

46th SEASON



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SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
JENNIFER KOH | VIOLIN
THOMAS SAUER | PIANO



Friday, February 20, 2026 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – January 22, 2026 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents gifted violinist **Jennifer Koh** in recital with pianist **Thomas Sauer** on **Friday, February 20, 2026, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. Their program will include works by Lili Boulanger, Kaija Saariaho, Ravel, Fauré, and Tania Léon.

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

“It's always a delight to welcome Jennifer Koh back to our stage. SF Performances has been championing her artistry and innovation for more than a decade. Her elegant program, performed with pianist Thomas

Sauer, promises to bring both new works and new inspirations from beloved pieces in the classical violin repertoire" — Melanie Smith, SFP President

ABOUT JENNIFER KOH

Grammy© Award-winning violinist **Jennifer Koh** is celebrated for her commanding performances and dedication to both traditional and contemporary repertoire. Equally at home in works from Bach to today's composers, she is recognized for her dazzling virtuosity, breadth of musical curiosity, and fearless approach to programming. Koh has premiered more than 100 works and developed groundbreaking commissioning projects that have redefined the contemporary violin repertoire. Her initiatives—including *Alone Together*, *Bach and Beyond*, *Bridge to Beethoven*, and *The American Concerto*—explore the instrument's evolving voice through dialogue between past and present, and through multidisciplinary collaboration and social engagement.

Now in her third year as Artistic Director of the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts at the Kennedy Center, Koh continues to shape the series with a focus on artistic equity, musical evolution, and bold new work. Under her leadership, Fortas has commissioned over 40 new compositions. This season, as part of the series, she performs recitals from her *Bridge to Beethoven* series with longtime collaborator pianist Thomas Sauer. Additional engagements this season include a San Francisco Performances recital with Sauer featuring the west coast premiere of Tania León's *Para*, and performances of Phillip Glass' Violin Concerto No. 1 with the Vermont and Atlanta Symphonies, and Brahms' Violin Concerto with the Shreveport Symphony. She returns to her alma mater Oberlin College for an extended residency including performances of works from her *The American Concerto* series with the Contemporary Music Ensemble.

Named *Musical America's* 2016 Instrumentalist of the Year, Koh has won the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, Concert Artists Guild Competition, and an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and holds an honorary doctorate from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has a BA in English literature from Oberlin College and studied at the Curtis Institute, where she worked with Jaime Laredo and Felix Galimir. She is an active lecturer, teacher, and recording artist for Cedille Records and her discography includes the Grammy-winning *Alone Together* and her acclaimed *Bach & Beyond* series. She is the Founder of ARCO Collaborative, a nonprofit focused on amplifying underrepresented voices in classical music.

ABOUT THOMAS SAUER

American pianist **Thomas Sauer** performs regularly as soloist, chamber musician, and recital partner. His large and varied repertoire encompasses Bach to the present day and includes both staples and neglected masterworks. Audiences and critics alike praise his playing for its clarity, expressivity, and assured stylistic sense. Some of Mr. Sauer's recent solo appearances include concertos with the Quad-City and Tallahassee Symphonies and the Greenwich Village Orchestra, and recitals at Mannes College, Merkin Concert Hall, Rockefeller University, St. John's College, Oxford, and Vassar College.

In the spring of 2009 he appeared on Broadway as the pianist in *33 Variations*, a play about the composition of Beethoven's Diabelli Variations. With his long-time duo partner, English cellist Colin Carr, Mr. Sauer has appeared at the Wigmore Hall (London), Holywell Music Room (Oxford), the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Musikgebouw, Bargemusic (New York City), the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston), and Princeton University, among many other venues. Other duo recitals include violinists Midori (Berlin Philharmonie and the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels) and Jennifer Koh (Kennedy Center). Among Mr. Sauer's numerous chamber-music appearances are performances at the Chamber Music

Society of Lincoln Center and the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society; performances with members of the Juilliard String Quartet at the Library of Congress; and numerous concerts with the Brentano String Quartet (including piano quintets by Schumann, Brahms, Franck and Carter).

Mr. Sauer has performed at many of the leading festivals in the United States and abroad, including Marlboro, Caramoor, Music@Menlo, Chamber Music Northwest, El Paso Pro Musica, and the Chamber Music Festivals of Seattle, Taos, Four Seasons (North Carolina), Portland and Salt Bay (Maine); as well as Lake District Summer Music (England) and Festival des Consonances (France).

Watch [Jennifer Koh and Thomas Sauer](#)

The evening's program will be as follows:

LILI BOULANGER: *D'un matin de printemps*; Two Pieces for Violin and Piano (*Nocturne* and *Cortège*)
TANIA LÉON: *Para Violin y Piano*
RAVEL: Violin Sonata No. 2 in G Major
SAARIAHO: *Tocar*
FAURÉ: Violin Sonata No. 1 in A Major, Op. 13

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

JENNIFER KOH, violin and **THOMAS SAUER**, piano

WHEN: Friday, February 20, 2026, 7:30pm

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

PROGRAM: **LILI BOULANGER:** *D'un matin de printemps*; Two Pieces for Violin and Piano (*Nocturne* and *Cortège*); **TANIA LÉON:** *Para Violin y Piano*; **RAVEL:** Violin Sonata No. 2 in G Major; **SAARIAHO:** *Tocar*

FAURÉ: Violin Sonata No. 1 in A Major, Op. 13

CONCERT TICKETS: \$75/\$65/\$55

CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; sfperformances.org

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

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