

46th SEASON



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:

September 16, 2025

Contact: Terry Conway

(415) 677-0328 or terry@sfperformances.org

**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
CONRAD TAO | PIANO**



**Friday, October 17, 2025 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – September 16, 2025 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the compelling young pianist **Conrad Tao** in recital with a varied program of works ranging from Rachmaninoff to Strayhorn and Sondheim on **Friday, October 17, 2025, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**.

Tickets are \$85/\$75/\$65 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.

“Conrad Tao always brings something special to the stage, and we're delighted to present his first solo recital in our Piano Series this season. He's known for his interesting program choices and juxtapositions, and we're looking forward to his pairing of works by Rachmaninoff with Strayhorn, Sondheim, and others. It's sure to be an evening of surprises and discoveries.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

ABOUT CONRAD TAO

Conrad Tao is a pianist and composer celebrated for his boundary-defying artistry as well as his powerful performances of traditional repertoire. Tao appears regularly as a soloist with leading orchestras and at major venues across the world.

In the 2025–26 season, Tao returns to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as both soloist and recitalist, performing Bartók's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with Karina Canellakis and later presenting a recital program featuring Gershwin song arrangements alongside works by Schoenberg, Strayhorn, Schumann, and others. Recital highlights include debuts at Berlin's Philharmonie and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, as well as returns to Klavier-Festival Ruhr, and to the Celebrity Series of Boston, and the Seattle Symphony with *Poetry and Fairy Tales*, a program blending works by David Fulmer, Rebecca Saunders, Todd Moellenberg, Brahms, and Ravel.


Tao reunites with Robert Spano for performances of John Adams' *Century Rolls* (San Diego Symphony) and Bernstein's *The Age of Anxiety* (Atlanta Symphony). He also joins Matthias Pintscher and the Konzerthausorchester Berlin for Pintscher's *NUR*, and travels to Tokyo to perform Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 17* with the NHK Symphony and Jaap van Zweden. He makes his harpsichord debut at Princeton University in Patricia Kopatchinskaja's *Dies Irae*.

Recent highlights include his return to Carnegie Hall with Debussy's *12 Études* and his original composition *Keyed In*, as well as appearances with the San Francisco Symphony and Nicholas Collon, Philadelphia Orchestra and Marin Alsop, Boston Symphony and Dima Slobodeniouk, New York Philharmonic and Jaap van Zweden, and Cleveland Orchestra and Jahja Ling. In 2024, he also toured Europe with the Kansas City Symphony and Matthias Pintscher to mark the 100th anniversary of *Rhapsody in Blue*, with sold-out performances at the Elbphilharmonie, Berlin Philharmonie, and Concertgebouw.

Tao continues performing his own works, including *Flung Out*, an homage to Gershwin, which he played recently at the Aspen Festival, and *The Hand*, a companion to Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, which was commissioned and performed by the Kansas City Symphony. His orchestral work *Everything Must Go* premiered with the New York Philharmonic and later in Europe with the Antwerp Symphony. He also tours *Counterpoint*, his collaboration with dancer Caleb Teicher, and performs regularly with the Junction Trio alongside Stefan Jackiw and Jay Campbell. Additional recent collaborators include vocalist Charmaine Lee, artist Avram Finkelstein, choreographer Miguel Gutierrez, and brass quartet The Westerlies.

Tao's acclaimed recordings include *Voyages*, *Pictures*, and *American Rage* (all on Warner), as well as *the loser* by David Lang, and *Bricolage* with The Westerlies.

He is a recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Gilmore Young Artist Award, and a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for his collaboration with Caleb Teicher on *More Forever*.

Watch:  Conrad Tao - Stravinsky, Petrouchka, Russian Dance

The evening's program will be as follows:

RACHMANINOFF: Prelude in C Major, Op. 32 No. 1

Prelude in A flat Major, Op. 23 No. 8

Prelude in G Major, Op. 32 No. 5

Etude-Tableau in A minor, Op. 39 No. 2

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Var. 18

Daisies

Etude-Tableau in C minor, Op. 33 No. 3

Symphonic Dances, Op. 45 (arr. Inon Barnatan)

TAO / RACHMANINOFF: Improvisation on Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Var. 15

STRAYHORN: Take the A Train; Day Dream; Lush Life

SONDHEIM: In Buddy's Eyes (from *Follies*)

SCHUMANN: Auf einer Burg (from *Liederkreis*, Op. 39)

BERLIN: All By Myself

ARLEN / TATUM: Over the Rainbow, 1953 recording (transcribed by Conrad Tao)

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

CONRAD TAO, PIANO

WHEN: Friday, October 17, 2025, 7:30pm

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

PROGRAM: **RACHMANINOFF:** Prelude in C Major, Op. 32 No. 1; Prelude in A flat Major, Op. 23 No. 8;

Etude-Tableau in A minor, Op. 39 No. 2; Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Var. 18; Daisies;

Etude-Tableau in C minor, Op. 33 No. 3; Symphonic Dances, Op. 45 (arr. Inon Barnatan); **TAO /**

RACHMANINOFF: Improvisation on Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Var. 15; **STRAYHORN:** Take the

A Train; Day Dream; Lush Life; **SONDHEIM:** In Buddy's Eyes (from *Follies*); **SCHUMANN:** Auf einer Burg

(from *Liederkreis*, Op. 39); **BERLIN:** All By Myself; **ARLEN / TATUM:** Over the Rainbow, 1953 recording

(transcribed by Conrad Tao)

CONCERT TICKETS: \$85/\$75/\$65

CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; sfperformances.org

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

#

#

#