



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / SEPTEMBER 22, 2017



(High resolution images of Krzysztof Urbański, Jakub Hruša, Osmo Vänskä, Stéphane Denève, Semyon Bychkov, and Susanna Mälkki are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: Marco Borggreve, Zbyněk Maděryč, Joel Larson, Genevieve Caron, Sheila Rock, and Simon Fowler)

INTERNATIONAL GUEST CONDUCTORS LEAD THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN PROGRAMS FEATURING MUSIC FROM THEIR HOMELANDS THROUGHOUT THE 2017–18 SEASON

Concerts include:

Krzysztof Urbański leading performances of Penderecki's *Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima* October 6–8 and Lutosławski's *Concerto for Orchestra* October 19–21

Jakub Hruša leading performances of Smetana's *Vltava* from *Má Vlast* and Janáček's *Taras Bulba*, *Rhapsody for Orchestra* October 13–15

Osmo Vänskä conducting Sibelius's *Finlandia* and *Violin Concerto* October 26–28

Stéphane Denève conducting Ibert's *Escales*, Saint-Saëns's *Cello Concerto No. 1*, and Connession's *E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare* May 10–12

Semyon Bychkov conducting Taneyev's *Oresteia* Overture and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 2, Little Russian* May 21–June 2

Susanna Mälkki conducting Saariaho's *Laterna magica* June 7–9

Making their SFS debuts are conductor **Jakub Hruša**; cellist **Sol Gabetta** October 19–21; and violinist **Baiba Skride** October 26–28

First SFS performances include **Guillaume Connession's** *E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare* and **Taneyev's** *Oresteia* Overture

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Throughout the 2017–18 season the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) welcomes distinguished international visiting conductors who will present music from their home countries. Over the course of seven concert programs, the San Francisco Symphony, led by guest conductors **Krzysztof Urbanski**, **Jakub Hruša**, **Osmo Vänskä**, **Stéphane Denève**, **Semyon Bychkov**, and **Susanna Mälkki**, will traverse orchestral works from Poland, Czech Republic, Finland, France, and Russia.

October 6–8, Polish conductor [Krzysztof Urbanski](#) leads the SFS in performances of **Krzysztof Penderecki's *Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima***, written in 1960 during the height of a revitalization of Polish music after the gradual receding of Soviet influences in Poland. One of the most well-known works by Penderecki and recipient of the 1961 Tribune Internationale des Compositeurs UNESCO award, it was described by the West German critic Karl H. Wörner as a “profoundly disturbing piece of apparently hopeless cataclysmic atmosphere in a highly individual technique of composition and instrumentation.” It was however not intended as political music, writes the composer in a letter to the mayor of Hiroshima in 1964, but rather “music that was appropriate to the time during which we were living in Poland.” The concert program also includes **Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 10***, and **Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor*** featuring violinist [Augustin Hadelich](#).

Urbanski returns on **October 19–21** to conduct **Concerto for Orchestra** by another important Polish composer from the same era, **Witold Lutoslawski**. Lutoslawski led the San Francisco Symphony in performances of this piece as guest conductor in 1991, following his 1986 appearance during which he premiered his own composition *Chain 3*, commissioned by the SFS during its 75th anniversary season, and donated his fee to a foundation he had established to aid Polish composers who wished to study in the West. Also on the concert program is **Mozart's *Overture to The Magic Flute***, and **Dvořák's beloved *Cello Concerto*** featuring [Sol Gabetta](#) in her SFS debut. Sol Gabetta achieved international acclaim upon winning the Crédit Suisse Young Artist Award in 2004 and making her debut with Wiener Philharmoniker and Valery Gergiev at the Lucerne Festival. She is the recipient of the 2010 Gramophone Young Artist of the Year Award, Würth-Preis of the Jeunesses Musicales in 2012, and four Instrumentalist of the Year Echo Klassik Awards in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013.

Conductor [Jakub Hruša](#) makes his SFS debut **October 13–15** in a concert program with two tone poems by composers from his home country of Czechoslovakia. On the program is **Leoš Janáček's *Taras Bulba***, a rhapsody for orchestra based on three episodes from the novel by Nikolai Gogol. The piece reflects the composer's joy over the Republic of Czechoslovakia's independence from Austria, depicting the exploits of characters in the novel as they grapple with love, honor, and death in war. **Smetana's *Vltava (The Moldau)*** is one of six symphonic poems in ***Má Vlast (My Homeland)***, which portrays aspects of the countryside, history and legends of Bohemia. *Vltava* was conceived during a trip in 1867 to the western edge of the country where Smetana was entranced by the river Otava as it joins the Vltava before flowing toward the North Sea. Each of these works utilizes the symphonic poem form pioneered by Franz Liszt and is woven with ideas of nationalistic music prevalent in the late 19th century. Also on the program is **Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 17*** with pianist [Piotr Anderszewski](#) and **Dvořák's *Carnival Overture***. Hruša is Chief Conductor of Bamberg Symphony, Permanent Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic, Principal Guest Conductor of Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, and begins his post as Principal Guest Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra this season.

Finnish conductor [Osmo Vänskä](#) wraps up the month with two iconic works from **Jean Sibelius *October 26–28***. On the program is one of the composer's most well-known orchestral works ***Finlandia***, composed for the Press Celebrations of 1899 as a protest against censorship from the Russian empire. In her SFS debut, violinist [Baiba Skride](#) performs Sibelius's unrelentingly beautiful ***Violin Concerto in D minor***. Born into a musical Latvian family in Riga where she began her studies, Skride is the 1st prize winner of the 2001 Queen Elisabeth Competition. **Shostakovich's brilliant *Symphony No. 1*** rounds out the program.

Concerts later in the season include Frenchman [Stéphane Denève](#) leading the first SFS performances of **Guillaume Connesson's *E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare***, **Ibert's *Escales***, **Respighi's *Pines of Rome***, and the **Saint-Saëns *Cello Concerto No. 1*** with cellist [Gautier Capuçon](#) **May 10–12**. Russian conductor [Semyon Bychkov](#) conducts the first SFS performances of **Taneyev's *Oresteia Overture*** **May 31–June 2**. Other works on the program include **Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 2, Little Russian*** and the **Bruch *Concerto for Two Pianos*** featuring [Katia and Marielle Labèque](#). Finally, Finnish conductor [Susanna Mälkki](#) returns to lead the SFS in **Kaija Saariaho's *Laterna Magica***, **Scriabin's *The Poem of Ecstasy***, and **Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto***, performed by violin virtuoso [Hilary Hahn](#), **June 7–9**.

Calendar editors, please note:

All concerts are at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA.

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

Pre-Order Food and Drinks: Concertgoers may pre-order drinks and snacks [here](#) by 11am the day of a performance to arrange to have them ready at Davies Symphony Hall either before the concert or at intermission.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, KRZYSZTOF URBAŃSKI CONDUCTING

[Friday, October 6, 2017 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Friday, October 6, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

[Krzysztof Urbanski](#) conductor

[Augustin Hadelich](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

PENDERECKI	<i>Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima</i>
MENDELSSOHN	Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 10 in E minor, Opus 93

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Alexandra Amati-Camperi will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, October 17 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Tickets: \$15–\$95.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, JAKUB HRŮŠA CONDUCTING

[Friday, October 13, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

[Jakub Hruša](#) conductor [SFS debut]

[Piotr Anderszewski](#) piano

San Francisco Symphony

DVOŘÁK	<i>Carnival Overture, Opus 92</i>
MOZART	Piano Concerto No. 17 in G major, K.453
SMETANA	<i>Vltava (The Moldau)</i> from <i>Má Vlast</i>
JANÁČEK	<i>Taras Bulba</i> , Rhapsody for Orchestra

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Janáček's *Taras Bulba*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Laura Stanfield Prichard will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, October 24 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Tickets: \$15–95.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, KRZYSZTOF URBAŃSKI CONDUCTING

[Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, October 20, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Krzysztof Urbanski](#) conductor

[Sol Gabetta](#) cello [SFS debut]

San Francisco Symphony

DVOŘÁK	Cello Concerto in B minor, Opus 104
MOZART	Overture to <i>Die Zauberflöte</i> (<i>The Magic Flute</i>), K.620
LUTOSŁAWSKI	Concerto for Orchestra

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Lutosławski’s Concerto for Orchestra, hosted by [KDFC’s Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Scott Foglesong will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, October 31 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Tickets: \$15–159.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, OSMO VÄNSKÄ CONDUCTING

[Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

[Friday, October 27, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Osmo Vänskä](#) conductor

[Baiba Skride](#) violin [SFS debut]

San Francisco Symphony

SIBELIUS	<i>Finlandia</i> , Opus 26
SIBELIUS	Violin Concerto in D minor, Opus 47
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 1 in F minor, Opus 10

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 1, hosted by [KDFC’s Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Elizabeth Seitz will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, November 7 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Tickets: \$15–155.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, STÉPHANE DENÈVE CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, May 11, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Stéphane Denève](#) conductor

[Gautier Capuçon](#) cello

San Francisco Symphony

IBERT

Escales

SAINT-SAËNS

Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Opus 33

Guillaume CONNESSON

E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare [First SFS Performances]

RESPIGHI

Pines of Rome (Pini di Roma)

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Peter Susskind will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, May 22 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Tickets: \$15–159.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, SEMYON BYCHKOV CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 2 pm](#)

[Friday, June 1, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Semyon Bychkov](#) conductor

[Katia and Marielle Labèque](#) duo piano

San Francisco Symphony

TANEYEV

Oresteia Overture, Opus 6 [First SFS Performances]

BRUCH

Concerto for Two Pianos in A-flat minor, Opus 88a

TCHAIKOVSKY

Symphony No. 2 in C minor, Opus 17, *Little Russian*

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Laura Stanfield Prichard will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, June 12 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Tickets: \$15–159.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, SUSANNA MÄLKKI CONDUCTING

[Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, June 8, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Susanna Mälkki](#) conductor

[Hilary Hahn](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

TCHAIKOVSKY

Violin Concerto in D major, Opus 35

Kaija SAARIAHO

Laterna Magica

SCRIABIN

The Poem of Ecstasy, Opus 54

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Scriabin's *The Poem of Ecstasy*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Elizabeth Seitz will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, June 19 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Tickets: \$15–155.

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The San Francisco Symphony receives support from over 10,000 individual donors and 150 partner institutions.

October 6–8 performances of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10, May 31–June 2 performances of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2, and June 7–9 performances of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto are made possible by the Athena T. Blackburn Endowed Fund for Russian Music.

October 13–15 concerts are supported by the James J. Parker Mostly Mozart Fund in memory of James J. Parker, beloved husband of Irena Parker.

Krzysztof Urbański, Jakub Hrůša, Osmo Vänskä, Semyon Bychkov, and Susanna Mälkki's appearances are supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.

Sol Gabetta and Gautier Capuçon's appearances are generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.

Sibelius's Finlandia and Violin Concerto are generously supported by the Mr. and Mrs. George Otto Sibelius Fund.

Additional support for May 10–12 concerts is provided by the Margaret Koshland Sloss Tribute Fund.

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