



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**
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(High resolution images of Vladimir Ashkenazy, Alexey Stadler, James Conlon and Jan Lisiecki are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY WELCOMES GUEST CONDUCTORS VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY AND JAMES CONLON WITH YOUNG ARTISTS MAKING THEIR SFS DEBUTS IN TWO CONCERT WEEKS, JUNE 2–4 and 8–12 at DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Ashkenazy conducts Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 with soloist Alexey Stadler and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, June 2–4

Conlon leads the SFS in Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*; Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 with soloist Jan Lisiecki; and Dvořák's Symphony No. 8, June 8–12

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4 – The San Francisco Symphony (SFS) welcomes guest conductors Vladimir Ashkenazy and James Conlon, who each lead concerts with young artists making their SFS debuts in two concert weeks, June 2–4 and June 8–12 in Davies Symphony Hall. Ashkenazy conducts Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 with soloist Alexey Stadler and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, June 2–4. Conlon leads Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 with soloist Jan Lisiecki, and Dvořák's Symphony No. 8, June 8-12.

Just 23 years old, cellist Alexey Stadler captured the attention of mentor Vladimir Ashkenazy as winner of the 2012 TONALi12 Grand Prix in Hamburg. Ashkenazy, Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, invited Stadler to tour with the Orchestra in December 2015. The two artists additionally collaborated in the previous season on Stadler's UK and London debut with the London Chamber Orchestra. These SF Symphony performances mark Stadler's

U.S. debut and are his exclusive performances in the United States this season. Ashkenazy released a recording of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in July 2015 with the NHK Symphony in Tokyo—music featured on these concerts. He made his SFS piano debut in 1958 performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2, and subsequently performed many times as a pianist. He first conducted in Davies Symphony Hall in 1990, leading the Deutsches-Symphonie Orchester Berlin, and first led the SFS in 1993.

The 21-year-old pianist Jan Lisiecki makes his debut with the SFS in the June 8–12 concerts with James Conlon, performing Mozart's Concerto No. 22. This will be his second appearance in San Francisco, following a solo recital in December 2013 with San Francisco Performances. His recording of Mozart's Concertos Nos. 20 and 21 was highly praised by the *New York Times*, which wrote: "this is beautiful Mozart playing, direct, unmannered and fresh. This is a detail-oriented pianist who makes every note count and plays with utter rhythmic integrity." Lisiecki became a Deutsche Grammophon artist at the age of 15, and has four recordings on the label. James Conlon, Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera and past Music Director of Chicago's Ravinia Festival, first conducted the SFS in 1978 and has been a frequent guest since then. He last conducted the SF Symphony in April 2014, leading a Russian program of works by Tchaikovsky, Schulhoff and Shostakovich, as part of his project to highlight composers silenced by the Holocaust.

[Vladimir Ashkenazy](#) is revered as both a pianist and a conductor, with conducting forming the majority of his activities for the past 20 years. Formerly Chief Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic (1998–2003) and Music Director of NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo (2004–2007), from 2009 to 2013 he served as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, collaborating on a number of exciting projects including composer festivals, major recording projects and international touring activities. His discography is extensive and he is a Grammy Award-winner for Beethoven's Piano Concertos with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Sir Georg Solti (1973), Beethoven's Sonatas for Violin and Piano with Itzhak Perlman (1978), a Ravel program of solo works (1985), and Shostakovich's Preludes and Fugues (1999), among others. Ashkenazy has been featured in several television projects, such as *Music After Mao*, filmed in Shanghai in 1979, and *Ashkenazy in Moscow* – a series of programs marking his first visit in 1989 to the country of his birth since leaving the USSR in the 1960s. He has developed educational programs with NHK TV including the 1999 *Superteachers*, in which he works with inner-city London school children, and in 2003–04 a documentary based around his Prokofiev and Shostakovich under Stalin project.

Conductor [James Conlon](#) has cultivated a vast symphonic, operatic and choral repertoire. Since his 1974 debut with the New York Philharmonic, he has conducted virtually every major American and European symphony orchestra. Conlon is Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera and this season he concludes a 37-year tenure as Music Director of the May Festival in Cincinnati, one of the longest tenures of any American classical music institutions. He assumes the post of Principal Conductor of the RAI National Symphony Orchestra in Torino, Italy in 2016. From 2006-2015, Conlon served as Music Director of the Ravinia Festival, summer home of the Chicago Symphony. He was also Principal Conductor of the Paris National Opera (1995-2004), General Music Director of the City of Cologne, Germany (1989-2002), where he was Music Director of both the Gürzenich Orchestra-Cologne Philharmonic and the Cologne Opera, and Music Director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic (1983-1991). Conlon has conducted more than 270 performances at the Metropolitan Opera since his debut in 1976.

Pianist [Jan Lisiecki](#) was born to Polish parents in Canada in 1995. He began piano lessons at the age of five and made his concerto debut four years later. Lisiecki was brought to international attention in 2010 when the Fryderyk Chopin Institute issued a recording of Chopin's piano concertos performed live by Lisiecki at age 13 and 14, which won the prestigious Diapason Découverte award. He signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon in 2011 at the age of 15. In March 2013, Lisiecki substituted on short notice for Martha Argerich in Bologna with the Orchestra Mozart under Claudio Abbado, performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4; that year he also performed Schumann's Piano Concerto at the BBC Proms. The following year he performed three Mozart concertos in one week with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and made his debuts as concerto soloist with the Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala in Milan, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, and with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. The same season, Lisiecki gave debut recitals at Wigmore Hall, Rome's Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and in San Francisco. Lisiecki has played with leading orchestras including the Orchestre de Paris, New York Philharmonic, and BBC Symphony, at venues such as Suntory Hall, the Kennedy, Lincoln, and Barbican Centres, and Royal Albert Hall, and has cultivated relationships with prominent conductors including Sir Antonio Pappano, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Daniel Harding, and Pinchas Zukerman.

Born into a family of musicians, [Alexey Stadler](#) began to play the cello at the age of four. He began his studies with Alexey Lazko and continued his education at the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music in St. Petersburg, Russia. During the 2015-16 season, Stadler appears in a number of high level engagements across Europe, Asia and the United States. He performed at Konzerthaus Berlin, Weimar, Chorin, and on tour in Israel together with the Young Philharmonic Orchestra Jerusalem Weimar under the baton of Michael Sanderling. This season he debuts with Tokyo Symphony Orchestra with Michael Sanderling and Orquesta Sinfónica de las Islas Baleares with Joji Hattori. Festival appearances take him to the International Chamber Music Festival Stavanger, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, and the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad. Recent solo engagements have included collaborations with the Mariinsky Orchestra, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Junge Norddeutsche Philharmonie, Irish Chamber Orchestra, and Orchestra Haydn of Bolzano and Trento under renowned conductors such as Valery Gergiev and Marek Janowski. A keen chamber musician, Stadler has appeared in recitals and chamber music programs at festivals such as Heidelberg Spring Festival, Verbier Festival, and Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. In 2008 he recorded Rachmaninov's Cello Sonata on an instrument by A. Jacout which had once belonged to the Russian Emperor Nicholas II. His second recording featuring cello miniatures was released in 2009.

Calendar editors, please note:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY CONDUCTING

[Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, June 3, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

Vladimir Ashkenazy conductor
Alexey Stadler cello [SFS debut]
San Francisco Symphony

SHOSTAKOVICH Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Opus 107
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Opus 36

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be downloaded or streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the [iTunes store](#).

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, June 14 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-\$165

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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, JAMES CONLON CONDUCTING

[Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 8 pm \(Great Performer's Series\)](#)

[Friday, June 10, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

James Conlon conductor
Jan Lisiecki piano [SFS debut]
San Francisco Symphony

BRITTEN
MOZART
DVOŘÁK

Sinfonia da Requiem, Opus 20
Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat major, K.482
Symphony No. 8 in G major, Opus 88

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Dvořák's Symphony No. 8, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be downloaded or streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](https://www.sfsymphony.org/podcasts) and from the [iTunes store](#).

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 21 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://www.kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

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.

Tickets: \$15-\$165.

Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](https://www.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.

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

Alexey Stadler's appearance is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund (June 2-4).

Vladimir Ashkenazy's appearance is supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund (June 2-4).

The Great Performers Series concert of June 9 is made possible through the generosity of Presenting Sponsor Chevron.

Jan Lisiecki's appearance is supported by the Barbara Brookins Young Artist Fund (June 8-12).

James Conlon's appearance is supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund (June 8-12).

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