

CURRENTS Artist Biographies

Conductor **Michael Morgan** was born and raised in Washington DC and is recognized worldwide for innovative and thematically rich programs that make connections between a wide range of artists and musical cultures. A key part of the Bay Area’s artistic and community fabric for three decades, he serves as Music Director of the Oakland Symphony and Artistic Director of the Oakland Youth Orchestra. Morgan’s ties to the San Francisco Symphony stretch back to 1994, when he first led Concerts for Kids performances. In 2022 he will present a boldly varied SF Symphony subscription program of works by Carlos Simon, Price, Brahms, and Franck—a concert that was originally to have taken place in April 2020 and was canceled due to COVID-19.

From a young age, Canadian conductor **Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser** turned to orchestral music to bring light, beauty, and healing to his personal and professional life. Currently Artist-in-Residence and Community Ambassador at Symphony Nova Scotia, he is also on the Board of Orchestras Canada, where he serves as chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Committee. Bartholomew-Poyser was the subject of the CBC/Iron Bay Media documentary *Disruptor Conductor*, which features footage of him conducting the San Francisco Symphony during the 2018–19 season, in addition to documenting other significant projects he was involved in throughout that season. Since December 2015, when he led his first holiday Deck the Hall concert with the San Francisco Symphony, Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser has returned to lead the Orchestra almost every season. In addition to Deck the Hall, he has conducted the San Francisco Symphony’s Music for Families and Adventures in Music concerts, and led a set of SoundBox performances in December 2019.

A native of Houston, TX, saxophonist/composer/arranger **Jason Hainsworth** has led his own quartet throughout the world; performed and recorded with Michael Dease, Johnathan Blake, Renee Rosnes, Randy Brecker, Lewis Nash, Glenn Zaleski, Tim Warfield, and Martin Bejerano; and toured as a member of Ed Calle’s Mambule, Tito Puente, Jr.’s Latin Jazz All Stars, and Melton Mustafa Jazz Orchestra. Mr. Hainsworth’s albums include *Kaleidoscope* and his latest release *Third Ward Stories*. He serves as Assistant Director of the Roots, Jazz, and American Music (RJAM) program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Tammy L Hall began playing the piano at age four, in Dallas, TX. Her early musical experiences helped form the triad of her core sound: a fusion of jazz, gospel, and classical. After attending Mills College in Oakland, CA, she spent time living and performing in Brussels before returning to the Bay Area in 1989. She has since collaborated with leading artists including Mary Wilson, Kim Nalley, Marcus Shelby, Houston Person, David “Fathead” Newman, Pamela Rose, Queen Esther Marrow, Ernestine Anderson, and Regina Carter, among dozens of others. Ms. Hall has also worked with the San Francisco Symphony’s Adventures in Music program.

Soleil Ho is the Restaurant Critic at the *San Francisco Chronicle* and is a co-host of its food podcast, *Extra Spicy*. She was previously a freelance food and pop culture writer, co-founder of the *Racist Sandwich* podcast, and restaurant chef.

Los Cenzontles (Nahuatl for “The Mockingbirds”) dig deep into cultural traditions, creating a vibrant, contemporary sound infused with the gutsy soul of Mexico’s rural roots. Los Cenzontles (senn-SONT-less) have produced 19 albums with their 20th, *Regeneration*, released with critical acclaim this past fall. The band has performed across the U.S., in Europe, the Dominican Republic, and throughout Mexico; they have collaborated with artists including The Chieftains, Los Lobos, Los Tigres del Norte, Linda Ronstadt, Ry Cooder, David Hidalgo and Taj Mahal, among others. The group’s core members also operate Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center in San Pablo, California. The nonprofit has been training Bay Area youth in traditional Mexican music, dance, and art since 1994.



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A native of China, **Shenshen Zhang** has made her home in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2006. In addition to performing the traditional Chinese pipa repertory, she has also appeared with ensembles including Houston Grand Opera, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and Symphony Silicon Valley. Shenshen teaches classical Chinese music at her pipa studio in the Silicon Valley.

Born in China and raised in San Francisco, **Strauss Shi** began studying violin and erhu as a young boy. He received degrees in violin from the Juilliard School and USC Thornton School of Music and is an alumnus of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Jessie Fellows is currently Assistant Principal Second Violin with the San Francisco Symphony. Prior to her appointment, she performed frequently with both the Saint Louis Symphony and the New York Philharmonic. Ms. Fellows's recent summer festival appearances include engagements at Bravo! Vail, Lakes Area Music Festival, Rome Chamber Music Festival, Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Spoleto USA, and the Aspen Music Festival, where she was a fellow from 2011–16. Born into a musical family, she began her studies at the age of three under the direction of her mother in Tulsa, OK. Ms. Fellows received her bachelor's degree from the McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University and her master's degree as a Jerome Greene Fellow at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Ida Kavafian.

Mark Inouye, Principal Trumpet of the San Francisco Symphony and occupant of the William G. Irwin Charity Foundation Chair, attended UC Davis and graduated from the Juilliard School. He has held principal trumpet positions with the Houston and Charleston symphonies and has performed with the New York Philharmonic and the Israel Philharmonic. He has toured the US with the organ and trumpet duo *Toccatas and Flourishes*, and he was a member of the Empire Brass Quintet. His jazz album, *The Trumpet & the Bull*, includes his own compositions. For more on Mark Inouye, visit sfsymphony.org/markinouye.

Yun Jie Liu is Associate Principal Viola of the SF SYMPHONY. Born in Shanghai, he began his violin studies with his father. He entered the middle school of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and was named assistant professor of viola upon graduation. In 1990, he was invited by Mstislav Rostropovich to join the National Symphony in Washington DC. Mr. Liu regularly gives chamber music concerts and solo recitals in venues in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Washington DC, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. Yun Jie Liu joined the San Francisco Symphony in 1993. He currently serves on the faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory.

Scott Pingel became Principal Bass of the SF SYMPHONY in 2004, having previously served in that position with the Charleston Symphony. Prior to that, he was a member of the New World Symphony. He has also served as guest principal with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Canada. Mr. Pingel received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the Manhattan School of Music. Also a jazz musician, he has worked with artists including Michael Brecker, Geoff Keezer, and James Williams. For more on Scott Pingel, visit sfsymphony.org/scottpingel.

Edward Stephan joined the SF Symphony as Principal Timpani, occupying the Marcia & John Goldman Chair, in 2016. Prior to joining the Orchestra, he served as principal timpani of the Pittsburgh, Dallas, and the Fort Worth symphonies. Mr. Stephan holds degrees from the University of North Texas and New England Conservatory of Music. Currently timpanist of the Grand Teton Music Festival in Jackson Hole, WY, he also serves as chair of the percussion department at Duquesne University. Recently appointed to the faculty of San Francisco Conservatory, he is currently a coach for the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra. For more on Edward Stephan, visit sfsymphony.org/edwardstephan.



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Amos Yang joined the SF Symphony in 2007 as Assistant Principal Cello. He was previously a member of the Seattle Symphony. Born and raised in San Francisco, he was a member of the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra and San Francisco Boys Choir and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School. From 1996 to 2002 he was the cellist in the Maia String Quartet. Mr. Yang serves on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the San Francisco Academy Orchestra. For more on Amos Yang, visit sfsymphony.org/amosyang.