



**SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY**  
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(High resolution image of Masaaki Suzuki is available for download [here](#) and Stephen Paulson's photo is available [here](#) from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

## **CONDUCTOR MASAAKI SUZUKI MAKES HIS SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY DEBUT, WITH PRINCIPAL BASSOON STEPHEN PAULSON AS SOLOIST, FEBRUARY 5-6 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**European-inspired concert features works by Haydn, Mozart, Stravinsky, and Mendelssohn**

**SAN FRANCISCO, January 7, 2016** – Conductor Masaaki Suzuki makes his San Francisco Symphony debut February 5-6 at Davies Symphony Hall, featuring Principal Bassoon Stephen Paulson as soloist in Mozart's Bassoon Concerto in B-flat major. The concert repertoire draws inspiration from various European centers and includes Haydn's Symphony No. 95—one of the composer's *London* symphonies, Stravinsky's Concerto in D major, *Basle*, and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, *Italian*. Mozart's popular Bassoon Concerto—the first concerto he ever wrote for a wind instrument—was written in Germany when he was just 18 years old.

Conductor [Masaaki Suzuki](#) is a leading proponent of the music of Bach, and regularly works with period ensembles as a conductor, organist, and harpsichordist. He founded Bach Collegium Japan in 1990, and remains their Music Director. In addition to working with renowned period ensembles, such as Collegium Vocale Gent and Philharmonia Baroque, he is invited to conduct repertoire as diverse as Britten, Beethoven, Fauré, Haydn, Mahler, Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Stravinsky with orchestras such as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Bergen Philharmonic, the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, the New York

Philharmonic, Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Tokyo Philharmonic. During the 2015-16 season he debuts with the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony.

Suzuki's impressive discography includes all of Bach's major choral works, as well as his complete works for harpsichord. From 1995 to 2014, Bach Collegium Japan recorded Bach's complete Church Cantatas, comprising fifty-five volumes and recognized with a 2014 ECHO Klassik 'Editorial Achievement of the Year' award. In 2010, Suzuki and his ensemble were awarded both a German Record Critics' Award (*Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik*) and a *Diapason d'Or de l'Année* for their recording of Bach motets, which was also honored in 2011 with a BBC Music Magazine Award.

[Stephen Paulson](#) joined the San Francisco Symphony as Principal Bassoon in 1977. Also a conductor, he has served as Music Director of Symphony Parnassus since 1998. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he studied bassoon with K. David Van Hoesen and Mordechai Rechtman, and composition with Samuel Adler. He performed with the Rochester Philharmonic for four seasons, including as Principal Bassoonist from 1968 to 1970, and from 1970 to 1977 he served as Co-principal Bassoonist of the Pittsburgh Symphony. He has appeared as soloist in his own Bassoon Concerto with the Rochester Philharmonic (1969) and the Pittsburgh Symphony (1973). Paulson has given master classes at colleges and festivals worldwide. In April 2009, he assisted Michael Tilson Thomas as woodwind coach and performer in the YouTube Orchestra Summit at Carnegie Hall. In 1995, he performed with the World Orchestra for Peace in Geneva, Switzerland, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Paulson is longtime Professor of Bassoon at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has also served as a mentor and workshop leader for the SFS Community of Music Makers Program. A frequent soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, he most recently performed as soloist in March 2015 in the Haydn Sinfonia Concertante in B-flat major led by Ton Koopman.

**Calendar editors, please note:**

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## **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MASAOKI SUZUKI CONDUCTING**

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA

[Friday, February 5, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

**Masaaki Suzuki** conductor [SFS debut]

**Stephen Paulson** bassoon

**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>HAYDN</b>	Symphony No. 95 in C minor, H.I:95
<b>MOZART</b>	Bassoon Concerto in B-flat major, K.191(186e)
<b>STRAVINSKY</b>	Concerto in D, <i>Basle</i>
<b>MENDELSSOHN</b>	Symphony No. 4 in A major, Opus 90, <i>Italian</i>

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, *Italian*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be downloaded or streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](http://sfsymphony.org/podcasts) and from the [iTunes store](#).

**Pre-Concert Talk:** Alexandra Amati-Camperi 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.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, February 16 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

**Pre-Order Food and Drinks:** Concertgoers may pre-order drinks and snacks [here](#) by 11 am the day of a performance to arrange to have them ready at Davies Symphony Hall either before the concert or at intermission.

**Tickets:** \$15-\$165.

Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](http://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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