

46th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
CLAIRE CHASE | FLUTE**



**Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – April 2, 2026 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents flutist **Claire Chase** on **Saturday, April 18, 2026, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. Bay Area pianist **Sarah Cahill** will be appearing as a special guest with Claire Chase for part of this program.

**Tickets are \$70/\$60/\$50 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.**

“We’re very excited to present flutist Claire Chase in recital on our stage for the first time. She’s an extraordinary artist, and her groundbreaking *Density 2036* project is shaping the future of the flute

repertoire. We're honored to be able to share this work with our audiences, in what will surely be one of this season's most memorable performances." — Melanie Smith, SFP President

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

***Density 2036***

**ANNEA LOCKWOOD** (Arr. Claire Chase): Solo from *Elwha!*

**SUSIE IBARRA** (Arr. Claire Chase): *Sunbird*

**MARCOS BALTER**: Solo suite from *Pan*

**DU YUN**: *An Empty Garlic*

**TERRY RILEY**: *Pulsing Lifters* (with pianist **Sarah Cahill, special guest**); Solo suite from *The Holy Liffoff*

**ABOUT CLAIRE CHASE**

**Claire Chase** is a musician, interdisciplinary artist, curator, and teacher. Passionately dedicated to the creation of new ecosystems for the music of our time, Chase has given the world premieres of hundreds of new works by a new generation of artists. She was the first flutist to be awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2012, and in 2017 was the first flutist to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize for Classical Music from Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Chase served as the Richard and Barbara Debs Creative Chair at Carnegie Hall in the 2022-23 season and as the Music Director for the 2025 Ojai Music Festival.

Chase has performed as a soloist recently with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Kyoto Symphony, and London Philharmonia. Recent concerto projects include Kaija Saariaho's "Aile du Songe" at Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center, and the world premiere of a new duo concerto by Dai Fujikura which Chase performed with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic at Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam in January with the violinist Akiko Suwanai and on tour in Europe with the violinist Leila Josefowicz. In the 2022-23 season, Chase premiered a new duo concerto by Felipe Lara with the vocalist and bassist esperanza spalding and the conductor Susanna Mälkki, which was named one of the Best Classical Music Performances of the Year by The New York Times.

In 2013, Chase launched the 24-year commissioning project *Density 2036*, described by *The New Yorker* as "a quarter-century journey with little precedent." Now in its 12th year, *Density* reimagines the solo flute literature through commissions, performances, recordings, educational initiatives, and a community-focused approach to cultural production. In 2023, Chase performed all ten *Density* programs to date in a weeklong series of events co-produced by Carnegie Hall and The Kitchen. Central to the *Density* project is a commitment to supporting an international, multigenerational community of flutists who will take the *Density* repertoire in bold new interpretive directions. The *Density* Fellows program, launched in 2023 in celebration of the 10th anniversary, provides an international cohort of emerging flutists with the resources to make the *Density* repertoire their own. Chase is the artistic director of *Density Arts*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of the flute in the 21st century.

As an undergraduate at Oberlin Conservatory, Chase co-founded the International Contemporary Ensemble, a collective of musicians, digital media artists, producers, and educators committed to creating collaborations built on equity and cultural responsiveness. She served as the ensemble's artistic director until 2017 and as an ensemble member on performance and educational projects on five continents, developing an artist-driven organizational model that resulted in the premieres of over 1,000 new works and earned the group multiple Chamber Music America/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming, the

Trailblazer Award from the American Music Center, and the Ensemble of the Year Award from Musical America Worldwide.

A deeply committed educator, Chase is Professor of the Practice in the Department of Music at Harvard University, where she teaches courses on contemporary music, interdisciplinary collaboration, and cultural advocacy. Chase is also Creative Associate at The Juilliard School, where she mentors young artists and engages students in a range of interdisciplinary projects. Chase's Debs Creative Chair residency at Carnegie Hall encompassed programming for all ages, including a "Day of Listening" for children and families inspired by the listening philosophies of Pauline Oliveros. Chase partnered with MacArthur Fellow Josh Kun to expand her Pauline Oliveros project as part of Getty's PST ART x Science Collide festival in 2024-25.

Claire Chase's extensive discography includes eleven solo albums of world premiere recordings and dozens of collaborative recordings with ensembles, composers, and sound artists from a wide range of musical genres. Chase grew up in Leucadia, California, with the childhood dream of becoming a professional baseball player before she discovered the flute.

Watch  [Claire Chase: excerpts from Marcos Balter's "Pan"](#)

## 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

**CLAIRE CHASE**, Flute

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 18, 2026, 7:30pm

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

**PROGRAM:** *Density 2036*: **ANNEA LOCKWOOD** (Arr. Claire Chase): Solo from *Elwha!*; **SUSIE IBARRA** (Arr. Claire Chase): *Sunbird*; **MARCOS BALTER**: Solo suite from *Pan*; **DU YUN**: *An Empty Garlic*; **TERRY RILEY**: *Pulsing Lifters* (with pianist **Sarah Cahill**, special guest); Solo suite from *The Holy Liffoff*

**CONCERT TICKETS:** \$70/\$60/\$50

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

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

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