



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

sfsymphony.org/press

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(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 & IMPERIAL DINNER SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Conductor Xian Zhang leads pianist Zhang Zuo and the San Francisco Symphony in performances of works by Huanzhi Li, Rachmaninoff, Tan Dun, and Huang Ruo, as well as traditional tunes

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

Annual Chinese New Year Imperial Dinner will be held after concert

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony (SFS) welcomes the Year of the Dog with its annual Chinese New Year Concert & Imperial Dinner on Saturday, February 24 at Davies Symphony Hall. Conductor Xian Zhang (张弦) leads the SFS in a concert featuring pianist Zhang Zuo (左章), SFS violinist Yun Chu (储韵), and SFS cellist Amos Yang (楊基恩). **The Chinese New Year Concert is dedicated to the Honorable Edwin Mah Lee, 43rd Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco.** The Chinese New Year Concert & Imperial Dinner is chaired by San Francisco philanthropist Xiaojun Lee.

A free pre-concert Festival Reception is open to all ticket holders beginning at 2:00pm in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies with family-friendly entertainment and activities including arts and crafts, lion dancing, games, “lucky” red envelopes, complimentary sweet and savory bites, and tea bars.

The 3:00pm concert opens with the popular neon dragon dance and features a combination of traditional music, alongside orchestral works by Asian and European composers. Concert highlights include Zhang Zuo performing **Rachmaninoff’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini** with the San Francisco Symphony, as well as a performance of **Tan Dun’s *The***

Triple Resurrection in which she is joined by SFS violinist Yun Chu and cellist Amos Yang. A triple concerto from the composer's Martial Arts Cycle, Dun's 2013 composition is inspired by the romantic martial arts films *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*; *Hero*; and *The Banquet*—all films for which he composed the score. The SFS will also perform **Huanzhi Li's Spring Festival Overture** and **Huang Ruo's Folk Songs for Orchestra**, and close with the traditional tune "**Gong Xi, Gong Xi**," during which the audience will be invited to sing along.

The elegant Imperial Dinner, inspired by the vibrant visual pageantry of traditional Chinese New Year celebrations, begins at 5:00pm in Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall, located at 300 Franklin Street at the rear of Davies Symphony Hall. The Imperial Dinner honors esteemed restaurateur and chef Cecilia Chiang. Dinner packages include access to the Festival Reception, premium concert seating, and seating at the Imperial Dinner. The Imperial Dinner is catered by McCalls Catering & Events and is designed by Blueprint Studios.

The Chinese New Year Concert & Imperial Dinner, chaired by Xiaojun Lee, is made possible through the generous support of Tiffany & Co. and event underwriters Ivy & Dave Chenn. This concert is generously underwritten by John & Sherry Chen and presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission. Proceeds from the Chinese New Year Concert & Imperial Dinner benefit the Symphony's education and community programs, which serve over 75,000 students in our Bay Area elementary, middle, and high schools each year.

About the Artists



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Born in Dandong, China, **Xian Zhang (张弦)** made her professional debut conducting *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Central Opera House in Beijing at the age of twenty. She trained at Beijing's Central Conservatory, earning both her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees, and serving on its conducting faculty before moving to the United States in 1998. She was appointed as the New York Philharmonic's assistant conductor in 2002, subsequently becoming their associate conductor and the first occupant of the Arturo Toscanini Chair. Now in her second season as Music Director of the New Jersey Symphony, she gives performances of Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, Mahler's Symphony No. 1, and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, among others. In 2016, she assumed the position of Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales, becoming the first female conductor to hold a titled role with a BBC orchestra.

Zhang is also Conductor Emeritus of Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, where she served as music director from 2009 through 2016. Zhang frequently returns to conduct in her native China, where she regularly leads the China Philharmonic and Guangzhou Symphony, among others. A champion of Chinese composers, she is a notable exponent of the music of Qigang Chen. This season she conducts Chen Yi's *Ge Xu (Antiphony)* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the New Jersey Symphony. This performance marks her San Francisco Symphony debut.



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Pianist **Zhang Zuo ("Zee Zee") (左章)** began her musical training in Germany at the age of five. Upon returning to her native China, she completed her piano studies with Dan Zhao Yi at the Shenzhen Arts School. She was invited to continue her artistic development under the mentorship of Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music, and Yoheved Kaplinsky and Robert McDonald at the Juilliard School, where she won the Petschek Piano Award. Zhang Zuo has performed with such orchestras as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony, BBC Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Belgian National Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and Shanghai Symphony, and appeared at the Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival, Pärnu Music Festival, and the Ravinia Festival. She was artist-in-residence with the Shenzhen Symphony in the 2016-17 season and concluded her final season as a BBC New Generation Artist in the 2015-16 season. In 2014 she gave a live televised performance at the Royal Albert Hall as part of

the BBC Proms. Zhang Zuo's 2017-18 season sees her debut with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Basel Symphony, and Estonian National Symphony. She appears with the Colorado, Pasadena, Tucson, and Jacksonville symphony orchestras, and gives recitals at the Vancouver Recital Society and Shanghai Symphony Chamber Hall. This performance marks her San Francisco Symphony debut.

Calendar editors, please note:

CHINESE NEW YEAR CONCERT & IMPERIAL DINNER with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

[Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 3 pm \(festivities at 2 pm\)](#)

2:00pm – Free Festival Reception for all ticketholders

3:00pm – Chinese New Year Concert

5:00pm – Imperial Dinner at Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall (*Dinner packages are sold separately*)

[Xian Zhang](#) (张弦) conductor

[Zhang Zuo](#) (左章) piano

[Yun Chu](#) (儲韵) violin

[Amos Yang](#) (楊基恩) cello

San Francisco Symphony

TRADITIONAL

HUANZHI LI

RACHMANINOFF

TAN DUN

HUANG RUO

TRADITIONAL (arr. Lee)

Opening Chinese Dragon Dance

Spring Festival Overture

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Opus 43

Zhang Zuo piano

The Triple Resurrection

Yun Chu violin

Amos Yang cello

Zhang Zuo piano

Folk Songs for Orchestra

“Gong Xi, Gong Xi”

The San Francisco Symphony rings in the Chinese New Year and Year of the Dog on Saturday, February 24 at its [18th Annual Chinese New Year Concert & Imperial Dinner](#) at Davies Symphony Hall. Dedicated to the 43rd Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, the Honorable Edwin Mah Lee, the celebrations begin with a free Festival Reception for all ticketholders at 2:00pm. Pre-concert festivities in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies provide playful entertainment and activities in the spirit of the Dog including arts and crafts, lion dancing, games, and complimentary sweet and savory bites. The 3:00pm concert opens with the popular Chinese Dragon Dance and features a combination of traditional music, alongside orchestral works by Asian and European composers. The elegant Imperial Dinner, inspired by the vibrant visual pageantry of traditional Chinese New Year celebrations and honoring chef and restaurateur Cecilia Chiang, is at 5:00pm in Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall, located at 300 Franklin Street at the rear of Davies Symphony Hall. Dinner packages include access to the Festival Reception, premiere concert seating, and seating at the Imperial Dinner. Proceeds from the Chinese New Year Concert & Imperial Dinner benefit the Symphony’s education and community programs, which serve over 75,000 students in our Bay Area elementary, middle, and high schools each year.

TICKETS: Tickets for the Chinese New Year Concert and the pre-concert Festival Reception are \$34–\$79 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.

The event chair is Xiaojun Lee. Dinner packages that include access to the Festival Reception, premium concert seating, and seating at the Imperial Dinner are \$400–\$1,250 and are available on the [SF Symphony website](#) or by calling the SFS Volunteer Council at 415-503-5500. Limited tickets are available at the Jade and Ruby level. Gold level is sold out.

Photos are [available here](#).



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

The Chinese New Year Concert & Imperial Dinner is made possible through the generous support of Tiffany & Co., event underwriters Ivy & Dave Chenn, and concert underwriters John & Sherry Chen.

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

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