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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY APRIL 2026 PROGRAMMING

Orchestral Series

April 9–11 Bernard Labadie conducts Bach's *Easter Oratorio*; Sinfonia to *Wir danken dir, Gott*; and *Magnificat* in D major with soprano Joëlle Harvey, countertenor Hugh Cutting, tenor Andrew Haji, baritone Joshua Hopkins, and the SF Symphony Chorus

April 17–19 Simone Young leads the Orchestra in Ella Macens's *The Space Between Stars*, Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1 with Gautier Capuçon, and selections from Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelung*

Great Performers Series and Shenson Spotlight Series

April 15 Shenson Spotlight artist Nathan Amaral performs a violin recital with music by Franck, Mignone, and Mozart, accompanied by pianist Sophiko Simsive

April 19 Joshua Bell plays a violin recital with pianist Shai Wosner featuring works by Grieg, Prokofiev, and Schubert

April 26 Yuja Wang and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, led by concertmaster Matthew Truscott, perform music by Prokofiev and Alexander Tsfasman

SoundBox

April 10–11 Composer Gabriella Smith presents *Urban Forest*, a SoundBox program

Family-Friendly Programming

April 25 Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, Resident Conductor of Engagement and Education, leads the Orchestra in the fifth annual Teen Night concert

Film Series

April 30–May 2 Shih-Hung Young conducts Howard Shore’s score to *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* live-to-picture, featuring the SF Symphony Chorus and vocalist Kaitlyn Lusk

Chamber Music Concerts

April 11 & 25 SF Symphony musicians perform free Community Chamber Concerts at the SF Public Library’s Visitacion Valley and Merced branches

April 12 SF Symphony musicians present a chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall

April 12 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 April programming lineup features two Orchestral Series programs led by guest conductors Bernard Labadie and Simone Young, a Shenson Spotlight Series debut recital with violinist Nathan Amaral and pianist Sophiko Simsive, a violin recital with Joshua Bell, and a concert with pianist Yuja Wang and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra led by concertmaster Matthew Truscott. The month also includes a SoundBox program curated by composer Gabriella Smith, the SF Symphony’s fifth annual Teen Night concert, live-to-picture film series performances of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, free chamber music concerts at the SF Public Library, and chamber music concerts at Davies Symphony Hall and the Legion of Honor.



Orchestral Series

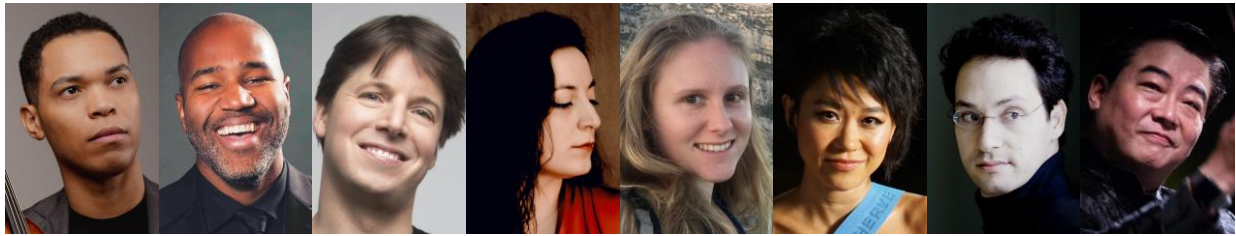
April 9–11: Labadie Conducts Bach’s *Easter Oratorio*

Bernard Labadie, music director of Les Violins du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec, leads the Orchestra in the first SF Symphony performances of Johann Sebastian Bach’s *Easter Oratorio*, which reflects the joy and rebirth of the Easter season. He also conducts Bach’s Sinfonia to the cantata *Wir danken dir, Gott*, and *Magnificat* in D major, which depicts a musical setting of Mary’s song of thanksgiving. *Easter Oratorio* and *Magnificat* both feature soprano Joëlle Harvey, countertenor Hugh Cutting in his Orchestral Series debut, tenor Andrew Haji in his Orchestral Series debut, baritone Joshua Hopkins, and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus.

April 17–19: Simone Young & Gautier Capuçon

Simone Young, chief conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, conducts the first SF Symphony performances of *The Space Between Stars* by Ella Macens, who “wanted to convey the energy and magic of our night sky.” Gautier Capuçon joins Young and the Orchestra to

perform Camille Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1, filled with sonic surprises and glimmers of Liszt and Wagner. The program also includes Young's own selection of orchestral excerpts from Richard Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelung*, an epic cycle of works based on Germanic legends.



Great Performers Series and Shenson Spotlight Series

April 15: Nathan Amaral

Violinist Nathan Amaral, joined by pianist Sophiko Simsive, performs a Spotlight Series recital including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Violin Sonata in B-flat major, K.378, Francisco Mignone's *Valsa de esquina* No. 2, and César Franck's Violin Sonata. The Shenson Spotlight Series, now in its fifth season, features ascendant artists in their Davies Symphony Hall debuts. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Amaral has won the Grand Prize of both the Concert Artist Guild (CAG) and Young Concert Artist Trust (YCAT) competitions, and he is also the first prize winner of the 2024 Sphinx Competition. He has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Philharmonia Orchestra. Hailed as an "exceptional musician of rare talent" by pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Simsive began her studies at the age of three and, since then, has been invited as a recitalist to venues such as Berlin Philharmonie and Concertgebouw. She is the newest pianist of the Claremont Trio, and she holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Manhattan School of Music.

April 19: Joshua Bell Violin Recital

Violinist Joshua Bell, accompanied by pianist Shai Vosner, plays a recital featuring Franz Schubert's lyrical Violin Sonata in A major, also known as the "Duo" or "Grand Duo." Bell also performs Edvard Grieg's Violin Sonata No. 3, influenced by Norwegian folk music, and Sergei Prokofiev's virtuosic Violin Sonata No. 2, originally composed for flute.

April 26: Yuja Wang & Mahler Chamber Orchestra

Pianist Yuja Wang and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra led by concertmaster Matthew Truscott, perform Sergei Prokofiev's cheerful Symphony No. 1, *Classical* and the dramatic Piano Concerto No. 2, which the composer wrote in memory of a friend. Wang and the Orchestra also play Suite for Piano and Orchestra (Jazz Suite) by Alexander Tsfasman, a pianist and composer who helped pioneer the genre of Soviet Jazz. The concert is Mahler Chamber Orchestra's first appearance in the San Francisco Symphony's Great Performers Series.

SoundBox

April 10–11: Gabriella Smith: Urban Forest

Composer Gabriella Smith presents SoundBox: Urban Forest, a vivid musical topography marked by the sounds of forests, cliffs, desert plants, and found objects. 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.

Family-Friendly Programming

April 25: Teen Night

Resident Conductor of Engagement and Education Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser leads the Orchestra in the fifth annual Teen Night concert, an innovative concert aimed at teens and young adults, conceived and programed by Bartholomew-Poyser. *This concert is designed for ages 13 and up.*

Film Series

April 30–May 2: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*—Film with Live Orchestra

Shih-Hung Young conducts Howard Shore's Academy Award-winning score to *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* live-to-picture in a program featuring the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and vocalist Kaitlyn Lusk. The 11-time Academy Award-winning final installment of Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy depicts the final confrontation between the forces of good and evil fighting for control of the future of Middle-earth.



Chamber Music Concerts

April 11 & 25: Free Concerts at 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 **April 11** at 2:00pm at the **San Francisco Public Library's Visitacion Valley Branch**, violinists Kingston Ho and Yvette Kraft (Isaac Stern Chair), violist Matthew Young, and cellist Davis You (Lyman & Carol Casey Second Century Chair) perform a [Community Chamber Concert](#) and engage in a Q&A with the audience.

On **April 25** at 2:00pm at the **San Francisco Public Library's Merced Branch**, violinist Raushan Akhmedyarova and cellist Barbara Bogatin (Phyllis Blair Cello 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.

April 12: Chamber Music at Davies Symphony Hall

In this chamber music concert, San Francisco Symphony musicians perform Steve Reich's *Music for Pieces of Wood*, Jean Françaix's Octet, selections from Danish String Quartet's *Last Leaf*, and Johannes Brahms's Piano Quartet in C minor.

April 12: 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 Joseph Haydn's Piano Trio in A major; Cécile Chaminade's *Thème varié* in A major; Carl Czerny's Variations on a Theme by Rode, "La Ricordanza"; and Franz Schubert's Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat major.

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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Labadie Conducts Bach's *Easter Oratorio*

Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 7:30pm

Friday, April 10, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 7:30pm

Bernard Labadie conductor

Joëlle Harvey soprano

Hugh Cutting countertenor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Andrew Haji tenor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Joshua Hopkins baritone

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Easter Oratorio*, BWV 249 [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH Sinfonia to *Wir danken dir, Gott*, BWV 29

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Magnificat* in D major, BWV 243

Tickets: \$55–175

Open Rehearsal ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/OR-BACH-EASTER-ORATORIO

Concert ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/BACH-EASTER-ORATORIO

Inside Music Talks: Thursday, April 9 from 9:00am–9:30am: A pre-rehearsal talk will be presented from the stage with horn player and musicologist Alicia Mastromonaco. Thursday,

April 9 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; Friday, April 10 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; and Saturday, April 11 from 6:30–7:00pm: Preconcert talks will be presented from the stage with Alicia Mastromonaco. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, May 3 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

SoundBox: Urban Forest

Friday, April 10, 2026, at 8:30pm

Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 8:30pm

Gabriella Smith curator

Musicians of the San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$80

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/SoundBox-Gabriella-Smith

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Visitacion Valley Branch

Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 2:00pm

Kingston Ho violin

Yvette Kraft violin

Matthew Young viola

Davis You cello

Information: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Apr-11

CHAMBER SERIES

Davies Symphony Hall

Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 2:00pm

Olivia Chen violin

Jessie Fellows violin

Polina Sedukh violin

Chen Zhao violin

Katie Kadarauch viola

Christina King viola

Anne Richardson cello

Davis You cello

Daniel Smith bass

Carey Bell clarinet
Joshua Elmore bassoon
Haruka Fujii percussion
Stan Muncy percussion
Jacob Nissly percussion
Marty Thenell percussion
James Lee Wyatt III percussion
Yuhsin Galaxy Su piano

STEVE REICH *Music for Pieces of Wood*

JEAN FRANÇAIX Octet

DANISH STRING QUARTET Selections from *Last Leaf*

JOHANNES BRAHMS Piano Quartet in C minor

Tickets: \$60

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

CHAMBER SERIES

Gunn Theater at Legion of Honor
Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 2:00pm

Alexander Barantschik violin
Peter Wyrick cello
Anton Nel piano

JOSEPH HAYDN Piano Trio in A major, Hob. XV:18

CÉCILE CHAMINADE *Thème varié* in A major, Opus 89

CARL CZERNY Variations on a Theme by Rode, “La Ricordanza,” Opus 33

FRANZ SCHUBERT Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat major, D.898

Tickets: \$125

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

SHENSON SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Nathan Amaral
Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 7:30pm

Nathan Amaral violin
Sophiko Simsive piano

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Violin Sonata in B-flat major, K.378

FRANCISCO MIGNONE *Valsa de esquina* No. 2

CÉSAR FRANCK Violin Sonata in A major

Tickets: \$65

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Spotlight-Nathan-Amaral

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Simone Young & Gautier Capuçon

Friday, April 17, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 7:30pm

Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 2:00pm

Simone Young conductor

Gautier Capuçon cello

San Francisco Symphony

ELLA MACENS *The Space Between Stars* [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS Cello Concerto No. 1

RICHARD WAGNER (edition by Simone Young) Selections from *The Ring of the Nibelung*

Tickets: \$30–185

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

Inside Music Talks: Friday, April 17 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; Saturday, April 18 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; and Sunday, April 19 from 1:00pm–1:30pm: Preconcert talks will be presented from the stage with musicologist Laura Stanfield Prichard. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, May 10 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.

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Joshua Bell Violin Recital

Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 7:30pm

Joshua Bell violin
Shai Vosner piano

FRANZ SCHUBERT Violin Sonata in A major, D.574

EDVARD GRIEG Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Opus 45

SERGEI PROKOFIEV Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major, Opus 94b

Tickets: \$75–350

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

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Merced Branch
Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 2:00pm

Raushan Akhmedyarova violin
Barbara Bogatin cello

Information: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Apr-25

SPECIAL EVENT

Teen Night
Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 7:30pm

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser conductor
San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$45

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/TEEN-NIGHT

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Yuja Wang & Mahler Chamber Orchestra
Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 7:30pm

Yuja Wang piano and director
Matthew Truscott concertmaster and leader
Mahler Chamber Orchestra

SERGEI PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 1, *Classical*

ALEXANDER TSFASMAN Suite for Piano and Orchestra (Jazz Suite)

SERGEI PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 2

Tickets: \$225–349

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/YUJA-WANG-MCO

FILM SERIES

***The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*—Film with Live Orchestra**

Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 7:30pm

Friday, May 1, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 2:00pm

Shih-Hung Young conductor

Kaitlyn Lusk vocalist

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

HOWARD SHORE composer

PETER JACKSON director

Tickets: \$275–399

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/LOTR-RETURN-OF-THE-KING

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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.

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The Simone Young & Gautier Capuçon concerts are presented in honor of the San Francisco Symphony Life Governors in gratitude for their incredible years of service.

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Teen Night is sponsored by the Louise M. Davies Foundation.

The Yuja Wang & Mahler Chamber Orchestra is generously sponsored by Andy & Teri Goodman.

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