

45th SEASON



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SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
The String Quartets of Papa Joe & Wolfgang
2024-25 Saturday Morning Series



Alexander String Quartet with
Dr. Robert Greenberg, Music Historian-in-Residence

October 26, 2024

November 2, 2024

January 11, 2025

January 25, 2025

February 8, 2025

10am

Herbst Theatre

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – October 1, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the 2024-25 Saturday Morning concert-lecture series *The String Quartets of Papa Joe & Wolfgang*, featuring the **Alexander String Quartet** and **Dr. Robert Greenberg**, SFP’s Music Historian-in-Residence. In this series of five concerts, they’ll explore the relationship between Josef Haydn—regarded as “the father of the string quartet”—and his young protégé, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

This season marks our final one with the Alexander String Quartet, which will be retiring from performing together at the end of the season.

Tickets to each concert are \$80/\$70/\$60 and can be purchased at [sfperformances.org](https://www.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’re delighted to continue our ever-popular Saturday Morning series this season as the Alexander String Quartet and Bob Greenberg perform and explore the unique relationship between two beloved composers—Franz Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. As ever, this series is sure to bring new insights into the lives of these titans of the chamber music repertoire, along with many laughs and much beautiful music.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

ABOUT ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET

Founded in New York City in 1981, the **Alexander String Quartet** established itself as one of the world’s premier ensembles after winning the 1982 Concert Artists Guild Competition and then becoming the first American quartet to win the Wigmore (then Portsmouth) International String Quartet Competition in 1985. After a remarkable 44-year tenure, Spring 2025 will bring the retirement of the quartet, following a final, celebratory season. After the 2024-25 Season, all members will continue to perform and teach, carrying forward the legacy of the quartet as an ensemble dedicated to music education.

Highlights of their final performance season will include a return to the Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival in Poland, as well as final residencies with San Francisco Performances, the Mondavi Center, and St. Lawrence University.

Mentoring the next generation of chamber musicians and chamber music lovers has long been central to the Alexander String Quartet, and the ensemble’s educational work won them honorary doctoral degrees from St Lawrence University and Allegheny College, and Presidential Medals from Baruch College (CUNY). For decades, the ensemble has trained generations of gifted performers, emerging string quartets, and talented young musicians destined to pass on their knowledge and love of music as teachers in schools across the globe. Over the ensemble’s 44-year tenure, they have served as quartet-in-residence with St. Lawrence University, Allegheny College, Baruch College (CUNY), and San Francisco State University, as well as San Francisco Performances and the Mondavi Center, where they’ve presented an educational series with composer Robert Greenberg. The mentorship legacy of the quartet includes fostering the Afiara Quartet, Del Sol Quartet, Hausmann Quartet, Sausalito Quartet, and the Tower Quartet, as well as countless other young musicians who have continued their careers in chamber music, orchestral performance and teaching.

The Alexander String Quartet has performed at Lincoln Center, the 92nd Street Y, the Metropolitan Museum, Jordan Hall, and the Library of Congress, as well as numerous overseas tours, including the U.K., the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, France, Greece, the Republic of Georgia, Argentina, Panamá, and the Philippines. Their 2015 visit to Poland’s Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival was beautifully captured in the award-winning documentary, *Con Moto: The Alexander String Quartet*.

Samuel Carl Adams, Elliott Carter, Aaron Copland, George Crumb, Joyce DiDonato, Marc-André Hamelin, Lynn Harrell, Jake Heggie, Branford Marsalis, Midori, Tarik O'Regan, Wayne Peterson, David Sánchez, Richard Stoltzman, Augusta Read Thomas, and Joyce Yang are just some of the many distinguished artists with whom the Alexander String Quartet has collaborated in performance and recording projects crossing genres from classical to jazz, rock, and folk. Their most recent collaborative project, *British Invasion*, brought the Quartet together with guitarist William Kanengiser to explore the music of Sting, Led Zeppelin, John Dowland, and the Beatles by way of contemporary composers Ian Krouse, Dušan Bogdanović, and Leo Brouwer.

The Alexander String Quartet founded, and will continue, the Foghorn Classics label, on which it has released an extensive recording catalog. Their recordings have included the complete string quartet cycles by Bartók, Beethoven, Brahms, Kodály, and Shostakovich, and a series of Mozart's chamber music entitled *Apotheosis* in collaboration with Paul Yarbrough and Joyce Yang.

Zakarias Grafilo, violin

Yuna Lee, violin

David Samuel, viola

Sandy Wilson, cello

ABOUT DR. ROBERT GREENBERG

Dr. Robert Greenberg has performed, taught, and lectured extensively across North America and Europe. He received a BA in music, magna cum laude, from Princeton University and received a Ph.D. in music composition, With Distinction, from the University of California, Berkeley.

Greenberg has composed over fifty works for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles. Recent performances of his works have taken place in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, England, Ireland, Greece, Italy and The Netherlands, where his *Child's Play for String Quartet* was performed at the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam.

Greenberg has received numerous honors, including being designated an official "Steinway Artist," three Nicola de Lorenzo Composition Prizes and three Meet-The-Composer Grants. Notable commissions have been received from the Koussevitzky Foundation in the Library of Congress, the Alexander String Quartet, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, San Francisco Performances, and the XTET ensemble.

Greenberg is currently music historian-in-residence with San Francisco Performances, where he has lectured and performed since 1994. He has served on the faculties of the University of California at Berkeley, California State University East Bay, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he chaired the Department of Music History and Literature from 1989–2001 and served as the Director of the Adult Extension Division from 1991–1996. Greenberg has lectured for some of the most prestigious musical and arts organizations in the United States, including the San Francisco Symphony, the Chautauqua Institute, the Ravinia Festival, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Van Cliburn Foundation, the Nasher Sculpture Center, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Villa Montalvo, Music @ Menlo, and the University of British Columbia. In addition, Greenberg is a sought after lecturer for businesses and business schools. For fifteen years he was the resident composer and music

historian to National Public Radio's *Weekend All Things Considered* and *Weekend Edition, Sunday*, with Liane Hansen.

Greenberg has recorded a robust series of hundreds of lectures about classical music and composers for the Teaching Company/Great Courses Program. The courses are available on both CD and DVD formats and in book form.

The programs will be as follows:

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 10am

MOZART: String Quartet No. 1 in G Major, K. 80 (1770)

HAYDN: String Quartet in D Major, Op. 17, No. 6 (1771)

String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 20, No. 5 (1772)

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 10am

MOZART: String Quartet No. 2 in D Major, K. 155 (1772)

String Quartet No. 8 in F Major, K. 168 (1773)

String Quartet No. 12 in B-Flat Major, K. 172 (1773)

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 10am

HAYDN: String Quartet in E-Flat Major, Op. 33, No. 2, "Joke" (1781)

MOZART: String Quartet No. 14 in G Major, K. 387, "Spring" (1782)

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 10am

MOZART: String Quartet No. 22 in B-Flat Major, K. 589 (1790)

HAYDN: String Quartet in D Major, Op. 64, No. 5, "Lark" (1790)

Saturday, February 8, 2025, 10am

HAYDN: String Quartet in C Major Op. 76, No. 3, "Emperor" (1797)

String Quartet in G Major, Op. 77, No. 1 (1799)

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.

For high-resolution images, contact Terry Conway at terry@sfperformances.org

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