



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**
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[Click here to view a video on the Music for Families Series](#)

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(High resolution images of the SFS Educational programs are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES ITS 2015-2016 MUSIC FOR FAMILIES SERIES, FEATURING FOUR CONCERTS OF MUSICAL DISCOVERY DECEMBER 5, FEBRUARY 6, MARCH 5, AND APRIL 30

New partnership with San Francisco's Exploratorium offers both interactive lobby activities and on-stage experiments demonstrating principles of sound

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 5, 2015) – The San Francisco Symphony has announced its 2015-16 *Music for Families* series, designed to be educational, engaging, and fun for children and their families. In a new partnership this year, San Francisco science museum, the Exploratorium, curates interactive lobby exhibits and provides on-stage demonstrations which illuminate principles of sound such as vibration, pitch, and amplification. The themes of this season's four concerts are "How do Instruments Work" (December 5, 2015), "How is Music Put Together" (February 6, 2016), "How is Music Used" (March 5, 2016 - no Exploratorium participation) and "How Does Music Make You Feel" (April 30, 2016).

Music for Families concerts introduce audiences to great symphonic music through a fun and engaging format that includes demonstrations from the stage, informational talks, and other activities along with the performance of great music. This season's demonstrations, in collaboration with the Exploratorium, will include straw "reeds" which change

pitch according to their length; wine glasses which change pitch according to amount of water in the glass; and the emotional effects of unconventional instruments. Lobby activities include playing giant tuning forks to feel how their vibrations resonate through the skull and body; cardboard tubes of different lengths which produce different frequencies/pitches; and “Talk to the Wok”—hearing the natural amplification effect of this parabolic shape.

“We are excited to team up with the Exploratorium this season, as one of the World’s most knowledgeable institutions on hands-on, interactive learning,” says Ron Gallman, Director of Education at the San Francisco Symphony. “We are fully aware of the importance of STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) in today’s world, and look forward to presenting a scientific component to our audiences, along with the discovery of great symphonic music.”

Vivian Altmann, Children's Educational Outreach Program Director at Exploratorium says: “The Exploratorium is thrilled to work with the SF Symphony to curate an experience of the natural phenomenon of sound. These scientific concepts of vibration, frequency, and the amplification of sound waves are easy and fun to demonstrate and will serve to both pique curiosity and enrich understanding of music and its power.”

About Music for Families

The SF Symphony's *Music for Families* series was launched in 1993 and is designed to introduce children and their parents to the wonders of live orchestral music. Part performance and part family outing, the series consists of engaging matinee concerts designed to spark the imagination of the whole family through an exploration of different aspects of the orchestra and its repertoire. *Music for Families* concerts are geared for ages 7 and up. Tickets for children age 17 and under are half-price.

Music for Families concerts include performances of great symphonic music, fascinating musical discoveries, and informative talks about the orchestra, the instruments, the musicians, and the music being performed. Ticket-buyers receive a free Music for Families booklet at the start of the season. In addition, one week prior to each concert, each family receives a special music education resource such as a book or compact disc. These pre-concert materials help families prepare for the concerts, and provide opportunities for continued music engagement at home.

About The Exploratorium:

Located at Pier 15 on San Francisco's Embarcadero, the Exploratorium is a playful learning laboratory of more than 600 interactive exhibits and experiences that ignite curiosity and transform the way people learn. Since 1969, the Exploratorium has influenced generations of entrepreneurs, artists, scientists, teachers, students, children, museum professionals and everyday doers, reaching nearly 180 million people annually from around the globe. For more, visit exploratorium.edu.

Calendar editors, please note:

- All concerts are at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
- Tickets to all San Francisco Symphony performances are available at sfsymphony.org, (415) 864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, located on Grove Street between Franklin and Van Ness. Tickets for the Music for Families series for children age 17 and under are half-price.

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: How Do Instruments Work?

[Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 2 pm](#)

Edwin Outwater conductor
San Francisco Symphony

DVOŘÁK

Slavonic Dance No. 1 in C major, Opus 46

STRAUSS

Pizzicato Polka

TCHAIKOVSKY

Symphony No. 4, “Finale”

Additional tba

Meet the four instrument families of the orchestra—the strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion—and get the inside story on how buzzing, blowing, plucking, and thwacking can create incredible music. Demonstrations with our partner the Exploratorium will help examine how different instruments of the orchestra make their unique sounds.

Tickets: \$15-\$64

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: How Is Music Put Together?

[Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

Joshua Gersen conductor
San Francisco Symphony

Discover some of the building blocks of music—essential ingredients such as notes, rhythms, harmonies, and melodies. Musicians of the San Francisco Symphony, conductor Joshua Gersen, and the Exploratorium will be your guide you as you discover how music is put together. Fun experiments led by the Exploratorium will include making sounds by rubbing goblets filled with water and blowing air into bottles.

Tickets: \$15-\$64

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: How Is Music Used?

[Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

Edwin Outwater conductor
Actor/Narrator tba
San Francisco Symphony

Through stories in music, animal sounds, onomatopoeia, and more, this concert explores music as a language that's used to communicate ideas and convey information. From "musical conversations" to musical depictions of people, places, and things, discover how a symphony orchestra can engage the imagination through the sounds it creates. (Note: The Exploratorium will not participate in this concert)

Tickets: \$15-\$64

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: How Does Music Make you Feel?

[Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

Vladimir Kulenovic conductor
San Francisco Symphony

This concert explores how music affects our emotions. How do different tunes make us feel? How do composers create music that makes us feel happy or sad? Or calm or excited? Can emotions transfer from the musicians on stage to the audience? These are some of the fascinating questions we'll investigate, and our partner the Exploratorium will take part by demonstrating how quirky instruments and sounds can elicit different emotional responses.

Tickets: \$15-\$64

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The December 5 and February 6 Music for Families concerts are made possible through the generosity of Macy's.

Thank you to the Exploratorium for their Community Partnership.

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