



# SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

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

## THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES ITS ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT SEASON, NOVEMBER 30—DECEMBER 31, 2017

Special guest performers include Seal, Peaches Christ & Armistead Maupin, Mariachi Sol De México® de José Hernández, and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

Classic holiday film *Home Alone* is presented with the SFS performing the score live

Family-friendly performances include *A Charlie Brown Christmas—Live!*, Cirque de la Symphonie, the Symphony's annual Deck the Hall celebrations, and the SFS Youth Orchestra performing *Peter and the Wolf* with guest narrator Zachary Quinto

**Enjoy traditional Christmas music performed by the Orchestra and SFS Chorus with Handel's *Messiah*, and Holiday Brass; and Bach Collegium Japan performing J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio***

**Seth MacFarlane joins the San Francisco Symphony for a special New Year's Event, December 31**

**SAN FRANCISCO**—The San Francisco Symphony's (SFS) 2017 holiday season at Davies Symphony Hall offers a festive array of concerts for all ages, from traditional Christmas classical concerts including **Handel's *Messiah*, J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*** and **Holiday Brass** to family-friendly events including ***A Charlie Brown Christmas—Live!***, the circus feats of **Cirque de la Symphonie**, the Orchestra's annual **Deck the Hall** concerts, and the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra's annual performance of **Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*** with **Zachary Quinto** narrating. Beloved comedy classic ***Home Alone*** is projected on the big screen with the SFS performing the score live. British soul singer **Seal** performs selections off his new album, **Mariachi Sol De México® de José Hernández** presents **A Merry-achi Christmas**, the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir** brings an uplifting program of gospel, soul, and jazz favorites in **Holiday Soul**, and **Armistead Maupin** is the featured guest artist in **Holiday Gaiety with the SFS**. On December 31, **Seth McFarlane** joins the San Francisco Symphony to celebrate New Year's Eve.

Grammy Award-winning vocalist **Seal** and the San Francisco Symphony kick off the Holiday festivities on **November 30** with iconic jazz and swing classics and selections from Seal's highly-anticipated new album "Standards." The album comes out November 10 on Republic Records and pays tribute to legends including Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nina Simone. On **December 8, Holiday Gaiety with Armistead Maupin and the SFS** features San Francisco's premiere drag sensation **Peaches Christ** as a co-emcee with conductor Edwin Outwater, in addition to award-winning novelist **Armistead Maupin** and guest artists **Cheyenne Jackson, Bob the Drag Queen, Melissa King, and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence**, in a program that is sure to be full of fabulous surprises and dazzling performances. On **December 12–13** the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**, conducted by **Charles Floyd**, joins the SFS to present **Holiday Soul**—an uplifting program of gospel, soul, and jazz favorites. The choir is joined by vocalists **CeCe Winans, Edwin Hawkins, and Paula West**.

This holiday season the SFS continues the tradition of presenting classical music associated with the Christmas season. Members of the SF Symphony brass section, led by Edwin Outwater, present **Holiday Brass** on **December 3** and **Masaaki Suzuki** conducts **Bach Collegium Japan** in **J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*** with soprano **Sherezade Panthaki**, countertenor **Jay Carter**, tenor **Zachary Wilder**, and bass **Dominik Wörner** on **December 9**. Ragnar Bohlin conducts the SFS in performances of **Handel's *Messiah*** **December 14–15**, featuring soprano **Layla Claire**, mezzo-soprano **Tamara Mumford**, tenor **Leif Aruhn-Solén**, and bass **Morris Robinson**.

Once again, the Symphony's holiday line-up includes programs well-suited for children and families, starting with two **Deck the Hall** concerts on **December 3**. This festive children's concert and party features Symphony musicians and special guests, including the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Young Women's Choral Projects, San Francisco Ballet School trainees, and the San Francisco Children's Musical Theatre. **December 7–8**, the acrobats, strongmen, and performing artists of **Cirque de la Symphonie** join the SF Symphony musicians for a special holiday show, executing their jaw-dropping feats to the thrilling music of composers like Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi, Bizet, and others, mixed with plenty of holiday hits. On **December 10**, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) performs **Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*** with guest narrator **Zachary Quinto**, led by Wattis Foundation Music Director **Christian Reif**. Also on **December 10**, the ever-popular presentation of **A Merry-Achi Christmas** returns, with **Mariachi Sol De México® de José Hernández** performing its blend of Mexican and American holiday favorites. **December 16–17** concerts present classic holiday favorite ***Home Alone***, with John Williams' charming and delightful score performed live to picture by the SFS, conducted by **Joshua Gersen** and joined by the Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Pacific Boychoir, and San Francisco Girls Chorus (Dec 16–17 only).

***A Charlie Brown Christmas—Live!*** returns **December 21–24** with seven performances by the Orchestra of Vince Guaraldi's score for this special stage show, with singers, actors, and dancers all bringing Charles Schulz's beloved ***Peanuts*** characters and the Christmas classic animated TV special to life. The decked-out lobby of Davies Symphony Hall features kid-friendly refreshments and ***Peanuts***-themed activities.

The Symphony's annual **New Year's Event** on **December 31** features Academy and Grammy Award-nominated singer, songwriter, actor, producer, and director **Seth MacFarlane**, with Edwin Outwater conducting.

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 community groups.

**Calendar editors, please note:**

## **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2017 HOLIDAY CONCERTS**

All concerts are at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

Tickets for all holiday concerts are on sale now at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org), by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall box office on Grove Street between Franklin Street and Van Ness Avenue.

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### **SEAL with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

[Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Seal](#) vocalist  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**Tickets:** \$20–95

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### **DECK THE HALL**

[Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 11 am and 3 pm](#)

**Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser** conductor  
[San Francisco Boys Chorus](#), **Ian Robertson** artistic director  
[Young Women's Choral Projects](#), **Susan McMane** director  
[San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program](#), **Helgi Tomasson** director  
[San Francisco Children's Musical Theatre](#), **John Bisceglie** musical director  
Members of the **San Francisco Symphony**

<b>ANDERSON</b>	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
<b>Gary FRY</b>	<i>Christmas Morning</i>
<b>TCHAIKOVSKY</b>	Spanish Chocolate from <i>The Nutcracker</i>
<b>Jay ALTHOUSE</b>	Cantar
<b>TCHAIKOVSKY</b>	Snowflakes from <i>The Nutcracker</i>
<b>WILDE/KONEKY (arr. Huff)</b>	Happy Hanukkah, My Friend (The Hanukkah Song)
<b>TCHAIKOVSKY</b>	Russian Dance from <i>The Nutcracker</i>
<b>VARIOUS (arr. John Higgins)</b>	<i>Christmas</i> on Broadway

Sing-alongs with the audience

<b>MARKS (arr. Norris)</b>	Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer
<b>ROLLINS &amp; NELSON</b>	Frosty the Snowman
<b>TRADITIONAL (arr. Finnegan)</b>	Deck the Hall

**Tickets:** \$44–64

**VIP Packages:** One of the best ways to experience Deck the Hall is by purchasing a VIP ticket package. This includes premium concert seating, access to a pre-concert party with food, games, special crafts and a photo with Santa! Call the San Francisco Symphony Volunteer Council for details at (415) 503-5500 or [click here](#). This event is expected to sell out.

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## HOLIDAY BRASS

[Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor

Members of the SF Symphony Brass Section

J.S. BACH (arr. Higgins)	Allegro from <i>Brandenburg</i> Concerto No. 3 in G major, BWV 1048
VIVALDI (arr. Higgins)	Concerto in D major, R.230 <b>Mark Inouye</b> piccolo trumpet
GABRIELI (arr. Higgins)	Three Selections from the <i>Sacrae symphoniae</i> <i>Canzon per sonar septimi toni</i> , No. 1 <i>Beatus es virgo Maria</i> <i>Canzona per sonar in echo duodecimi toni</i>
BIEBL (arr. Yager)	<i>Ave Maria</i>
PROKOFIEV (arr. Higgins)	<i>Lieutenant Kijé</i> Suite, Opus 60 Birth of Kijé Romance Kijé's Wedding Troika The Burial of Kijé
TCHAIKOVSKY (arr. Higgins)	Selections from <i>The Nutcracker</i> , Opus 71 Overture March Arabian Dance Russian Dance [Trepak]
WALDTEUFEL (arr. Armstrong)	Skater's Waltz
ANDERSON (arr. Wasson)	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
GUARALDI (arr. Ridenour)	Two Selections from <i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i> Skating Christmastime is Here
ANDERSON (arr. Armstrong)	<i>A Christmas Festival</i>
PIERPONT (arr. Smith & Ward)	Jingle Bells Forever

Tickets: \$15–75

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## CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE

[Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor

[Cirque de la Symphonie](#)

San Francisco Symphony

SILVESTRI	Main Title from <i>The Polar Express</i>
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV	Dance of The Tumblers from <i>The Snow Maiden</i>
ARKENSTONE	<i>Snowdance</i>
BIZET	Farandole from <i>L'Arlesienne</i> Suite No. 2
ANDERSON	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
LOPEZ/ANDERSON-LOPEZ	Music from <i>Frozen</i>
WALDTEUFEL	excerpt from <i>Les Patineurs</i>

TRADITIONAL (arr. Arkenstone)	"I Saw Three Ships"
JESSEL	"Parade of the Wooden Soldiers"
TRADITIONAL (arr. Dragon)	"Deck the Hall"
TCHAIKOVSKY (arr. Ellington/Tyzik)	<i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Peanut Butter Brigade
TCHAIKOVSKY	Russian Dance from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a
ANDERSON	<i>A Christmas Festival</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	Waltz of the Flower from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a
TCHAIKOVSKY	Dance of the Reed Flutes from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a
SIMONE (arr. Wendel)	"Little Bolero Boy"

Tickets: \$35–89

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## HOLIDAY GAIETY: A San Francisco Symphony Christmas Special

[Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor and Co-emcee

[Peaches Christ](#) Co-emcee

[Armistead Maupin](#) writer

[Cheyenne Jackson](#) vocalist

[Bob the Drag Queen](#) guest artist

[Melissa King](#) chef

[Diana Gamos](#) vocalist

[The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence](#)

San Francisco Symphony

Jeff TYZIK	Christmas Overture
TCHAIKOVSKY	March from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a
TCHAIKOVSKY (arr. Ellington/Tyzik)	Peanut Butter Brigade [March] from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> <b>Bob the Drag Queen</b>
TCHAIKOVSKY	The Enchanted Palace of the Kingdom of Sweets from <i>The Nutcracker</i> , Opus 71 Trepak from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> , Opus 71a <b>Melissa King</b> chef
ANDERSON	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>
VAUGHN WILLIAMS	Fantasia on <i>Greensleeves</i> <b>Armistead Maupin</b> narrator
MARKS, JOHNNY	"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
FELICIANO, JOSÉ	"Feliz Navidad" <b>Diana Gamos</b> vocalist
TRAD (arr. Kessler)	"O Chanukah" <b>Carey Bell</b> clarinet
FAITH (arr. Norris)	<i>Brazilian Sleigh Bells</i>
LIOR ROSNER	"T'was the Night" <b>Bob the Drag Queen</b>
PIERPONT	"Jingle Bells" <b>Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence</b> hand bells
GRUBER (arr. Dragon)	"Silent Night" <b>Armistead Maupin</b> narrator

**Mariah CAREY & Walter AFANASIEFF** “All I Want for Christmas is You”  
(arr. Naughtin) **Cheyenne Jackson** vocalist

**TORME** “The Christmas Song”  
**Cheyenne Jackson** vocalist

**ADAM** (arr. Naughtin) “O Holy Night”  
**Cheyenne Jackson** vocalist

**MARTIN & BLAINE** (arr. Dragon) “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”  
**Full Cast**

Tickets: \$15–79

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## **BACH COLLEGIUM JAPAN, MASAAKI SUZUKI CONDUCTING**

➤ *Great Performers Series*

[Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Masaaki Suzuki](#) conductor  
[Sherezade Panthaki](#) soprano  
[Jay Carter](#) countertenor  
[Zachary Wilder](#) tenor  
[Dominik Wörner](#) bass  
[Bach Collegium Japan](#)

**J.S. BACH**

*Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248*

Part I: *Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage*  
Part II: *Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend*  
Part III: *Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen*  
Part VI: *Herr, wenn die stolzen Feinde schnauben*

Tickets: \$35-99

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## **PETER AND THE WOLF**

[Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

[Christian Reif](#) conductor  
[Zachary Quinto](#) narrator  
[San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra](#)

**PROKOFIEV**

*Peter and the Wolf, Opus 67*

Program will also include holiday favorites, with an audience sing-a-long.

Tickets: \$25-79

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## **A MERRY-ACHI CHRISTMAS**

[Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Mariachi Sol de Mexico® de José Hernandez](#)

*Note: The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this presentation.*

Tickets: \$16–90

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## **HOLIDAY SOUL with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

[Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 8 pm](#)  
[Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Charles Floyd](#) conductor  
[CeCe Winans](#) vocalist  
[Edwin Hawkins](#) vocalist  
[Paula West](#) vocalist  
[Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir](#), **Terrance Kelly** director  
**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>SMALLWOOD</b>	Anthem of Praise <b>Oakland Interfaith Gospel Chorus</b> <b>San Francisco Symphony</b>
<b>BERNARD</b>	Winter Wonderland <b>Paula West</b> vocalist <b>San Francisco Symphony</b>
<b>TORME</b>	The Christmas Song <b>Paula West</b> vocalist <b>San Francisco Symphony</b>
<b>KELLY</b>	Glory Song <b>Oakland Interfaith Gospel Chorus</b> <b>Valeria Scott</b> soloist
<b>TRADITIONAL</b> (arr. Floyd)	Symphony of Carols <b>San Francisco Symphony</b>
<b>HAWKINS</b> (arr. Floyd)	Someday <b>Edwin Hawkins</b> vocalist
<b>TRADITIONAL</b> (arr. MacGimsey and Floyd)	Sweet Little Jesus Boy <b>Edwin Hawkins</b> vocalist <b>San Francisco Symphony</b>
<b>HAWKINS</b>	Oh Happy Day <b>Edwin Hawkins</b> vocalist <b>Paula West</b> vocalist <b>Oakland Interfaith Gospel Chorus</b> <b>San Francisco Symphony</b>
<b>VARIOUS</b>	Selections with <b>CeCe Winan</b> and the <b>San Francisco Symphony</b> Let Them Fall in Love With You Run to Him (Medley) Never Have to Be Alone Dancing in the Spirit Oh Holy Night Joy to the World Silent Night The First Noel

**Tickets:** \$25–85

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## **HANDEL'S MESSIAH, RAGNAR BOHLIN CONDUCTING**

[Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 8 pm](#)  
[Friday, December 15, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Ragnar Bohlin](#) conductor  
[Layla Claire](#) soprano  
[Tamara Mumford](#) mezzo-soprano  
[Leif Aruhn-Solen](#) tenor  
[Morris Robinson](#) bass  
[San Francisco Symphony Chorus](#), **Ragnar Bohlin** director  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**HANDEL** *Messiah*

Tickets: \$16–165

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## **HOME ALONE with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

➤ *Film Series*

[Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 7 pm](#)

[Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

[Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Joshua Gersen](#) conductor

[The San Francisco Girls Chorus](#) (Dec 16–17 only), **Valérie Sainte-Agathe** music director and principal conductor

[The Pacific Boychoir](#)

[The Ragazzi Boys Chorus](#), **Joyce Keil** artistic director

San Francisco Symphony

**John WILLIAMS**

*Home Alone*

**Chris COLUMBUS** director

Tickets: \$69–175

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## **A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS – LIVE!**

[Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 2pm and 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, December 22, 2017 at 2pm and 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 2am and 7:30pm](#)

[Sunday, December 24, 2017 at 2pm](#)

[Randall Craig Fleischer](#) conductor

**Dancers from the Cast of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*** [see below]

**The Cast of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*** [see below]

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, **David Xiques** Assistant Director

San Francisco Symphony

### **Charlie Brown Christmas Cast**

**Liza Gennaro** director and choreographer

**Dan Scully** video designer

**Carmina de Dios** costume designer

**Tristan Raines** costume designer

**Elena Zahlmann** répétiteur

### Narrators

**Michael Covert**

### Dancers

**Michael Starr** (Charlie Brown)

**Natasha Adorlee Johnson** (Snoopy)

**Kelsey McFalls** (Lucy)

**Stephen DiBiase** (Linus)

**Juliann Witt** (Sally)

**Justin Andrews, Doran Butler, Elena Zahlmann** (Charlie's Gang)

**Jamielyn Duggan, Rachel Speidel Little, Elena Zahlmann, Katerina Wong** (Christmas Trees)

**TRADITIONAL** (arr. Jekabson)

*Holiday Bells*

**BERLIN** (arr. Blank)

*Snow from White Christmas*

**TCHAIKOVSKY** (arr. Duke Ellington)

Overture Suite from *Nutcracker*

**BERLIN** (arr. Dragon)

White Christmas



**TRADITIONAL (arr. O’loughlin)** Christmas By the Bay  
**BERLIN (arr. Bill Elliott)** *I’ve Got Love to keep Me Warm*  
**HERMAN (arr. Wendel)** We Need A Little Christmas from *Mame*  
**GUARALDI (arr. Firth)** *A Charlie Brown Christmas* [with video]

*A Charlie Brown Christmas Courtesy of Lee Mendelson and Bill Melendez Productions ©2014 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.*

**TRADITIONAL (arr. Kennedy)** Christmas Sing-alongs  
Hark the Herald Angels  
Deck the Hall  
We Wish You a Merry Xmas

**Tickets:** \$30–80

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## **NEW YEAR’S EVE with SETH MACFARLANE and the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

[Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor  
[Seth MacFarlane](#) vocalist  
**San Francisco Symphony**

Program to be announced.

**Tickets:** \$89–264

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