

46th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
ATTACCA QUARTET  
THEO BLECKMANN | VOCALS**



**Friday, February 27, 2026 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – January 28, 2026 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the innovative **Attacca Quartet** and virtuosic **vocalist Theo Bleckmann** in the West Coast premiere of David Lang's monodrama *note to a friend* on **Friday, February 27, 2026, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**.

**Tickets are \$65/\$55/\$45 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.**

"I had the opportunity to attend a dress rehearsal of *note to a friend* prior to its world premiere in New York a few years ago. I was struck by the beauty and power of David Lang's music, based on a letter written by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, whose short stories became the basis for the classic film *Rashomon*. While Theo Bleckmann had appeared on our stage previously, performing very different repertoire, this rehearsal was my introduction to the Attacca Quartet. I was struck by the musical partnership between singer and quartet, and wondered if a concert version of this work could be possible in San Francisco. Though somber in

theme, the work highlights both Lang's personal compositional style, and the artistry of the performers involved. We're delighted to be able to present this musical monodrama, and this very special collaboration." — Melanie Smith, SFP President

**Content Warning:** This production contains references to suicide and depression, which some audiences may find distressing. Anyone in need of suicide or mental health-related crisis support can call or text 988 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

## ABOUT ATTACCA QUARTET

The Grammy® Award-winning **Attacca Quartet** is recognized as one of today's most versatile and forward-thinking ensembles. From classical masterworks to contemporary collaborations, they redefine what a string quartet can be.

Winners of the 2020 and 2023 Grammy Awards for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance, their album *Orange and Evergreen* with Caroline Shaw earned widespread acclaim. In 2021, they released *Real Life*, a genre-defying project featuring TokiMONSTA and Daedalus, and *Of All Joys*, which explored music by Glass, Pärt, and Renaissance composers.

Attacca has performed at major venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Wigmore Hall, and the Concertgebouw, and at leading festivals like Ojai, Big Ears, and Verbier. They've collaborated with orchestras around the world, including the Colombian National Orchestra, the National Orchestra of Catalunya, and the Nagoya Philharmonic.

Beyond the concert hall, Attacca has collaborated with Billie Eilish and FINNEAS on their album and appeared with them on *Saturday Night Live*. They're featured on soundtracks for the Ken Burns documentary *Leonardo da Vinci* and the film *We Grown Now*. In 2025–26, the ensemble will perform at the Phillips Collection, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, among others.

Founded at Juilliard, they made their Carnegie Hall debut in 2003 and have won top prizes at international competitions including Osaka, Coleman, and Melbourne. Dedicated educators, Attacca has worked with institutions like the Lincoln Center Institute, Juilliard, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Bravo! Vail. Their programming blends tradition and innovation, engaging audiences across genres.

Attacca Quartet: Amy Schroeder and Domenic Salerni, violins; Nathan Schram, viola; Andrew Yee, cello

## ABOUT THEO BLECKMANN

**Theo Bleckmann** is a jazz singer and new music composer of eclectic tastes and prodigious gifts. He makes music that is accessibly sophisticated, unsentimentally emotional, and seriously playful. His iconoclastic approach blurs boundaries, surprises expectations, and leaves listeners feeling like the world is a bit bigger, weirder, and more interesting than they thought.

Unconstrained by genre, Bleckmann brings his adventurous sensibility to re-imagining songs from the likes of Henry Purcell, Charles Ives, George Gershwin, and Kurt Weill to Kate Bush, Massive Attack, and the Bee Gees. He has been nominated for Grammy Awards in jazz and classical categories, and is the recipient of the prestigious Jazz Echo award in his native Germany. He's recently toured in Europe

performing with both the Oulu Symphony Orchestra and UMO Jazz Big Band, and will tour in Japan with orchestra, performing music by Joe Hisaishi.

Bleckmann is equally recognized for his distinct and evocative original work across two decades' worth of influential albums—recent examples include the aching and luminous *Elegy*, on ECM, and the delightful, propulsive *12 Easy Songs*, commissioned by National Sawdust, based on found texts uncovered on walks around Bleckmann's longtime home of downtown New York City (album release forthcoming in 2026).

Bleckmann is a sought-after collaborator, working with a stellar and wildly diverse roster of talent that includes Ambrose Akinmusire, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, John Hollenbeck, Kneebody, Ulysses Owens, The Westerlies, John Zorn, and the Bang on a Can All-Stars. He maintains longstanding creative relationships with jazz luminary Sheila Jordan, guitar phenom Ben Monder, and avant-garde trailblazer Meredith Monk, recently performing in Monk's 2024 blockbuster at the Park Avenue Armory, *Indra's Net*.

His pure and daring voice has inspired compositions by, among others, Phil Kline, Ikue Mori, and Julia Wolfe. Pulitzer-Prize winner David Lang's chamber opera *note to a friend*, commissioned by the Japan Society and directed by the legendary Yoshi Oida, was composed explicitly for Bleckmann's unique sound and sensibility.

Watch [Attacca Quartet](#)

Watch [Theo Bleckmann](#)

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

**DAVID LANG:** *note to a friend* (West Coast premiere)

## **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**

**ATTACCA QUARTET and THEO BLECKMANN, Vocals**

**WHEN: Friday, February 27, 2026, 7:30pm**

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

**PROGRAM: DAVID LANG: *note to a friend* (West Coast premiere)**

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

**CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; [sfperformances.org](https://sfperformances.org)**

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

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