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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / MAY 7, 2024**



**ESA-PEKKA SALONEN AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PARTNER WITH  
CHOREOGRAPHER ALONZO KING AND DIRECTOR PETER SELLARS FOR  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM**

**Alonzo King LINES Ballet joins the Symphony for Ravel's complete *Mother Goose* and  
Sellars directs Schoenberg's one-act opera *Erwartung*, featuring soprano Mary Elizabeth  
Williams**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—On June 7–9, Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen and the San Francisco Symphony partner with two creative visionaries—director Peter Sellars and choreographer Alonzo King—for a multidisciplinary program highlighting opera and dance.

The program opens with Alonzo King LINES Ballet performing Maurice Ravel's complete *Ma mère l'Oye* (*Mother Goose*), choreographed by King. Ravel's 1912 ballet began several years earlier as a suite of "Five Children's Pieces for Piano Four Hands," which Ravel later orchestrated into a suite and then the staged ballet version. He found inspiration in children's stories from 17th- and 18th-century collections, particularly Charles Perrault's *Mother Goose Tales*. In the ballet, Princess Florine pricks her finger on a spinning wheel and is cursed to die, but a Good Fairy intervenes so her curse is changed to 100 years of sleep, only to be awakened by true love's kiss. To entertain the princess during her sleep, the Good Fairy provides her with dreams of fairy tales, including the stories of Beauty and the Beast, Tom Thumb, and Laideronnette, Empress of the Pagodas.

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

“Working with Esa-Pekka Salonen is always deeply engaging, and I’m thrilled to collaborate with him and the San Francisco Symphony once more,” said King. “The LINES Ballet dancers are delving into the enchanting world of Ravel’s *Ma mère l’Oye*, infusing the story with our new interpretation.”

These performances mark Salonen and the Symphony’s fourth collaboration with Alonzo King LINES Ballet: the Re-Opening Night concert in October 2021 saw the company perform Alberto Ginastera’s *Estancia Suite*; a concert film of Igor Stravinsky’s *The Soldier’s Tale*, featuring LINES Ballet dancer Adjí Cissoko, was released in June 2022; and a performance of Arvo Pärt’s *Spiegel im Spiegel* in Esa-Pekka Salonen’s digital SoundBox: Patterns, featured dancers Adjí Cissoko and Shuaib Elhassan performing choreography by Alonzo King, released in April 2021.

Peter Sellars directs the second half of the program—the San Francisco Symphony’s first performances of Arnold Schoenberg’s haunting 1909 one-act monodrama, *Erwartung*. The opera features a libretto by Marie Pappenheim that follows a woman searching for her lover in a forest at night. In these performances, soprano Mary Elizabeth Williams makes her Orchestral Series debut.

“Arnold Schoenberg’s astounding *Erwartung* is a searing portrait of a woman pushed right to the edge in dark times,” said Sellars. “Public violence, instability, anxiety, and betrayal hang in the air as she awaits her missing lover. Flashbacks, stolen moments, secrets, and sudden sharp, blazing epiphanies throng her heart and her churning thoughts. Danger is everywhere, and freedom is an elusive dream. The love is real.”

These performances are Sellars’ third collaboration with Salonen and the Symphony following June 2022 performances of Igor Stravinsky’s *Oedipus rex* and *Symphony of Psalms* and June 2023 performances of Kaija Saariaho’s *Adriana Mater*.

#### CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

##### **Tickets:**

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony Hall can be purchased via [sfsymphony.org](https://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. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and masking are no longer required for entry to Davies Symphony Hall. However, patrons are encouraged to wear masks and maintain up-to-date COVID vaccinations to protect themselves. These policies are subject to change. Visit [sfsymphony.org/safety](https://sfsymphony.org/safety) for the San Francisco Symphony’s complete up-to-date health and safety protocols.

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## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

### Alonzo King LINES Ballet & Peter Sellars

Friday, June 7, 2024, at 7:30pm

Saturday, June 8, 2024, at 7:30pm

Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 2pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor

Alonzo King choreographer

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Alonzo King** **LINES Ballet**  
**Peter Sellars** director  
**Mary Elizabeth Williams** soprano [Orchestral Series Debut]  
**Luke Kritzeck** lighting designer (*Ma Mère l'Oye*)  
**Seth Reiser** lighting designer (*Erwartung*)  
**Betsy Ayer** stage manager (*Erwartung*)  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**MAURICE RAVEL** *Ma Mère l'Oye* (Mother Goose)

**ARNOLD SCHOENBERG** *Erwartung* [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

**Tickets:** \$39–169

**Ticket link:** <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2023-24/ALONZO-KING-PETER-SELLARS>

**Preconcert talk:** On Friday, June 7, at 6:30pm, director Peter Sellars and choreographer Alonzo King will take part in a preconcert discussion presented from the stage. On Saturday, June 8, at 6:30pm and Sunday, June 9, at 1pm, Peter Sellars will give a preconcert talk.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, August 4, at 7pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://www.kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

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