

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](#).)

XIAN ZHANG CONDUCTS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, DECEMBER 1–3, 2022, AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

The program includes Ludwig van Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony and two works new to the San Francisco Symphony: Michael Abels’ *Emerge* and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s *Ballade*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Conductor Xian Zhang leads the San Francisco Symphony, Chorus, and vocal soloists including soprano Gabriella Reyes, mezzo-soprano Kelley O’Connor, tenor Issachah Savage, and bass Reginald Smith, Jr., in Ludwig van Beethoven’s monumental Symphony No. 9, December 1–3, 2022. Fueled by principles of freedom and equality, Beethoven crafted his Ninth Symphony in an epic struggle between despair and transcendence to reach new heights with the words “all men become brothers.” The symphony’s famous last movement, “Ode to Joy,” adapted from Friedrich Schiller’s poem, is widely considered to be one of the most poignant musical proclamations for humanity.

The program opens with the SF Symphony premiere of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s *Ballade*, Opus 33. Commissioned and premiered in 1889 by the Three Choirs Festival in Britian on the advice of Coleridge-Taylor’s teacher and mentor, Edward Elgar, *Ballade* was a breakthrough work for its young composer. Zhang also leads the Orchestra in the first SF Symphony performances of Michael Abels’ *Emerge*, which tells the story of musicians returning to their art and rediscovering the joy of making music together.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Tickets

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony can be purchased via [sfsymphony.org](https://www.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](https://www.sfsymphony.org/safety) for the San Francisco Symphony's complete up-to-date health and safety protocols.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Beethoven 9

[Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, December 2, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Xian Zhang](#) conductor

[Gabriella Reyes](#) soprano [Orchestral Series Debut]

[Kelley O'Connor](#) mezzo-soprano

[Issachah Savage](#) tenor [Orchestral Series Debut]

[Reginald Smith, Jr.](#) bass [Orchestral Series Debut]

San Francisco Symphony

San Francisco Symphony Chorus

SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR *Ballade*, Opus 33 [San Francisco Symphony Premiere]

MICHAEL ABELS *Emerge* [San Francisco Symphony Premiere]

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9

Tickets: \$69–209.

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/Beethoven-9>

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