAMMY®-award winning **Attacca Quartet** are recognized and acclaimed as one of the most versatile and outstanding ensembles of the moment — a true quartet for modern times. Gliding through traditional classical repertoire through to electronic, video game music and contemporary collaborations, they are one of the world's most innovative and respected ensembles.

In 2021, the quartet released two albums that embody their redefinition of what a string quartet can be. The first Album, *Real Life*, featuring guest artists such as Tokimonsta, Daedalus, and Anne Müller, was followed up by *Of all Joys*, which features works from Phillip Glass, Arvo Pärt, and music of the Renaissance period. Passionate advocates of contemporary repertoire, the quartet are dedicated to presenting and recording new works. Their 2019 release *Orange*, in collaboration with Caroline Shaw, saw them win the 2020 GRAMMY Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance, with their follow-up album *Evergreen* winning the 2023 award in the same category. The quartet continue to perform in the world's best venues and festivals.

Recent highlights include Lincoln Center's White Light Festival and Miller Theatre, Carnegie Hall, Phillips Collection, Chamber Music Detroit, Chamber Music Austin and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston as well as Ojai Festival, BRIC Arts and Big Ears Festival. Outside of the US, performances include Kings Place and in Oslo at the Vertavo Haydn Festival as well as performances at Gothenburg Konserthuset, MITO Settembre Festival in Italy, Sociedad Filarmónica de Bilbao, Strijkkwartet Biennale Amsterdam, Strings of Autumn Festival Prague, Thüringer Bachwochen, Sala São Paulo in Brazil, Fundación Beethoven in Chile, National Theatre of Panamá, and Teatro Mayor in Bogota.

The founding members of the Attacca Quartet met while all studying at the Juilliard School in the early 2000s and they made their professional debut at the Carnegie Hall in 2003. Other accolades include First Prize at the 7th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, the Top Prize and Listeners' Choice award winners for the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, and Grand Prize Winners of the 60th annual Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition.

The Attacca Quartet has engaged in extensive educational and community outreach projects, serving as guest artists and teaching fellows at the Lincoln Center Institute, University of Texas, Juilliard School, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and Bravo! Vail Valley among others. They are expert programmers and communicators, and beautifully mix existing works with those by living composers.

Attacca Quartet is:

Amy Schroeder (she/her) - violin  
Domenic Salerni (he/him) - violin  
Nathan Schram (he/him) - viola  
Andrew Yee (she/they) – cello

## **ABOUT ROOMFUL OF TEETH**

**Roomful of Teeth** is a Grammy® winning vocal band dedicated to reimagining the expressive potential of the human voice. By engaging collaboratively with artists, thinkers, and community leaders from around the world, they seek to uplift and amplify voices old and new while creating and performing meaningful and adventurous music.

Founded in 2009 by Brad Wells, the band was incubated at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in North Adams, Massachusetts, where members studied with some of the world's top performers and teachers and commissioned composers who were known for breaking molds. In the group's words, "We have learned that the boundaries of the human voice are never what they seem, that rules can be bent, and broken, and perhaps they should be."

As the world rapidly changes, Roomful of Teeth is cultivating deeper relationships with technology, continuing to expand the capabilities of the human voice, aiming to be unburdened by physical limitations. The group is excited about new collaborative projects that are focused on the stories of place, home, and community in the diverse environments our planet has provided.

Roomful of Teeth explores these boundaries with passionate curiosity, contagious enthusiasm, and deep gratitude.

Roomful of Teeth is:

Brad Wells | Founder/Co-Artistic Director  
Cameron Beauchamp | Co-Artistic Director  
Esteli Gomez  
Steven Bradshaw  
Martha Cluver  
Jodie Landau  
Caroline Shaw  
Thann Scoggin  
Virginia Kelsey

**Each evening's program will be announced from the stage.**

## **PIVOT Festival schedule**

January 24: Gabriel Kahane and Attacca Quartet

January 25: Gabriel Kahane and Roomful of Teeth

January 26, Gabriel Kahane, Attacca Quartet, and Roomful of Teeth

All performances are at 7:30pm at Herbst Theatre.

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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**

### **PIVOT FESTIVAL 2024**

#### **WHEN:**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 7:30pm: Gabriel Kahane and Attacca Quartet**

**Thursday, January 25, 2024, 7:30pm: Gabriel Kahane and Roomful of Teeth**

**Friday, January 26, 2024, 7:30pm: Gabriel Kahane, Attacca Quartet, and Roomful of Teeth**

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

**PROGRAMS:** To be announced from the stage

**CONCERT TICKETS:** \$65/\$55/\$45

**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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