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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY OCTOBER 2025 PROGRAMMING

Orchestral Series

October 3–5 Gustavo Gimeno leads the SF Symphony in the world premiere of *Market Street, 1920s* by Principal Trombone Timothy Higgins; Edvard Grieg’s Piano Concerto featuring Javier Perianes; and Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5

October 16–18 Jun Märkl makes his Orchestral Series debut conducting Béla Bartók’s Violin Concerto No. 2 with Leonidas Kavakos, and Maurice Ravel’s *Daphnis et Chloé*

October 24–26 David Afkham, in his Orchestral Series debut, conducts Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto featuring Sergey Khachatryan, and Dmitri Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 8

Special Events and Great Performers Series

October 10 The Decemberists join forces with conductor Edwin Outwater and the Orchestra to perform reimagined symphonic arrangements of their music

October 19 Marc-André Hamelin presents a piano recital of works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Maurice Ravel, and Robert Schumann

Film Series

Conner Gray Covington conducts two fall films live-to-picture: Disney/Pixar’s *Coco*, October 29, and Alfred Hitchcock’s *Vertigo*, October 30

Family-Friendly Programming

October 11 SF Symphony Youth Orchestra Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu conducts the San Francisco Symphony in “Around the World Through Dance,” a Music for Families program

Chamber Music Concerts

October 19 SF Symphony musicians present a chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall

October 19 SF Symphony musicians Jessie Fellows, Katie Kadarau, and Anne Richardson perform a free Community Chamber Concert at the SF Public Library's Richmond Branch

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony's October programming lineup features three Orchestral Series programs led by guest conductors Gustavo Gimeno, Jun Märkl, and David Afkham; a special performance by indie rock band The Decemberists; and a recital by pianist Marc-André Hamelin. The month also includes live-to-picture film series performances of *Coco* and *Vertigo*, a Music for Families program with conductor Radu Paponiu, and chamber music concerts at Davies Symphony Hall and the SF Public Library Richmond Branch.



Orchestral Series

October 3–5: Gimeno Conducts Tchaikovsky 5

Gustavo Gimeno, Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Teatro Real, conducts the world premiere of *Market Street, 1920s*, composed by SF Symphony Principal Trombone Timothy Higgins (Robert L. Samter Chair) and commissioned by the Symphony. “America has always been a divided culture,” said Higgins. “Yet, in actuality, Americans are more united in our ideals of freedom and the American dream. *Market Street, 1920s* is an over the top, farcical, tongue-in-cheek argument over the direction of our culture.” The Orchestra previously performed the world premiere of Higgins’ Trombone Concerto (an SF Symphony commission) with Higgins as soloist, and his works for brass and chamber ensembles have been performed on many other Symphony programs. “Any time a musician can step out of their section into a different role is a breath of fresh air,” said Higgins. “The San Francisco Symphony has a long tradition of successful world premieres, and I’m thrilled to add my work to that list again.”

Javier Perianes joins Gimeno and the Orchestra to perform Edvard Grieg’s Piano Concerto, a composition influenced by Robert Schumann as well as Norwegian folk music. The program closes with Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s dramatic Symphony No. 5, the theme of which is a musical representation of fate.

October 16–18: Ravel’s *Daphnis et Chloé*

In his Orchestral Series debut, Jun Märkl, Music Director of the Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and Chief Conductor of the Residentie Orchestra of The Hague, conducts Béla Bartók’s Violin Concerto No. 2 with Leonidas Kavakos and the Orchestra. Bartók composed this work in 1938 for his longtime recital partner,

violinist Zoltán Székely. Märkl also leads the Orchestra in Maurice Ravel's dreamlike "choreographic symphony" *Daphnis et Chloé*, written in 1909 for the Ballets Russes and based on the Greek pastoral myth.

October 24–26: Afkham Conducts Tchaikovsky & Shostakovich

David Afkham, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España, makes his Orchestral Series debut conducting Sergey Khachatryan in Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's virtuosic and lyrical Violin Concerto, the only violin concerto the composer ever wrote. Afkham also leads the Orchestra in Dmitri Shostakovich's grim Symphony No. 8 from 1943, which the composer wrote in two months while in ill health on a state-sponsored sabbatical.



Special Events and Great Performers Series

October 10: The Decemberists with the San Francisco Symphony

Known for their sweeping narratives and meticulously crafted songs, The Decemberists join forces with conductor Edwin Outwater and the San Francisco Symphony for a one-night-only performance on October 10. Featuring lush symphonic arrangements of selections from their expansive catalog, this special collaboration reimagines the indie rock band's music in a bold new light.

October 19: Marc-André Hamelin Piano Recital

The 2025–26 Great Performers Series kicks off with a solo recital by pianist Marc-André Hamelin. The program includes Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat major, *Hammerklavier*; Maurice Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit*; and Robert Schumann's *Waldszenen*. Hamelin last performed at Davies Symphony Hall in 2019.



Film Series

October 29: Coco—Film with Live Orchestra

Conner Gray Covington conducts Disney/Pixar's *Coco* live-to-picture with the San Francisco Symphony. *Coco*, directed by Lee Unkrich with a score composed by Michael Giacchino, features original songs by Germaine Franco, Adrian Molina, Robert Lopez, and Kristen Anderson-Lopez.

The animated film tells the story of a young boy who journeys through the Land of the Dead to find his deceased great-great-grandfather.

October 30: *Vertigo*—Film with Live Orchestra

Conner Gray Covington leads the Orchestra in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* live-to-picture. Set in San Francisco and accompanied by Bernard Herrmann's Wagner-inspired score, the psychological thriller stars James Stewart as a former detective who is hired to keep tabs on a mysterious woman, played by Kim Novak.

Family-Friendly Programming

October 11: Music for Families “Around the World Through Dance”

Radu Paponiu, SF Symphony Youth Orchestra Wattis Foundation Music Director, conducts a Music for Families program, featuring works by Isaac Albéniz, Béla Bartók, Amy Beach, Leonard Bernstein, Johannes Brahms, Ruth Crawford Seeger, Antonín Dvořák, and Johann Strauss, Jr. This concert, which brings the audience along on an exploration of classical music inspired by different styles of dance, is best suited for children ages 5–12, and kid-friendly activities will be available in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies before the concert begins.

Chamber Music Concerts

October 19: Chamber Music at Davies Symphony Hall

In this chamber music concert, San Francisco Symphony musicians perform Andy Akiho's *21*; Leoš Janáček's String Quartet No. 2, *Intimate Letters*; Bohuslav Martinů's Quartet for Clarinet, Horn, Cello and Snare Drum; and Richard Strauss' *Till Eulenspiegel einmal anders!*

October 19: San Francisco Public Library Richmond 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 October 19 at 2:00pm at the San Francisco Public Library's Richmond Branch, Acting Associate Principal Second Violin Jessie Fellows (Audrey Avis Aasen-Hull Chair), Assistant Principal Viola Katie Kadarauch, and Associate Principal Cello Anne Richardson (Peter & Jacqueline Hoefer 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.

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

Gimeno Conducts Tchaikovsky 5

Friday, October 3, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 2:00pm

Gustavo Gimeno conductor

Javier Perianes piano

San Francisco Symphony

TIMOTHY HIGGINS *Market Street, 1920s* [San Francisco Symphony Commission and World Premiere]

EDVARD GRIEG Piano Concerto

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5

Tickets: \$30–185

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/GIMENO-CONDUCTS-TCHAIKOVSKY-5

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, October 26, 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.

SPECIAL EVENT

The Decemberists with the San Francisco Symphony

Friday, October 10, 2025, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor

The Decemberists guest artist

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$129–265

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

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES

Around the World Through Dance

Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 2:00pm

Radu Paponiu conductor

San Francisco Symphony

JOHANN STRAUSS II Overture from *Die Fledermaus*

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK Slavonic Dance No. 2 in E minor, Opus 72

BÉLA BARTÓK Romanian Folk Dances

JOHANNES BRAHMS (orch. Parlow) Hungarian Dance No. 6

RUTH CRAWFORD SEEGER *Rissolty Rossolty*

AMY BEACH *Bal masqué*, Opus 22

ISAAC ALBÉNIZ (orch. Arnold) Tango in D

LEONARD BERNSTEIN (arr. Peress) Overture from *West Side Story*

Tickets: \$19.50–89 (tickets for children 17 and under are 50% off)

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/MUSIC-FOR-FAMILIES

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*

Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 2:00pm

Friday, October 17, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 7:30pm

Jun Märkl conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Leonidas Kavakos violin

San Francisco Symphony

BÉLA BARTÓK Violin Concerto No. 2

MAURICE RAVEL *Daphnis et Chloé*

Tickets: \$30–155

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/RAVEL-DAPHNIS-AND-CHLOE

Postconcert discussion: Thursday, October 16 from 4:00pm–4:30pm: A postconcert discussion will be presented from the stage with Sarah Cahill. Free to all ticketholders.

Preconcert talks: Friday, October 17 from 6:30pm–7:00pm and Saturday, October 18 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: Preconcert conversations with SF Symphony musicians, 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, November 9, 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.

CHAMBER SERIES

Davies Symphony Hall

Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 2:00pm

Dan Carlson violin
Jessie Fellows violin
Jason Issokson violin
Melissa Kleinbart violin
Leonid Plashinov-Johnson viola
Sébastien Gingras cello
Rainer Eudeikis cello
Daniel Smith double bass
Matthew Griffith clarinet
Steven Dibner bassoon
Jesse Clevenger horn
Jessica Valeri horn
Stan Muncy snare drum
Jacob Nissly marimba

ANDY AKIHO 21

BOHUSLAV MARTINŮ Quartet for Clarinet, Horn, Cello and Snare Drum

RICHARD STRAUSS (arr. Hasenöhr) *Till Eulenspiegel einmal anders!*

LEOŠ JANÁČEK String Quartet No. 2, *Intimate Letters*

Tickets: \$60

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

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Richmond Branch

Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 2:00pm

Jessie Fellows violin
Katie Kadarauch viola
Anne Richardson cello

Information: sfpl.org/events/2025/10/19/performance-san-francisco-symphonys-community-chamber

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Marc-André Hamelin Piano Recital

Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 7:30pm

Marc-André Hamelin piano

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat major, Opus 106, *Hammerklavier*

ROBERT SCHUMANN *Waldszenen*, Opus 82

MAURICE RAVEL *Gaspard de la nuit*

Tickets: \$30–139

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/MARC-ANDRE-HAMELIN

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Afkham Conducts Tchaikovsky & Shostakovich

Friday, October 24, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 2:00pm

David Afkham conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Sergey Khachatryan violin

San Francisco Symphony

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 8

Tickets: \$30–185

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/TCHAIKOVSKY-SHOSTAKOVICH

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, November 16, 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.

FILM SERIES

Coco—Film with Live Orchestra

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 7:30pm

Conner Gray Covington conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Coco

MICHAEL GIACCHINO composer

LEE UNKRICH director

Tickets: \$109–230

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

FILM SERIES

***Vertigo*—Film with Live Orchestra**

Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 7:30pm

Conner Gray Covington conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Vertigo

BERNARD HERRMANN composer

ALFRED HITCHCOCK director

Tickets: \$99–225

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

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The October 10 and 30 concerts are presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

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Preconcert lectures are supported in memory of Horacio Rodriguez.

Chevron is the Presenting Sponsor of the Great Performers Series.

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