



SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

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(High resolution images of the San Francisco Symphony's holiday performances are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Press Room](#))

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES ITS ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT SEASON, NOVEMBER 30—DECEMBER 31, 2017

Special guest performers include Seal, Peaches Christ & Armistead Maupin, Mariachi Sol De México® de José Hernández, and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Classic holiday film *Home Alone* is presented with the SFS performing the score live

Family-friendly performances include *A Charlie Brown Christmas—Live!*, Cirque de la Symphonie, the Symphony's annual Deck the Hall celebrations, and the SFS Youth Orchestra performing *Peter and the Wolf* with guest narrator Zachary Quinto

Enjoy traditional Christmas music performed by the Orchestra and SFS Chorus with Handel's *Messiah*, and Holiday Brass; and Bach Collegium Japan performing J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*

Seth MacFarlane joins the San Francisco Symphony for a special New Year's Event, December 31

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco Symphony's (SFS) 2017 holiday season at Davies Symphony Hall offers a festive array of concerts for all ages, from traditional Christmas classical concerts including Handel's *Messiah*, J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and **Holiday Brass** to family-friendly events including ***A Charlie Brown Christmas—Live!***, the circus feats of **Cirque de la Symphonie**, the Orchestra's annual **Deck the Hall** concerts, and the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra's annual performance of **Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*** with **Zachary Quinto** narrating. Beloved comedy classic ***Home Alone*** is projected on the big screen with the SFS performing the score live. British soul singer **Seal** performs selections off his new album, **Mariachi Sol De México® de José Hernández** presents ***A Merry-achi Christmas***, the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir** brings an uplifting program of gospel, soul, and jazz favorites in ***Holiday Soul***, and **Armistead Maupin** is the featured guest artist in ***Holiday Gaiety with the SFS***. On December 31, **Seth McFarlane** joins the San Francisco Symphony to celebrate New Year's Eve.

Grammy Award-winning vocalist **Seal** and the San Francisco Symphony kick off the Holiday festivities on **November 30** with iconic jazz and swing classics and selections from Seal's highly-anticipated new album "Standards." The album comes out November 10 on Republic Records and pays tribute to legends including Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nina Simone. On **December 8**, ***Holiday Gaiety with Armistead Maupin and the SFS*** features San Francisco's premiere drag sensation **Peaches Christ** as a co-emcee with conductor Edwin Outwater, in addition to award-winning novelist **Armistead Maupin** and guest artists **Cheyenne Jackson**, **Bob the Drag Queen**, **Melissa King**, and **The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence**, in a program that is sure to be full of fabulous surprises and dazzling performances. On **December 12–13** the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**, conducted by **Charles Floyd**, joins the SFS to present ***Holiday Soul***—an uplifting program of gospel, soul, and jazz favorites. The choir is joined by vocalists **CeCe Winans**, **Edwin Hawkins**, and **Paula West**.

This holiday season the SFS continues the tradition of presenting classical music associated with the Christmas season. Members of the SF Symphony brass section, led by Edwin Outwater, present **Holiday Brass** on **December 3** and **Masaaki Suzuki** conducts **Bach Collegium Japan** in **J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*** with soprano **Sherezade Panthaki**, countertenor **Jay Carter**, tenor **Zachary Wilder**, and bass **Dominik Wörner** on **December 9**. Ragnar Bohlin conducts the SFS in performances of **Handel's *Messiah*** **December 14–15**, featuring soprano **Nikki Einfeld**, mezzo-soprano **Tamara Mumford**, tenor **Leif Aruhn-Solén**, and bass **Morris Robinson**.

Once again, the Symphony's holiday line-up includes programs well-suited for children and families, starting with two **Deck the Hall** concerts on **December 3**. This festive children's concert and party features Symphony musicians and special guests, including the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Young Women's Choral Projects, San Francisco Ballet School trainees, and the San Francisco Children's Musical Theatre. **December 7–8**, the acrobats, strongmen, and performing artists of **Cirque de la Symphonie** join the SF Symphony musicians for a special holiday show, executing their jaw-dropping feats to the thrilling music of composers like Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi, Bizet, and others, mixed with plenty of holiday hits. On **December 10**, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) performs **Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*** with guest narrator **Zachary Quinto**, led by Wattis Foundation Music Director **Christian Reif**. Also on **December 10**, the ever-popular presentation of ***A Merry-Achi Christmas*** returns, with **Mariachi Sol De México® de José Hernández** performing its blend of Mexican and American holiday favorites. **December 16–17** concerts present classic holiday favorite ***Home Alone***, with John Williams' charming and delightful score performed live to picture by the SFS, conducted by **Joshua Gersen** and joined by the Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Pacific Boychoir, and San Francisco Girls Chorus (Dec 16–17 only).

A Charlie Brown Christmas—Live! returns **December 21–24** with seven performances by the Orchestra of Vince Guaraldi's score for this special stage show, with singers, actors, and dancers all bringing Charles Schulz's beloved *Peanuts* characters and the Christmas classic animated TV special to life. The decked-out lobby of Davies Symphony Hall features kid-friendly refreshments and *Peanuts*-themed activities.

The Symphony's annual **New Year's Event** on **December 31** features Academy and Grammy Award-nominated singer, songwriter, actor, producer, and director **Seth MacFarlane**, with Edwin Outwater conducting.

Throughout the month of December, the lobbies of Davies Symphony Hall are transformed into a holiday wonderland, complete with towering trees decorated with handmade ornaments made by children and volunteers from local schools and community groups.

Calendar editors, please note:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2017 HOLIDAY CONCERTS

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

Tickets for all holiday concerts are on sale now at sfsymphony.org, by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall box office on Grove Street between Franklin Street and Van Ness Avenue.

SEAL with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

[Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Seal](#) vocalist

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$20–95

DECK THE HALL

[Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 11 am and 3 pm](#)

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser conductor

[San Francisco Boys Chorus](#), **Ian Robertson** artistic director

[Young Women's Choral Projects](#), **Susan McMane** director

[San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program](#), **Helgi Tomasson** director

[San Francisco Children's Musical Theatre](#), **John Bisceglie** musical director

Members of the **San Francisco Symphony**

ANDERSON

Sleigh Ride

Gary FRY

Christmas Morning

TCHAIKOVSKY

Spanish Chocolate from *The Nutcracker*

Jay ALTHOUSE

Cantar

TCHAIKOVSKY

Snowflakes from *The Nutcracker*

WILDE/KONEKY (arr. Huff)

Happy Hanukkah, My Friend (The Hanukkah Song)

TCHAIKOVSKY

Russian Dance from *The Nutcracker*

VARIOUS (arr. John Higgins)

Christmas on Broadway

Sing-alongs with the audience

MARKS (arr. Norris)

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer

ROLLINS & NELSON

Frosty the Snowman

TRADITIONAL (arr. Finnegan) Deck the Hall

Tickets: \$44–64

VIP Packages: One of the best ways to experience Deck the Hall is by purchasing a VIP ticket package. This includes premium concert seating, access to a pre-concert party with food, games, special crafts and a photo with Santa! Call the San Francisco Symphony Volunteer Council for details at (415) 503-5500 or [click here](#). This event is expected to sell out.

HOLIDAY BRASS

[Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor

Members of the SF Symphony Brass Section

J.S. BACH (arr. Higgins)	Allegro from <i>Brandenburg</i> Concerto No. 3 in G major, BWV 1048
VIVALDI (arr. Higgins)	Concerto in D major, R.230 Mark Inouye piccolo trumpet
GABRIELI (arr. Higgins)	Three Selections from the <i>Sacrae symphoniae</i> <i>Canzon per sonar septimi toni</i> , No. 1 <i>Beatus es virgo Maria</i> <i>Canzona per sonar in echo duodecimi toni</i>
BIEBL (arr. Yager)	<i>Ave Maria</i>
PROKOFIEV (arr. Higgins)	<i>Lieutenant Kijé</i> Suite, Opus 60 Birth of Kijé Romance Kijé's Wedding Troika The Burial of Kijé
TCHAIKOVSKY (arr. Higgins)	Selections from <i>The Nutcracker</i> , Opus 71 Overture March Arabian Dance Russian Dance [Trepak]
WALDTEUFEL (arr. Armstrong)	Skater's Waltz
ANDERSON (arr. Wasson)	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
GUARALDI (arr. Ridenour)	Two Selections from <i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i> Skating Christmastime is Here
ANDERSON (arr. Armstrong)	<i>A Christmas Festival</i>
PIERPONT (arr. Smith & Ward)	Jingle Bells Forever

Tickets: \$15–75

CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE

[Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor

[Cirque de la Symphonie](#)

San Francisco Symphony

SILVESTRI	Main Title from <i>The Polar Express</i>
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV	Dance of The Tumblers from <i>The Snow Maiden</i>
ARKENSTONE	<i>Snowdance</i>
BIZET	Farandole from <i>L'Arlesienne</i> Suite No. 2
ANDERSON	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
LOPEZ/ANDERSON-LOPEZ	Music from <i>Frozen</i>
WALDTEUFEL	excerpt from <i>Les Patineurs</i>

TRADITIONAL (arr. Arkenstone)	"I Saw Three Ships"
JESSEL	"Parade of the Wooden Soldiers"
TRADITIONAL (arr. Dragon)	"Deck the Hall"
TCHAIKOVSKY (arr. Ellington/Tyzik)	<i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Peanut Butter Brigade
TCHAIKOVSKY	Russian Dance from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a
ANDERSON	<i>A Christmas Festival</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	Waltz of the Flower from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a
TCHAIKOVSKY	Dance of the Reed Flutes from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a
SIMONE (arr. Wendel)	"Little Bolero Boy"

Tickets: \$35–89

HOLIDAY GAIETY: A San Francisco Symphony Christmas Special

[Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor and Co-emcee

[Peaches Christ](#) Co-emcee

[Armistead Maupin](#) writer

[Cheyenne Jackson](#) vocalist

[Bob the Drag Queen](#) guest artist

[Melissa King](#) chef

[Diana Gamos](#) vocalist

[The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence](#)

San Francisco Symphony

Jeff TYZIK	Christmas Overture
TCHAIKOVSKY	March from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a
TCHAIKOVSKY (arr. Ellington/Tyzik)	Peanut Butter Brigade [March] from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> Bob the Drag Queen
TCHAIKOVSKY	The Enchanted Palace of the Kingdom of Sweets from <i>The Nutcracker</i> , Opus 71 Trepak from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a Melissa King chef
ANDERSON	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
VAUGHN WILLIAMS	Fantasia on <i>Greensleeves</i> Armistead Maupin narrator
MARKS, JOHNNY	"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
FELICIANO, JOSÉ	"Feliz Navidad" Diana Gamos vocalist
TRAD (arr. Kessler)	"O Chanukah" Carey Bell clarinet
FAITH (arr. Norris)	<i>Brazilian Sleigh Bells</i>
LIOR ROSNER	"T'was the Night" Bob the Drag Queen
PIERPONT	"Jingle Bells" Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence hand bells
GRUBER (arr. Dragon)	"Silent Night" Armistead Maupin narrator

Mariah CAREY & Walter AFANASIEFF “All I Want for Christmas is You”
(arr. Naughtin) **Cheyenne Jackson** vocalist

TORME “The Christmas Song”
Cheyenne Jackson vocalist

ADAM (arr. Naughtin) “O Holy Night”
Cheyenne Jackson vocalist

MARTIN & BLAINE (arr. Dragon) “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”
Full Cast

Tickets: \$15–79

BACH COLLEGIUM JAPAN, MASAAKI SUZUKI CONDUCTING

➤ *Great Performers Series*

[Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Masaaki Suzuki](#) conductor
[Sherezade Panthaki](#) soprano
[Jay Carter](#) countertenor
[Zachary Wilder](#) tenor
[Dominik Wörner](#) bass
[Bach Collegium Japan](#)

J.S. BACH

Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248

Part I: *Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage*
Part II: *Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend*
Part III: *Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen*
Part VI: *Herr, wenn die stolzen Feinde schnauben*

Tickets: \$35-99

PETER AND THE WOLF

[Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

[Christian Reif](#) conductor
[Zachary Quinto](#) narrator
[San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra](#)

PROKOFIEV

Peter and the Wolf, Opus 67

Program will also include holiday favorites, with an audience sing-a-long.

Tickets: \$25-79

A MERRY-ACHI CHRISTMAS

[Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Mariachi Sol de Mexico® de José Hernandez](#)

Note: The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this presentation.

Tickets: \$16–90

HOLIDAY SOUL with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

[Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 8 pm](#)
[Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Charles Floyd](#) conductor
[CeCe Winans](#) vocalist
[Edwin Hawkins](#) vocalist
[Paula West](#) vocalist
[Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir](#), **Terrance Kelly** director
San Francisco Symphony

SMALLWOOD	Anthem of Praise Oakland Interfaith Gospel Chorus San Francisco Symphony
BERNARD	Winter Wonderland Paula West vocalist San Francisco Symphony
TORME	The Christmas Song Paula West vocalist San Francisco Symphony
KELLY	Glory Song Oakland Interfaith Gospel Chorus Valeria Scott soloist
TRADITIONAL (arr. Floyd)	Symphony of Carols San Francisco Symphony
HAWKINS (arr. Floyd)	Someday Edwin Hawkins vocalist
TRADITIONAL (arr. MacGimsey and Floyd)	Sweet Little Jesus Boy Edwin Hawkins vocalist San Francisco Symphony
HAWKINS	Oh Happy Day Edwin Hawkins vocalist Paula West vocalist Oakland Interfaith Gospel Chorus San Francisco Symphony
VARIOUS	Selections with CeCe Winan and the San Francisco Symphony Let Them Fall in Love With You Run to Him (Medley) Never Have to Be Alone Dancing in the Spirit Oh Holy Night Joy to the World Silent Night The First Noel

Tickets: \$25–85

HANDEL'S MESSIAH, RAGNAR BOHLIN CONDUCTING

[Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 8 pm](#)
[Friday, December 15, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Ragnar Bohlin](#) conductor
[Nikki Einfeld](#) soprano
[Tamara Mumford](#) mezzo-soprano
[Leif Aruhn-Solen](#) tenor
[Morris Robinson](#) bass
[San Francisco Symphony Chorus](#), **Ragnar Bohlin** director
San Francisco Symphony

HANDEL *Messiah*

Tickets: \$16–165

HOME ALONE with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

➤ *Film Series*

[Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 7 pm](#)

[Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

[Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Joshua Gersen](#) conductor

[The San Francisco Girls Chorus](#) (Dec 16–17 only), **Valérie Sainte-Agathe** music director and principal conductor

[The Pacific Boychoir](#)

[The Ragazzi Boys Chorus](#), **Joyce Keil** artistic director

San Francisco Symphony

John WILLIAMS

Home Alone

Chris COLUMBUS director

Tickets: \$69–175

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS – LIVE!

[Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 2pm and 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, December 22, 2017 at 2pm and 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 2pm and 7:30pm](#)

[Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 2pm](#)

[Randall Craig Fleischer](#) conductor

Dancers from the Cast of A Charlie Brown Christmas [see below]

The Cast of A Charlie Brown Christmas [see below]

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, **David Xiques** Assistant Director

San Francisco Symphony

Charlie Brown Christmas Cast

Liza Gennaro director and choreographer

Dan Scully video designer

Carmina de Dios costume designer

Tristan Raines costume designer

Elena Zahlmann répétiteur

Narrators

Michael Covert

Dancers

Michael Starr (Charlie Brown)

Natasha Adorlee Johnson (Snoopy)

Kelsey McFalls (Lucy)

Stephen DiBiase (Linus)

Juliann Witt (Sally)

Justin Andrews, Doran Butler, Elena Zahlmann (Charlie's Gang)

Jamielyn Duggan, Rachel Speidel Little, Elena Zahlmann, Katerina Wong (Christmas Trees)

TRADITIONAL (arr. Erik JEKABSON) *Holiday Bells*

BERLIN (arr. BLANK) "Snow" from *White Christmas*

TCHAIKOVSKY (arr. ELLINGTON) "Overture Suite" from *Nutcracker Suite*

BERLIN (arr. DRAGON) *White Christmas*

BERLIN (adaptation GLASSCOCK) “I’ve Got Love to keep Me Warm”
TRADITIONAL (arr. Sean O’LOUGHLIN) *Christmas By the Bay*
HERMAN (arr. WENDEL) “We Need A Little Christmas” from *Mame*
GUARALDI (arr. FIRTH) *A Charlie Brown Christmas* [with video]

A Charlie Brown Christmas Courtesy of Lee Mendelson and Bill Melendez Productions ©2014 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

TRADITIONAL (arr. Kennedy) Christmas Sing-alongs
Hark the Herald Angels
Deck the Hall
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Tickets: \$30–80

NEW YEAR’S EVE with SETH MACFARLANE and the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

[Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor
[Seth MacFarlane](#) vocalist
San Francisco Symphony

Program to be announced.

Tickets: \$89–264

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December 10 SFSYO concert is made possible through the generosity of Bank of America and presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

The concert on December 13 is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

The Great Performers Series is made possible through the generosity of Chevron.

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