



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

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(High resolution images of Marek Janowski, James Ehnes, Krzysztof Urbański, Vilde Frang, Juraj Valčuha, and Alexander Barantschik are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#).)

GUEST CONDUCTORS MAREK JANOWSKI, KRZYSZTOF URBAŃSKI, AND JURAJ VALČUHA LEAD THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN MAY, 2019

May 2–4 concerts feature Marek Janowski leading the SFS in Wagner’s Overture and Venusberg Music from *Tannhäuser*, and Prelude and *Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde*; Mendelssohn’s *Ruy Blas* Overture; and Bruch’s Violin Concerto No. 1 performed by violinist James Ehnes

Concerts on May 23–25 are conducted by Krzysztof Urbański and include Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 4; Bacewicz’ Overture; and Elgar’s Violin Concerto featuring violinist Vilde Frang in her SFS debut

On May 30–June 1 Juraj Valčuha leads the SFS in Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 8 and J.S. Bach’s Violin Concerto No. 2, featuring SFS Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik as soloist

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Guest conductors Marek Janowski, Krzysztof Urbański, and Juraj Valčuha return to conduct the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in three dynamic programs this May at Davies Symphony Hall. On **May 2–4**, renowned conductor [Marek Janowski](#) leads the Orchestra in a romantic program, which includes **Mendelssohn’s *Ruy Blas* Overture**, **Bruch’s rousing Violin Concerto No. 1** featuring violinist [James Ehnes](#), and two works by **Wagner—Overture and Venusberg Music from *Tannhäuser* and Prelude and *Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde***. Previously Artistic Director of the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, Janowski began his post as Chief Conductor of the Dresden Philharmonic at the beginning of the 2019–20 season. Widely considered one of the great masters of the music of the German tradition, Janowski is recognized internationally for his interpretations of Wagner, Strauss, Bruckner, Brahms, Hindemith and the Second Viennese School, and has an extensive and distinguished discography in the repertoire.

May 23–25 concerts are conducted by Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra [Krzysztof Urbanski](#) and feature violinist [Vilde Frang](#) making her San Francisco Symphony debut with a performance of **Elgar's** poetic **Violin Concerto**. Vilde Frang's profound musicianship and exceptional lyricism have elevated her as a young artist of exceptional individuality. Born in Norway, Frang was engaged by Mariss Jansons at the age of twelve to debut with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2012 she was unanimously awarded the Credit Suisse Young Artists Award, which led to her debut with the Wiener Philharmoniker under Bernard Haitink at the Lucerne Festival. Frang is an exclusive Warner Classics artist and her recordings have received numerous awards, including the Edison Klassiek Award, Classic BRIT Award, "Diapason d'Or" by Diapason Magazine, Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, the Echo Klassik Award, and a Gramophone Award. Also on the program is **Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, Italian**, described by the composer as "the happiest piece I have ever written," and **Bacewicz's** buoyant **Overture**. One of a handful of works completed by Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz during the dark years of the second World War, her Overture for orchestra is imbued with a sense of vigorous optimism that stands in defiance to its time.

On **May 30–June 1**, [Juraj Valčuha](#)—current music director of the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples and first guest conductor of the Konzerthausorchester Berlin—leads the SFS in **Shostakovich's** unconventional and intensely probing **Symphony No. 8** and **J.S. Bach's** ebullient **Violin Concerto No. 2**, featuring SFS Concertmaster [Alexander Barantschik](#) as soloist. Occupying the Naoum Blinder Chair, Alexander Barantschik began his tenure as San Francisco Symphony Concertmaster in September, 2001. Through an arrangement with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Barantschik has the exclusive use of the legendary 1742 Guarnerius del Gesù violin once owned by the virtuoso Ferdinand David.

Calendar editors, please note:

All concerts take place at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

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 food and beverages by calling 415-252-1937 or emailing Global Gourmet Catering staff at davieshallpreorder@ggcatering.com before the performance to place an order.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MAREK JANOWSKI CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, May 3, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Marek Janowski](#) conductor

[James Ehnes](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

MENDELSSOHN

Ruy Blas Overture, Opus 95

BRUCH

Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 26

WAGNER

Overture and Venusberg Music from *Tannhäuser* (Paris version)

WAGNER

Prelude and *Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde*

Tickets: \$20–156

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Wagner's Prelude and *Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde*, 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: James M. Keller 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 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, KRZYSZTOF URBAŃSKI CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 2 pm](#)

[Friday, May 24, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, May 25, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Krzysztof Urbański](#) conductor

[Vilde Frang](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

ELGAR

Violin Concerto in B minor, Opus 61

BACEWICZ

Overture [First SFS Performances]

MENDELSSOHN

Symphony No. 4 in A major, Opus 90, Italian

Tickets: \$20–156

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, 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 Grunberg 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.

Off-The-Podium: Please join Krzysztof Urbański and Vilde Frang immediately after the concerts on May 23 and 25 for an audience Q&A session, which will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticket holders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, June 4 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, JURAJ VALČUHA CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, May 31, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Juraj Valčuha](#) conductor

[Alexander Barantschik](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

J.S. BACH

Violin Concerto No. 2 in E major, BWV 1042

SHOSTAKOVICH

Symphony No. 8 in C minor, Opus 65

Tickets: \$20–156

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8, hosted by KDFC's Rik Malone. All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](https://itunes.apple.com) 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 11 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.

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

Marek Janowski and Juraj Valčuha's appearances are supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.

Support for James Ehnes and Alexander Barantschik's appearances is provided by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.

Vilde Frang's appearance is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.

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May 30–June 1 concerts are supported by Fred Levin and Nancy Livingston.

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