



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / JANUARY 24, 2019



(High resolution images of artists and the SFS's Chinese New Year festivities can be viewed and downloaded [here](#). Photo credit: Moanalani Jeffrey)

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENTS CHINESE NEW YEAR CONCERT & BANQUET SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Conductor Mei-Ann Chen leads the San Francisco Symphony in works by Huan-zhi Li, Mao Yuan, and An-lun Huang, as well as traditional tunes

Violinist Angelo Xiang Yu performs Chen Gang & He Zhan-Hao's *The Butterfly Lovers Concerto*

Pre-concert Festival Reception with lion dancers, Chinese calligraphy, and refreshments begins one hour before concert in the DSH lobby

Elegant Chinese New Year Banquet held after concert

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony (SFS) welcomes the Year of the Boar with its annual [Chinese New Year Concert & Banquet](#) on Saturday, **February 16** at Davies Symphony Hall. Conductor [Mei-Ann Chen](#) leads the SFS in a program of traditional folk music and works by Asian composers, featuring **Chen Gang & He Zhan-Hao's *The Butterfly Lovers Concerto*** performed by acclaimed violinist [Angelo Xiang Yu](#). *The Butterfly Lovers Concerto*, composed in 1959 by Shanghai Conservatory of Music students Chen Gang and He Zhan-hao, faced censorship during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, finally gaining popularity in late 1970s. Composed using all western instruments and intertwining tonal harmonies with Chinese melodies, the concerto is considered the embodiment of a China in transition, and celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Other works on the program include **Huan-zhi Li's *Spring Festival Overture***, **An-lun Huang's *Saibei Dance***, and arrangements of traditional tunes ***Jasmine Flower*** and ***The Moon Over Spring River***. Members of the [Red Chamber](#) ensemble join the SFS in performances of *The Moon Over Spring River* and **Mao Yuan's *Dance of the Yao People***. The concert will be accompanied by unique video projections by video designer [Adam Larsen](#), creating an immersive experience for the audience.

A free pre-concert Festival Reception is open to all ticket holders beginning at 4:00pm in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies. Entertainment and activities include lion dancing, Chinese calligraphy, “lucky” red envelopes, complimentary sweet and savory bites, wine and tea bars, musical performances by Melody of China, and a special appearance by LiLou the Pig—San Francisco’s very own and first-ever therapy pig.

The glamorous and celebratory Banquet, inspired by the vibrant visual pageantry of traditional Chinese New Year celebrations, begins at 7:00pm in Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall, located at 300 Franklin Street at the rear of Davies Symphony Hall. This year’s Banquet theme, “Diner en Rouge,” will be reflected in dramatic video projections by Adam Larsen, and dinner guests will be treated to a musical moment by Alisa Gasperi. Dinner packages include access to the Festival Reception, premium concert seating, and seating at the Banquet. The Banquet is catered by McCalls Catering & Events, with lighting design by Got Light and decor by Blueprint Studios.

The Chinese New Year Concert & Banquet are made possible through the generous support of Presenting Sponsors Gorretti & Lawrence Lui, Red Lantern Sponsors John & Sherry Chen, and Supporting Sponsors Eliza & Dean Cash, Festival Napa Valley & Bouchaine Vineyards, Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Company, HSBC Bank USA N.A., Margaret Liu & Edward B. Collins, and Peter Liu, Chairman, WI Harper Group. This celebration is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission. Proceeds from the Chinese New Year Concert & Banquet benefit the Symphony’s myriad education and community programs, which serve over 75,000 students in Bay Area elementary, middle, and high schools each year.

About the artists:



Angelo Xiang Yu ©
Kate Lemmon

Winner of the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition in 2010, violinist **Angelo Xiang Yu**'s astonishing technique, exquisite tone, and exceptional musical maturity have won him consistent critical acclaim and enthusiastic audience response worldwide. In addition to winning First Prize, as well as the Bach and Audience Prizes at the Menuhin Competition, Yu was awarded the 2nd prize at the Lipinski Wieniawski International Violin Competition, and the 3rd prize at the Michael Hill International Violin Competition. In March 2017, he was chosen to join the roster of the prestigious Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Bowers Program (formerly CMS Two), beginning with the 2018–19 season. This performance marks Angelo Xiang Yu’s San Francisco Symphony debut. Click [here](#) for Yu’s full biography.



Mei-Ann Chen ©
Rosalie O’Connor

Praised for her dynamic, passionate conducting style, Taiwanese-American conductor **Mei-Ann Chen** is acclaimed for infusing orchestras with energy, enthusiasm and high-level music-making, galvanizing audiences and communities alike. Appointed Music Director of the MacArthur Award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta in 2011, Chen’s contract has been extended through the 2020–2021 season. She also serves as Artistic Director & Conductor for the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra Summer Festival, a post she has held since 2016. Highly regarded as a compelling communicator and an innovative leader both on and off the podium, and a sought-after guest conductor, she continues to expand her relationships with orchestras worldwide. Chen conducted the SF Symphony’s Chinese New Year concerts in 2013, 2015, 2016, and 2017. Click [here](#) for Chen’s full biography.

Calendar editors, please note:

CHINESE NEW YEAR CONCERT & BANQUET with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

[Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 5 pm \(festivities at 4 pm\)](#)

4:00pm – Free Festival Reception for all ticketholders

5:00pm – Chinese New Year Concert

7:00pm – Banquet at Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall (***Dinner packages are sold separately***)

[Mei-Ann Chen](#) conductor
[Angelo Xiang Yu](#) violin
[Red Chamber](#) guest artists
[Adam Larsen](#) video design
San Francisco Symphony

HUAN-ZHI LI

Spring Festival Overture

CHEN Gang; HE Zhan-Hao

The Butterfly Lovers Concerto

Angelo Xiang Yu violin

Chinese (arr. Wen-chen CHUANG)

Jasmine Flower

Traditional (arr. Jin ZHENG)

The Moon Over Spring River

Red Chamber

MAO Yuan (arr. Jin ZHENG)

Dance of the Yao People

Red Chamber

An-lun HUANG

Saibei Dance

TICKETS: Tickets for the Chinese New Year Concert and the pre-concert Festival Reception are \$40–\$70 and 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.

Dinner packages that include access to the Festival Reception, premium concert seating, and seating at the Banquet are \$500–\$1,500. **All dinner packages are now sold out.** Please call the SFS Volunteer Council at 415-503-5500 for more information.

Photos are [available here](#).

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Tumblr](#), and [Instagram](#) and [Soundcloud](#):



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

The Chinese New Year Concert & Banquet are made possible through the generous support of Presenting Sponsors Gorretti & Lawrence Lui, Red Lantern Sponsors John & Sherry Chen, and Supporting Sponsors Eliza & Dean Cash, Festival Napa Valley & Bouchaine Vineyards, Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Company, HSBC Bank USA N.A., Margaret Liu & Edward B. Collins, and Peter Liu, Chairman, WI Harper Group.

This celebration is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Emirates is the Official Airline of the San Francisco Symphony.

Franklin Templeton Investments and Fiduciary Trust International are Season Sponsors of the San Francisco Symphony.

San Francisco Chronicle / SFGATE.com is the Official Media Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

The San Francisco Symphony's Official Radio Partner is KDFC, The Bay Area's Radio Home for Classical Music and the Arts

- SFS -