

46th SEASON



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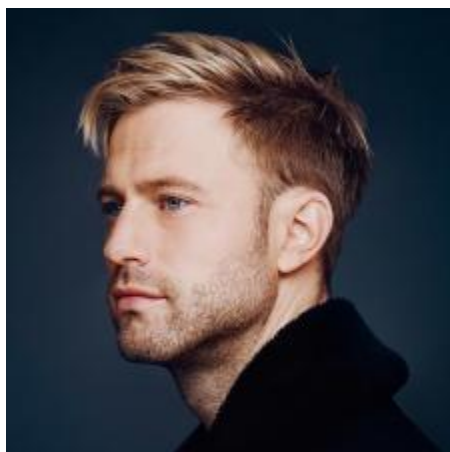
September 25, 2025

Contact: Terry Conway

(415) 677-0328 or [terry@sfperformances.org](mailto:terry@sfperformances.org)

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
BENJAMIN APPL | BARITONE  
JAMES BAILLIEU | PIANO**



**Friday, October 24, 2025 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – September 25, 2025 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents in-demand baritone **Benjamin Appl** in recital with frequent collaborator pianist **James Baillieu** on **Friday, October 24, 2025, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**.

**Tickets are \$75/\$65/\$55 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.**

"This concert promises to be a must-see event for those who love the art of song, and especially for those who love the art form of German Lieder. In a performance by two of the world's leading interpreters of this repertoire, baritone Benjamin Appl and pianist James Baillieu will bring the legend of the great Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau to life. Appl had the honor to study with and be mentored by Fischer-Dieskau, and he

wears the mantle of that legacy beautifully, with grace and style. Baillieu, whom many regard as the consummate collaborative pianist of his generation, brings his own power and perspective to this great musical tradition. Their partnership and program will make for a timeless and truly memorable evening.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

## ABOUT BENJAMIN APPL

Baritone **Benjamin Appl** is celebrated for a voice that “belongs to the last of the old great masters of song” with “an almost infinite range of colours” (*Suddeutsche Zeitung*), and for performances “delivered with wit, intelligence and sophistication” (*Gramophone*). A former BBC New Generation Artist, Wigmore Hall Emerging Artist and ECHO Rising Star, Benjamin was also awarded Gramophone Award Young Artist of the Year (2016). He signed exclusively to Sony Classical in the same year and has since begun a multi-album deal with Alpha Classics, releasing his first album *Winterreise* in February 2021 to enormous critical acclaim.

Appl’s musical journey began as a young chorister at the renowned Regensburger Domspatzen, later continuing his studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. Mentored by the legendary Artist Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Appl describes the partnership as an “invaluable and a hugely formative influence. He [Fischer-Dieskau] is an inspiration – someone who is always searching and seeking a deeper understanding of music and of life. He was a role model for how to prosper as an artist, never just delivering, but each time creating.”

An established recitalist, Appl has performed at Ravinia, Rheingau, Schleswig Holstein, Edinburgh, Heidelberg Frühling, and Oxford International festivals; Schubertiade Schwarzenberg; and at the KlavierFestival Ruhr. He has performed at major concert venues including Grand Théâtre de Genève, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Wigmore Hall London, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Berlin and Vienna, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Musée de Louvre Paris, and at Shanghai Symphony’s Music in the Summer Air Festival.

In equal demand as soloist on the world’s most prestigious stages, his recent collaborators include the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra/Klaus Mäkelä, Munich Philharmonic/Andrew Manze, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse/Ton Koopman, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra/Andreas Reize, NHK Symphony Orchestra/Paavo Järvi, Philadelphia Orchestra/Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Staatskapelle Dresden/Christian Thielemann, Philharmonia/Maxim Emelyanychev, Seattle Symphony/Thomas Dausgaard, Vienna Symphony/Karina Canellakis and many others.

Some of Appl’s recent recital debuts include Carnegie Hall, San Francisco Performances, Dallas Opera, Boston Celebrity Series, New York’s Park Avenue Armory (of all three Schubert song cycles), Sydney Opera House, Mozarteum Salzburg, Festival St. Denis, and three presentations of *Winterreise* by the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona. A creative and innovative programmer, Benjamin seeks out diverse and enriching onstage partnerships including with pianists James Baillieu, David Fray, Alice Sara Ott, Arthur & Lucas Jussen, and Jorge Viladoms; the Armida String Quartet; accordionists Martynas Levickis and Ksenija Sidorova; and lutenist Thomas Dunford.

Operatic highlights of recent seasons include his role and house debut as Harlequin *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Liceu Barcelona; Papageno *Die Zauberflöte* at Opéra de Rouen; and his role debut as Guglielmo *Così fan tutte* with Classical Opera Company (a role which he revisited last season at Mozartfest Würzburg). In the

2024/25 season, Appl looks forward to making his operatic house debut at Hamburg State Opera as Papageno and in concert forges artistic partnerships with Oslo Philharmonic Klaus Mäkelä, NFM Wrocław, Le Concert Spirituel/Hervé Niquet, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic (both as baritone soloist and in his European conducting debut).

Appl's growing discography includes his latest album for Alpha Classics entitled *The Christmas Album* (released in Winter 2024), which includes a beautiful selection of European Christmas songs recorded with his former boys' choir the Regensburger Domspatzen and regular artistic partner, the Müncher Rundfunkorchester. Appl's other recent albums include *Forbidden Fruit*; an album of orchestrated Schubert lieder with Münchner Rundfunkorchester; a collection of Hans Sommer Orchestral Songs with Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin; an album of Schumann duets with Ann Murray (DBE), accompanied by Malcolm Martineau; and a live recording of Schubert lieder with Graham Johnson for the Wigmore Hall Live label.


### ABOUT JAMES BAILLIEU

Described by *The Daily Telegraph* as "in a class of his own," **James Baillieu** is one of the leading song and chamber music pianists of his generation. He has given solo and chamber recitals throughout the world and collaborates with a wide range of singers and instrumentalists including Benjamin Appl, Jamie Barton, Ian Bostridge, Allan Clayton, Louise Alder, Tara Erraught, Lise Davidsen, the Elias and Heath Quartets, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Adam Walker, and Pretty Yende. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Ulster Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, and the Wiener Kammer-symphonie.

James is a frequent guest at many of the world's most distinguished music centres including Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Metropolitan Opera House, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Vancouver Playhouse, Berlin Konzerthaus, Vienna Musikverein, the Barbican Centre, Wiener Konzerthaus, Bozar Brussels, Pierre Boulez Saal, Cologne Philharmonie, Wiener Staatsoper, Fundación Juan March and the Laeiszhalle Hamburg. Festivals include Aix-en-Provence, Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein, Festspillene i Bergen, Edinburgh, Spitalfields, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Bath, City of London, and Brighton Festivals.

James was prize winner of the Wigmore Hall Song Competition, Das Lied International Song Competition, the Kathleen Ferrier and Richard Tauber Competitions, and was selected for representation by Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT) in 2010 and in 2012 received a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship and a Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Trust Award. In 2016 he was shortlisted for the Royal Philharmonic Society Outstanding Young Artist Award.

Recording projects include *For Dieter: Hommage à Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau* (Alpha Classics), *Forbidden Fruit* (Alpha Classics), *Winterreise* (Alpha Classics) and *Heimat* (Sony Classical) with Benjamin Appl, the complete works of CPE Bach for violin and piano with Tamsin Waley-Cohen (Signum Records), and albums on the Chandos, Opus Arte, Champs Hill, Rubicon, and Delphian Record labels as part of his critically acclaimed discography.

**Watch:**  KURT WEILL // 'Youkali' by Benjamin Appl and James Baillieu

**The evening's program will be as follows: *A Tribute To Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau***

**SCHUBERT:** *Liebesbotschaft*, D. 957, No. 4

*Am Bach im Frühling*, D. 361

*Der Muesensohn*, D. 764

*Der Lindenbaum* from *Winterreise*, D. 911, No. 5

*An mein Klavier*, D. 342

*Liebhaber in allen Gestalten*, D. 558

*Litanei auf das Fest Allerseelen*, D. 343

*An die Musik*, D. 547

**ALBERT FISCHER-DIESKAU:** *Heidenröslein* from *Sesenheim*

**KLAUS FISCHER-DIESKAU:** *Nocturne 1* (excerpt from *Der Mutter gewidmet*) Op. 1, No. 1

*Wehmut* Op. 3, No. 1

**BRAHMS:** *Wie bist du meine Königin*, Op. 32, No. 8

*Vier ernste Gesänge* Op. 121

**HUGO WOLF:** *Andenken*, Op. 23, No. 5

**ARIBERT REIMANN:** *Tenebrae*

**TCHAIKOVSKY:** *Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt* Op. 6, No. 6

**KÜNNEKE:** *Ich bin nur ein armer Wandergesell*, Op. 26

**HANNS EISLER:** *Die Heimkehr*

*Mutterns Hände*, Op. 3, No. 1

**EDVARD GRIEG:** *Der Traum*, Op. 48, No. 6

**CARL LOEWE:** *Süßes Begräbnis*, Op. 62, No. 4

**CLARA SCHUMANN:** *Liebst du um Schönheit*, Op. 12, No. 2

**VON WEBER:** *Meine Lieder, meine Sänger*, Op. 10, No. 1

**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**

**BENJAMIN APPL, BARITONE and JAMES BAILLIEU, PIANO**

**WHEN: Friday, October 24, 2025 7:30pm**

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

**PROGRAM: *A Tribute To Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau*, with works by **SCHUBERT, ALBERT FISCHER-DIESKAU, BRAHMS, EDVARD GRIEG, CLARA SCHUMANN, and others****

**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)**

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