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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / OCTOBER 1, 2025

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY NOVEMBER 2025 PROGRAMMING

Orchestral Series

November 6–8 Karina Canellakis leads the SF Symphony in Antonín Dvořák's *Scherzo capriccioso*, Sergei Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 featuring Alexandre Kantorow in his Orchestral Series debut, and Jean Sibelius's *Four Legends of the Kalevala*

November 20–22 Violinist Alexi Kenney makes his Orchestral Series debut as violinist and leader in a chamber orchestra program featuring Johann Sebastian Bach's *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 5 featuring Kenney, harpsichord player Jonathan Dimmock, and SF Symphony Principal Flute Yubeen Kim in his Orchestral Series solo debut; Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, and works by Olli Mustonen and Barbara Strozzi

Special Events and Great Performers Series

November 1 San Francisco Symphony presents its 18th annual Día de los Muertos celebration featuring conductor Lina González-Granados and cellist Santiago Cañón-Valencia

November 4 Itzhak Perlman performs a violin recital in his 80th birthday season featuring works by Antonín Dvořák, César Frank, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

November 13–14 Sarah Hicks conducts Danny Elfman's Music from the Films of Tim Burton, featuring Elfman and violinist Sandy Cameron

November 16 Cellist Gautier Capuçon presents *Gaïa*, a recital of world premiere works by 16 contemporary composers, commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony in collaboration with Capuçon for this project

Film Series

Sarah Hicks conducts live-to-picture performances of Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (November 25) and Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* (November 28–29)

SF Symphony Youth Orchestra

November 23 Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu and the SFSYO open their 2025–26 season with a concert of works by Johannes Brahms, Antonín Dvořák, and Gabriela Ortiz, as well as Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto featuring violinist Aaron Ma, winner of the 2025 SFSYO Concerto Competition

Chamber Music Concerts

November 8 & 15 SF Symphony musicians perform free Community Chamber Concerts at the SF Public Library's Ortega Branch and Mission Bay Branch

November 9 SF Symphony musicians present a chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall

November 16 SF Symphony Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik, cellist Peter Wyrick, and pianist Anton Nel perform a chamber music program at the Legion of Honor

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony's November programming lineup features two Orchestral Series programs led by guest conductor Karina Canellakis and violinist Alexi Kenney; the SF Symphony's 18th annual Día de los Muertos program; a recital by violinist Itzhak Perlman; and Gautier Capuçon: *Gaïa*, a cello recital featuring world premiere works by 16 contemporary composers, all commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony in collaboration with Capuçon. The month also includes live-to-picture film series performances of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Barbie*; a program of music from Tim Burton's films, featuring composer and vocalist Danny Elfman and violinist Sandy Cameron; the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra's season-opening performance with Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu; and chamber music concerts at Davies Symphony Hall, the Gunn Theater at the Legion of Honor, and the SF Public Library Ortega Branch and Mission Bay Branch.



Orchestral Series

November 6–8: Canellakis Conducts Prokofiev & Sibelius

Karina Canellakis, Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, returns to the San Francisco Symphony to conduct Antonín Dvořák's *Scherzo capriccioso*, which the composer wrote while mourning his mother. Alexandre Kantorow makes his Orchestral Series debut performing Sergei

Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3, which the composer wrote in 1921 for the Chicago Symphony, with whom he premiered the concerto as soloist. Canellakis also leads the Orchestra in Jean Sibelius's *Four Legends from the Kalevala*, which depicts the adventures of Lemminkäinen, a heroic figure of Finnish mythology.

November 20–22: Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*

Violinist Alexi Kenney makes his Orchestral Series debut as violinist and leader in a chamber orchestra program featuring the first SF Symphony performances of Olli Mustonen's lively Nonet No. 2 for String Orchestra and Barbara Strozzi's sorrowful "*Che si può fare*," arranged by Kenney. Kenney, Principal Flute Yubeen Kim (Caroline H. Hume Chair), in his soloist debut, and harpsichordist Jonathan Dimmock join forces to perform Johann Sebastian Bach's dazzling *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 5 in D major. "I'm thrilled to be making my solo debut with the San Francisco Symphony in the 2025-26 season," said Kim. "Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto* No. 5 has been on my playlist for years—it's not programmed often these days, so I'm really looking forward to bringing it to life in concert, especially alongside Alexi Kenney." Kenney and the Orchestra close the program with Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, a series of virtuosic violin concertos that depict scenes shaped by elemental forces: wind, rain, sunshine, and snow.



Special Events and Great Performers Series

November 1: Día de los Muertos

Lina González-Granados, Resident Conductor of LA Opera, conducts the San Francisco Symphony's 18th annual Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration, featuring music by Ricardo Castro, Paul Desenne, Gabriela Lena Frank, Jimmy López, Arturo Márquez, and Gabriela Ortiz. Cellist Santiago Cañón-Valencia joins the Symphony to perform music from Márquez's *Espejos en la Arena*, and dancers from Casa Círculo Cultural are featured throughout the concert.

Every year leading up to the Symphony's Day of the Dead celebration, the lobbies of Davies Symphony Hall are transformed with immersive art installations and altars built by local artists to honor the living and the deceased. Curated by longtime SF Symphony collaborator Martha Rodríguez-Salazar, this year's theme honors the memory and perspective of children by commemorating Día de los Angelitos, or Day of the Little Angels, celebrated on November 1. The event includes preconcert activities for families, including live *catrinas* and interactive altars.

November 4: Itzhak Perlman Violin Recital

Violinist Itzhak Perlman returns to Davies Symphony Hall in his 80th birthday season accompanied by his longtime recital partner, pianist Rohan De Silva. 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 of violin showpieces including Wolfgang

Amadeus Mozart's Violin Sonata No. 2 in G major, K.301; César Frank's Violin Sonata in A major; and Antonín Dvořák's Sonatina in G major for Violin and Piano, Opus 100.

November 13-14: Danny Elfman's Music from the Films of Tim Burton

In celebration of the 40-year creative partnership of composer and musician Danny Elfman and director Tim Burton, Sarah Hicks conducts the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and violinist Sandy Cameron in pieces from Elfman's iconic scores while film clips and original concept artwork by Burton play on a large screen. Elfman himself will perform as part of the program. The concert features music from the films *Alice in Wonderland*, *Beetlejuice*, *Batman*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Frankenweenie*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and more.

November 16: Gautier Capuçon: *Gaïa*

Cellist Gautier Capuçon performs *Gaïa*, a recital of world-premiere works by 16 contemporary composers, commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony in collaboration with Capuçon for this project. The recital features works composed by an all-star lineup of contemporary composers, including Bryce Dessner, Joe Hisaishi, Missy Mazzoli, Gabriela Montero, Nico Muhly, Max Richter, Ayanna Witter-Johnson, and more. The recital will also feature a new work by composer and cellist Quenton Xavier Blache, who Capuçon anonymously selected for a new commission from a pool of applicants under the umbrella of the 2023 Emerging Black Composers Project. In this program, Capuçon is joined by pianist Jérôme Ducros; featured composer and cellist Quenton Xavier Blache; featured composer, cellist, and vocalist Ayanna Witter-Johnson; and SF Symphony Youth Orchestra cellists Timothy Huang, Anthony Jung, Melissa Lam, Ethan Lee, Claire Topper, and Cara Wang.

Capuçon brings this program to the stage mere days after the release of his album *Gaïa*, which is dedicated to and inspired by the Earth. He says, "This unique album brings together 17 pieces by 16 composers from different cultures, worlds, and musical genres. Each piece gives its own voice to the cello, immersing us in the power and depth of nature and the Earth, the source of life." All 17 works will be featured on the *Gaïa* recording, which will be released by Erato Records and available on all streaming platforms on November 7. A related lobby exhibit is on display in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies now through October 14.

Please note that the start time of this concert has changed to 7:00pm. This program is presented without intermission.



Film Series

November 25: *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*—Film with Live Orchestra

Sarah Hicks conducts Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* live-to-picture with the San Francisco Symphony. The film features an Academy Award-winning score by Tan Dun and tells

the story of two warriors (played by Chow Yun-fat and Michelle Yeoh) who cross paths with a thief (played by Zhang Ziyi).

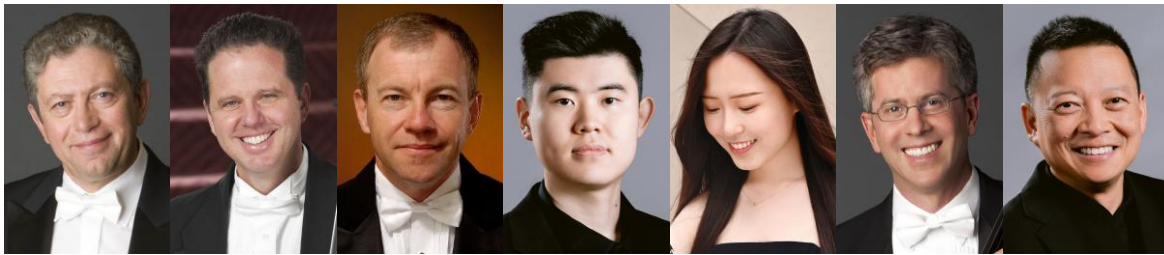
November 28–29: *Barbie the Movie*: In Concert

Sarah Hicks leads the Orchestra in Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* live-to-picture, featuring a Grammy Award-nominated score by Mark Ronson and Andrew Wyatt. In this 2023 comedy, Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colorful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans.

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

November 23: San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu conducts the first San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra concert of the 2025–26 season. The program features violinist Aaron Ma, winner of the 2025 SFSYO Concerto Competition, in Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, as well as Gabriela Ortiz's *Kauyumari*, Johannes Brahms's *Academic Festival Overture*, and Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 8.



Chamber Music Concerts

November 8 & 15: Free Concerts at San Francisco Public Library Ortega Branch and Mission Bay Branch

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 November 8 at 12:00pm at the San Francisco Public Library's Ortega Branch, Bass Bowen Ha (Lawrence Metcalf Second Century Chair) and Second Clarinet Yuhsin Galaxy Su perform a [Community Chamber Concert](#) and engage in a Q&A with the audience. On November 15 at 2:00pm at the San Francisco Public Library's Mission Bay Branch, Bass Charles Chandler and Assistant Principal Cello Amos Yang (Karel & Lida Urbanek Chair) 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.

November 9: Chamber Music at Davies Symphony Hall

In this chamber music concert, San Francisco Symphony musicians perform Erwin Schulhoff's Concertino for Flute, Viola, and Double Bass; Maurice Ravel's Piano Trio in A minor; and Ludwig van Beethoven's Septet in E-flat major.

November 16: Chamber Music at Gunn Theater at Legion of Honor

This chamber music program at the Gunn Theater at the Legion of Honor features SF Symphony Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik (Naoum Blinder Chair), former Symphony cellist Peter

Wyrick, and guest pianist Anton Nel performing Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Trio in E-flat major; Variations on “*Ich bin der Schneider Kakadu*,” and Piano Trio in B-flat major, Opus 97, *Archduke*.

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.

SPECIAL EVENT

Día de los Muertos

Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 3:00pm

Lina González-Granados conductor

Santiago Cañón-Valencia cello

Casa Círculo Cultural

San Francisco Symphony

GABRIELA ORTIZ *Kauyumari*

ARTURO MÁRQUEZ Music from *Espejos en la Arena*

RICARDO CASTRO Intermezzo from *Atzimba*

PAUL DESENNE *Hipnosis Mariposa*

JIMMY LÓPEZ *Loud*

ARTURO MÁRQUEZ *Danzón* No. 2

GABRIELA LENA FRANK The Mestizo Waltz from Three Latin American Dances

Tickets: \$27.50–175 (tickets for children and young adults under 18 are 50% off)

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/DIA-DE-LOS-MUERTOS

Custom Food and Beverages: Celebrate Día de los Muertos with a custom drink inspired by the movie *Coco*. Kids can enjoy the Poco Loco, a sparkling, tropical, non-alcoholic fruit punch, while grownups can add rum or tequila for a Muy Loco margarita. Hot chocolate and Mexican hot chocolate, along with festive themed snacks for the holiday, including tamales and skull cookies, will also be available.

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Itzhak Perlman Violin Recital

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 7:30pm

Itzhak Perlman violin

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Violin Sonata No. 2 in G major, K.301

CÉSAR FRANK Violin Sonata in A major

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK Sonatina in G major for Violin and Piano, Opus 100

Tickets: \$75–369

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

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Canellakis Conducts Prokofiev & Sibelius

Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, November 7, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 7:30pm

Karina Canellakis conductor

Alexandre Kantorow piano [Orchestral Series Debut]

San Francisco Symphony

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK *Scherzo capriccioso*

SERGEI PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 3

JEAN SIBELIUS *Four Legends from the Kalevala*

Tickets: \$30–155

Open Rehearsal ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/PROKOFIEV-SIBELIUS-OR

Concert ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/PROKOFIEV-SIBELIUS

Pre-rehearsal talk: Thursday, November 6 from 9:00am–9:30am: A pre-rehearsal talk will be presented from the stage with Scott Foglesong from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Free to all ticketholders.

Preconcert talks: Thursday, November 6 from 6:30pm–7:00pm, Friday, November 7 from 6:30pm–7:00pm, and Saturday, November 8 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: Preconcert talks with Scott

Foglesong 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, November 30, 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.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Ortega Branch

Sunday, November 8, 2025, at 12:00pm

Yuhsin Galaxy Su clarinet

Bowen Ha bass

Information: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Nov-8

CHAMBER SERIES

Davies Symphony Hall

Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 2:00pm

David Chernyavsky violin

Wyatt Underhill violin

Katarzyna Bryla viola

Leonid Plashinov-Johnson viola

Anne Richardson cello

Amos Yang cello

Bowen Ha bass

Daniel Smith bass

Yubeen Kim flute

Matthew Griffith clarinet

Joshua Elmore bassoon

Jessica Valeri horn

Asya Gulua piano

ERWIN SCHULHOFF Concertino for Flute, Viola, and Double Bass

MAURICE RAVEL Piano Trio in A minor

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Septet in E-flat major, Opus 20

Tickets: \$60

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/CHAMBER-DSH-NOV

SPECIAL EVENT

Danny Elfman's Music from the Films of Tim Burton

Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, November 14, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sarah Hicks conductor

Danny Elfman guest artist

Sandy Cameron violin

San Francisco Symphony

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

Tickets: \$99–299

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Danny-Elfman-Burton

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Mission Bay Branch

Sunday, November 15, 2025, at 2:00pm

Amos Yang cello

Charles Chandler bass

Information: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Nov-15

CHAMBER SERIES

Gunn Theater at Legion of Honor

Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 2:00pm

Alexander Barantschik violin

Peter Wyrick cello

Anton Nel piano

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Piano Trio in E-flat major, Opus 1, No. 1

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Variations on “*Ich bin der Schneider Kakadu*,” Opus 121

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Piano Trio in B-flat major, Opus 97, *Archduke*

Tickets: \$125

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/LEGION-OF-HONOR-NOV

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Gautier Capuçon: *Gaïa*

Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 7:00pm

Gautier Capuçon cello

Quenton Blache cello

Ayanna Witter-Johnson cello and vocals

Jérôme Ducros piano

Members of the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra Cello Section

Timothy Huang

Anthony Jung

Melissa Lam

Ethan Lee

Claire Topper

Cara Wang

MAX RICHTER *Journey Sequence*

ARMAND AMAR *Boreas*

JEAN-BENOÎT DUNCKEL *Wake*

GABRIELA MONTERO *Sur le lac du Bourget*

OLIVIA BELLI *Tàmâr Metushelah*

MISSY MAZZOLI *The Usual Illusion*

JOE HISAISHI *Prélude pour violoncelle et piano*

LUDOVICO EINAUDI *Air*

XAVIER FOLEY *Ambition*

NICO MUHLY *Side Piece*

BRYCE DESSNER *Towards the Light*

ABEL SELAOCOE *Toro Tsa Kwa*

MICHAEL CANITROT *Never Say Never*

AYANNA WITTER-JOHNSON *Forever Home*

QUENTON BLACHE *Of Wind and Rain*

JASMINE BARNES *Life in Sunshine*

Tickets: \$30–129

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/GAUTIER-CAPUCON

Please note that the start time of this concert has changed to 7:00pm.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*

Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 2:00pm

Friday, November 21, 2025, at 7:30pm (Great Performers Series)

Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 7:30pm

Alexi Kenney violin and leader [Orchestral Series Debut]

Yubeen Kim flute [Orchestral Series Debut]

Jonathan Dimmock harpsichord

San Francisco Symphony

OLLI MUSTONEN Nonet No. 2 for String Orchestra [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

BARBARA STROZZI (arr. **Kenney**) “*Che si può fare*,” Opus 8, no.6 [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 5 in D major, BWV 1050

ANTONIO VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*

Tickets: \$30–189

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/VIVALDI-FOUR-SEASONS

Postconcert discussion: Thursday, November 20 from 4:00pm–4:30pm: A postconcert discussion will be presented from the stage with Alexi Kenney, hosted by Benjamin Pesetsky. Free to all ticketholders.

Preconcert talks: Friday, November 21 from 6:30pm–7:00pm and Saturday, November 22 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: Preconcert conversations with Alexi Kenney, hosted by Benjamin Pesetsky, will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, December 14, 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.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Sunday, November 23, 2025, at 2:00pm

Radu Paponiu conductor

Aaron Ma violin

Winner, 2025 SF Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

GABRIELA ORTIZ *Kauyumari*

FELIX MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto in E minor

JOHANNES BRAHMS *Academic Festival* Overture, Opus 80

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 8

Tickets: \$40–75

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

FILM SERIES

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—Film with Live Orchestra

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sarah Hicks conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

TAN DUN composer

ANG LEE director

Tickets: \$99–225

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/CROUCHING-TIGER-HIDDEN-DRAGON

FILM SERIES

Barbie the Movie: In Concert

Friday, November 28, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, November 29, 2025, at 2:00pm

Sarah Hicks conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Barbie

MARK RONSON & ANDREW WYATT composers

GRETA GERWIG director

Tickets: \$109–230

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/BARBIE-IN-CONCERT

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The November 1 and November 6–8 concerts are presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Chevron is the Presenting Sponsor of the Great Performers Series.

Alexandre Kantorow's appearance is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.

The November 6–8 concerts are supported in part by the Mr. and Mrs. George J. Otto Sibelius Fund.

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

Preconcert talks are supported in memory of Horacio Rodriguez.

Lead support for the San Francisco Symphony Chorus this season is provided through a visionary gift from an anonymous donor.

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

The Youth Orchestra concerts are supported by Bank of America.

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