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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY APRIL 2025 PROGRAMMING

Orchestral Series

April 10–12 Marin Alsop conducts Gabriela Montero’s Piano Concerto No. 1, *Latin*, featuring Montero on piano; Gabriela Ortiz’s *Antrópolis*; Samuel Barber’s Symphony No. 1; and more

Special Events

April 24 Common performs with the San Francisco Symphony

April 26 SF Symphony celebrates Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas’s 80th birthday with a special concert

Great Performers Series & Shenson Spotlight Series

April 6 Anne-Sophie Mutter presents a violin recital of works by Aftab Darvishi, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ottorino Respighi, Franz Schubert, and Clara Schumann

April 9 Spotlight Series artist Martin James Bartlett plays a solo piano recital with music by Maurice Ravel, Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, and more

April 20 Pianist Evgeny Kissin performs works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Frédéric Chopin, and Dmitri Shostakovich

Film Series

April 4–5 Sarah Hicks conducts James Cameron’s *Titanic* live-to-picture

SoundBox

April 11–12 Composer and percussionist Andy Akiho presents *Sculptures*, a SoundBox program

Chamber Series

April 27 SF Symphony musicians present a chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony’s April programming lineup features an Orchestral Series program led by Marin Alsop and featuring pianist and composer Gabriela Montero, Michael Tilson Thomas’s 80th birthday concert, recitals with violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and pianist Evgeny Kissin, and a Shenson Spotlight Series recital by pianist Martin James Bartlett. The month also includes a concert featuring award-winning artist, actor, author, and activist Common, as well as a live-to-picture film series performance of James Cameron’s *Titanic*, a SoundBox program curated by composer and percussionist Andy Akiho, and a chamber music concert with Symphony musicians.



Orchestral Series

April 10–12: Alsop Conducts Music of the Americas

Marin Alsop, Chief Conductor of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Polish National Radio Symphony, conducts Gabriela Ortiz’s playful *Antrópolis*, which pays tribute to dance halls in Mexico City. Composer and pianist Gabriela Montero joins Alsop and the Orchestra for the first SF Symphony performances of her Piano Concerto No. 1, *Latin*. Montero describes the work as a “chiaroscuro reflection on who we are as a continent, dark and light... It’s not a political piece, but it’s a statement: Not everything that glitters is gold.”

The second half of the program opens with Aaron Copland’s patriotic *Fanfare for the Common Man*, followed by Joan Tower’s *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* No. 1, dedicated to Alsop. Closing out the program is Samuel Barber’s Symphony No. 1, a one-movement work that recalls Sibelius in character.

Special Events

April 26: MTT 80th Birthday Concert

On April 26, the San Francisco Symphony celebrates the 80th birthday of Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas in a one-night-only celebration featuring MTT alongside the Orchestra, SF Symphony Chorus, and special guests including vocalists Sasha Cooke, Ben Jones, Frederica von Stade, and Jessica Vosk. The program includes Benjamin Britten’s *The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra*, Ottorino Respighi’s *Roman Festivals*, the final movement from Leonard Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms* featuring the SF Symphony Chorus, and several of MTT’s own songs, sung by Cooke, Jones, von Stade, and Vosk. The event will also feature special birthday surprises for MTT and the audience.

“I am overjoyed to mark my 80th with the wonderful musicians of the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus,” said Tilson Thomas, who turned 80 on December 21, 2024. “I remember the fantastic celebrations for my 60th and 70th, and I am delighted that this milestone concert features extraordinary artists I’ve had the privilege to know and collaborate with over the years.”

This concert is sold out. Limited numbers of returned tickets may become available; check sfsymphony.org for current information.

April 24: Common with the San Francisco Symphony

Grammy, Emmy, and Academy Award-winning artist, actor, author, and activist Common joins conductor Jonathan Taylor Rush and the San Francisco Symphony for a one-night-only performance at Davies Symphony Hall featuring many of his biggest hits. This is Common’s second appearance with the San Francisco Symphony, following a performance at Davies Symphony Hall on August 1, 2018. Common continues to break down barriers with a multitude of critically acclaimed roles and continued success across all aspects of his career, from music (his most recent album, *THE AUDITORIUM: VOL 1*, received two Grammy nominations this year) to film (*Selma*), television (*Silo*), Broadway (*Between Riverside and Crazy*), social activism, and his most recent book, *And Then We Rise*.



Great Performers Series

April 6: Anne-Sophie Mutter Violin Recital

Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, accompanied by her longtime collaborator, pianist Lambert Orkis, plays Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s Violin Sonata No. 18 in G major, K.301; Franz Schubert’s Fantasy in C major for Violin and Piano; Aftab Darvishi’s *Likoo*; Clara Schumann’s Three Romances for Violin and Piano; and Ottorino Respighi’s Violin Sonata in B minor.

April 20: Evgeny Kissin Piano Recital

Pianist Evgeny Kissin plays a solo recital featuring Johann Sebastian Bach’s Partita No. 2 in C minor; Frédéric Chopin’s Nocturnes in C-sharp minor and A-flat major, along with Scherzo No. 4 in E major; Dmitri Shostakovich’s Piano Sonata No. 2; and selections from Shostakovich’s 24 Preludes and Fugues.

Shenson Spotlight Series

April 9: Martin James Bartlett

Pianist Martin James Bartlett performs a solo recital including François Couperin’s *Les Baricades mystérieuses*; selections from Jean-Philippe Rameau’s Suite in A minor, RCT 5; Robert Schumann’s *Kinderszenen* and “*Widmung*” (in a transcription by Liszt); Maurice Ravel’s *Pavane*

pour une infante défunte and *La Valse*; and Richard Wagner's *Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde*, in a transcription by Liszt. Bartlett was the inaugural recipient of the Prix Serdang in 2022, a Swiss prize curated by Rudolf Buchbinder in recognition of the achievements of a promising young pianist while forging an international solo career. Highlights of Bartlett's 2024–25 season include debuts at the Lucerne and Moritzburg summer festivals, a return to the Concertgebouw, and two chamber music recitals at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.

Film Series

April 4–5: *Titanic*—Film with Live Orchestra

Sarah Hicks conducts James Cameron's *Titanic* live-to-picture, featuring a score composed by James Horner. The 1997 romantic drama stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as a poor artist and a socialite who fall in love on the *Titanic*'s ill-fated maiden voyage.

SoundBox

April 11–12: Andy Akiho

Composer and percussionist Andy Akiho presents *Sculptures*, a SoundBox program that features works born from Akiho's collaborations with ceramic artist Jun Kaneko—where art itself becomes an instrument—along with unexpected instrumental pairings that bring Akiho's percussion into dynamic interplay with SF Symphony musicians. Taking place in a backstage rehearsal space at Davies Symphony Hall, each SoundBox performance is unique—encompassing shifting stage settings, art installations, projection screens, and unexpected elements, featuring original lighting design by Luke Kritzeck and video design by Adam Larsen. Since its debut in 2014, SoundBox has been widely recognized for its creative approach to the orchestral medium and its ability to galvanize a diverse demographic.

Chamber Series

April 27: Chamber Music at Davies Symphony Hall

In this chamber music concert, San Francisco Symphony musicians perform Giovanni Bottesini's *Passione amorosa* for Four Double Basses, Paul Schoenfield's *Café Music*, Bohuslav Martinů's *Nonet*, and Sergei Prokofiev's *String Quartet No. 1*.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Tickets:

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony Hall can be purchased via 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.

FILM SERIES

***Titanic*—Film with Live Orchestra**

Friday, April 4, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 2:00pm

Sarah Hicks conductor
San Francisco Symphony

Titanic

JAMES HORNER composer

JAMES CAMERON director

Tickets: \$105–225

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/Titanic>

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Anne-Sophie Mutter Violin Recital
Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 7:30pm

Anne-Sophie Mutter violin
Lambert Orkis piano

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Violin Sonata No. 18 in G major, K.301

FRANZ SCHUBERT Fantasy in C major for Violin and Piano, D.934

AFTAB DARVISHI *Likoo*

CLARA SCHUMANN Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Opus 22

OTTORINO RESPIGHI Violin Sonata in B minor

Tickets: \$59–150

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/anne-sophie-mutter>

SHENSON SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Martin James Bartlett
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 7:30pm

Martin James Bartlett piano

FRANÇOIS COUPERIN *Les Barricades mystérieuses*

JEAN-PHILIPPE RAMEAU Selections from Suite in A minor, RCT 5

ROBERT SCHUMANN *Kinderszenen*

ROBERT SCHUMANN (arr. **FRANZ LISZT**) *"Widmung"*

MAURICE RAVEL *Pavane pour une infante défunte*

RICHARD WAGNER (trans. **FRANZ LISZT**) *Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde*

MAURICE RAVEL *La Valse*

Tickets: \$55

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/martin-james-bartlett>

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Alsop Conducts Music of the Americas

Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, April 11, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 7:30pm

Marin Alsop conductor

Gabriela Montero piano

San Francisco Symphony

GABRIELA ORTIZ *Antrópolis*

GABRIELA MONTERO Piano Concerto No. 1, *Latin* [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

AARON COPLAND *Fanfare for the Common Man*

JOAN TOWER *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* No. 1

SAMUEL BARBER Symphony No. 1

Tickets: \$30–149

Open Rehearsal ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/marin-alsop-americas-OR>

Concert ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/marin-alsop-americas>

Prerehearsal talk: Thursday, April 10 from 9:00am–9:30am: A prerehearsal talk by Laura Prichard will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, May 4, at 7:00pm 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.

SOUNDBOX

Friday, April 11, 2025, at 8:30pm

Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 8:30pm

Andy Akiho curator

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$80

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/soundbox-andy-akiho>

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Evgeny Kissin Piano Recital

Sunday, April 20, 2025, at 7:30pm

Evgeny Kissin piano

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH Partita No. 2 in C minor for Keyboard, BWV 826

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN Nocturne in C-sharp minor, Opus 27, no.1

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN Nocturne in A-flat major, Opus 32, no.2

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN Scherzo No. 4 in E major, Opus 54

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Sonata No. 2 in B minor

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH Selections from 24 Preludes and Fugues, Opus 87

Tickets: \$135–350

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/evgeny-kissin>

SPECIAL EVENT

MTT 80th Birthday Concert

Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 7:30pm

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Sasha Cooke vocalist

Ben Jones vocalist

Frederica von Stade vocalist
Jessica Vosk vocalist
San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director
San Francisco Symphony

BENJAMIN BRITTEN *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS Selected Songs

LEONARD BERNSTEIN Final movement from *Chichester Psalms*

OTTORINO RESPIGHI *Roman Festivals*

This concert is sold out. Limited numbers of returned tickets may become available; check sfsymphony.org for current information.

CHAMBER SERIES

Davies Symphony Hall
Sunday, April 27, 2025, at 2:00pm

Charles Chandler bass
Bowen Ha bass
Orion Miller bass
Daniel G. Smith bass
Justin Cummings bassoon
Amos Yang cello
Davis You cello
Matthew Griffith clarinet
Blair Francis Paponiu flute
Jessica Valeri horn
Russ de Luna oboe
John Wilson piano
Matthew Young viola
Adam Smyla viola
Jeremy Constant violin
Melissa Kleinbart violin
Polina Sedukh violin
Chen Zhao violin

GIOVANNI BOTTESINI *Passione amorosa* for Four Double Basses

PAUL SCHOENFIELD *Café Music*

BOHUSLAV MARTINŮ Nonet

SERGEI PROKOFIEV String Quartet No. 1

Tickets: \$50

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/Chamber-at-Davies-April>

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The April 4–5 concerts are sponsored by Ella Qing Hou and J. Sanford Miller.

Chevron is the Presenting Sponsor of the Great Performers Series.

The April 6 concert is supported by the Wattis Special Performance Fund.

The April 6 concerts is generously sponsored by the Athena T. Blackburn Endowed Fund for Russian Music.

Marin Alsop's appearance is supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.

The April 10–12 concerts are generously supported by the Ralph I. Dorfman Commissioning Fund.

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Lead support for SoundBox is provided by the Barbro and Bernard Osher SoundBox Fund.

The April 20 concert is generously sponsored by the K. Hart Smith Fund.

The April 26 concert is supported in part by Maria Manetti Shrem.

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