

47th SEASON



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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
2026-27 Saturday Morning Series
Esmé Quartet
Dr Robert Greenberg**



**October 24
November 7
December 12
February 6
10am | Herbst Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – September 23, 2026 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the 2026-27 Saturday Morning performance and lecture series featuring the **Esmé Quartet** and **Dr. Robert Greenberg**, our Music Historian-in-Residence. This season, the focus is on American composers and others who were influenced by their time in the U.S. Featured are works by Dvořák, Stravinsky, Korngold, Amy Beach, Fritz Kreisler, Darius Milhaud, and Arnold Schoenberg.

Together, the Esmé and Greenberg bring chamber music alive in a unique concert/lecture format. The series opens on October 24, and continues on November 7, December 12, and February 6.

Tickets for each concert are \$90/\$80/\$70 and can be purchased at sfperformances.org or by calling

415.392.2545. Full series packages are available for \$340/\$300/\$260. Single tickets can also be purchased at the door as available, including 50% off student rush tickets and 20% off senior rush tickets.

“We're looking forward to our new season of Saturday Morning concerts with the Esmé Quartet and Dr. Robert Greenberg. This season we explore works by 20th century American composers, along with music inspired by this country, from composers who came here as guests or immigrants. The series, which combines chamber music with an in-depth lecture about the lives and times of the composers performed, is a cornerstone of what SFP does best. With an avid loyal fan base, it remains our most popular series, and this year's timely theme is sure to resonate with Bay Area audiences.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

The series will be as follows:

Saturday, October 24, 2026

PROGRAM: ANTONIN DVOŘÁK: String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, "American"; **AMY BEACH:** String Quartet, Op. 89

Saturday, November 12, 2026

PROGRAM: ERICH KORNGOLD: String Quartet No. 2; **FRITZ KREISLER:** String Quartet in A Minor

Saturday, December 12, 2026

PROGRAM: DARIUS MILHAUD: String Quartet No. 1, Op. 5; **IGOR STRAVINSKY:** *Three Pieces for String Quartet*

Saturday, February 6, 2027

PROGRAM: ARNOLD SCHOENBERG: *Verklärte Nacht*, Op. 4

ABOUT ESMÉ QUARTET

Praised for their warm sound and commanding stage presence, the **Esmé Quartet** has quickly established itself as one of the most captivating chamber ensembles of its generation. Formed in 2016 in Cologne, Germany, by four Korean musicians and lifelong friends, the quartet is driven by a deep artistic connection and a shared passion for music and the arts.

The ensemble garnered international acclaim after winning First Prize and four special awards at the 2018 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition in London. That same year, they were named HSBC Laureates of the Académie du Festival d'Aix. Additional honors include top prizes at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition, the Possehl Musikpreis Lübeck, and the inaugural Hans Gál Prize by the Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz and Villa Musica Germany.

The quartet's third album is being released this month. *Nui* features music by Fanny Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, and a new commission by Juri Seo.

Belgian-American violist Dimitri Murrath joined the ensemble in 2023, succeeding founding member Jiwon Kim.

Their name, *Esmé*, derives from the Old French word for “beloved.”

ABOUT DR. ROBERT GREENBERG

Dr. Robert Greenberg has performed, taught, and lectured extensively across North America and Europe. He received a BA in music, magna cum laude, from Princeton University and received a Ph.D. in music composition, With Distinction, from the University of California, Berkeley.

Greenberg has composed over fifty works for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles. Recent performances of his works have taken place in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, England, Ireland, Greece, Italy and The Netherlands, where his *Child's Play for String Quartet* was performed at the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam.

Greenberg has received numerous honors, including being designated an official "Steinway Artist," three Nicola de Lorenzo Composition Prizes and three Meet-The-Composer Grants. Notable commissions have been received from the Koussevitzky Foundation in the Library of Congress, the Alexander String Quartet, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, San Francisco Performances, and the XTET ensemble.

Greenberg is currently music historian-in-residence with San Francisco Performances, where he has lectured and performed since 1994. He has served on the faculties of the University of California at Berkeley, California State University East Bay, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. For fifteen years he was the resident composer and music historian to National Public Radio's *Weekend All Things Considered* and *Weekend Edition, Sunday*, with Liane Hansen.

Greenberg has recorded a robust series of hundreds of lectures about classical music and composers for the Teaching Company/Great Courses Program. The courses are available on both CD and DVD formats and in book form.

Watch [Esmé Quartet](#)

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.

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

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