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(High-resolution images of the San Francisco Symphony and guest artist headshots are available for download from the [Online Photo Library](#).)

MUSIC DIRECTOR ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN THREE WEEKS OF CONCERTS AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL, FEBRUARY 24–MARCH 12

February 24, 26 & 27 concerts feature Ludwig van Beethoven's *Creatures of Prometheus* with actor Keith David as narrator and original animated projections by Hillary Leben

March 3–5 concerts feature Franz Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, the world premiere of Fang Man's *Song of the Flaming Phoenix* (火凤凰的笙音) with sheng virtuoso Wu Wei, and Alexander Scriabin's *The Poem of Ecstasy*

March 10–12 concerts include the SF Symphony premiere of Elizabeth Ogonek's *Sleep & Unremembrance* and Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Violin Concerto, featuring Leila Josefowicz

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—San Francisco Symphony Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen returns to Davies Symphony Hall for three weeks of concerts, February 24–March 12, 2022.

On February 24, 26, and 27, Salonen conducts the San Francisco Symphony premiere of the complete music to Ludwig van Beethoven's *The Creatures of Prometheus*, featuring narration written by Gerard McBurney and original animated projections by video artist Hillary Leben, marking her first collaboration with the Symphony. In November 2020, Salonen and Leben collaborated on a pre-recorded digital

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

presentation of *The Creatures of Prometheus* with the Philharmonia Orchestra, where Salonen is Conductor Laureate. Originally conceived as a ballet work, *The Creatures of Prometheus* tells the story of two clay statues made human by the Greek god and notorious trickster Prometheus. Throughout the ballet, the clay statues encounter various figures of Greek mythology—the Muses; the Graces; gods and demigods including Apollo, Orpheus, and Bacchus—and in so doing they learn the manners and skills that make them fully human. In this imaginative multimedia performance led by Salonen and narrated by Emmy Award-winning actor and voice artist Keith David, Leben's original animated projections combine with Beethoven's talent for colorful and dramatic storytelling to bring to life the enchanting story of Prometheus' antics in the world of the mighty and capricious Greek gods.

The March 3–5 program opens with the world premiere of *Song of the Flaming Phoenix* (火凤凰的笙音), a new concerto for sheng by Fang Man and featuring sheng virtuoso Wu Wei, commissioned by the League of American Orchestras with the generous support of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet joins the Symphony for Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2, and Alexander Scriabin's bewitching *The Poem of Ecstasy* rounds out the program.

On March 10–12, Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Orchestra perform the San Francisco Symphony premiere of Elizabeth Ogonek's *Sleep & Unremembrance*, a work inspired by Wisława Szymborska's poem *While Sleeping*—one of the writer's last poems before her death in 2012. The program also includes Igor Stravinsky's dazzling Violin Concerto featuring Leila Josefowicz as soloist, followed by the composer's *The Rite of Spring*. Set in pagan Russia with roots in Russian folk music, *The Rite of Spring* is an exhilarating and revolutionary work that has had a profound impact on modern music since its premiere in 1913. These are the first in a variety of performances of music by Stravinsky that Salonen leads this season; he also conducts [semi-staged productions of *Oedipus Rex* and *Symphony of Psalms*](#) (June 10–12, 2022), and releases a digital-only performance of *The Soldier's Tale* on SFSymphony+ in June, in a new staged production by director, designer, and filmmaker Netia Jones.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Tickets

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony can be purchased via 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. Based on health and safety recommendations from the City and County of San Francisco and due to the transmissibility of the Omicron variant, all San Francisco Symphony patrons are required to wear a non-vented respirator, such as a N95, KN95, KF94, or equivalent face mask while inside Davies Symphony Hall. Effective February 1, 2022, the San Francisco Symphony requires proof of up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19 for everyone entering Davies Symphony Hall ages 16 and up who's eligible—including patrons, performers, volunteers, and staff. "Up-to-date vaccination" is defined as two weeks after completion of the two-dose regimen of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or other WHO authorized COVID-19 vaccine, and one week after receiving a booster shot, for those eligible. Beginning March 1, 2022, this requirement is expanded to ages 12 and older. Patrons under age 12 must show proof of up-to-date vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test (PCR test taken within 2 days of event entry or antigen [rapid] test taken within 1 day of event entry).

For those patrons under age 12 who wish to show verification of a negative COVID-19 test result, the following are acceptable as proof: a printed document (from the test provider or laboratory); or an email, text message, web page, or application (app) screen displayed on a phone or mobile device from the test provider or laboratory. The information should include person's name, type of test performed, negative test result, and date the test was administered. Self-administered antigen testing is not acceptable at this time, but patrons may bring an unopened at-home rapid test with them to Davies Symphony Hall to take with a verified EMT present. Details about health and safety protocols at Davies Symphony Hall can be found [here](#).

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Creatures of Prometheus

[Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 2pm](#)

[Esa-Pekka Salonen](#) conductor

[Keith David](#) narrator

[Hillary Leben](#) animator

San Francisco Symphony

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN *The Creatures of Prometheus* (complete) [San Francisco Symphony Premiere]

Tickets: \$35–165.

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2021-22/CREATURES-OF-PROMETHEUS>

Pre-Concert Talk: James M. Keller will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to the February 24, 26 & 27 performances. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, March 8, 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Esa-Pekka Salonen, Jean-Yves Thibaudet & Wu Wei

[Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, March 4, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Esa-Pekka Salonen](#) conductor

[Wu Wei](#) sheng [Orchestral Series Debut]

[Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#) piano

San Francisco Symphony

FANG MAN *Song of the Flaming Phoenix* (火凤凰的笙音) for Sheng and Orchestra [World Premiere]

FRANZ LISZT Piano Concerto No. 2

ALEXANDER SCRIABIN *The Poem of Ecstasy*

Tickets: \$35–180.

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2021-22/Salonen-and-Thibaudet>

Pre-Concert Talk: Peter Grunberg will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to the March 3–5 performances. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Off-the-Podium: A post-concert audience Q&A session with moderator Peter Grunberg will be presented from the stage immediately following the concert on March 3. Free to all ticket holders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, March 15, 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Salonen: Stravinsky & Ogonek

[Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 2pm](#)

[Friday, March 11, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Esa-Pekka Salonen](#) conductor

[Leila Josefowicz](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

ELIZABETH OGONEK *Sleep & Unremembrance* [San Francisco Symphony Premiere]

IGOR STRAVINSKY Violin Concerto

IGOR STRAVINSKY *The Rite of Spring*

Tickets: \$20–165.

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2021-22/STRAVINSKY-OGONEK>

Pre-Concert Talk: Elizabeth Seitz will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to the March 3–5 performances. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, March 22, 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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ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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The February 24, 26 & 27 concerts, a part of The Barbro and Bernard Osher Masterworks Series, are made possible by a generous gift from Barbro and Bernard Osher.

The March 3–5 concerts are presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

The March 3–5 and March 10–12 concerts are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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.

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