

Contact:  
Public Relations  
San Francisco Symphony  
(415) 503-5474  
[publicrelations@sfsymphony.org](mailto:publicrelations@sfsymphony.org)  
[www.sfsymphony.org/press](http://www.sfsymphony.org/press)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / MARCH 27, 2024**



**GUEST CONDUCTORS KARINA CANELLAKIS, GUSTAVO GIMENO, MARTA GARDOLIŃSKA, AND RYAN BANCROFT LEAD THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN CONCERTS AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL IN APRIL AND MAY 2024**

**April 18–20 Canellakis conducts Richard Strauss’ *Don Juan* and *Death and Transfiguration*; and Maurice Ravel’s Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, featuring Cédric Tiberghien, and *La Valse***

**April 25–27 Gimeno leads the Orchestra in Dmitri Shostakovich’s Funeral March from *The Great Citizen*; William Walton’s Viola Concerto, featuring SF Symphony Principal Viola Jonathan Vinocour; and Sergei Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 3**

**May 10–12 Gardolińska makes her Orchestral Series Debut conducting Grażyna Bacewicz’s Overture; Edward Elgar’s Cello Concerto, featuring Pablo Ferrández in his Orchestral Series Debut; and Felix Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 3, *Scottish***

**May 16–18 Ryan Bancroft, in his Orchestral Series Debut, conducts the World Premiere of Unsuk Chin’s *Alaraph ‘Ritus des Herzschlags’*; Henri Vieuxtemps’ Violin Concerto No. 5, featuring Joshua Bell; Kevin Puts’ *Earth*; and Claude Debussy’s *La Mer***

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA—**Guest conductors Karina Canellakis, Gustavo Gimeno, Marta Gardolińska, and Ryan Bancroft lead the San Francisco Symphony in four weeks of concerts at Davies Symphony Hall in April and May.

#### **April 18–20: Canellakis Conducts Strauss & Ravel**

On April 18–20, Karina Canellakis, Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, leads the San Francisco Symphony in Richard Strauss' *Don Juan*, based on the play about the eponymous legend. Pianist Cédric Tiberghien joins Canellakis and the Orchestra to perform Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, originally commissioned by pianist Paul Wittgenstein. Wittgenstein was instrumental in expanding the repertoire for piano music written for the left hand.

Canellakis also conducts the Orchestra in *Death and Transfiguration* by Strauss, who intended "to represent the death of a person who had striven for the highest and most ideal goals, possibly an artist." The program concludes with Ravel's captivating *La Valse*, a cynical critique of the 19th-century Viennese waltz written in the aftermath of World War I.

#### **April 25–27: Gimeno Conducts Shostakovich & Prokofiev**

On April 25–27, Gustavo Gimeno, Music Director of the Luxembourg Philharmonic and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, conducts the first San Francisco Symphony performances of Dmitri Shostakovich's Funeral March from *The Great Citizen*, a 1938 fictionalized biographical film about Russian politician Sergei Kirov. SF Symphony Principal Viola Jonathan Vinocour joins Gimeno and the Orchestra to perform William Walton's Viola Concerto, a work originally performed by violist-composer Paul Hindemith that shares some of its expressiveness with Walton's well-known film scores. Rounding out the program is Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3, adapted from his opera *The Fiery Angel*.

#### **May 10–12: Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony**

On May 10–12, Marta Gardolińska, Music Director of Opéra National de Lorraine, and cellist Pablo Ferrández make their Orchestral Series debuts with the San Francisco Symphony. The program begins with Overture (Uvertura) by Grażyna Bacewicz, who wrote the piece during Germany's occupation of Poland in 1943. Ferrández performs Edward Elgar's melancholy Cello Concerto, written at a time when Elgar was contemplating the pain and loss caused by World War I.

Gardolińska and the Orchestra conclude the program with Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3, *Scottish*. After visiting the Palace of Holyrood in Edinburgh in 1829, Mendelssohn wrote in a letter, "The chapel close to it is now roofless, grass and ivy grow there [...] Everything round is broken and mouldering and the bright sky shines in. I believe I have found today in that old chapel the beginning of my Scottish Symphony."

#### **May 16–18: Ryan Bancroft & Joshua Bell**

On May 16–18, Ryan Bancroft, Chief Conductor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the Principal Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conducts the San Francisco Symphony, making his Orchestral Series debut. He leads the Orchestra in the United States premiere of Unsuk Chin's *Alaraph 'Ritus des Herzsclags'*. Chin explains that the work is inspired by "heartbeat stars," whose light curves are "similar to what a heartbeat looks like through an electrocardiogram when its brightness is mapped over time."

Violinist Joshua Bell joins Bancroft and the Orchestra to perform Henri Vieuxtemps' Violin Concerto No. 5, the composer's most well-known violin concerto. Bell also joins the Orchestra for the first San Francisco Symphony performances of Kevin Puts' *Earth*, one of five movements in the suite "Elements," which was originally commissioned by Bell in 2023 and features works by five acclaimed composers. Puts writes, "Beyond the fundamental sense of stability and endurance the element *earth* suggested to me, I hope the music also conveys a more spiritual reverence for the *planet* Earth itself." Puts' *Earth* replaces Jennifer Higdon's *Air*, another movement from the work, on the program. Bancroft and the Orchestra end the program with Claude Debussy's *La Mer*, which reflects the composer's love for the unpredictability and ever-changing nature of the sea.

## CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

### Tickets:

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony Hall can be purchased via [sfsymphony.org](https://www.sfsymphony.org) or by calling the San Francisco Symphony Box Office at 415.864.6000.

### Location:

Davies Symphony Hall is located at 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

### Health & Safety Information

Davies Symphony Hall is currently operating at full audience capacity. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and masking are no longer required for entry to Davies Symphony Hall. However, patrons are encouraged to wear masks and maintain up-to-date COVID vaccinations to protect themselves. These policies are subject to change. Visit [sfsymphony.org/safety](https://www.sfsymphony.org/safety) for the San Francisco Symphony's complete up-to-date health and safety protocols.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

### Canellakis Conducts Strauss & Ravel

Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 2:00pm

Friday, April 19, 2024, at 7:30pm

Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 7:30pm

Karina Canellakis conductor

Cédric Tiberghien piano

San Francisco Symphony

**RICHARD STRAUSS** *Don Juan*

**MAURICE RAVEL** Piano Concerto for the Left Hand

**RICHARD STRAUSS** *Death and Transfiguration*

**MAURICE RAVEL** *La Valse*

Tickets: \$25-169

**Ticket link:** <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2023-24/CANELLAKIS-CONDUCTS-STRAUSS>

**Preconcert talk:** Get to know SF Symphony musicians in a preconcert conversation presented from the stage on April 19 at 6:30pm. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, June 30, at 7pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://www.kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

### Gimeno Conducts Shostakovich & Prokofiev

Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 7:30pm

Friday, April 26, 2024, at 7:30pm

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 7:30pm

**Gustavo Gimeno** conductor  
**Jonathan Vinocour** viola  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH** Funeral March from *The Great Citizen*, Opus 55 [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

**WILLIAM WALTON** Viola Concerto

**SERGEI PROKOFIEV** Symphony No. 3

**Tickets:** \$25–99

**Ticket link:** <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2023-24/GIMENO-SHOSTAKOVICH-PROKOFIEV>

**Preconcert talk:** Get to know SF Symphony musicians in a preconcert conversation presented from the stage on April 25 at 6:30pm. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, July 7, at 7pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://www.kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

**Mendelssohn's *Scottish* Symphony**

Friday, May 10, 2024, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 7:30pm [UC Davis]

Sunday, May 12, 2024, at 2:00pm

**Marta Gardolińska** conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]  
**Pablo Ferrández** cello [Orchestral Series Debut]  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**GRAŻYNA BACEWICZ** Overture (Uwertura)

**EDWARD ELGAR** Cello Concerto

**FELIX MENDELSSOHN** Symphony No. 3, *Scottish*

**Tickets:** \$25–150

**Ticket link:** <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2023-24/MENDELSSOHN-SCOTTISH>

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, July 21, at 7pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://www.kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

**Ryan Bancroft & Joshua Bell**

Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 2:00pm

Friday, May 17, 2024, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 7:30pm

**Ryan Bancroft** conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

**Joshua Bell** violin

**San Francisco Symphony**

**UNSUKE CHIN** *Alaraph 'Ritus des Herzschrags'* [San Francisco Symphony Commission and United States Premiere]

**HENRI VIEUXTEMPS** Violin Concerto No. 5

**KEVIN PUTS** *Earth* [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

**CLAUDE DEBUSSY** *La Mer*

**Tickets:** \$50–199

**Ticket link:** <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2023-24/Ryan-Bancroft-Joshua-Bell>

**Preconcert talk:** Get to know SF Symphony musicians in a preconcert conversation presented from the stage on May 17 at 6:30pm. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, July 28, at 7pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://www.kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

---

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#):



*The San Francisco Symphony receives support from more than 9,500 individual donors and 160 partner institutions.*

*San Francisco Arts Commission is Lead Municipal Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.*

*Chevron is the inaugural Second Century Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.*

*Grants for the Arts is a Season Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.*

*Thursday matinee concerts are endowed by a gift in memory of Rhoda Goldman.*

*Open rehearsals are endowed by a bequest from The Estate of Katharine Hanrahan.*

*The May 10–12 concerts are supported in part by the Barbara Brookins Young Artist Fund.*

*The commissioning of Unsuk Chin's Alaraph 'Ritus des Herzschrags' is made possible by the Ralph I. Dorfman Commissioning Fund.*

*Ryan Bancroft's appearance is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.*

*The San Francisco Symphony's Official Radio Partner is KDFC, The Bay Area's Radio Home for Classical Music and the Arts.*

- San Francisco Symphony -

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR