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

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2024 HOLIDAY SEASON TAKES PLACE DECEMBER 1–21, 2024, AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Special guests include Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández in *A Merry-Achi Christmas*; Troupe Vertigo in *Holiday Cirque*; vocalists Peabo Bryson, Jackie Evancho, Jennifer Holliday, BeBe Winans, and the Bay Area Super Choir in *The Colors of Christmas*; and Peaches Christ, Lady Camden, Kylie Minono, Alex Newell, Nikola Printz, Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Latrice Royale, and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in *Holiday Gaiety*

Family-friendly performances include the Symphony's annual Deck the Hall celebrations, *Holiday Cirque*, *Peter and the Wolf* performed by the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra, and holiday films *The Muppet Christmas Carol* and *Elf*

The SF Symphony performs live accompaniment to two iconic holiday films: *Elf*, conducted by the film's composer John Debney, and *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, conducted by Susie Benchasil Seiter

Conductor Stephen Stubbs leads SF Symphony, Chorus, and vocal soloists in George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* and Symphony's popular Holiday Brass program returns

Tickets for holiday concerts available at sfsymphony.org/holiday

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco Symphony's 2024 holiday season, December 1–21, features a festive lineup of programs, including performances of traditional Christmas classical music, family-friendly events, high-flying performances, holiday film presentations, and a star-studded lineup of guest artists. Throughout December, the lobbies of Davies Symphony Hall are transformed into a cheerful holiday wonderland, complete with towering

trees decorated with handmade ornaments made by children and volunteers from local schools and nonprofit community organizations.

Visit sfsymphony.org/holidays for the full season lineup.

A Merry-Achi Christmas (December 1)

On **December 1**, Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández returns to Davies Symphony Hall to kick off the holidays with a festive musical tribute to Mexico's Christmas traditions, performing Mexican and American holiday favorites in [A Merry-Achi Christmas](#). *The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this performance.*

Holiday Cirque (December 2)

On **December 2**, Los Angeles-based theatrical circus company Troupe Vertigo and conductor Ming Luke join the San Francisco Symphony for an awe-inspiring, family-friendly [Holiday Cirque](#) performance. Troupe Vertigo's acrobats, jugglers, and high-flying aerialists take to the stage—and above it—for a gravity-defying performance of circus feats.

The Colors of Christmas (December 3–4)

On **December 3–4**, [The Colors of Christmas](#) returns to Davies Symphony Hall for two evenings of pop hits and holiday favorites performed by vocalists Peabo Bryson, Jackie Evancho, Jennifer Holliday, and BeBe Winans with Pastor Jeffrey Williams and the Bay Area Super Choir. Gail Deadrick conducts the program. The Colors of Christmas was a holiday staple from 1993 to 2015 and made a welcome return to the San Francisco Symphony's winter schedule in 2022.

Handel's *Messiah* (December 6–7)

On **December 6–7**, conductor Stephen Stubbs leads the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus in performances of [George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*](#), featuring soprano Amanda Forsythe, countertenor John Holiday, tenor Aaron Sheehan, and baritone Douglas Williams. Stubbs and all four vocal soloists make their Orchestral Series debuts with these performances. Handel's *Messiah* was an instant classic soon after its 1742 premiere and has been a holiday tradition around the world ever since. Through a dramatic series of arias, recitatives, and choruses, Handel offers a musical meditation on Christ's birth, life, and resurrection—and his message of redemption.

Deck the Hall (December 8)

[Deck the Hall](#), a beloved family holiday tradition, brings the festive spirit to Davies Symphony Hall with two kid-friendly matinee performances on **December 8** at 11:00am and 3:00pm. Conducted by the San Francisco Symphony's Resident Conductor of Engagement and Education Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, this annual holiday children's concert and celebration features an array of musical performances from Symphony musicians and special guests. This year, the one-hour program highlights the talented young singers of the San Francisco Boys Chorus and the Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco in holiday classics, and features students from the San Francisco Ballet Training Program in selections from Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. Also joining the Symphony for Deck the Hall is a quartet from the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, performing "Joy to the World"; klezmer ensemble Kugelplex; and members of the theatrical circus company Troupe Vertigo. The concert ends with a holiday sing-along complete with costumed characters.

To make the experience even more memorable, guests can purchase a [VIP Package](#) that includes premium concert seating, a preconcert VIP celebration, and other perks. Deck the Hall is chaired by Jessica Pascolini and planned with the help of the San Francisco Symphony Junior Committee League, led by Junior Committee President Rachel Fishman. Proceeds from this event support Deck the Hall Community Day, which takes place this year on December 9 and invites 3,500 children from public programs to this holiday concert free of charge, providing many of them with their first opportunity to visit a concert hall and hear a live orchestral performance. Proceeds provide additional support for the Symphony's many artistic, education, and community programs.

The Louise M. Davies Foundation is Deck the Hall's Presenting Partner. Bank of America is Supporting Partner. Kathy H. Chan Family Fund, Hannah & Bianca-The J.C. Kellogg Foundation, and the Levchin Family are Community Impact Partners.

Holiday Brass (December 11)

On **December 11**, members of the San Francisco Symphony brass, percussion, and timpani sections, conducted by Edwin Outwater, present a festive mix of classical and popular holiday selections in [Holiday Brass](#).

Holiday films: *The Muppet Christmas Carol*—In Concert (December 12 & 14) and *Elf*—In Concert (December 19–21)

The holiday season includes screenings of two holiday-inspired films, featuring the San Francisco Symphony performing the scores live to picture as the films are projected onto a large screen above the stage. On **December 12 & 14**, conductor Susie Benchasil Seiter and the San Francisco Symphony perform Brian Henson's [The Muppet Christmas Carol](#)—a magical setting of Charles Dickens' classic tale—featuring Miles Goodman's score performed alongside the film. Michael Caine stars as penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge alongside The Muppets.

On **December 19–21**, John Debney conducts the San Francisco Symphony in his own score to [Elf](#) alongside Jon Favreau's charming film. Debney has written the scores for countless films, including *Hocus Pocus*, *Iron Man 2*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Greatest Showman*, and *The Passion of the Christ*, for which he received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Score.

Holiday Gaiety with Peaches Christ & Edwin Outwater (December 13)

On **December 13**, the SF Symphony presents [Holiday Gaiety](#)—a festive holiday variety show co-emceed by conductor Edwin Outwater and San Francisco drag sensation Peaches Christ. The adult-themed program features a star-studded lineup including drag performers Lady Camden and Latrice Royale from *RuPaul's Drag Race*; San Francisco-based drag performer Kylie Minono; drag artist Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; vocalist Alex Newell (*Glee*, *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist*); mezzo-soprano and aerialist Nikola Printz; and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. *Please be advised this show may contain adult content and explicit language.*

SF Symphony Youth Orchestra performs Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* (December 15)

On **December 15**, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra presents its annual performance of Sergei Prokofiev's timeless musical fable [Peter and the Wolf](#), conducted by Radu Paponiu, Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, and featuring a special guest narrator to be announced. The program opens with Antonin Dvořák's Slavonic Dance in C major, Opus 72, no.7, followed by selections from Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* Suite and the traditional Hanukkah song *Mis Zeh Hidlik*. After *Peter and the Wolf*, Paponiu and the Youth Orchestra invite the audience to join them in a festive sing-along of popular holiday carols.

The Youth Orchestra's performance of *Peter and the Wolf* is an annual holiday favorite and has been a regular part of the Orchestra's season since 1985. Past narrators have included Richard Dreyfuss, John Lithgow, Bobby McFerrin, Rita Moreno, Kathy Najimy, Linda Ronstadt, Sharon Stone, W. Kamau Bell, SF Symphony Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas, and the late Leonard Nimoy and Robin Williams, among many other lauded actors, comedians, musicians, and public figures.

Holidays with Boyz II Men and the SF Symphony (December 17–18)

Legendary Grammy Award-winning group [Boyz II Men](#) joins conductor **Edwin Outwater** and the San Francisco Symphony for two special holiday performances, **December 17–18**. Boyz II Men will perform holiday favorites as well as some of their most-loved hits, including "End of the Road" and "Motownphilly" with the Orchestra. The iconic group returns to Davies Symphony Hall following their debut with Outwater and the San Francisco Symphony in two performances in April 2022.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Tickets

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony can be purchased via sfsymphony.org or by calling the San Francisco Symphony Box Office at 415.864.6000. Tickets for children under 18 are 50% off for *The Muppets Christmas Carol*—In Concert on December 12 and 14, the SFSYO's *Peter and the Wolf* performance on December 15, and *Elf*—In Concert on December 19–21.

Location:

Davies Symphony Hall is located at 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2024 HOLIDAY CONCERTS

HOLIDAY

A Merry-Achi Christmas

Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 7:30pm

Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández guest artist

**The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this concert.*

HOLIDAY

Holiday Cirque

Monday, December 2, 2024, at 7:30pm

Ming Luke conductor

Troupe Vertigo

San Francisco Symphony

HOLIDAY

The Colors of Christmas

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 7:30pm

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7:30pm

Gail Deadrick conductor

Peabo Bryson vocalist

Jackie Evancho vocalist

Jennifer Holliday vocalist

BeBe Winans vocalist

The Bay Area Super Choir, Pastor Jeffrey Williams director

San Francisco Symphony

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Handel's *Messiah*

Friday, December 6, 2024, at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 7:30pm

Stephen Stubbs conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Amanda Forsythe soprano [Orchestral Series Debut]

John Holiday countertenor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Aaron Sheehan tenor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Douglas Williams baritone [Orchestral Series Debut]

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

San Francisco Symphony

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL *Messiah*

SPECIAL EVENT

Deck the Hall

Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 11:00am & 3:00pm

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser conductor
Young Women's Choral Projects, Matthew Otto director
San Francisco Boys Chorus, Ian Robertson director
Oakland Interfaith Gospel Quartet, Terrance Kelly director
San Francisco Ballet Training Program, Patrick Armand director
Kugelplex Klezmer Ensemble
Members of Troupe Vertigo
San Francisco Symphony

HOLIDAY

Holiday Brass

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor
Members of the San Francisco Symphony

HOLIDAY

The Muppet Christmas Carol—In Concert

Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 7:30pm

Susie Benchasil Seiter conductor
San Francisco Symphony

The Muppet Christmas Carol

MILES GOODWIN composer

BRIAN HENSON director

HOLIDAY

Holiday Gaiety

Friday, December 13, 2024, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor and co-emcee
Peaches Christ co-emcee
Alex Newell vocalist
Latrice Royale drag performer
Lady Camden drag performer
Nikola Printz mezzo-soprano and aerialist
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Jacob Stensberg director and conductor
Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Kylie Minono drag performer
San Francisco Symphony

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

HOLIDAY

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra: *Peter and the Wolf*

Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 2:00pm

Radu Paponiu conductor

Narrator to be announced

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

ANTONIN DVOŘÁK Slavonic Dance in C major, Opus 72, no.7

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Selections from *The Nutcracker Suite*

TRADITIONAL *Mis Zeh Hidlik*

JOHANN STRAUSS, JR. *Thunder and Lightning* Polka

SERGEI PROKOFIEV *Peter and the Wolf*

TRADITIONAL Carol Sing-along

HOLIDAY

Holidays with Boyz II Men and the SF Symphony

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 7:30pm

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor

Boyz II Men

San Francisco Symphony

HOLIDAY

***Elf*—In Concert**

Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 7:30pm

Friday, December 20, 2024, at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 2:00pm

John Debney conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Elf

JOHN DEBNEY composer

JON FAVREAU director

Elf and all related characters and elements © & ™ New Line Productions, Inc.

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ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

The San Francisco Symphony receives support from more than 9,500 individual donors and 160 partner institutions.

San Francisco Arts Commission is Lead Municipal Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

Chevron is the inaugural Second Century Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

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The December 4 Colors of Christmas concert, December 13 Holiday Gaiety concert, and December 17 Holidays with Boyz II Men concert are presented in partnership with San Francisco Arts Commission.

The December 6–7 Handel's Messiah concerts are sponsored by the James Schwabacher Vocal Artists Fund.

Louise M. Davies Foundation is Presenting Sponsor of Deck the Hall.

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