



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

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(High-resolution images for the San Francisco Symphony's Film Series are available for download from the [Online Press Kit](#).
West Side Story © 1961 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc. All rights reserved.)

**THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S FIFTH ANNUAL FILM SERIES FEATURES SCREENINGS
OF *NORTH BY NORTHWEST*, *HOME ALONE*, *WEST SIDE STORY*, AND *AMADEUS*
PERFORMED LIVE TO PICTURE**

2017–18 season also includes performances of Tim Burton's *Batman*, April 4-5

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—[The San Francisco Symphony's](#) (SFS) popular [Film Series](#) continues in the 2017–18 season with the Orchestra performing the live accompaniment to five iconic films projected on a large screen over the stage. The Film Series launches **December 1–2** with Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 spy thriller ***North by Northwest***, featuring the SF Symphony performing Bernard Herrmann's score live, conducted by Richard Kaufman. On **December 16–17 & 20**, the SFS, conducted by Joshua Gersen and joined by the Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Pacific Boychoir, and San Francisco Girls Chorus (Dec 16–17 only), presents beloved Holiday comedy ***Home Alone*** with music by John Williams. The concerts on **February 1–3** continue the SFS's season-long celebration of Bernstein's birth centennial with ***West Side Story*** featuring Bernstein's electrifying score conducted by David Newman. On **April 4–5** Sarah Hicks leads the SFS in performances of Tim Burton's ***Batman***, which features a Grammy Award-winning score by Danny Elfman. The Film Series wraps up with screenings of sumptuous period epic and winner of eight Academy Awards® ***Amadeus***, a fictionalized account of the life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos, **April 6–7**.

About the Films

North by Northwest was an astounding success upon its release in 1959 and remains one of the most popular spy thrillers of all time. In what *Timeout* magazine called 'a perfect storm of talent,' *North By Northwest* sees an innocent man (Cary Grant) pursued across the United States by a group of mysterious agents in an extreme case of mistaken identity. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (*Psycho*, *Vertigo*) the film was nominated for three Academy Awards and is listed by the Writers Guild of America as one of the greatest screenplays ever written.

Bernard Herrmann's music for *North by Northwest* is one of the most well-regarded film scores of all time and comes from the most successful period in Herrmann's work with Hitchcock. All the music for *North by Northwest* has been restored and orchestrated by Christopher Husted from Herrmann's original manuscripts, including music that wasn't included in the final film. The SFS performs these fascinating and previously unheard 'extras' during the December 1–2 performances at Davies Symphony Hall.

Home Alone, written and produced by John Hughes and directed by Chris Columbus, was released to great acclaim in 1990. A true holiday favorite, this beloved comedy classic features renowned composer John Williams' charming and delightful score performed live to picture by the SFS. Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who's accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation, and who must defend his home against two bungling thieves, played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. Following its release, *Home Alone* became the highest-grossing live action comedy film of all time in the United States.

West Side Story is a 1961 classic romantic tragedy, adapted from the 1957 Broadway musical of the same name. It is directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins and features Leonard Bernstein's electrifying score with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The film is considered one of the greatest achievements in the history of movie musicals, with a screenplay by Ernest Lehman, in turn based on a book by Arthur Laurents. It is the winner of ten Academy Awards®, including Best Picture. The performances on February 1–3, conducted by David Newman, are part of the SFS's season-long celebration of Bernstein's birth centennial.

Batman is a 1989 American superhero film produced by Jon Peters and Peter Guber, and directed by Tim Burton. The film follows Michael Keaton as Batman and Jack Nicholson as the iconic Joker as they battle for good and evil in Gotham City. This film is the first installment of Warner Brothers' initial *Batman* film series, based on the DC Comics character of the same name. The April 4–5 performances feature Danny Elfman's Grammy Award-winning score performed live by the SFS, led by conductor Sarah Hicks.

Amadeus, directed by Miloš Forman and released in 1984, is a soaring celebration of the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The film tells the story of Vienna court composer Antonio Salieri and the envy that consumes him upon discovering that the divine musical gifts he has so longed for all his life, have been bestowed on a bawdy, vulgar and impish young composer—Mozart. Salieri's envy fuels his plot to destroy Mozart, all the while unable to tear himself away from the genius of his music. *Amadeus* is winner of eight Academy Awards®, including Best Picture, Actor, Director and Adapted Screenplay. Constantine Kitsopoulos conducts the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus in these performances April 6–7. *Amadeus Live* is a production of Avex Classics International.

About the Conductors



(High resolution images of Constantine Kitsopoulos, David Newman, Sarah Hicks, Richard Kaufman, and Joshua Gersen are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Press Kit](#). Photo credit L to R: Lisa Kohler, Alan Weissman, CAMI, Kevin McIntyre, Jennifer Taylor)

Richard Kaufman (*North by Northwest*) has devoted much of his musical life to conducting and supervising music for film and television productions, as well as performing film and classical music in concert halls and on recordings. The 2017–18 season marks his 12th season with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert series “CSO at the Movies” and his 27th season as Principal Pops Conductor of Pacific Symphony. He holds the permanent title of Pops Conductor Laureate with the Dallas Symphony. Highlights of the 2017–18 season include debuts with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia

Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, and the Handel and Haydn Society. Kaufman last appeared with the SFS in 2006, when he conducted the Orchestra in Charlie Chaplin's silent film *City Lights*.

Joshua Gersen (*Home Alone*) is currently the Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic and served as the Music Director of the New York Youth Symphony for five years, stepping down at the end of last season. Gersen was also previously the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Conducting Fellow of the New World Symphony, where he served as the assistant conductor to the symphony's Artistic Director Michael Tilson Thomas, and led the orchestra in various subscription, education, and family concerts, including the orchestra's renowned PULSE concert series. Beyond his conducting interests, Joshua Gersen is also an avid composer, whose works have been performed by the New Mexico Symphony, Greater Bridgeport Symphony, and frequently with the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra, where he made his conducting debut at age 11. Gersen first appeared with the San Francisco Symphony in the fall of 2013 and most recently returned in July 2017 to conduct *Jaws*.

David Newman (*West Side Story*) is one of today's most accomplished creators of music for film. In his 25-year career, he has scored over 100 films, including *War of the Roses*, *Matilda*, *Bowfinger*, *The Nutty Professor*, *The Flintstones*, and the award-winning animated films *Anastasia*, *Ice Age*, and *The Brave Little Toaster*. The recipient of top honors from the music and motion picture industries, he holds an Academy Award nomination for his score to *Anastasia*. Newman is also a highly sought-after conductor and appears with leading orchestras throughout the world, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Boston Symphony, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, and New York Philharmonic. This September marked his ninth year conducting the annual movie night at the Hollywood Bowl. In addition to film music, Newman is an active composer for the concert hall—his works have been performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Indianapolis Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, and at the Ravinia Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, and Chicago's Grant Park Music Festival. He has appeared with the SFS once before, to conduct *On the Waterfront* as part of the SF Symphony's Film Series in January 2017.

Sarah Hicks (*Batman*) was named Principal Conductor, Pops and Presentations of the Minnesota Orchestra in 2009. In addition to conducting most pops and special presentations there, she concurrently holds the position of Staff Conductor of the Curtis Institute of Music. Throughout her career Hicks has collaborated with diverse artists, from Jamie Laredo and Hilary Hahn to Josh Groban and Smokey Robinson and Sting. In June of 2012 she conducted the opening concert of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, in a program featuring Dmitri Hvorostovsky. Hicks has guest conducted extensively both in the States and abroad, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Detroit Symphony, National Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Phoenix Symphony and Prime Philharmonic (Seoul, Korea), and Orchestra Filarmonica del Teatro Fenice. She has been a frequent guest conductor for San Francisco Symphony pops and film concerts since 2009, most recently conducting the Orchestra accompanying the film *Casablanca* in June of 2017.

Constantine Kitsopoulos (*Amadeus*) has made a name for himself as a conductor whose musical experiences comfortably span the worlds of opera, symphony, and musical theatre, conducting in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall and Royal Albert Hall, as well as leading orchestras on Broadway. Highlights of recent seasons include appearances with the New York Philharmonic; the Baltimore, Colorado, Detroit, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Toledo, San Antonio and San Francisco symphony orchestras; and the Calgary Philharmonic, National Arts Centre Orchestra and the New York Pops Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. In demand as a theatre conductor, Kitsopoulos most recently served as Music Director and Conductor of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella on Broadway* and the Tony-Award winning Broadway musical revival of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* featuring Audra McDonald and Norm Lewis which ran until September 2012. The 2017–18 season is his seventh as Music Director of the Festival of the Arts BOCA, an extraordinary multi-day cultural arts event in South Florida. He was Artistic Director of the OK Mozart Festival, Oklahoma's premier music festival, from 2013-15. Kitsopoulos has previously appeared with the SFS as part of its Film Series, most recently conducting *The Wizard of Oz* in September 2014.

Calendar editors, please note:

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

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

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2017-18 FILM SERIES

***NORTH BY NORTHWEST* with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

➤ *Film Series*

[Friday, December 1, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Richard Kaufman](#) conductor
San Francisco Symphony

HERRMANN *North by Northwest*

Alfred HITCHCOCK director

Tickets: \$55–169

***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, 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

***WEST SIDE STORY* with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

➤ *Film Series*

[Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, February 2, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[David Newman](#) conductor
San Francisco Symphony

BERNSTEIN *West Side Story*

Jerome ROBBINS & Robert WISE directors
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Tickets: \$46–199

BATMAN with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

➤ *Film Series*

[Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Sarah Hicks](#) conductor
San Francisco Symphony

Danny ELFMAN *Batman*

Tim BURTON director

Tickets: \$50–165

AMADEUS with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

➤ *Film Series*

[Friday, April 6, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Constantine Kitsopoulos](#) conductor
San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director
San Francisco Symphony

MOZART *Amadeus*

Miloš FORMAN director

Tickets: \$79–199

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

Concerts on December 1, December 16, February 3, April 5, and April 7 are made possible through the generosity of the Koret Foundation.

The concert on April 6 is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

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