

44th SEASON



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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD | PIANO**



**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – January 31, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the highly praised pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** in solo recital on **Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. **Tickets are \$80/\$70/\$60 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.**

“Acclaimed pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard returns to our Piano Series with a thoughtful program that brings together fantasias from four centuries, all performed with the artist’s signature mastery and finesse. These works, which historically allowed their composers to set aside the rules of their times and express themselves more personally, should make for an evening to remember for those who truly love great keyboard music.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

ABOUT PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD

Pierre-Laurent Aimard is widely acclaimed as an authority in music of our time while also recognized for shedding fresh light on music of the past. His international schedule of creatively conceived concerts, broadcasts, and recordings is complemented by a career-long commitment to teaching, giving concert lectures and workshops worldwide.

Pierre-Laurent Aimard has had close collaborations with many leading composers including Helmut Lachenmann, Elliott Carter, Harrison Birtwistle, György Kurtág, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Marco Stroppa,

Pierre Boulez, and Olivier Messiaen. During the 2023/24 season he celebrates the music of György Ligeti with projects throughout Europe, North America, Japan and China. Guest Concerto appearances include Czech Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Dresden, Teatro alla Scala Milan, Orchestre National de France, Danish National Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic. Aimard's extensive recital touring takes in Southbank Centre London, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Musikverein Wien, Philharmonie Luxembourg and Concertgebouw as well as Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco.

At Paris' Theatre des Champs Elysees he collaborates with French actor Denis Podalydès for an exploration of *Fateless* with music by Ligeti, Kurtag, Schoenberg and Cage. Aimard also continues his association with long-standing chamber music partners, most notably Tamara Stefanovich at the Tonhalle Zürich and Madrid's Centro Nacional de Difusión Musical, and jazz pianist Michael Wollny at Frankfurt Alte Oper.

Upcoming world premieres include Clara Iannotta's Piano Concerto for the Acht Brücken Festival in Cologne and the Portuguese premiere of Klaus Ospald's *Se da contra las piedras la libertad*, a work co-commissioned by Casa da Musica, Porto and Cologne's WDR Symphony Orchestra. Past premieres by Aimard include Carter's last piece, *Epigrams*; Sir Harrison Birtwistle's works *Responses*; *Sweet disorder and the carefully careless* and *Keyboard Engine* for two pianos.

The season began with the September release of a new recording of the complete Bartók piano concertos with Esa-Pekka Salonen and San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. This record is the latest in a series of critically acclaimed collaborations with Pentatone, following *Visions de l'Amen* (2022) recorded with Tamara Stefanovich; Beethoven's *Hammerklavier Sonata & Eroica Variations* (2021), and Messiaen's magnum opus *Catalogue d'oiseaux* (2018), which garnered multiple awards including the prestigious German music critic's award "Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik."

An innovative curator and uniquely significant interpreter of piano repertoire from every age, Aimard has been invited to direct and perform in numerous residencies including recently for Musikkollegium Winterthur where over the season he celebrated different composers and opened with the complete cycle of Beethoven Piano Concertos. Elsewhere, he has performed ground-breaking projects at Porto's Casa da Musica, New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Konzerthaus Vienna, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Lucerne Festival, Mozarteum Salzburg, Cité de la Musique in Paris, Tanglewood Festival, the Edinburgh Festival, and as Artistic Director of the Aldeburgh Festival from 2009 to 2016. Aimard is the recipient of many prizes, receiving the prestigious International Ernst von Siemens Music Prize in 2017 in recognition of a life devoted to the service of music and the Leonie Sonning Music Prize, Denmark's most prominent music award in 2022.

A member of the Bayerische Akademie der Schönen Künste, Aimard has held professorships at the Hochschule Köln and was previously an Associate Professor at the Collège de France, Paris. In spring 2020, he re-launched a major online resource Explore the Score in collaboration with the Klavier-Festival Ruhr, which centres on the performance and teaching of Ligeti's piano music.

[Watch](#) Pierre-Laurent Aimard.

The evening's program will be as follows:

MOZART: Fantasy in C Minor, K. 475

C.P.E. BACH: Fantasy in C Major, H. 284

BEETHOVEN: Fantasia in G Minor, Op. 77
CHOPIN: Polonaise-Fantasia, Op. 61
CARTER: *Night-Fantasies*
SWEELINCK: Echo Fantasia, No. 4, SwWV 261
IVES: *The Celestial Railroad, "Phantasy" for solo piano*

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

PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD, PIANO

WHEN: Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 7:30pm

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

PROGRAM: **MOZART:** Fantasy in C Minor, K. 475; **C.P.E. BACH:** Fantasy in C Major, H. 284; **BEETHOVEN:** Fantasia in G Minor, Op. 77; **CHOPIN:** Polonaise-Fantasia, Op. 61; **CARTER:** *Night-Fantasies*; **SWEELINCK:** Echo Fantasia, No. 4, SwWV 261; **IVES:** *The Celestial Railroad, "Phantasy" for solo piano*

CONCERT TICKETS: \$80/\$70/\$60

CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; sfperformances.org

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

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