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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Updated November 17, 2025



(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 2025 HOLIDAY SEASON TAKES PLACE NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 22 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Special guests include Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández in *A Merry-Achi Christmas*; the Count Basie Orchestra and vocalist Carmen Bradford in *Christmas with the Count Basie Orchestra*; vocalists Peabo Bryson, Sheena Easton, Ruben Studdard, and trumpeter/vocalist Ilya Serov in *Peabo Bryson and Friends: Home for the Holidays*; and Peaches Christ, Evan Mills, Adore Delano, Sasha Allen, Nikola Printz, Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and Sapphira Cristál in *Holiday Gaiety*

Family-friendly performances include the Symphony's annual *Deck the Hall* celebrations, *Peter and the Wolf* performed by the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra, holiday films *Frozen* and *Home Alone*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas—LIVE!*

The SF Symphony performs live accompaniment to three iconic holiday films: *The Holiday*, conducted by Anthony Parnter; *Frozen* conducted by Eimear Noone, and *Home Alone* conducted by Joshua Gersen and featuring the Ragazzi Boys Choir

Conductor Jane Glover leads SF Symphony, Chorus, and vocal soloists in George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*; Edwin Outwater conducts the San Francisco Symphony brass musicians in annual favorite *Holiday Brass*

Tickets for holiday concerts available at sfsymphony.org/holidays

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony's 2025 holiday season, November 30–December 22, features a festive lineup of programs, including performances of traditional Christmas classical music, family-friendly events, 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 (November 30)

On **November 30**, 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.*

Christmas with the Count Basie Orchestra (December 3)

From the intimate clubs of Kansas City to the grand stage of Carnegie Hall, the **Count Basie Orchestra** is a testament to the enduring power of jazz to transcend generations and inspire audiences across the globe. On **December 3**, the 18-time Grammy Award-winning ensemble, conducted by Jonathan Taylor Rush, directed by Scotty Barnhart, and featuring celebrated jazz vocalist Carmen Bradford, joins the San Francisco Symphony Strings for [Christmas with the Count Basie Orchestra](#), highlighting some of the ensemble's favorite holiday tunes.

Handel's Messiah (December 5–6)

On **December 5–6**, conductor Jane Glover leads the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus in performances of [George Frideric Handel's Messiah](#), featuring soprano Susanna Phillips, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano, tenor Josh Lovell in his Orchestral Series debut, and baritone Will Liverman. This year's *Messiah* performances mark the 100th anniversary of the first San Francisco Symphony performance of the work, which took place on December 15, 1925, and were conducted by then-SF Symphony Music Director Alfred Hertz. 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 7)

[Deck the Hall](#), a beloved family holiday tradition, brings the festive spirit to Davies Symphony Hall with two kid-friendly matinee performances on **December 7** 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 will be hosted by Carolyn McArdle, San Francisco Giants broadcaster and 98.1 The Breeze morning show host, who will bring audiences along on a musical journey through winter holiday folklore and traditions across cultures featuring symphonic music, singing, dance, and live storytelling. Each segment of the program will be centered around a story from different cultural traditions with kid-focused narration woven throughout. The Deck the Hall program highlights the talented young singers of the San Francisco Boys Chorus and the Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco, 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 bass-baritone Elijah Cineas; klezmer ensemble Kugelpex; and the all-female mariachi ensemble Mariachi Bonitas de Dinorah, performing a selection of holiday mariachi melodies. McArdle will also narrate Nathan Wang's musical rendition of Clement-Clarke Moore's *The Night Before Christmas*. 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 and an exclusive preconcert experience with treats, interactive activities, special appearances, and more.

Deck the Hall is chaired by Alex Carlson and planned with the help of the San Francisco Symphony Junior Committee League, led by Junior Committee President Jessica Pascolini. Proceeds from this event support Deck the Hall Community Day, which takes place this year on December 8 and invites 3,500 children from public schools 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. Deck the Hall proceeds provide additional support for the Symphony's many artistic, education, and community programs.

The Louise M. Davies Foundation and Zenni Optical are Deck the Hall's Presenting Partners. Kelsie Costa & Christopher Olson, Hannah & Bianca-The J.C. Kellogg Foundation, and IEQ Capital are Community Impact Partners. In-kind sponsors for Deck the Hall include Barnett Vineyards and Luxardo.

Holiday films: *The Holiday*—Film with Live Orchestra (December 10–11), *Disney's Frozen*—Film with Live Orchestra (December 13), and *Home Alone*—Film with Live Orchestra (December 19–20)

The holiday season includes screenings of three favorite 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 10–11**, conductor Anthony Parther and the San Francisco Symphony perform Hans Zimmer's score to hit comedy [*The Holiday*](#), written, produced, and directed by Nancy Meyers and featuring a star-studded cast including Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jack Black, and Jude Law.

On **December 13**, Eimear Noone conducts the San Francisco Symphony in a matinee performance of Disney's [*Frozen in Concert*](#) featuring favorite songs from the movie—including the Academy Award®-winning, instant classic "Let It Go"—from songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez and composer Christophe Beck.

On **December 19–20**, Joshua Gersen conducts the San Francisco Symphony and Ragazzi Boys Chorus in performances of Chris Columbus's [*Home Alone*](#), featuring John Williams's iconic score.

SF Symphony Youth Orchestra performs Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* (December 14)

On **December 14**, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra and Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu present their annual performance of Sergei Prokofiev's timeless musical fable [*Peter and the Wolf*](#). Actor Joshua Dela Cruz returns as guest narrator in this program for the second year in a row, and the concert includes selections from Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* Suite and additional programming to be announced. 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.

Dela Cruz is the current host of Nickelodeon's *Blue's Clues & You!* and starred in Paramount+'s *Blue's Big City Adventure* alongside previous hosts Steve Burns and Donovan Patton. He has also appeared on *Fubar*, *Law & Order Toronto: Criminal Intent*, *Bull*, and *Time After Time*. On Broadway, Dela Cruz debuted in Disney's *Aladdin* as an understudy and ensemble member, later taking over the role of Aladdin himself. Other theater appearances include roles in *Here Lies Love* at the Public Theater and *Merrily We Roll Along* by Encores! at New York City Center.

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, Tom Kenny, 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.

Peabo Bryson and Friends: Home for the Holidays (December 16)

On **December 16**, two-time Academy Award winner Peabo Bryson brings [*Peabo Bryson and Friends: Home for the Holidays*](#) to Davies Symphony Hall for a performance of Christmas classics and pop hits. Bryson is joined by

two-time Grammy Award winner Sheena Easton; *American Idol* winner and Grammy Award nominee Ruben Studdard; and international trumpet prodigy and vocalist Ilya Serov. *The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this presentation.*

Holiday Gaiety with Peaches Christ & Edwin Outwater (December 17)

On **December 17**, 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 comedian Evan Mills; vocalist and actress Adore Delano (*RuPaul's Drag Race* season six and *RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars* season two, as well as season seven of *American Idol*); vocalist Sasha Allen (*The Voice* season 21); mezzo-soprano and aerialist Nikola Printz; drag artist Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; vocalist and drag performer Sapphira Cristál (runner-up and Miss Congeniality in season 16 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*), and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. *Please be advised this show may contain adult content and explicit language.*

Holiday Brass (December 20)

On **December 20**, 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](#). The program includes special brass arrangements of works by George Frideric Handel, Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel, Georges Bizet, and Astor Piazzolla, as well as holiday favorites including Gustav Holst's *Christmas Day*, Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, and more. In addition, San Francisco Giants announcer Jon Miller makes a special appearance, joining the SF Symphony brass to narrate Anthony DiLorenzo's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

A Charlie Brown Christmas—LIVE! (December 21–22)

On **December 21–22**, [A Charlie Brown Christmas—LIVE!](#) returns to Davies Symphony Hall with conductor Ming Luke leading the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus in four performances that bring the classic Christmas animated TV special to life. The presentation features Vince Guaraldi's delightful score, an animated backdrop, as well as singers, actors, and dancers that embody Charles Schulz's beloved Peanuts characters.

The first half of the program features selections and medleys from Vince Guaraldi's full Peanuts catalogue, celebrating 60 years of his music for Charlie Brown and the 75th anniversary of Peanuts.

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. Tickets for children under 18 are 50% off for *Frozen*—Film with Live Orchestra on December 13, SFSYO's *Peter and the Wolf* performance on December 14, *Home Alone*—Film with Live Orchestra on December 19 and 20, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas—LIVE!* on December 21 and 22.

Location:

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

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2025 HOLIDAY CONCERTS

HOLIDAY

A Merry-Achi Christmas

Sunday, November 30, 2025, at 2:00pm

Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández guest artist

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

HOLIDAY

Christmas with the Count Basie Orchestra

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 7:30pm

Count Basie Orchestra guest artist

Jonathan Taylor Rush conductor

Scotty Barnhart music director

Carmen Bradford vocalist

Musicians of the San Francisco Symphony

“Avenue C”

“Winter Wonderland”

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

“It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas”

“Blues in Hoss' Flat”

“April in Paris”

“Basie”

“Silent Night”

“I'll Be Home for Christmas”

“Young and Foolish”

“Jingle Bells”

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Handel's *Messiah*

Friday, December 5, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 7:30pm

Jane Glover conductor

Susanna Phillips soprano

Jennifer Johnson Cano mezzo-soprano

Josh Lovell tenor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Will Liverman baritone

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL *Messiah*

SPECIAL EVENT

Deck the Hall

Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 11:00am & 3:00pm

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser conductor

Carolyn McArdle narrator

Elijah Cineas bass-baritone

San Francisco Ballet Training Program, Patrick Armand director

San Francisco Boys Chorus, Ian Robertson director

Young Women's Choral Projects, Matthew Otto director

Kugelplex Klezmer Ensemble

Mariachi Bonitas

San Francisco Symphony

PAUL O'NEILL (arr. Phillips) *Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24*

TRADITIONAL (arr. Chilcott) "Sussex Carol"

FLORY JAGODA (arr. Cantrell) "Ocho Kandelikas"

TRADITIONAL (arr. Shields and Robertson) "Mi Ze Hidlik"

TRADITIONAL (arr. Schrader, orch. Hart) "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

NATHAN WANG (lyrics Clement C. Moore) *The Night Before Christmas*

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Russian Dance from *The Nutcracker*

MANUEL NAVARRO MOLLAR "Campanas de Belén/Burrito Sabanero"

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Spanish Chocolate from *The Nutcracker*

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (arr. Schnurr) "Joy to the World"

TRADITIONAL Audience Carol Sing-Along

HOLIDAY

The Holiday—Film with Live Orchestra

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 7:30pm

Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 7:30pm

Anthony Parnter conductor

San Francisco Symphony

The Holiday

HANS ZIMMER composer

NANCY MEYERS director

HOLIDAY

Disney's Frozen—Film with Live Orchestra

Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 2:00pm

Eímear Noone conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Frozen

CHRISTOPHE BECK composer

CHRIS BUCK & JENNIFER LEE directors

HOLIDAY

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

Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 2:00pm

Radu Paponiu conductor

Joshua Dela Cruz narrator

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

SERGEI PROKOFIEV *Peter and the Wolf*

HOLIDAY

Peabo Bryson and Friends: Home for the Holidays

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 7:30pm

Peabo Bryson vocalist

Sheena Easton vocalist

Ruben Studdard vocalist

Ilya Serov trumpet and vocalist

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

HOLIDAY

Holiday Gaiety

Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor and co-emcee

Peaches Christ co-emcee

Evan Mills comedian

Adore Delano vocalist and actress
Sasha Allen vocalist
Nikola Printz mezzo-soprano and aerialist
Sister Roma from *The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*
Sapphira Cristál drag performer and vocalist
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Jacob Stensberg director and conductor
San Francisco Symphony

HOLIDAY

Home Alone—Film with Live Orchestra

Friday, December 19, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 2:00pm

Joshua Gersen conductor
Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Kent Jue artistic director
San Francisco Symphony

Home Alone

JOHN WILLIAMS composer

CHRIS COLUMBUS director

HOLIDAY

Holiday Brass

Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor
Jon Miller narrator
Members of the San Francisco Symphony

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (arr. Sauer/Inouye) Selections from *Royal Fireworks Music*

GOTTFRIED HEINRICH STÖLZEL (arr. Inouye) “Bist du bei mir”

GAETANO MARIA SCHIASSI (arr. Hans-Joachim) *Christmas Symphony*

ENRIQUE CRESPO *Bruckner Etude*

GEORGES BIZET (arr. Harvey) Excerpts from *Carmen*

TRADITIONAL (arr. DiLorenzo) “Fum, Fum, Fun”

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA (arr. Verhelst) Suite from *Maria de Buenos Aires*

ANTHONY DILORENZO *‘Twas the Night Before Christmas*

GUSTAV HOLST (arr. Haislip) *Christmas Day*

LEROY ANDERSON (arr. Wasson) *Sleigh Ride*

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (arr. Inouye) Scherzo from *Pirogov*

HOLIDAY

A Charlie Brown Christmas—LIVE!

Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 2:00pm

Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 7:30pm

Monday, December 22, 2025, at 2:00pm

Monday, December 22, 2025, at 7:30pm

A Charlie Brown Christmas—LIVE!

Ming Luke conductor

Sean Mendelson and **Jason Mendelson** producers

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, **David Xiques** guest chorus director

San Francisco Symphony

A Charlie Brown Christmas Cast:

Natasha Adorlee creative producer and rehearsal director

Nancy Foreman wardrobe supervisor

Cathleen Edwards wardrobe consultant

Liza Gennaro director and choreographer for *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

Elena Zahlmann stage director for *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

Narrators

Michael Covert narrator

Vincent Alexander (Charlie Brown)

Sydney Fu (Lucy)

Henry Wu (Linus)

Dancers

Michael Starr dancer (Charlie Brown)

Marcos Ramos dancer (Linus)

Kelsey McFalls dancer (Lucy)

Juliann Witt dancer (Sally)

Natasha Adorlee dancer (Snoopy)

Jessie Guyot (Woodstock)

Erik Debono, **Nik Korkos**, and **Keon Saghari** (Charlie's Gang)

Jenelle Gearlan, **Jackie McConnell**, **Allie Papzian**, and **Keon Saghari** (Trees)

Isaac Bates Vinueza First Act Male Dancer

JERRY HERMAN (arr. Wendel) "We Need a Little Christmas" from *Mame*

VINCENT GUARALDI (arr. Benoit) *Vince Guaraldi Peanuts Symphony*

VINCENT GUARALDI (arr. Firth & Benoit) *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

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

The December 16 Peabo Bryson and Friends: Home for the Holidays concert is presented in partnership with San Francisco Arts Commission.

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