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(High resolution images of Fabien Gabel, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Aaron Zigman, and the San Francisco Symphony are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#).)

PIANIST JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET JOINS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY TO PERFORM THE US PREMIERE OF AARON ZIGMAN'S *TANGO MANOS* CONCERTO FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA, CO-COMMISSIONED BY THE SFS, FEBRUARY 14–16 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Fabien Gabel makes his San Francisco Symphony conducting debut

Program also features Dukas' *La Péri* and Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3, Organ*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—[Fabien Gabel](#) makes his conducting debut leading the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in a dynamic program featuring the US premiere of [Aaron Zigman's](#) ***Tango Manos Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*** performed by acclaimed pianist [Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#), Dukas' *La Péri*, and Saint-Saëns' ***Symphony No. 3, Organ***, February 14–16 at Davies Symphony Hall. Completed in 1886 at the artistic peak of his career, Saint-Saëns' virtuosic and tuneful *Symphony No. 3*—also known as the *Organ* Symphony because two of its four movements feature the pipe organ—is the composer's final symphony and considered his most famous instrumental work. Dukas composed the alluring *La Péri*, also his last published symphonic work, in 1911 for the dancer Natalia Trouhanova and Diaghilev's famous Ballets Russes. Fabien Gabel is recognized internationally as one of the stars of a new generation of conductors, having established a broad repertoire ranging from core symphonic works to contemporary new works and championing lesser-known works by French composers. He has

been the Music Director of the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec since 2012 and Music Director of the innovative Orchestre Français des Jeunes since 2017.

Co-commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony, Beijing Music Festival, and Radio France, Aaron Zigman's *Tango Manos* was composed specifically for pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, who performed the world premiere of the work at the Beijing Music Festival with the China Philharmonic and Huang Yi on October 14, 2019. Speaking of the piece, Thibaudet says, "Long Yu [Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the China Philharmonic] had the idea to do a Tango concerto together and asked me to look at who could write that for us. He was very serious about it, and I was excited by the idea. And then one day I was speaking with Aaron Zigman and I realized that he was very much into the Tango and South American music as well." Zigman believes tango is one of music's most colorful and emotional forms, which expresses feelings of "pain, beauty, and love, yet is also a dance that must reflect these emotions." In this three-movement concerto, Zigman pays homage to tango's unique essence, referencing its characteristic rhythms and harmonies while drawing on its rich sensuality and color. In Zigman's own words, "Music transcends all barriers. In a world full of chaos and turmoil, music has the power to bind humanity, creating a bridge between all of us and reminding us that we are all one people."

Calendar editors, please note:

All concerts take place at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

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.

Pre-Order Food and Drinks: Concertgoers may pre-order food and beverages by calling 415-252-1937 or emailing Global Gourmet Catering staff at davieshallpreorder@ggcatering.com before the performance to place an order.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, FABIEN GABEL CONDUCTING

[Friday, February 14, 2020 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 2 pm](#)

[Fabien Gabel](#) conductor [SFS debut]

[Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#) piano

San Francisco Symphony

DUKAS

La Péri

Aaron ZIGMAN

Tango Manos Concerto for Piano and Orchestra [US Premiere, First SFS Performances, SFS Co-commission]

SAINT-SAËNS

Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Opus 78, *Organ*

Tickets: \$35–165

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Saint-Saëns' Symphony No. 3, *Organ*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Laura Prichard and composer Aaron Zigman will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each performance. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Off-The-Podium: A post-concert audience Q&A session with Fabien Gabel, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Aaron Zigman, and moderator Laura Prichard, will be presented from the stage immediately following the concerts. Free to all ticket holders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, February 25 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

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Fabien Gabel's appearance is supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.

The US Premiere of Aaron Zigman's Tango Manos Concerto for Piano and Orchestra is supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Works of Music.

Jean-Yves Thibaudet's appearance is supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.

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