



**SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**  
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## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The San Francisco Symphony serves its greater community with a comprehensive range of education programs, providing five consecutive years of music education for all students in San Francisco’s public elementary schools, and support for all band and orchestra programs in San Francisco’s public middle schools and high schools—all free of charge.

Throughout the Greater Bay Area, the San Francisco Symphony’s education programs provide opportunities for young people to engage with music through family-friendly performances and heritage events; interactive concerts for school groups; resources for teachers, parents, and students; and the prestigious tuition-free SFS Youth Orchestra. Often singled out for both their quality and inclusivity, the SF Symphony’s education programs have been described by the *Wall Street Journal* as “the industry standard,” while *The New York Times* refers to the SFS as “a music education powerhouse.”



### Adventures in Music

**100% of students in grades 1–5 in the San Francisco Unified School District is served by Adventures in Music.**

78% of children served by this program represent ethnic minorities.

55% of children qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches.

24% of children are English language learners.

The **Adventures in Music (AIM)** program partners with San Francisco’s public schools to reach every first through fifth grader with comprehensive music education experiences. AIM launched in 1988 in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District and ensures that every child in grades 1–5 in San Francisco’s elementary schools receives equitable access to music education for five consecutive years. Presented free of charge to schools, AIM offers an interdisciplinary program which integrates live music performances and related music-learning experiences with the everyday classroom curriculum. The program consists of in-school ensemble performances, tailored classroom materials and resources, professional development for teachers, and a private concert by the San Francisco Symphony at Davies Symphony Hall. The program introduces students to music of the world in addition to western classical music, and reflects the diverse cultural heritage of the city’s student population. All components of AIM are aligned with the Common Core Standards and integrate with core subject curriculum.

To learn more, watch [this video](#) about Adventures in Music and visit [sfsymphony.org/AIM](https://sfsymphony.org/AIM).

The impact of AIM and the resulting demand in music participation allowed the SFS to expand its programs for older students in grades 6–12. Through the **Music and Mentors** program, formerly called Instrument Training and Support, the Symphony supports every San Francisco public middle and high school band and orchestra program by offering weekly coaching and mentoring by SFS teaching artists in small sectionals, critical supplies and instrument repairs, and opportunities to attend Symphony open rehearsals and concerts at Davies Symphony Hall, all free of charge.

To learn more, watch [this video](#) about Music and Mentors and visit [sfsymphony.org/Mentors](https://sfsymphony.org/Mentors).

### Music and Mentors



## Concerts for Kids and Open Rehearsals



School groups throughout the Greater Bay Area and families who home-school their children have opportunities throughout the season to attend a concert by the San Francisco Symphony through **Concerts for Kids (CFK)**. Tickets to CFK concerts are offered at a low cost of \$8 per seat. The concerts are designed as educational tools to develop students' understanding and appreciation of orchestral music. These engaging performances introduce students to musical concepts and ideas through a unifying theme, lending themselves to interdisciplinary exploration and integration with core classroom curriculum. Included in the ticket price are study materials and CDs of the concert repertoire mailed in advance of the performance. Teachers have opportunities to participate in free docent and teacher workshops to learn more about the Concerts for Kids program and how to

prepare students for their upcoming concert, or request a classroom visit by a trained education docent. For more information, visit [sfsymphony.org/concertsforkids](https://sfsymphony.org/concertsforkids).

The San Francisco Symphony also provides **Open Rehearsals** for high school teachers and students, providing behind-the-scenes encounters with the conductor and musicians, and offering the opportunity to hear orchestral music live. Open Rehearsals are preceded by informative talks, which begin an hour before each rehearsal.



The **San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO)** is recognized as one of the finest youth orchestras in the world. Part of the Symphony's ongoing commitment to nurture young musicians, SFSYO participants are chosen from more than 300 applicants from the greater Bay Area through annual auditions and receive a pre-professional caliber

and tuition-free orchestral experience. The Youth Orchestra has embarked on ten international tours including appearances at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Berliner Philharmonie, and released ten recordings including a live concert recording of Bartok's *The Miraculous Mandarin* at the Concertgebouw and Mahler Symphony No. 1 at the Berliner Philharmonie. The SFSYO rehearses and performs at Davies Symphony Hall under the direction of Wattis Foundation Music Director Christian Reif, and members of the orchestra are coached weekly by SFS musicians and have opportunities throughout each season to work with various esteemed visiting artists and conductors.

The Youth Orchestra performs three concerts in Davies Symphony Hall in the 2018–19 season on November 11, March 3, and May 19, as well as its annual holiday concert on December 9. It will embark on a multi-city European tour in the summer of 2019.

## San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra



To learn more, watch [this video](#) about the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra and visit [sfsymphony.org/YO](https://sfsymphony.org/YO).

## Music for Families



The popular **Music for Families** series is designed to introduce children and their parents to live orchestral music. Part performance and part family outing, the series consists of interactive matinee children’s concerts paired with pre-concert activities in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies. Each program features fascinating musical discoveries, informative talks, and festive pre-concert activities such as instrument petting zoos, a conductor photo station, and art making stations. Ticket buyers receive a link to free online resources to help families prepare for the concerts and provide opportunities for continued music engagement at home. 2018–19 Music for Families concert topics include Superheroes and Villains (Dec 1); Music Around the World: Influences of Africa (Feb 2); Once Upon and Orchestra (Mar 9); and Music, Magic, and Mystery (Apr 13); and will be conducted by Resident Conductor Christian Reif.

For children age 17 and under, tickets to these concerts, all on Saturday afternoons, are half price. In addition, children and their family can enhance their concert experience at home by visiting [SFSKids.org](http://SFSKids.org), the Symphony’s free online educational resource created to offer children, adults, families, teachers, and schools opportunities to learn about music through interactivity, animation, and game-based learning. [SFSKids.org](http://SFSKids.org) has now reached more than five million users and averages 1,500-2,000 visits per day.