



Contact:
Public Relations
San Francisco Symphony
(415) 503-5474
publicrelations@sfsymphony.org
www.sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / AUGUST 14, 2024



MUSIC DIRECTOR ESA-PEKKA SALONEN AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ARE JOINED BY PIANISTS LANG LANG AND GINA ALICE FOR 2024–25 SEASON OPENING GALA ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Opening Gala concert is preceded by a red-carpet welcome with sparkling wine and light bites for all attendees

Opening Gala dinner packages offer an enhanced experience and are available for purchase via sfsymphony.org/gala; proceeds from the event benefit the SF Symphony’s artistic, education, and community programs

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Esa-Pekka Salonen and the San Francisco Symphony celebrate the start of the 2024–25 season with the Opening Gala on September 25 in an exhilarating program featuring superstar pianist Lang Lang performing Camille Saint-Saëns’ Piano Concerto No. 2. Lang Lang also performs alongside his wife, pianist Gina Alice, in Saint-Saëns’ *The Carnival of the Animals*, a lighthearted 14-movement piece highlighting different animals such as the lion, elephant, and swan. Salonen and the Orchestra perform selections from Sergei Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet* throughout the Opening Gala program, including “Montagues and Capulets,” “Morning Dance,” “The Child Juliet,” and “Death of Tybalt.”

The San Francisco Symphony’s Opening Night Gala begins at 5:30pm with red carpet arrivals and a preconcert lobby reception for all attendees with complimentary sparkling wine and light bites catered by [McCalls Catering and Events](http://McCallsCateringandEvents.com). For an elevated experience, patrons can reserve a VIP sponsorship including an exclusive preconcert cocktail reception and celebratory postconcert seated dinner in Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall. The Opening Gala features decor and catering from [McCalls Catering and Events](http://McCallsCateringandEvents.com), lighting design by [Got Light](http://GotLight.com), and projection design by [Yuki Izumihara](http://YukiIzumihara.com).

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

The 2024 Opening Gala is led by a host committee of San Francisco Symphony Governors including San Francisco Symphony President Priscilla Geeslin, Jeff Bharkhda, Tiffany Chang, and Trine Sorensen.

In-kind support for the Opening Gala is provided by The Caviar Co., Fort Point, Gold Bar Whiskey, Humboldt Distillery, and Maker Wines.

Proceeds from the Opening Night Gala directly support the Symphony's acclaimed education, community, and artistic programs, which serve tens of thousands throughout the Bay Area each year. For more information and reservations to the gala event, please visit sfsymphony.org/gala.

[Click here](#) to access the Online Press Kit, which includes a PDF of this press release, downloadable artist headshots, and photos from past SF Symphony opening week celebrations.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

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.

Location:

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

SPECIAL EVENT

Opening Gala with Lang Lang

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 7:00pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor

Lang Lang piano

Gina Alice piano

San Francisco Symphony

SERGEI PROKOFIEV Selections from *Romeo and Juliet*

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS Piano Concerto No. 2

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS *The Carnival of the Animals*

Event Timeline

5:30pm: Red carpet arrivals and Preconcert VIP Reception in Wattis Room and Loge Lobby

5:30pm: Concert-only guests arrive for pre-concert reception in lobbies

7:00pm: Concert Program

8:30pm: Celebratory Gala Dinner in Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall

11:00pm: Opening Gala concludes

Tickets:

Concert-only tickets: \$199–399

Gala Dinner (Individual tickets): \$2,500–10,000

Concert-only tickets: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/gala-lang-lang>

Gala Dinner packages: sfsymphony.org/gala

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#):



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.

Grants for the Arts is a Season Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

The San Francisco Symphony's Official Radio Partner is KDFC, The Bay Area's Radio Home for Classical Music and the Arts.

-- San Francisco Symphony --