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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY MARCH 2026 PROGRAMMING

Orchestral Series

March 13–15 Daniele Rustioni makes his Orchestral Series debut conducting Dvořák's Cello Concerto with Daniel Müller-Schott in his Orchestral Series debut, and Brahms's Symphony No. 2

March 20–22 Andrés Orozco-Estrada conducts Weber's Overture to *Euryanthe*, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 featuring Jan Lisiecki, and Dvořák's Symphony No. 7

March 26–28 Philippe Jordan leads the Orchestra in Debussy's *Prélude à L'après-midi d'un faune*; Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No. 5, *Egyptian* with Jean-Yves Thibaudet; and Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*

Special Events

March 5 Itzhak Perlman performs works by Bach, Brahms, and Dvořák with the SF Symphony in his 80th birthday season

March 6 John Malkovich performs in Aleksey Igudesman's *The Music Critic*

March 17 SF Symphony and Chorus perform music from FINAL FANTASY, led by Arnie Roth

Great Performers Series

March 1 Joshua Bell and Academy of St Martin in the Fields perform works by Brahms, Ives, and Schumann

March 15 Violinist Pinchas Zukerman and pianist Shai Wosner perform an all-Brahms recital

SF Symphony Youth Orchestra

March 8 Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu leads the SFSYO in a concert of works by Higdon, Mahler, and Sibelius

Chamber Music Concerts

March 3 SF Symphony musicians perform a free Community Chamber Concert at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

March 7, 12, & 28 SF Symphony musicians perform free Community Chamber Concerts at the SF Public Library's Bayview, Excelsior, and Presidio branches

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony's March programming lineup features three Orchestral Series programs led by guest conductors Philippe Jordan, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, and Daniele Rustioni; a concert with Itzhak Perlman and the SF Symphony in celebration of his 80th birthday season; Aleksey Igudesman's *The Music Critic* featuring actor John Malkovich; and Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY with the SF Symphony and Chorus. The month also includes a concert with Joshua Bell and Academy of St Martin in the fields; a recital with violinist Pinchas Zukerman and pianist Shai Wosner, a SF Symphony Youth Orchestra program, and free chamber music concerts at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco and SF Public Library branches.



Orchestral Series

March 13 & 15: Brahms 2 & Dvořák's Cello Concerto

Daniele Rustioni, principal guest conductor of the Metropolitan Opera, makes his Orchestral Series debut conducting Antonín Dvořák's passionate Cello Concerto with Daniel Müller-Schott, who also makes his Orchestral Series debut in this program. Dvořák conceived the concerto while living in the United States and rewrote its ending as a tribute to his sister-in-law after her passing. The program also includes Johannes Brahms's Symphony No. 2, a largely sunny work composed during a summer holiday in a small Austrian village. Rustioni, Müller-Schott, and the SF Symphony perform this program at UC Davis's Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts on March 14.

March 20–22: Orozco-Estrada Conducts Dvořák 7

Andrés Orozco-Estrada, general music director of the City of Cologne and Gürzenich Kapellmeister and principal conductor of Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, conducts Antonín Dvořák's dark Symphony No. 7, which was strongly influenced by Brahms. Jan Lisiecki joins Orozco-Estrada and the Orchestra to perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's expressive

Piano Concerto No. 9, an early masterpiece among his instrumental works. The program opens with the intense overture from Carl Maria von Weber's opera *Euryanthe*.

March 26–28: *Symphonie fantastique* & Jean-Yves Thibaudet

Philippe Jordan, music director of Vienna State Opera, leads the Orchestra in Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, a virtuosic orchestral showpiece filled with imaginative visions of a love affair gone wrong. Jean-Yves Thibaudet plays Camille Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No. 5, *Egyptian*, most of which the composer wrote while on vacation in Luxor. The program opens with Claude Debussy's sensual symphonic poem *Prélude à L'après-midi d'un faune*.



Special Events

March 5: Itzhak Perlman with the San Francisco Symphony

Violinist Itzhak Perlman returns to Davies Symphony Hall in his 80th birthday season to conduct and play a special one-night-only concert with the SF Symphony. Known for a warm sound, welcoming demeanor, and unparalleled virtuosity that have made him a household name for six decades and counting, Perlman presents a program featuring Johann Sebastian Bach's Violin Concerto No. 1, Johannes Brahms's *Academic Festival* Overture, and Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 8.

March 6: John Malkovich in Aleksey Igudesman's *The Music Critic*

Emmy Award-winning actor John Malkovich joins the San Francisco Symphony for *The Music Critic*, written and conceived by violinist Aleksey Igudesman. The show combines performances of classical works with negative reviews written by real critics when the works first premiered. Accompanied onstage by Igudesman and the Orchestra, Malkovich takes on the role of a sardonic critic, taking no prisoners as he hilariously critiques Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and more.

March 17: Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY

Celebrating FINAL FANTASY XIV and XVI

The San Francisco Symphony performs Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY on March 17. This celebration of the music of FINAL FANTASY XIV and XVI by renowned composer Masayoshi Soken will be led by conductor Arnie Roth, performed by the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus, and joined by FINAL FANTASY XIV & XVI original vocalist Amanda Achen. This program also features iconic works by Nobuo Uematsu, Masashi Hamauzu, Yoko Shimomura, and other composers from throughout the FINAL FANTASY series. This special concert includes HD video created by SQUARE ENIX specifically for this tour.

Great Performers Series

March 1: Joshua Bell & Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Violinist Joshua Bell leads the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in performing Iain Farrington's arrangement of Charles Ives's *Variations on America*, Johannes Brahms's Violin Concerto, and Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 1, *Spring*.

March 15: Pinchas Zukerman & Shai Wosner

Pinchas Zukerman and Shai Wosner present a duo recital featuring works of Johannes Brahms, including Violin Sonata No. 1 in G major, Violin Sonata No. 2 in A major, Scherzo in C minor from F-A-E Sonata, and Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor.

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

March 8: San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu leads the SFSYO in Jean Sibelius's tone poem *Finlandia*, a piece that inspired national pride and brought Sibelius personal fame and sweeping popularity, and Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral*, written in memory of Higdon's younger brother. Paponiu and the SFSYO are joined by soprano Hannah Cho in Gustav Mahler's expressive Symphony No. 4, in which the composer reflects on memories of his youth. Comprised of more than 100 musicians ranging in age from 12 to 21 and representing communities from throughout the Bay Area, the SFSYO is recognized internationally as one of the finest youth orchestras in the world. The SFSYO provides a tuition-free orchestral experience of preprofessional caliber to talented young Bay Area musicians, with weekly rehearsals led by Paponiu.



Chamber Music Concerts

March 3, 7, 12, & 28: Free Concerts at Jewish Community Center of San Francisco and San Francisco Public Libraries

The San Francisco Symphony's free Community Chamber Concert series features small ensembles from the Symphony performing at community spaces across San Francisco. These concerts are an opportunity for audiences to get to know SF Symphony musicians and see them perform in an intimate setting.

On **March 3** at 1:00pm at the **Jewish Community Center of San Francisco**, first violin Melissa Kleinbart (Katharine Hanrahan Chair) and Assistant Principal Cello Amos Yang (Karel & Lida Urbanek Chair) perform a [Community Chamber Concert](#).

On **March 7** at 12:00pm at the **San Francisco Public Library's Bayview Branch**, Associate Principal Cello Anne Richardson (Peter & Jacqueline Hoefer Chair), Assistant Concertmaster Wyatt Underhill (75th Anniversary Chair), and violist Matthew Young perform a [Community Chamber Concert](#) and engage in a Q&A with the audience.

On **March 12** at 5:00pm at the **San Francisco Public Library's Excelsior Branch**, Associate Principal Cello Anne Richardson (Peter & Jacqueline Hoefer Chair) and Associate Principal Bass

Daniel G. Smith perform a [Community Chamber Concert](#) and engage in a Q&A with the audience.

On **March 28** at 2:30pm at the **San Francisco Public Library's Presidio Branch**, first violins Florin Parvulescu and Victor Romasevich perform a [Community Chamber Concert](#) and engage in a Q&A with the audience.

All Community Chamber Concerts are free and open to the public.

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.

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Joshua Bell & Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 7:30pm

Joshua Bell violin and leader

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

CHARLES IVES (arr. Iain Farrington) *Variations on America*

JOHANNES BRAHMS Violin Concerto

ROBERT SCHUMANN Symphony No. 1, *Spring*

Tickets: \$75–339

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/JOSHUA-BELL-ASMF

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 1:00pm

Melissa Kleinbart cello

Amos Yang cello

Information: jccsf.org/event/the-san-francisco-symphony-presents-a-purim-community-concert

SPECIAL EVENT

Itzhak Perlman with the San Francisco Symphony

Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 7:30pm

Itzhak Perlman conductor and violin

San Francisco Symphony

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, BWV 1041

JOHANNES BRAHMS *Academic Festival* Overture

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 8

Tickets: \$75–450

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/ITZHAK-PERLMAN-SF-SYMPHONY

SPECIAL EVENT

John Malkovich in Aleksey Igudesman's *The Music Critic*

Friday, March 6, 2026, at 7:30pm

Aleksey Igudesman conductor and violin

John Malkovich guest artist

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$75–275

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/John-Malkovich

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Bayview Branch

Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 12:00pm

Wyatt Underhill violin

Matthew Young viola

Anne Richardson cello

Information: sfpl.org/events/2026/03/07/celebration-open-house

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 2:00pm

Radu Paponiu conductor

Hannah Cho soprano
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

JEAN SIBELIUS *Finlandia*

JENNIFER HIGDON *blue cathedral*

GUSTAV MAHLER Symphony No. 4

Tickets: \$40–75

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/YOUTH-ORCHESTRA-MAR

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Excelsior Branch
Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:00pm

Anne Richardson cello
Daniel G. Smith bass

Information: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Mar-12

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Brahms 2 & Dvořák's Cello Concerto

Friday, March 13, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 7:30pm [UC Davis]

Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 2:00pm

Daniele Rustioni conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]
Daniel Müller-Schott cello [Orchestral Series Debut]
San Francisco Symphony

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK Cello Concerto

JOHANNES BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

Tickets: \$30–199

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/BRAHMS-DVORAK

Inside Music Talks: Friday, March 13 from 6:30pm–7:00pm and Sunday, March 15 from 1:00pm–1:30pm: Preconcert talks with soprano Morgan Balfour and pianist Allegra Chapman, hosted by Benjamin Pesetsky, SF Symphony Associate Director of Editorial and Inside Music Talks, and featuring a special performance of Brahms's "*Wiegenlied*" and Dvořák's "*Kěž duch můj sám*," will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, April 5 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.

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Pinchas Zukerman & Shai Wosner

Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 7:30pm

Pinchas Zukerman violin

Shai Wosner piano

Works of **JOHANNES BRAHMS**

Violin Sonata No. 1 in G major, Opus 78

Violin Sonata No. 2 in A major, Opus 100

Scherzo in C minor from *F-A-E* Sonata

Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Opus 108

Tickets: \$30–175

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/PINCHAS-ZUKERMAN-SHAI-WOSNER

SPECIAL EVENT

Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY

Celebrating FINAL FANTASY XIV and XVI

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 7:30pm

Arnie Roth conductor

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$80–235

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Final-Fantasy-Distant-Worlds

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Orozco-Estrada Conducts Dvořák 7

Friday, March 20, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 7:30pm

Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 2:00pm

Andrés Orozco-Estrada conductor
Jan Lisiecki piano
San Francisco Symphony

CARL MARIA VON WEBER Overture to *Euryanthe*

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat major, K.271

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 7

Tickets: \$30–185

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/DVORAK-7-SYMPHONY

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, April 12 at 7:00pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Symphonie fantastique & Jean-Yves Thibaudet

Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 2:00pm

Friday, March 27, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 7:30pm

Philippe Jordan conductor
Jean-Yves Thibaudet piano
San Francisco Symphony

CLAUDE DEBUSSY *Prélude à L'après-midi d'un faune*

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS Piano Concerto No. 5, *Egyptian*

HECTOR BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

Tickets: \$30–199

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/BRAHMS-DVORAK

Inside Music Talks: Thursday, March 26 immediately following the performance: A postconcert discussion will be presented from the stage, hosted by Sarah Cahill from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Friday, March 27 from 6:30pm–7:00pm and Saturday, March 28 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: Preconcert talks with Sarah Cahill from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, April 19 at 7:00pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Presidio Branch

Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 2:30pm

Florin Parvulescu violin

Victor Romasevich violin

Information: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Mar-28

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Open rehearsals are endowed by a bequest from The Estate of Katharine Hanrahan.

Inside Music Talks are supported in memory of Horacio Rodriguez.

Daniel Müller-Schott's and Daniele Rustioni's appearances are generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.

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Thursday matinee concerts are endowed by a gift in memory of Rhoda Goldman.

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