

Public Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / NOVEMBER 2, 2022



(High resolution images of the San Francisco Symphony's holiday performances and guest artists are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Press Kit](#).)

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2022 HOLIDAY CONCERT SEASON, DECEMBER 4–31, 2022, FEATURES AN ARRAY OF FESTIVE PROGRAMS

SF Symphony holiday concert season includes five returning favorites: *Deck the Hall* with conductor Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser (December 4); *The Colors of Christmas* with Oleta Adams, Peabo Bryson, Ruben Studdard, and Jody Watley (December 6–7); *Cool Yule Christmas* featuring Tony DeSare and Capathia Jenkins (December 13); *Holiday Gaiety*, co-emceed by Peaches Christ and conductor Edwin Outwater (December 15); and *A Merry-Achi Christmas* with Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández (December 23)

Harry Connick, Jr. and his Band bring holiday tour to Davies Symphony Hall (December 24)

Seth MacFarlane rings in the New Year with the San Francisco Symphony (December 31)

The SF Symphony performs live accompaniment to iconic family-friendly holiday films *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (December 16–17) and *Elf* (December 21–22)

Conductor Masaaki Suzuki leads SF Symphony, Chorus, and vocal soloists in George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* (December 9–10) and Symphony's popular Holiday Brass program returns (December 20)

The SF Symphony Youth Orchestra performs Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* with guest narrator W. Kamau Bell (December 11)

Tickets for holiday concerts available now at sfsymphony.org/holiday

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco Symphony’s 2022 holiday season runs **December 4–December 31** at Davies Symphony Hall, offering a festive array of concerts including performances of traditional Christmas classical music, family-friendly events, holiday-themed film presentations, and a star-studded lineup of guest artists. Throughout the month of December, the lobbies of Davies Symphony Hall are transformed into a holiday wonderland, complete with towering trees decorated with handmade ornaments made by children and volunteers from local schools and non-profit community organizations.

Deck the Hall (December 4)

The San Francisco Symphony’s holiday season kicks off on **December 4** with two matinee performances of [Deck the Hall](#) in its first return to Davies Symphony Hall after three years. Conducted by the San Francisco Symphony’s Resident Conductor of Engagement and Education Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, this festive children’s concert and celebration features a lively array of musical performances from Symphony musicians and special guests, including singer Stephanie Woodford, students from the San Francisco Ballet Trainee Program, the Young Women’s Choral Projects of San Francisco, the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Klezmer ensemble Kugelplex, Punjabi dance ensemble Dohlrhythms, and cast members from Panto in the Presidio’s *Sleeping Beauty*.

To make the experience even more memorable, guests can purchase a [VIP Package](#) that includes premium concert seating, a pre-concert VIP celebration and other perks. Deck the Hall is chaired by Phoebe Schreiber and planned with the help of the San Francisco Symphony Junior Committee League, led by Junior Committee President Maria Hemphill. Proceeds from this event support Deck the Hall Community Day, which takes place this year on December 5 and invites 3,500 children from public programs to this holiday concert free of charge, providing many of them with their first opportunity to visit a concert hall and hear a live orchestral performance. Proceeds provide additional support for the Symphony’s many artistic, education, and community programs.

In-kind support for Deck the Hall is generously provided by GoGo squeeZ, Hangar 1 Vodka, and JuneShine.

The Colors of Christmas (December 6–7)

On **December 6–7**, the beloved, long-running holiday program [The Colors of Christmas](#) returns to Davies Symphony Hall for the first time since 2015. The program features pop hits and holiday favorites performed by vocalists Oleta Adams, Peabo Bryson, Ruben Studdard, and Jody Watley with the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Gail Deadrick conducts the program. The Colors of Christmas was a part of the San Francisco Symphony’s holiday tradition for 22 years between 1993 and 2015 and makes a welcome return this December.

Handel’s *Messiah* (December 9–10)

On **December 9–10**, conductor Masaaki Suzuki leads the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus in performances of [George Frideric Handel’s *Messiah*](#), featuring soprano Lauren Snouffer, countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, tenor Leif Aruhn-Solén, and baritone Jonathon Adams. Handel’s *Messiah* was an instant classic after its 1742 premiere and has been a holiday tradition around the world ever since.

The SF Symphony Youth Orchestra performs Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf* with W. Kamau Bell (December 11)

On **December 11**, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra presents its annual performance of Sergei Prokofiev’s timeless musical fable [Peter and the Wolf](#), conducted by Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra Daniel Stewart and featuring stand-up comedian, writer, director, producer, and TV host W. Kamau Bell as narrator. The SFSYO’s performance of *Peter and the Wolf* is an annual holiday favorite and has been a regular part of the Orchestra’s season since 1985. Past narrators have included Richard Dreyfuss, John Lithgow, Bobby McFerrin, Rita Moreno, Kathy Najimy, Linda Ronstadt, Sharon Stone, SF

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Symphony Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas, and the late Leonard Nimoy and Robin Williams, among many other lauded actors, comedians, musicians, and public figures.

Cool Yule Christmas (December 13)

On **December 13**, Broadway vocalist Capathia Jenkins and acclaimed jazz singer and pianist Tony DeSare join the San Francisco Symphony, led by conductor Steven Reineke, in [Cool Yule Christmas](#), featuring performances of classic holiday hits and jazz standards by the legendary Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald.

Holiday Gaiety with Peaches Christ & Edwin Outwater (December 15)

On **December 15**, the SF Symphony presents **Holiday Gaiety**—a fabulously festive holiday variety show co-emceed by conductor Edwin Outwater and San Francisco drag sensation Peaches Christ. The adult-themed program features a star-studded lineup including vocalist and *America's Got Talent* finalist Jimmie Herrod; drag artist, vocalist, and *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars* season four winner Monét X Change; comedian Marga Gomez; mezzo-soprano and aerialist Nikola Printz; drag artist Sister Roma of Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Holiday films: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (December 16–17) and *Elf* (December 21–22)

The holiday season includes screenings of two holiday-inspired films, featuring the San Francisco Symphony performing the score live to picture as the films are projected onto a large screen above the stage. On **December 16–17**, Joshua Gersen conducts the SF Symphony in Ron Howard's [How the Grinch Stole Christmas](#) with music by James Horner. On **December 21–22**, conductor John Jesensky and the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus perform John Debney's score to [Elf](#) alongside Jon Favreau's charming film. Both films have family-friendly matinee performances on December 17 for *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and December 22 for *Elf*.

Holiday Brass (December 20)

On **December 20**, members of the San Francisco Symphony brass, percussion, and timpani sections, conducted by Edwin Outwater, present a mix of classical and popular holiday favorites in [Holiday Brass](#).

A Merry-Achi Christmas (December 23)

On **December 23**, Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández returns to Davies Symphony Hall for a festive musical tribute to Mexico's Christmas traditions, performing Mexican and American holiday favorites in [A Merry-Achi Christmas](#). *The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this performance.*

Harry Connick, Jr. – A Holiday Celebration (December 24)

On **Saturday, December 24**, [Harry Connick, Jr.](#) invites San Francisco audiences to Davies Symphony Hall to celebrate the holidays with him and his band as 2022 draws to a close. One of the most beloved artists performing holiday music, Harry has been thrilling audiences around the world for decades with his definitive take on Christmas classics, as well as his own originals and fan favorites like "(It Must've Been O!) Santa Claus" and "When My Heart Finds Christmas." *The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this performance.*

New Year's Eve with Seth MacFarlane and the SF Symphony (December 31)

On **Saturday, December 31**, Grammy-nominated vocalist and Emmy Award-winning writer, director, producer, and actor [Seth MacFarlane](#) joins the San Francisco Symphony and conductor Edwin Outwater to ring in the New Year with a festive performance.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Tickets

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.

Patrons have the option of saving up to 25% over full-priced single tickets by selecting three or more holiday concerts. [Click here](#) for more information.

Tickets for children under 18 are 50% off for performances of *Elf*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and *Peter and the Wolf*.

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'S 2022 HOLIDAY CONCERTS

SPECIAL EVENT

Deck the Hall

[Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 11am & 3pm](#)

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser conductor

Stephanie Woodford soloist

Students from the San Francisco Ballet Trainee Program

Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco

San Francisco Boys Chorus

Kugelplex Klezmer ensemble

Dohlrhythms Dance Company Punjabi dance ensemble

Cast members from Panto in the Presidio's production of *Sleeping Beauty*

San Francisco Symphony

LEROY ANDERSON *Sleigh Ride*

MACK WILBERG "One December Bright and Clear"

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Spanish Chocolate from *The Nutcracker Suite*

VARIOUS (arr. CANTRELL) Old World Klezmer Medley

REGGIE CALLOWAY "Happy Kwanzaa"

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Russian Dance from *The Nutcracker Suite*

JAY ALTHOUSE (arr. ROBERTSON) "Fiesta Navidad!"

ANANDA SHANKAR *Universal Magic*

MARIAH CAREY (arr. NAUGHTIN) “All I Want for Christmas is You”

REENA ESMAIL “Take What You Need”

HOLIDAY

The Colors of Christmas

[Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

Gail Deadrick conductor

Oleta Adams vocalist

Peabo Bryson vocalist

Ruben Studdard vocalist

Jody Watley vocalist

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

San Francisco Symphony

ACT I

Carol of the Bells

A Child is Born / Joy to the World

This Christmas

The Christmas Song

I'll Be Home for Christmas

You Are My Everything

Jingle Bells

I Need an Angel

Silent Night, Holy Night

Alleluia, Peace on Earth

Peace / Get Here

ACT II

Hallelujah

With A Christmas Heart

If Ever You Were In My Arms Again

A Whole New World

Real Love

My Favorite Things

What's Goin On / Mercy Mercy

Who Would Imagine A King

I Just Had to Hear Your Voice

Oh Come All Ye Faithful

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Handel's *Messiah*

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

[Friday, December 9, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)
[Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

Masaaki Suzuki conductor
Lauren Snouffer soprano
Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen countertenor
Leif Aruhn-Solén tenor
Jonathon Adams baritone
San Francisco Symphony
San Francisco Symphony Chorus

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL *Messiah*

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra: *Peter and the Wolf*
[Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 2pm](#)

Daniel Stewart conductor
W. Kamau Bell narrator
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

LEROY ANDERSON *A Christmas Festival*

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Selections from the *Nutcracker* Suite

SERGEI PROKOFIEV *Peter and the Wolf*

Holiday Sing-Along

HOLIDAY

Cool Yule Christmas
[Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

Steven Reineke conductor
Capathia Jenkins vocalist
Tony DeSare vocalist
San Francisco Symphony

VARIOUS (arr. J. STEPHENSON) *Holiday Overture*

TRADITIONAL (arr. E. HAGEN) “O Come All Ye Faithful”

MEREDITH WILLSON “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas”

RICHARD BERNHARD SMITH/FELIX BERNARD “Winter Wonderland”

HAVEN GILLESPIE/J. FRED COOTS (arr. F. DEVOL) “Santa Clause is Coming to Town”

JAY LIVINGSTON/RAY EVANS (arr. S. REINEKE) “Silver Bells”

WALTER KENT/KIM GANNON (arr. F. BARTON) “I’ll Be Home For Christmas”

IRVING BERLIN (trans. A. GLASSCOCK) “I’ve Got My Love to Keep Me Warm”

HUGH MARTIN/RALPH BLANE (arr. F. DEVOL) “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas”

SAMMY CAHN/JULE STYNE “Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!”

JOE BEAL/JIM BOOTHE (arr. S. REINEKE) “Jingle Bell Rock”

TONY DESARE “Christmas for You and Me”

SAMMY CAHN/JIMMY VAN HEUSEN (arr. A. MANN) “The Secret of Christmas”

FRANK LOESSER (arr. F. BARTON) “Baby It’s Cold Outside”

IRVING BERLIN (arr. M. CUSSON) “Count Your Blessing (Instead of Sheep)”

JAMES PIERPONT (arr. F. DEVOL) “Jingle Bells”

HOLIDAY

Holiday Gaiety

[Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

Edwin Outwater conductor and co-emcee

Peaches Christ co-emcee

Monét X Change drag artist and vocalist

Jimmie Herrod vocalist

Nikola Printz mezzo-soprano and aerialist

Marga Gomez comedian

Sister Roma from *The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*

Stacey Stokes dancer

Jocquese Whitfield dancer

San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus

San Francisco Symphony

HOLIDAY

How the Grinch Stole Christmas—Film with Live Orchestra

[Friday, December 16, 2022 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 2:00pm](#)

Joshua Gersen conductor

San Francisco Symphony

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

JAMES HORNER composer

RON HOWARD director

HOLIDAY

Holiday Brass

[Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

Edwin Outwater conductor

Sharon Rietkerk vocalist

Members of the SF Symphony

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (arr. P.J. LAWRENCE) *Festive Overture*

GIOVANNI GABRIELI Three selections from *Sacred Symphoniae*

RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS (arr. WELCOMER) “Sweet was the Song the Virgin Sang” from *Hodie*

SERGEI PROKOFIEV (arr. HIGGINS) Suite from *Lieutenant Kijé*

ANTHONY DILORENZO *The Toy Maker*

TRADITIONAL (arr. E. HOLWARTH) “Greensleeves”

FRANZ BIEBL (arr. K. VANCE) “Ave Maria”

MEL TORME (arr. D. HANSON) “The Christmas Song”

DUKE ELLINGTON (arr. T. HIGGINS) *Nutcracker Suite*

HOLIDAY

Elf—Film with Live Orchestra

[Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Thursday, December 22, 2022 at 2:00pm](#)

John Jesensky conductor

San Francisco Symphony Chorus

San Francisco Symphony

Elf

JOHN DEBNEY composer

JON FAVREAU director

HOLIDAY

A Merry-Achi Christmas

[Friday, December 23, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández guest artist

**The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this concert.*

HOLIDAY

Harry Connick, Jr. – A Holiday Celebration

[Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 2pm](#)

Harry Connick, Jr. guest artist

**The San Francisco Symphony does not perform in this concert.*

HOLIDAY

New Year's Eve with Seth MacFarlane and the SF Symphony

[Saturday, December 31, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

Edwin Outwater conductor

Seth MacFarlane guest artist

San Francisco Symphony

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Deck the Hall is made possible through the generosity of Presenting Sponsor Louise M. Davies Foundation; Supporting Partner Bank of America; and Community Impact Partners the Levchin Family and the J.C. Kellogg Foundation.

The Colors of Christmas on December 7 is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra concerts are made possible by the Bernard Osher Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and Maisin Foundation.

The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra concerts are supported by Bank of America.

Additional support for the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra concerts is provided by Klumpke Trust and Nakamichi Foundation.

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