



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**
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(A high resolution image of András Schiff is available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

**SIR ANDRÁS SCHIFF PERFORMS A SOLO RECITAL AND CONDUCTS ORCHESTRAL
PERFORMANCES WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY AND CHORUS
OCTOBER 4-10 IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

October 4 solo recital concludes the pianist's *The Last Sonatas* cycle, featuring late works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert

October 7-10 orchestral performances include Schiff performing and leading works by Mozart and Haydn, as well Schubert Lieder with vocal soloists

SAN FRANCISCO, September 21 – Sir András Schiff returns to Davies Symphony Hall October 4-10 for both a solo recital and as conductor and pianist with the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) and Chorus. The Sunday, October 4 recital is part of Schiff's *The Last Sonatas* cycle, which he has been performing internationally over the past two seasons. The orchestral concerts on October 7-10 see Schiff both as pianist and conductor with the SF Symphony, SF Symphony Chorus, and vocal soloists. These are András Schiff's first performances in North America on the podium and at the piano leading chorus, orchestra and soloists.

On Sunday, October 4, Schiff performs the third and final installment of his current recital cycle, *The Last Sonatas*. This entire cycle of recitals is comprised of the final three sonatas of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. Schiff performed the first two installments of *The Last Sonatas* at Davies Symphony Hall this past February. The October 4

concert features Haydn's Piano Sonata No. 62 in E-flat major, Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Mozart's Piano Sonata in D major, and Schubert's Piano Sonata in B-flat major. The October 4 recital is co-presented by the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Performances.

Sir András Schiff takes on the role of both pianist and conductor for the October 7-10 concerts with the San Francisco Symphony. In addition to performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat major, Schiff leads the SFS and SFS Chorus in Haydn's Mass in D minor, *Lord Nelson*. Like the Haydn Piano Sonata that Schiff performs on October 4, the *Lord Nelson* Mass was one of six masses written near the end of the composer's life, which together are seen as a culmination of Haydn's liturgical composition. Schiff concludes the program with an intimate presentation of selected Schubert Lieder. Schiff performs these Lieder at the piano with soprano Anna Lucia Richter, contralto Britta Schwarz, tenor Werner Güra, and bass Robert Holl, all making their SF Symphony debuts in these concerts with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin will conduct the Lieder performances which will be accompanied by supertitles.

[Sir András Schiff](#) is world-renowned and critically acclaimed as a pianist, conductor, pedagogue, and lecturer. Born in Budapest, Hungary, Schiff made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony in 1984 performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, with Kurt Masur conducting. Having recently completed *The Bach Project* in the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 concert seasons, he continues his current recital project, *The Last Sonatas*—a series of three recitals comprising the final three sonatas of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert. *The Last Sonatas* takes place over the course of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 seasons, with the complete series slated for New York's Carnegie Hall, San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall, Los Angeles's Disney Hall, Chicago's Symphony Hall, Washington Performing Arts' Strathmore Hall, The Vancouver Recital Society, and University Musical Society of The University of Michigan.

Sir András Schiff has established a prolific discography, and since 1997 has been an exclusive artist for ECM New Series and its producer, Manfred Eicher. Recordings for ECM include the complete solo piano music of Beethoven and Janáček, two solo albums of Schumann piano pieces, his second recordings of the Bach Partitas, *Goldberg Variations*, and *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Books I and II, and Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* recorded on two instruments: a Bechstein from 1921 and an original fortepiano from Vienna 1820—the place and time of the composition. The pianist's most recent album, which was named Gramophone's and BBC Music Magazine's "Recording of the Month," is an all-Schubert disc featuring Sonata in B flat, Sonata in G major, *Moments musicaux*, and the Impromptus. It was released in July 2015 and was recorded at Beethovenhaus, Bonn, on a carefully restored Franz Brodmann Fortepiano from 1820. In 2011, Schiff attracted attention because of his opposition to the alarming political developments in Hungary. In view of the ensuing attacks on him from some Hungarian Nationalists, he decided not to perform again in his home country. In June 2014, he was awarded a Knighthood by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the 2014 Birthday Honours.

Anna Lucia Richter was born into a family of musicians. Her mother, Regina Dohmen, taught her singing beginning at age nine and she was a member of the Cologne Cathedral's Girls Choir. Between 2004 and 2008, she worked with Kurt Widmer in Basel, and she graduated from the music academy in her hometown of Cologne in the summer of 2013. In recital she has partnered with pianists Gerold Huber, Michael Gees, Nicholas Rimmer, and with András Schiff at his festival in Vicenza. She sang the world premiere performances of Moritz Eggert's *Singet leise* and Wolfgang Rihm's *Ophelia Sings*. Her first album, featuring settings of Eichendorff accompanied by Michael Gees, will be released in autumn 2015. Richter's 2015-16 season engagements include Mahler's Fourth Symphony at the Lucerne Festival, concerts in London and Tokyo with the London Symphony Orchestra, and appearances with the Berlin Konzerthaus Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and the Staatskapelle Dresden. In the US, she also appears with András Schiff and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She makes her first appearance in Essen as Pamina in *The Magic Flute* and performs the roles of Eurydice and La Musica in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in Lille. Recitals take her to London, Vienna, the Schubertiade Schwarzenberg, and to the Schleswig-Holstein Festival. Anna Lucia Richter made her Davies Symphony Hall debut in January 2015 with the Budapest Festival Orchestra as part of the SFS's Great Performers Series. These current performances mark her San Francisco Symphony debut.

Britta Schwarz was born in Neubrandenburg, Germany. She first studied singing with Christa Niko at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin. She then went on to study with Christian Ellsner and Harmut Zabel in Dresden, after which she was engaged to sing in the studio of the Dresden Semperoper. She has been heard in concerts with orchestras such as the Staatskapelle Dresden, the Dresden Philharmonic, Berlin Radio Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw

Orchestra, Stuttgart Philharmonic, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and in early music with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Musica Antiqua Köln, La statione Frankfurt, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, RIAS Kammerchor, and Cantus Cölln. She makes her San Francisco Symphony debut in these performances. Concerts and Lieder recitals have taken Schwarz to international festivals such as Spoleto Festival USA, Holland Festival Oude Muziek Utrecht, Dresden Music Festival, Blyth Valley Chamber Music, MDR Summer Festival, and the Passau European Weeks. She has collaborated in recitals with pianist Camillo Radicke and lutenist Stefan Maass and can be heard in a solo recording of Baroque cantatas on the Berlin Classics label. For several years Britta Schwarz has taught at the Hochschule für Musik “Carl Maria von Weber” in Dresden. In 2010 she was appointed visiting professor of singing at the Hochschule für Musik “Hanns Eisler” in Berlin; beginning in October 2015 she serves as honorary professor at the same institution.

Tenor **Werner Gura** was born in Munich and received his musical training at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Following appearances at the opera houses of Frankfurt and Basel, he joined the ensemble of the Semperoper Dresden in 1995. He subsequently appeared in various productions at Berlin State Opera, Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, Opéra de Lille, La Monnaie in Brussels, Opéra National de Paris, the Innsbruck Festival for Early Music, and in Baden-Baden. In 2014 he appeared in Monteverdi's *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* with Opera Zurich. He has worked with many orchestras, including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, BBC Symphony, the Gulbenkian Orchestra Lisbon, and the German, Dutch, Spanish, and Danish radio orchestras. Gura has made several Lieder recordings for the Harmonia Mundi label, including Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin*, Schumann's *Dichterliebe* and *Liederkreis*, Opus 39, and Wolf's Mörike Lieder, all with pianist Jan Schultz; a disc of songs by Clara and Robert Schumann and Brahms, Schubert's *Schwanengesang* and *Winterreise*, and Lieder of Mozart, all with Christoph Berner. For his recording of *Winterreise* Gura received the *BBC Music Magazine* Vocal Award in 2011. For his latest Schubert CD, *Willkommen und Abschied*, he was awarded the German ECHO Klassik prize in 2012. Werner Gura has taught at the Music Academy Zurich since 2009. He makes his San Francisco Symphony debut with these performances.

Robert Holl was born in Rotterdam and studied with Jan Veth and David Hollestelle. He has worked with renowned conductors and leading orchestras in Europe, the US, and Japan. He is especially known as a singer of Lieder, with a particular interest and passion for the German and Russian repertory and especially the works of Franz Schubert. Mr. Holl's concert engagements in the 2014-15 season led him to Utrecht, Vicenza, Japan, the Vienna Musikverein, and to the Schubertiade Schwarzenberg. His appearances in the US this season include performances of Haydn's *Lord Nelson* Mass in Los Angeles under the baton of Andrés Schiff. He makes his San Francisco Symphony debut with these performances. Holl has been a professor of art song and oratorio at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna since 1998. In Austria he has been awarded the title Kammersänger and the Cross of Honor for Arts and Science, and in 1997 he became an honorary member of the Society of Music Lovers in Vienna. In his native country he has been “Ridder in de Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw” since 2007.

One of America's most distinguished choruses, the 158-member [San Francisco Symphony Chorus](#) is led by Director [Ragnar Bohlin](#). Known for its precision, power, and versatility, the SFS Chorus performs more than twenty concerts each season and is comprised of 30 professional and 128 volunteer members. Recordings featuring the SFS Chorus have won a total of eight Grammy awards, including three for Best Choral Performance. They were featured on SFS Media's recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with MTT and the SFS, which won three 2010 Grammys, including the award for Best Choral Performance. Most recently, a recording of the Chorus's performances of *Cantata on the Death of the Emperor Joseph II* with Michael Tilson Thomas and the SFS was released in November 2013, and members of the chorus can be heard on the SF Symphony's complete concert recording of Bernstein's score for *West Side Story*, released in June 2014 and nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.

Calendar editors, please note:

ANDRÁS SCHIFF in RECITAL

➤ *Great Performers Series*

[Sunday, October 4, 2015 at 7 pm](#)

András Schiff piano

HAYDN

Piano Sonata No. 62 in E-flat major, H.XVI:52

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Opus 111
MOZART Piano Sonata in D major, K.576
SCHUBERT Piano Sonata in B-flat major, D.960

Co-presented by the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Performances.

CD Signings: Sir Andrés Schiff will sign CDs in the Symphony Store immediately following the performances on Sunday, October 4.

Tickets: \$15-\$99.

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 & CHORUS, ANDRÁS SCHIFF CONDUCTOR & PIANO

[Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, October 9, 2015 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, October 10, 2015 at 8 pm](#)

András Schiff conductor and piano

Ragnar Bohlin conductor

Anna Lucia Richter soprano [SFS debut]

Britta Schwarz contralto [SFS debut]

Werner Güra tenor [SFS debut]

Robert Holl bass [SFS debut]

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director

San Francisco Symphony

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat major, K.595
HAYDN Mass in D minor, H.XXII:11, *Lord Nelson* (with supertitles)
SCHUBERT Selected Lieder (with supertitles)

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Haydn's Mass in D minor, *Lord Nelson*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be downloaded or streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the [iTunes store](#).

Pre-Concert Talk: James 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.

Tickets: \$30-165.

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.

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