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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY SEPTEMBER 2026 PROGRAMMING

Season-Opening Festivities

September 24 Opening Gala, conducted by Giancarlo Guerrero, features violinist Hilary Hahn performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto on a program with John Adams's *The Chairman Dances* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio espagnol*

September 25 All San Francisco Concert, an annual concert presented in recognition of impactful community groups and nonprofit organizations across the Bay Area, features Giancarlo Guerrero with Principal Bassoon Joshua Elmore in his solo debut with the Symphony

Special Events

September 8 Jazz singer Samara Joy performs a program of original songs and jazz standards with conductor Anthony Parnter and the Orchestra

September 15 Folk musician Gregory Alan Isakov joins conductor Christopher Dragon and the SF Symphony for an evening featuring symphonic arrangements of his acclaimed songs

September 26 Oakland-based singer-songwriter Fantastic Negrito joins conductor Jonathan Taylor Rush and the Orchestra for a collaboration that brings his bold, genre-defying sound into a symphonic setting

Orchestral Series

September 18–19 David Afkham conducts Unsuk Chin's *subito con forza*, Schumann's Symphony No. 4, and Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Garrick Ohlsson

Film Series

September 10 & 12 Anthony Parnter conducts John Williams's score to *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* live-to-picture

Chamber Music Concerts

September 13 SF Symphony musicians perform at Flower Piano in Golden Gate Park

September 20 Pianist Garrick Ohlsson joins SF Symphony musicians for a chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—In September, the San Francisco Symphony kicks off its 2026–27 season with the Opening Gala featuring violinist Hilary Hahn, as well as the annual All San Francisco Concert with SF Symphony Principal Bassoon Joshua Elmore, both conducted by Giancarlo Guerrero. The month also features one-night-only orchestral performances with Samara Joy, Gregory Alan Isakov, and Fantastic Negrito; an Orchestral Series program with David Afkham and Garrick Ohlsson; live-to-picture film series performances of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*; a free chamber music concert at Golden Gate Park; and a chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall.



Season-Opening Festivities

September 24: Opening Gala with Hilary Hahn

The San Francisco Symphony celebrates the start of the 2026–27 season with the Opening Gala on September 24, with a program led by Giancarlo Guerrero and featuring superstar violinist Hilary Hahn performing Felix Mendessohn's Lyrical Violin Concerto. The program also features John Adams's energetic *The Chairman Dances*, known as a "foxtrot for orchestra," and Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov's orchestral showcase, *Capriccio espagnol*, inspired by Spanish folk music. Patrons can reserve a VIP sponsorship package, including exclusive access to preconcert receptions and a vibrant postconcert dinner, at sfsymphony.org/gala.

The 2026 Opening Gala presenting sponsor is [Zenni Optical](#). The supporting sponsor is [Harry Winston, Inc.](#) In-kind support for the Opening Gala is provided by [The Caviar Co](#), [Chandon](#), [Luxardo](#) and [Nikka Vodka](#).

Proceeds from the Gala directly support the Symphony's acclaimed education, community, and artistic programs, which serve tens of thousands throughout the Bay Area each year.

September 25: All San Francisco Concert

On September 25, Giancarlo Guerrero leads the San Francisco Symphony in the Orchestra's annual All San Francisco Concert. The program includes John Adams's *The Chairman Dances*, Carl Maria von Weber's Bassoon Concerto featuring SF Symphony Principal Bassoon Joshua Elmore in his solo debut with the Symphony, Gabriela Lena Frank's *Three Latin American Dances*, and Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio espagnol*. Now in its 47th year, the All San Francisco Concert honors local social service and neighborhood organizations that work to make the Bay Area a more just and equitable place. A special San Francisco Symphony program is offered at a subsidized ticket price of \$12 for those involved with Bay Area nonprofits, social services, and grassroots organizations. Previous concert attendees include community members, volunteers, and employees from a broad range of local organizations. Founded by native San Franciscan, veteran philanthropist, patron of the arts, and San Francisco Symphony Life Governor Ellen Magnin Newman, and led by an advisory committee of nonprofit and community leaders, the All San Francisco Concert is an important pillar of the San Francisco Symphony's ongoing work to make the Symphony an accessible, welcoming space for all Bay Area residents, regardless of income. A limited number of \$12 tickets will be released for sale to the general public on August 11.

In honor of its founder, the All San Francisco Concert also includes the presentation of the Ellen Magnin Newman Award, in recognition of an outstanding community-based arts organization that serves those most in need. Recipients of the award are celebrated at the All San Francisco Concert and receive a Symphony concert series subscription for two as well as a cash grant. This year's recipient of the Ellen Magnin Newman Award is [Cultura y Arte Nativa de las Americas \(CANAm\)](#). For over four decades, CANAm has preserved and celebrated the many traditions of the Latino, Caribbean, and African diasporas in the San Francisco Bay Area through culturally and linguistically relevant dance, music, and art programming, and by creating spaces for community learning, advocacy, and human services. Since 1978, CANAm has produced Carnaval San Francisco, the largest multicultural festival in California. In May 2026, Carnaval San Francisco was attended by more than 400,000 guests. The free, two-day event covered 17 city blocks, with five main stages, 60 local performing artists, and 300 vendors representing the heritage of countries including Brazil, Mexico, Trinidad, Tobago, Puerto Rico, and beyond. CANAm stands as a beacon of hope for the stewardship of cultural traditions and the creation of a new, more inclusive American culture.

The All San Francisco Concert is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Special Events

September 8: Samara Joy with the SF Symphony

On September 8, jazz singer Samara Joy joins conductor Anthony Parther and the Orchestra to perform original songs as well as jazz standards by Billie Holiday, Carmen McRae, Sun Ra, and more. Joy began exploring jazz singing in her teens and released her self-titled debut on the

Whirlwind label in 2021, the same year she graduated from college. She followed her debut with *Linger Awhile*, and at the Grammy® Awards in 2023, she won the Best New Artist Award.

September 15: Gregory Alan Isakov with the SF Symphony

Gregory Alan Isakov joins the SF Symphony and conductor Christopher Dragon on September 15 for an evening featuring symphonic arrangements of his acclaimed songs. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, and now calling Colorado home, Isakov is a musician and horticulturist who has cast an impressive presence on the indie-rock and folk worlds with six full-length studio albums. He tours internationally with his band and has performed with several orchestras across the United States.

September 26: Fantastic Negrito with the SF Symphony

Oakland native and multi-Grammy Award®-winning artist Fantastic Negrito joins the San Francisco Symphony and conductor Jonathan Taylor Rush on September 26 for a striking collaboration that brings his bold, genre-defying sound into a symphonic setting. Drawing from blues, soul, rock, and deeply personal storytelling, his music balances grit and grace, joy, and resilience. The performance also marks the 10-year anniversary of Fantastic Negrito's breakout *Tiny Desk Concerts* appearance, the moment that introduced his voice to a global audience. Reimagined with a full orchestra, his songs expand in color and dimension, intimate yet powerful, grounded yet expansive.



Orchestral Series

September 18–19: Garrick Ohlsson Plays Brahms

David Afkham, chief conductor and artistic director of the Spanish National Orchestra and Chorus, leads the SF Symphony in Unsuk Chin's *subito con forza*, originally composed in 2020 for the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's birth. Afkham also conducts Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 4, which features the "Clara theme," derived from the composer's wife's own piano compositions. Garrick Ohlsson then joins Afkham and the Orchestra to perform Johannes Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1, the second movement of which the composer described as a portrait of Clara Schumann.

Film Series

September 10 & 12: *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*—Film with Live Orchestra

Anthony Parnter conducts John Williams's Academy Award-nominated score to *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* live-to-picture. In the final installment of George Lucas's original *Star Wars* trilogy, the Empire prepares to crush the Rebellion with a more powerful Death Star, and Luke Skywalker confronts Darth Vader in a climactic duel.

Chamber Music Concerts

September 13: Flower Piano

On September 13 at 2:00pm at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Symphony musicians perform in Zellerbach Garden as part of the annual [Flower Piano](#) concert series. This concert is a free event for San Francisco residents with proof of residency, such as a driver's license.

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

September 20: Chamber Music at Davies Symphony Hall: SF Symphony Musicians and Garrick Ohlsson

To kick off the 2026–27 Chamber Music Series at Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco Symphony musicians are joined by pianist Garrick Ohlsson for Johannes Brahms's Piano Trio No. 2 in C major and Amy Beach's Piano Quintet. Symphony musicians also perform Ramiro Boero's *Suite Impulso* and Astor Piazzolla's *La muerte del ángel* and *Decarísimo*.

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

Samara Joy with the SF Symphony

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 7:30pm

Anthony Parnter conductor

Samara Joy vocalist

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$30–149

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Samara-Joy

FILM SERIES

***Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*—Film with Live Orchestra**

Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 7:30pm

Anthony Parnter conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Star Wars: Return of the Jedi

JOHN WILLIAMS composer

RICHARD MARQUAND director

Tickets: \$119–252

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Return-of-the-Jedi

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

Flower Piano

Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 2:00pm

Members of the San Francisco Symphony

Information: gggp.org/flowerpiano/

SPECIAL EVENT

Gregory Alan Isakov with the SF Symphony

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 7:30pm

Christopher Dragon conductor

Gregory Alan Isakov guest artist

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$50–329

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Gregory-Alan-Isakov

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Garrick Ohlsson Plays Brahms

Friday, September 18, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 7:30pm

David Afkham conductor

Garrick Ohlsson piano

San Francisco Symphony

UNSUKE CHIN *subito con forza*

ROBERT SCHUMANN Symphony No. 4

JOHANNES BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 1

Tickets: \$30–189

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Garrick-Ohlsson-Plays-Brahms

Inside Music Talks: Friday, September 18, from 6:30pm–7:00pm; and Saturday, September 19 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: Preconcert talks will be presented from the stage with Benjamin Pesetsky, SF Symphony Associate Director of Editorial and Inside Music Talks. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, October 4, at 7:00pm on Classical California 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and classicalcalifornia.org where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

CHAMBER SERIES

Davies Symphony Hall: SF Symphony Musicians and Garrick Ohlsson
Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 2:00pm

Melissa Kleinbart violin
Florin Parvulescu violin
Polina Sedukh violin
Yun Jie Liu viola
David Goldblatt cello
Amos Yang cello
Scott Pingel double bass
Ramiro Boero bandoneon
Sumi Lee piano
Garrick Ohlsson piano

JOHANNES BRAHMS Piano Trio No. 2

RAMIRO BOERO *Suite Impulso*

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA *La muerte del ángel*

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA *Decarísimo*

AMY BEACH Piano Quintet

Tickets: \$60

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Chamber-DHS-Sep

SPECIAL EVENT

Opening Gala with Hilary Hahn

Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 7:00pm

Giancarlo Guerrero conductor

Hilary Hahn violin

San Francisco Symphony

JOHN ADAMS *The Chairman Dances*

FELIX MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto

NICOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Capriccio espagnol*

Tickets:

Concert-only tickets: \$99–339

Gala Dinner (Individual tickets): \$3,000–10,000

Concert-only tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Opening-Gala

Gala Dinner packages: sfsymphony.org/gala

Preconcert activities: Concert attendees (21+) are invited to a complimentary preconcert reception featuring a celebratory toast, light bites, and entertainment in the Orchestra and First Tier lobbies from 5:30–6:30pm. Alcohol service will conclude promptly at 6:30pm.

Postconcert activities: After the Gala concert, guests can enjoy music with a live DJ and cocktails available for purchase at the Orchestra level bar, open until 9:30pm.

SPECIAL EVENT

All San Francisco Concert

Friday, September 25, 2026, at 7:30pm

Giancarlo Guerrero conductor

Joshua Elmore bassoon

San Francisco Symphony

JOHN ADAMS *The Chairman Dances*

CARL MARIA VON WEBER Bassoon Concerto

GABRIELA LENA FRANK Three Latin American Dances

NICOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Capriccio espagnol*

This performance for Bay Area nonprofits and community organizations is a representation of our commitment to equitable access to our concerts.

Tickets: A limited number of tickets are available to the public for \$12 beginning August 11.

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/allsf

Inside Music Talk: Friday, September 25, from 6:30pm–7:00pm: A preconcert talk will be presented from the stage with horn player and musicologist Alicia Mastromonaco. Free to all ticketholders.

SPECIAL EVENT

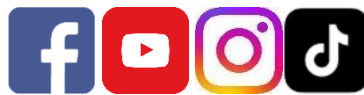
Fantastic Negrito with the SF Symphony
Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 7:30pm

Jonathan Taylor Rush conductor
Fantastic Negrito vocalist
San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$30–129

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Fantastic-Negrito

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The September 10 & 12 concerts are presented in honor of Misty Tyree, whose remarkable legacy gift ensures her lasting commitment to the San Francisco Symphony and its artistic mission.

Inside Music Talks are supported in memory of Horacio Rodriguez.

The September 25 & 26 concerts are presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

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