



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

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Images of Christian Reif, the SFS Youth Orchestra, and Jason Moon are available for download in the [SFSYO Press Kit](#)

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA'S 2016—2017 SEASON WELCOMES NEW WATTIS FOUNDATION MUSIC DIRECTOR CHRISTIAN REIF

Season opens Sunday, November 13 at 2pm, featuring SFSYO 2016 Concerto Competition Winner Jason Moon as soloist in Sibelius's Violin Concerto; Orchestra also performs Shostakovich's Symphony No. 6 and Henze's *Maenad's Dance* from *The Bassarids*

Highlights of 2016—17 include performances of Dvořák's Symphony No. 8; Mozart's Symphony No. 41, *Jupiter*; Brahms's Symphony No. 4; Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler*; works by Beethoven and Barber; and annual holiday concert of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* with guest narrator Linda Ronstadt

SAN FRANCISCO, October 5, 2016 — The [San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra](#) (SFSYO) and Wattis Foundation Music Director [Christian Reif](#) open their first season together on Sunday, November 13 at 2pm in Davies Symphony Hall, with the SFSYO's 2016 Concerto Competition winner, [Jason Moon](#), performing Sibelius's Violin Concerto with the Orchestra. The concert opens with Henze's *Maenad's Dance* from *The Bassarids*, and the Orchestra performs Shostakovich's Symphony No. 6 in B minor to conclude the performance.

Reif leads the SFSYO musicians in three additional concerts this season, including a December 11 holiday concert performance of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, featuring Grammy Award-winning singer and Rock and Roll Hall-of-Famer Linda Ronstadt as guest narrator.

On March 5, 2017, the Orchestra performs a pair of symphonies: Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 in G major and Mozart's Symphony No. 41 in C major, *Jupiter*, with Barber's Second Essay for Orchestra completing the program. On May 14,

2017, Reif and the young musicians conclude their season with a performance of Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 2, Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler*, and Brahms's Symphony No. 4 in E minor.

"I love the music of Hans Werner Henze, because of its power and energy and his imaginative musical voice," Christian Reif says of the first program's repertoire. "I thought it would be a great way to start the season, because he's one of the great German composers of the 20th century, and I want to share his music—music from my home—with these students. Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler* is also one of the pieces that is dearest to me. It's a phenomenal work, with music from his opera of the same name. It gets played far too rarely."

About Christian Reif

In addition to his new SFSYO post, to which he was named in February, [Christian Reif](#) is also the San Francisco Symphony's Resident Conductor, also effective in the 2016-17 season. In that role, he assists Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and several guest conductors with subscription concerts, touring, semi-staged productions, recordings and other special projects. In addition, he will conduct the San Francisco Symphony in selected *Concerts for Kids*, *Adventures in Music*, and *Music for Families* concerts, which annually draw more than 26,000 young people and their families from throughout the Bay Area to Davies Symphony Hall. Reif, a native of Germany, made his San Francisco Symphony debut in September 2015 leading the West Coast premiere of Ted Hearne's *Dispatches*. He recently completed two seasons as conducting fellow with the New World Symphony in Miami, where he was mentored by SF Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas. Reif completed his master of music in conducting at the Juilliard School under Alan Gilbert, where he received the Charles Schiff Conducting Award. He also studied with Dennis Russell Davies at the Mozarteum Salzburg. In summer 2015, Reif conducted the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra in several world premieres as part of Tanglewood's 75th anniversary summer, which led to his appointment as a Tanglewood conducting fellow for the summer of 2016. During that appointment, he stepped in for Seiji Ozawa, conducting the Seiji Ozawa International Academy Switzerland. He has also worked as assistant and cover conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Boston Symphony Orchestra, and in 2014, he served as assistant conductor for Alan Gilbert at the New York Phil Biennial. Reif won the German Operetta Prize 2015, awarded by the German Music Council. He is currently a member of Germany's Conductor's Forum (Dirigentenforum).



Highlights of Christian Reif's 2015-16 season included leading the Munich Chamber Opera in performances of Mozart's *La finta semplice* in Munich's Cuvilliés Theater and performing with the Meininger Hofkapelle. As part of efforts to bridge cultures through music, he led the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz in the world premiere of Mehmet C. Yesilçay's *Lieder aus der Fremde*, which addresses the current European refugee crisis. He has led several orchestras and ensembles both in the US and abroad, such as the Lakes Area Music Festival Orchestra, Juilliard Orchestra, Salzburg Chamber Soloists, Georgian Chamber Orchestra, and the Israel Chamber Orchestra. He has performed with soloists including Dawn Upshaw, Sanford Sylvan, Julia Bullock and Barbara Bonney. His enthusiasm in performing contemporary music has led to many world premiere performances, including Michael Gordon's *El Sol Caliente*, a city symphony in honor of Miami Beach's centennial; and concertos for DJ and orchestra, performed at the New World Symphony's PULSE events, when the concert hall is transformed into a nightclub. A dedicated and enthusiastic educator, Reif has taught piano, coached instrumentalists and worked with singers. He has also worked as a teaching fellow at the Juilliard School. He hosted and conducted the New World Symphony's education concerts in 2014 and 2016, which were broadcast globally online.

About Jason Moon

Violinist **Jason Moon** is the winner of the 2016 SF Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition. A senior at the Menlo School in Atherton, he joined the SFSYO in 2013 and is in his fourth season. He is also the concertmaster of the Menlo School Chamber Orchestra. He began violin lessons at the age of five and is currently under the tutelage of Wei He in the Pre-College division at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His previous private teachers include John Kraus and Motoko Toba at Santa Clara University. He completed five seasons with the California Youth Symphony Senior Orchestra as Co-Principal Second Violin.

In addition to the SFSYO Concerto Competition, Moon has won numerous other competitions, including the US International Music Competition, the US Open Competition, the KAMSA Competition, the Korea Times Youth Music Competition, the Silicon Valley Youth Music Competition, the DVC/HNU Young Artist Competition, and the Peninsula Symphony Young Musicians' Competition. He has performed as a soloist with the DVC Philharmonic Orchestra, the Menlo Chamber Orchestra, the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra, and the KAMSA Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has also worked with Miriam Fried, Ilya Kaler, Lucie Robert, Gerardo Ribeiro, Blair Milton, Ivan Zenaty, Klara Flieder, Elbert Tsai, Chen Zhao, Bettina Mussumeli, Robin Sharp, and Haik Kazazyan, among others. As a chamber musician, Moon has participated in the SFCM Pre-College chamber music program and in Susan Bates's Young Chamber Musicians program, working with the Borromeo String Quartet, the Escher String Quartet, and the Calidore String Quartet. In previous summers, he has participated in California Summer Music, the Meadowmount School of Music, the Northwestern University Summer Violin Institute, and Music@Menlo Chamber Festival and Institute and has toured Ireland with the Menlo Chamber Orchestra and Europe with the SFSYO. Moon actively participates in many different non-profit music organizations, playing concerts for various members of the community and teaching students with special educational needs.

About the SFSYO

The [San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra](#) (SFSYO) is recognized internationally as one of the finest youth orchestras in the world. Founded by the [San Francisco Symphony](#) in 1981, the SFSYO's musicians are chosen from more than 300 applicants in annual auditions. The SFSYO's purpose is to provide an orchestral experience of pre-professional caliber, tuition-free, to talented young musicians from the greater Bay Area. The more than 100 diverse musicians, ranging in age from 12 to 21, represent communities from throughout the Bay Area. The SFSYO rehearses and performs at Davies Symphony Hall under the direction of Wattis Foundation Music Director Christian Reif, beginning his first season with the Orchestra in 2016-17. Jahja Ling served as the SFSYO's first Music Director, followed by David Milnes, Leif Bjaland, Alasdair Neale, Edwin Outwater, Benjamin Shwartz, and Donato Cabrera, who stepped down at the conclusion of the 2015-16 season.

As part of the SFSYO's innovative training program, musicians from the San Francisco Symphony coach the young players each Saturday afternoon in sectional rehearsals, followed by full orchestra rehearsals with Reif. SFSYO members also have the opportunity to work with many of the world-renowned artists who perform with the SFS each week. SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, SFS Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt, Sir Simon Rattle, Kurt Masur, Valery Gergiev, Leonard Slatkin, Yo-Yo Ma, Isaac Stern, Yehudi Menuhin, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Midori, Joshua Bell, Gil Shaham, Sarah Chang, and many others have worked with the SFSYO. Of equal importance, the students are able to talk with these prominent musicians, asking questions about their lives, their professional and personal experiences, and about music. The SFSYO has toured internationally on ten different occasions, garnering rave reviews and critical acclaim for its artistry.

Calendar editors, please note:

Tickets to the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra's 2016-2017 season are on sale at www.sfsymphony.org, (415) 864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, located on Grove Street between Franklin and Van Ness.

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

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

[Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 2pm](#)

Christian Reif conductor

Jason Moon violin (2016 SFSYO Concerto Competition Winner)

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Henze

Maenad's Dance from *The Bassarids*

Sibelius

Violin Concerto in D minor, Opus 47

Shostakovich

Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Opus 54

Tickets: \$55 reserved seating, \$15 general admission.

***PETER AND THE WOLF* with the SFS YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

[Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 11 am](#)

Christian Reif conductor
Linda Ronstadt 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: \$15-\$69; half price for ages 17 and under.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

[Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 2pm](#)

Christian Reif conductor
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Barber Second Essay for Orchestra, Opus 17
Mozart Symphony No. 41 in C major, K.551, *Jupiter*
Dvořák Symphony No. 8 in G major, Opus 88

Tickets: \$55 reserved seating, \$15 general admission.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

[Sunday, May 14, 2017 at 2pm](#)

Christian Reif conductor
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Beethoven *Leonore Overture No. 2*, Opus 72
Hindemith *Mathis der Maler*
Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Opus 98

Tickets: \$55 reserved seating, \$15 general admission.

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