



SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

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Images of the SF Symphony's *Día de los Muertos* celebrations can be downloaded from the Symphony's [online photo library](#).

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENTS THE SIXTH ANNUAL *DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS* COMMUNITY CONCERT ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 2:00PM IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Community Day of the Dead celebration includes Spanish language performance of SFS-commissioned work “*The Composer is Dead*,” narrated by composer Nat Stookey

Traditional folksongs and additional works by Arturo Márquez and Arvo Pärt are accompanied by Círculo Cultural theater group, Vinic-Kay folkloric music group, Men of the SF Symphony Chorus, and Mixcoatl Anahuac Aztec dancers

Calidanza Dance Company performs original dance work *Noche de Muertos* with Vinic-Kay

Family-friendly festivities begin in the colorfully decorated Davies Symphony Hall lobbies at 1:00pm and include dance and choral performances, scavenger hunt, face-painting and paper flower making, as well as traditional food and beverages

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 2, 2013) – On Saturday, November 2 at 2pm, the [San Francisco Symphony](#) (SFS) celebrates Mexican heritage and community with music and festivities for all ages at the San Francisco Symphony's sixth annual [Día de los Muertos \(Day of the Dead\) Community Concert](#), held at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. The program celebrates the Day of the Dead through a range of art forms, including orchestral music, theater, folksongs and dance. Festivities begin one hour before the concert with family-friendly activities in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies. In addition to special artwork, murals, and altars on display throughout the lobbies, dancers and singers will entertain the festival attendees, and children can enjoy a scavenger hunt, face-painting, paper flower making, sugar skull decorating and more.

For the 2pm concert, Resident Conductor Donato Cabrera leads the SFS in a Spanish language performance of Nathaniel Stookey's *The Composer is Dead*, narrated in Spanish by the composer himself with English supertitles. Also on the program is Arturo Márquez's *Danzón* No. 2, accompanied by the theater group *Círculo Cultural*. The Mixcoatl Anahuac Aztec dancers and *Círculo Cultural* join the SFS percussion section, organ and men of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in Arvo Pärt's *de profundis*. Accompanied by the folkloric music group *Vinic-Kay*, the Men of the SFS Chorus also perform three folksongs—*La Martiniana* and *La Llorona* from Oaxaca and *La Bruja* from Veracruz—in new arrangements by SF Conservatory of Music composition professor David Conte. The program concludes with *Vinic-Kay* accompanying a three-part dance work titled *Noche de Muertos* by Sacramento-based Mexican folkloric and contemporary dance company *Calidanza*. *Noche de Muertos* depicts three Day of the Dead scenes—at pre-hispanic times, during the pre-revolutionary era with iconic *Catrin* and *Catrina* characters, and as it is celebrated today in Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico.

The San Francisco Symphony's *Día de los Muertos* Community Concert is presented in partnership with the Mexican Consulate of San Francisco and with support provided by the San Francisco Arts Commission. The San Francisco Symphony offers half-price tickets to this concert for those aged 17 and under.

The *Día de los Muertos* Community Concert is part of the San Francisco Symphony's commitment to providing compelling musical experiences that celebrate the diversity of its community. The San Francisco Symphony's [Music for Families](#) series additionally offers matinee performances focusing on different aspects of the orchestra and symphonic repertoire. Specially designed to be engaging, informative and fun, these matinee concerts introduce children and families to the world of live orchestral music.

Pre-Concert Festivities

The San Francisco Symphony's *Día de los Muertos* celebrations begin one hour before the concert, and invite attendees to learn about and celebrate rich traditions that are a significant part of San Francisco's unique cultural fabric. Beginning at 1pm on November 2, the **Mixcoatl Anahuac Aztec dancers** perform a welcome to all concertgoers outside the entrance to Davies Symphony Hall. Once inside, performers from **Círculo Cultural** will greet ticketholders in the lobby costumed as stylized *Catrines* and *Catrin*as in Day of the Dead-themed face paint and costumes, some of them wearing giant *Mojigangas* paper mache heads. Fifty vocalists from the Community Music Center's two senior choirs, **Coro Solera** and **Coro de la 30**, will perform festive songs from Mexican and Latin American folk repertoire in the Davies Symphony Hall first tier lobby.



feminist Sor Juana Inés de las Cruz, and Valencia Street's **Back to the Picture** frame store and art gallery will exhibit Day of the Dead prints in the lobby.

Victor Zaballa's paper skull and playful bamboo skeleton *fantoches* will add to the celebration and invite everyone to ascend the grand staircase to the first tier. Bay Area artist **Victoria Canby** will show her piece "Posada en Papel," a bright and bold three-dimensional mural in recognition of the centennial of Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada's death, flanked by her "Skeleton Crew" made of paper. **Viva Paredes** will create an installation entitled "Seeds of Life" honoring the ancient, sacred foods of Mexico with deep-rooted traditions observed in Mexico to this day. Artist **Aiko Cuneo** will display her three-dimensional paper skull made mostly of recycled materials, and **Círculo Cultural** will decorate the Davies Symphony Hall lobby windows with oversized Posada-inspired articulated skeletons. **Casa Bonampak** will create a traditional altar in the first tier honoring Mexico's famous 17th century nun, poet and

Bilingual activities for children will include a *Composer is Dead*-themed scavenger hunt, face painting, paper flower making and a photo booth, organized by Children's Activities Coordinator **Elena Finestone**. Mexican sugar skull artist **Irma Ortiz** will give free sugar skull-making demonstrations, and her sugar skulls will be offered for sale. Artist **Rob-O** will display his enormous and colorful sugar skulls, offering free sugar skull decorating activities for children. The San Francisco Symphony store in the Davies Symphony Hall lobby will feature 2013 commemorative *Día de los Muertos* Community Concert t-shirts for sale, as well as colorful Day of the Dead jewelry, ornaments, sugar skulls and gift items. Complimentary Day of the Day bread—*pan de muerto*—baked by the **New Royal Bakery** will be served along with Mexican hot chocolate.

Performers

[Donato Cabrera](#) has been the Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and the Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) since 2009. He works closely with SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and conducts the San Francisco Symphony throughout the year, including the annual *Día de los Muertos* Community Concert, as well as the *Concerts for Kids*, *Adventures in Music*, and *Music for Families* concerts, which annually draw more than 60,000 young people and their families from throughout the Bay Area to Davies Symphony Hall. In 2012, Cabrera led the SFSYO on their eighth European tour, for which they won an ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming of American music on foreign tours. In 2013 Cabrera was appointed Music Director of the California Symphony and of the New Hampshire Music Festival. He became Music Director of the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra in 2011. Cabrera holds degrees from the University of Nevada and the University of Illinois and has also pursued graduate studies in conducting at Indiana University and the Manhattan School of Music. In February 2010, Cabrera was recognized as a Luminary by the Friends of Mexico Honorary Committee, a group led by San Francisco's Consul General of Mexico Carlos Félix dedicated to celebrating Mexico's bicentennial in San Francisco. Cabrera was honored for his contributions to promoting and developing the presence of the Mexican community in the Bay Area.



An alumnus of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, composer [Nathaniel Stookey](#) was first commissioned by the SFS at age 17. He has gone on to collaborate with many of the world's great orchestras, including The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Manchester's venerable Hallé Orchestra, where he was composer-in-residence under Kent Nagano. In 2006 the San Francisco Symphony commissioned *The Composer is Dead*, "a sinister guide to the orchestra" with narration by another Bay Area artist, Lemony Snicket (aka Daniel Handler). The work has since been performed by more than 100 orchestras on four continents, and is one of the five most performed classical works of the twenty-first century. It was recorded in 2006 and released with a New York Times best-selling illustrated childrens' book published by HarperCollins. Nathaniel Stookey is bilingual and will serve as narrator for the Spanish version performed at *Día de los Muertos*.



[Calidanza Dance Company](#) is a new professional Mexican folk dance company based in Sacramento led by [Steven Valencia](#). Valencia is a veteran of ballet folklórico in northern California and made his national reputation as the Artistic Director for the Instituto Mazatlan Bellas Artes de

Sacramento from 1998-2012. In 2011, he was honored as one of ten Californians to receive The 2011 Maestro Award from The Latino Arts Network of California. His new professional dance company, a Sacramento Latino Arts Center partner, presents newly created works grounded in tradition but with contemporary movement and subject matter. "Calidad"—quality—is part of what makes Valencia's Calidanza fusion unique in California. Just this year, these 22 men and women have performed with major artists such as Mariachi Camperos and have been in a number of festivals and fairs in Northern California. In addition, Calidanza will be presenting their new work, "Navidades y Tradiciones" slated to debut December 2013 in Sacramento and Fresno. The company will also debut two new productions in 2014 in Sacramento, the Bay Area, Fresno and Los Angeles. This is Calidanza's first performance with the San Francisco Symphony. They will be accompanied by José Roberto Hernandez's Vinic-Kay folkloric musicians.



Founded in the 1980s by Musical Director José Roberto Hernandez, [Vinic-Kay's](#) mission is to preserve the rich musical heritage of each Latin American culture, so that it may continue to exist in the lives of the people of today as it has for centuries past. Born in Tabasco, Mexico, Jose Roberto Hernandez has dedicated most of his life to building a vast repertoire of folkloric music by learning directly from the masters of each region. Considered one of the most devoted folklorists in the area, Hernandez feels deep respect for the rich musical culture that exists in Latin America and proudly shoulders the responsibility of sharing the wealth and beauty of those traditions. Today, Vinic-Kay performs a mix of traditional pieces and original compositions that keep true to the rich legacy of Latin American music. The group is made up of diverse musicians from different parts of Latin America who each bring to the group the musical traditions of their particular countries.

[Círculo Cultural](#) is a Redwood City-based organization that promotes the art and culture of the Hispanic world within the Latino Community through theater, visual, and literary art. This year marks their fourth time participating at the San Francisco Symphony's *Día de los Muertos* Community Concert.



Mixcoatl Anahuac Aztec Dancers are led by [Connie Rivera](#) and [Ricardo Peña](#), who came to San Francisco 20 years ago from Toluca, Mexico, where Rivera's grandfather was a traditional Aztec dancer and spoke Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs. Peña is a drummer and teaches Aztec dancing at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts. The group is widely known in the Bay Area and they are sought-after performers for special ceremonies, such as the Carnaval and the *Día de los Muertos* procession in the Mission and the annual *Día de los Muertos* community concert at the San Francisco Symphony.

Partners

The Symphony's Community Partner [Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts \(MCCLA\)](#) was established in 1977 by artists and community activists with a shared vision to promote, preserve and develop the Latino cultural arts that reflect the living tradition and experiences of the Chicano, Mexican, Central and South American, and the Caribbean people. The MCCLA makes the arts accessible as an essential element to the community's development and well-being. For more information on the MCCLA visit missionculturalcenter.org.

[Community Music Center \(CMC\)](#) makes high quality music accessible to all people, regardless of their financial status. Founded in 1921, CMC is the Bay Area's oldest community arts organization and San Francisco's largest provider of free and low-cost music classes and concerts. During the last school year, over 2,300 students of all ages, ethnicities and income levels enrolled in CMC programs and over 18,500 people enjoyed musical performances at no or low cost. Learn more at www.sfcmc.org.

[The Consulate of Mexico in San Francisco](#) is committed not only to protect and assist all Mexicans in Northern California, but also to serve as the voice of Mexico, its culture and its traditions. The Mexican Consulate organizes multiple cultural activities throughout the year and partners with various organizations in the Bay Area, in order to continue strengthening its alliances and sharing the cultural richness of Mexico with Mexicans and friends of Mexico. To learn about all its activities visit www.mexicoinsf.com

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS COMMUNITY CONCERT

[Saturday, November 2 at 2 pm](#)

Davies Symphony Hall

Donato Cabrera, conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Men of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus

Ragnar Bohlin, director

Nathaniel Stookey, narrator

Calidanza, dance company

Steven Valencia, artistic director

Vinic-Kay, folkloric music group

José Roberto Hernandez, director

Fernanda Bustamante

Manuel Constancio

Alejandra Contreras

Círculo Cultural, theater group

Verónica Escamez, director

Mixcoatl Anahuac, Aztec dancers

Ricardo Peña, director

PROGRAM

Márquez *Danzón* No. 2

San Francisco Symphony
Círculo Cultural, theater group

Nathaniel Stookey *The Composer is Dead*, performed in Spanish with English supertitles
San Francisco Symphony
Nathaniel Stookey, narrator

Arvo Pärt *de profundis*
San Francisco Symphony (organ and percussion only)
Men of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus
Círculo Cultural, theater group
Mixcoatl Anahuac, Aztec dancers

Traditional, arr. David Conte Three Folksongs for Men's Chorus: *La Martiniana, La Bruja, La Llorona*
Men of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus
Vinic-Kay, folkloric music group

Dance performance: *Noche de Muertos*
I. *Mictlan*
II. *La Catrina*
III. *Tzintzuntzan*
Calidanza, dance company
Vinic-Kay, folkloric music group

The entire family is welcome to this afternoon matinee as the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus celebrate Mexican music and culture in its sixth annual Day of the Dead Community Concert. Doors open at 1pm for all concertgoers to enjoy pre-concert festivities, refreshments and colorful displays celebrating *Día de los Muertos* in the Davies Symphony Hall lobby. The concert will be approximately 90 minutes in duration and includes one 20-minute intermission. [Click here to watch a short video](#) showing scenes of the San Francisco Symphony's *Día de los Muertos* Community Concert.

Tickets: \$20-\$68. Half price for ages 17 and under. Tickets are available at sfsymphony.org, by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco. Recommended for ages 7 and older.

For further press information, contact Amelia Kusar in the San Francisco Symphony Public Relations Department at (415) 503-5425 or akusar@sfsymphony.org, or Salvador Acevedo/Contemporánea at (415) 404-6982 or salvador@contemporanea.us.

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