



SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY

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(High resolution images of David Robertson, Kirill Gerstein, Semyon Bychkov, Katie & Marielle Labèque, Susanna Mälkki, and Nikolaj Znaider are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: Jay Fram, Marco Borggreve, Sheila Rock, Umberto Nicoletti, Simon Fowler, Lars Gunderson.)

## **GUEST CONDUCTORS DAVID ROBERTSON, SEMYON BYCHKOV, AND SUSANNA MÄLKKI LEAD THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

**On May 24–26 David Robertson conducts the SFS in Haydn's *Symphony No. 102*, Brahms' *Piano Concerto No. 1* with pianist Kirill Gerstein, and the U.S. premiere of Brett Dean's *Engelsflügel***

**May 31–June 2 concerts, conducted by Semyon Bychkov, feature Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 2, Little Russian*; first SFS performances of Taneyev's *Oresteia Overture*; and Bruch's *Concerto for Two Pianos in A-flat minor* performed by Katia and Marielle Labèque**

**On June 7–9 Susanna Mälkki leads the SFS in Kaija Saariaho's *Laterna Magica*, Scriabin's *The Poem of Ecstasy*, and Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto in D major* with violinist Nikolaj Znaider**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—The San Francisco Symphony (SFS) welcomes its final three guest conductors of the 2017–18 season—David Robertson, Semyon Bychkov, and Susanna Mälkki—to lead the Orchestra in three diverse programs in May and June. Concerts on **May 24** at UC Davis Mondavi Center and **May 25–26** at Davies Symphony Hall feature [David Robertson](#) conducting the first SFS performances and U.S. premiere of the 2014 orchestral version of [Brett Dean](#)'s *Engelsflügel* (*Wings of Angels*), which pays homage to the music of Brahms and precedes a performance of **Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor** by pianist [Kirill Gerstein](#). Also on the program is one of **Haydn's** final symphonies—his **Symphony No. 102 in B-flat major**.

On **May 31–June 2** [Semyon Bychkov](#) leads the SFS in its first performances of **Taneyev's dramatic *Oresteia Overture***, followed by **Bruch's *Concerto for Two Pianos in A-flat minor*** featuring [Katia and Marielle Labèque](#), sibling pianists renowned for their ensemble of synchronicity and energy. The program concludes with **Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 2***,

**Little Russian**—the title not referencing the scale of the symphony, but rather affectionately referring to Ukraine as “Little Russia.” Bychkov comments on his passion for the music of Tchaikovsky, “I’ve loved Tchaikovsky’s music ever since I can remember. Like all first loves this one never died.” In fact, following his early concerts with the Czech Philharmonic, of which he is currently Music Director and Chief Conductor, Bychkov devised *The Tchaikovsky Project*—a series of concerts, residencies and studio recordings which allowed them the luxury of exploring Tchaikovsky together and recording the results for Decca. The project culminates in 2019 with residencies in Prague, Vienna, and Paris and the release of the complete recordings.

**June 7–9** concerts feature [Susanna Mälkki](#) conducting the SFS in **Scriabin’s** mystical *The Poem of Ecstasy* and [Kaija Saariaho’s](#) *Laterna Magica*, a work inspired by Swedish film director Ingmar Bergman’s autobiography of the same name and his description of the “magic lantern”—the first machine used to create the illusion of a moving image. A fellow Finn and champion of the composer, Mälkki recently conducted Saariaho’s *L’Amour de loin* in her Metropolitan Opera conducting debut. Rounding out the program is **Tchaikovsky’s** monumental **Violin Concerto in D major**, performed by [Nikolaj Znaider](#). Znaider replaces Hilary Hahn, who was originally scheduled to perform but has had to withdraw from the concerts due to her pregnancy.

**Calendar editors, please note:**

All concerts take place at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

**Tickets** are available at [sfsymphony.org](http://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.

**Pre-Order Food and Drinks:** Concertgoers may pre-order drinks and snacks [here](#) by 11am the day of a performance to arrange to have them ready at Davies Symphony Hall either before the concert or at intermission.

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## **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, DAVID ROBERTSON CONDUCTING**

[Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 8 pm \(UC Davis Mondavi Center\)](#)

[Friday, May 25, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, May 26, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[David Robertson](#) conductor

[Kirill Gerstein](#) piano

**San Francisco Symphony**

[Brett DEAN](#)

**HAYDN**

**BRAHMS**

*Engelsflügel*, Orchestral Version (2014) [First SFS Performances; U.S. Premiere]

Symphony No. 102 in B-flat major

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Opus 15

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about Brahms’ Piano Concerto No. 1, hosted by [KDFC’s Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](http://sfsymphony.org/podcasts), and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from [soundcloud.com/sfsymphony](http://soundcloud.com/sfsymphony).

**Pre-Concert Talk:** John Palmer will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, June 5 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

**Tickets:** \$15–99.

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## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, SEMYON BYCHKOV CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 2 pm](#)

[Friday, June 1, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Semyon Bychkov](#) conductor

[Katia and Marielle Labèque](#) duo piano

San Francisco Symphony

TANEYEV	<i>Oresteia</i> Overture, Opus 6 [First SFS Performances]
BRUCH	Concerto for Two Pianos in A-flat minor, Opus 88a
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No. 2 in C minor, Opus 17, <i>Little Russian</i>

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2, *Little Russian*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](https://sfsymphony.org/podcasts), and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from [soundcloud.com/sfsymphony](https://soundcloud.com/sfsymphony).

**Pre-Concert Talk:** Laura Stanfield Prichard will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Prelude Series:** Lolly Lewis will lead an engaging discussion on the topic of "Reveling in Romanticism" 45 minutes before each performance on the First Tier Lobby of Davies Symphony Hall. Free to all concert ticket holders.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, June 12 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

**Tickets:** \$15–159.

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## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, SUSANNA MÄLKKI CONDUCTING

[Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, June 8, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Susanna Mälkki](#) conductor

[Nikolaj Znaider](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

TCHAIKOVSKY	Violin Concerto in D major, Opus 35
Kaija SAARIAHO	<i>Laterna Magica</i>
SCRIABIN	<i>The Poem of Ecstasy</i> , Opus 54

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about Scriabin's *The Poem of Ecstasy*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](https://sfsymphony.org/podcasts), and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from [soundcloud.com/sfsymphony](https://soundcloud.com/sfsymphony).

**Pre-Concert Talk:** Elizabeth Seitz will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Prelude Series:** Michiko Theurer will lead an engaging discussion on the topic of "Seeing Sound" 45 minutes before each performance on the First Tier Lobby of Davies Symphony Hall. Free to all concert ticket holders.

**Post-Concert Q&A with Susanna Mälkki and Nicolaj Znaider:** Please join the artists immediately after each concert for an audience Q&A session, which will be presented from the stage.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, June 19 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

**Tickets:** \$15–155.

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*Katia and Marielle Labèque's appearance is supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.*

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