

SF SYMPHONY

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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](#).)

GUEST CONDUCTORS PHILIPPE JORDAN, RAFAEL PAYARE, AND THOMAS WILKINS LEAD THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN CONCERTS AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL IN MAY 2023

May 4–6 Thomas Wilkins makes his Orchestral Series debut, conducting Leonard Bernstein’s *Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town; the first SF Symphony performances of Erwin Schulhoff’s *Hot-Sonate* and John Williams’ *Escapades*, both featuring saxophonist Branford Marsalis; and Duke Ellington’s *Harlem***

May 11–13 Rafael Payare makes his Orchestral Series debut, conducting the first SF Symphony performances of William Grant Still’s *Darker America*, Johannes Brahms’ *Violin Concerto* featuring Hilary Hahn, and Richard Strauss’ *Ein Heldenleben*

May 18–20 Philippe Jordan leads the Orchestra in Benjamin Britten’s *War Requiem*, featuring the SF Symphony Chorus; the Ragazzi Boys Chorus; and soprano Jennifer Holloway, tenor Ian Bostridge, and baritone Iain Paterson in their Orchestral Series debuts

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Guest conductors Philippe Jordan, Rafael Payare, and Thomas Wilkins lead the San Francisco Symphony in three weeks of concerts at Davies Symphony Hall during the month of May.

May 4–6: Thomas Wilkins & Branford Marsalis

On May 4–6, Principal Conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra Thomas Wilkins makes his Orchestral Series debut leading the San Francisco Symphony in a program featuring saxophonist Branford Marsalis. The concerts begin with Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*, drawn from Leonard Bernstein’s classic Broadway musical. Branford Marsalis joins the Orchestra for the first SF Symphony performances of *Hot-Sonata* by Erwin Schulhoff, whose works have gained attention in recent years following his blacklist by the Nazi regime in the 1930s, and John Williams’ rousing *Escapades* from the 2002 film *Catch Me If You Can*. The program concludes with Duke Ellington’s *Harlem*, originally commissioned by conductor Arturo Toscanini as part of a larger, unrealized New York City-focused composition.

May 11–13: Hilary Hahn Plays Brahms

On May 11–13, Rafael Payare, Music Director of the San Diego Symphony and the Montreal Symphony, makes his Orchestral Series debut in concerts featuring violinist Hilary Hahn. The program includes the first SF Symphony performances of William Grant Still’s *Darker America*, which depicts Black Americans’ journey from sorrow to triumph. Hilary Hahn joins the Symphony to perform Johannes Brahms’ Violin Concerto, originally written for violinist Joseph Joachim, who was a friend of Brahms and credited with composing the concerto’s famous first-movement cadenza. The final piece of these concerts is Richard Strauss’ dramatic tone poem *Ein Heldenleben*, the title of which roughly translates to “A Hero’s Life,” and the hero depicted in this work is commonly thought to be Strauss himself.

May 18–20: Britten’s War Requiem

On May 18–20, Philippe Jordan, Music Director of the Vienna State Opera, returns to conduct the SF Symphony for the first time since October 2007. The program highlights Benjamin Britten’s monumental *War Requiem*, featuring soprano Jennifer Holloway, tenor Ian Bostridge, baritone Iain Paterson, and the SF Symphony Chorus and Ragazzi Boys Chorus. All three soloists make their Orchestral Series debuts with these performances. After Coventry Cathedral was destroyed in World War II, Britten was commissioned to write *War Requiem* for the consecration of the rebuilt cathedral in 1962. The piece combines texts from the Latin Requiem mass and nine poems about war written by Wilfred Owen. One of Britten’s most extraordinary works, *War Requiem* demonstrates the composer’s belief in the power of music to communicate and connect while confronting the difficulties of overcoming barriers.

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 the advice of the San Francisco Symphony’s Health and Safety Task Force, a face covering and vaccination against COVID-19 are strongly recommended but no longer required for entry into Davies Symphony Hall. These policies are subject to change.

Visit sfsymphony.org/safety for the San Francisco Symphony’s complete up-to-date health and safety protocols.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Thomas Wilkins & Branford Marsalis

[Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 2pm](#)

[Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

Thomas Wilkins conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Branford Marsalis saxophone [Orchestral Series Debut]
San Francisco Symphony

LEONARD BERNSTEIN Three Dances from *On the Town*

ERWIN SCHULHOFF *Hot-Sonate* [First SF Symphony Performances]

JOHN WILLIAMS *Escapades* [First SF Symphony Performances]

DUKE ELLINGTON *Harlem*

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/Thomas-Wilkins-Branford-Mars>

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Hilary Hahn Plays Brahms

[Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, May 12, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

Rafael Payare conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Hilary Hahn violin

San Francisco Symphony

WILLIAM GRANT STILL *Darker America* [First SF Symphony Performances]

JOHANNES BRAHMS Violin Concerto

RICHARD STRAUSS *Ein Heldenleben*

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/Hilary-Hahn-Plays-Brahms>

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, May 23 at 8pm 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

Britten's War Requiem

[Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, May 19, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

Philippe Jordan conductor

Jennifer Holloway soprano [Orchestral Series Debut]

Ian Bostridge tenor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Iain Paterson baritone [Orchestral Series Debut]

San Francisco Symphony Chorus

Ragazzi Boys Chorus

San Francisco Symphony

BENJAMIN BRITTEN *War Requiem*

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/Britten-War-Requiem>

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, May 30 at 8pm 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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Thursday matinee concerts are endowed by a gift in memory of Rhoda Goldman.

The May 4–6 concerts are generously supported by Andy and Teri Goodman.

Additional support for the May 4–6 concerts is provided by the Margaret Koshland Sloss Tribute Fund.

The May 5 concert is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

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

Rafael Payare's appearance is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Fund.

Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Board of Governors of the San Francisco Symphony gratefully acknowledge the support of the Drs. Ben and A. Jess Shenson Endowment Fund and Fred Levin of the Shenson Foundation for helping make the May 11–13 concerts possible.

Hilary Hahn, Ian Bostridge, and Iain Paterson's appearances are supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.

Ian Bostridge's performance is made possible by the Marian Louise Otto Guest Vocalist Fund.

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