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(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 2026 HOLIDAY SEASON TAKES PLACE DECEMBER 2–23 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Family-friendly performances include the Symphony's annual Deck the Hall Concert (Dec 6), *Peter and the Wolf* performed by the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra (Dec 14), holiday films *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (Dec 10–11) and *Elf – In Concert* (Dec 18–20), and Holly Jolly Pops with the SF Symphony (Dec 23)

Special guest ensembles include Pink Martini (Dec 2); Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández in A Merry-Achi Christmas (Dec 13); and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra (Dec 22)

Bernadette Peters joins the San Francisco Symphony for a special holiday program (Dec 15)

Holiday Gaiety features trailblazing country music artist and multi-hyphenate Orville Peck on a program with emcees Edwin Outwater and Peaches Christ, as well as burlesque performer Frankie Fictitious, drag entertainer and operatic tenor Creatine Price (*Drag Race France* and *France's Got Talent*), drag entertainer and vocalist Katya Smirnoff-Skyy, Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (Dec 17)

R&B group All-4-One and vocalists Sheena Easton, Ruben Studdard, and Lindsey Webster honor the memory of legendary singer Peabo Bryson in a special Home for the Holidays concert (Dec 14)

Conductor Ruben Valenzuela leads SF Symphony, Chorus, and vocal soloists in George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* (Dec 4–5) and Edwin Outwater conducts San Francisco Symphony musicians in annual favorite, *Holiday Brass* (Dec 6)

Tickets for holiday concerts available at sfsymphony.org/holidays

SAN FRANCISCO, CA— The San Francisco Symphony's 2026 holiday season, December 2–23, 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 wreaths, garlands, and towering trees decorated with handmade ornaments made by children and volunteers from local schools and nonprofit community organizations. Patrons can also purchase holiday-themed drinks and food, like a gingerbread old-fashioned, sparkling wine, hot chocolate, and holiday desserts through the month to get into the festive spirit.

Visit sfsymphony.org/holidays for the full season lineup.

Pink Martini with the SF Symphony (December 2)

[Pink Martini](#), the wildly popular ensemble known for its globally inspired sound, joins conductor Edwin Outwater and the San Francisco Symphony on **December 2** to kick off the holiday season. Blending cabaret, samba, retro pop, jazz, and musical influences from around the world, the group brings its signature style to a joyful and eclectic holiday program. Vocalists Ari Shapiro, Jimmie Herrod, and Edna Vazquez will headline the performance, joined by special guest Gina Belafonte, the acclaimed actress, vocalist, film producer, and civil rights activist.

Handel's *Messiah* (December 4–5)

On **December 4–5**, conductor Ruben Valenzuela leads the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus in performances of [George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*](#), featuring soprano Lauren Snouffer, countertenor Reginald Mobley, tenor Zachary Wilder, and bass-baritone Enrico Lagasca. Valenzuela, Mobley, and Lagasca all make their Orchestral Series debuts with this program. Handel's *Messiah* was an instant classic soon after its 1742 premiere. The San Francisco Symphony first performed the work in 1925 and has programmed it regularly since.

Deck the Hall (December 6)

[Deck the Hall](#), a beloved family holiday tradition, brings the festive spirit to Davies Symphony Hall with two kid-friendly matinee performances on **December 6** at 11:30am (Signature Fundraiser) and 3:30pm (Family Concert). 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. 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 soprano Sofia Gotch, a San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow; the all-female mariachi ensemble Mariachi Bonitas de Dinorah, performing holiday mariachi melodies; and Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. The concert ends with a holiday sing-along complete with costumed characters.

For an elevated experience including preconcert lobby activities, a visit from Santa, holiday-themed food and beverage, and festive performances, guests can purchase tickets to the [Deck the Hall Signature Fundraiser](#) at 11:30am (reception at 9:30am). The Deck the Hall Signature Fundraiser is chaired by Martine Darwish and planned with the help of the San Francisco Symphony Junior Committee league, led by Junior Committee President Alex Carlson. Proceeds from this event support Deck the Hall Community Day, which takes place this year on December 7 and invites 3,500 children from Bay Area public elementary school classes and local youth

community organizations 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 is Deck the Hall's Presenting Partner. Kelsie Costa & Christopher Olson, Martine Darwish & Vlad Kroll, and Hannah & Bianca–The J.C. Kellogg Foundation are Community Impact Partners. In-kind sponsors for Deck the Hall include Global Gourmet Catering and Barnett Vineyards.

Holiday Brass (December 6)

On **December 6**, 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](#).

Holiday films: *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (December 10–11) and *Elf – In Concert* (December 18–20)

The holiday season includes screenings of two favorite holiday films, featuring the San Francisco Symphony performing the scores live to picture as the movies are projected onto a large screen above the stage. On **December 10–11**, conductor Joshua Gersen and the San Francisco Symphony perform James Horner's score to [Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas](#), directed by Ron Howard. Jim Carrey stars as the curmudgeonly Grinch, who plans to ruin Christmas for the citizens of Whoville.

On **December 18–20**, the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus perform [Elf – In Concert](#) with composer John Debney conducting his score alongside Jon Favreau's charming film. Will Ferrell stars as Buddy the Elf in this 21st-century holiday classic.

SF Symphony Youth Orchestra performs Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* (December 13)

On **December 13**, 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](#). Mychal Threets joins the SFSYO as guest narrator. A Bay Area librarian, Threets is also the resident librarian for PBS and PBS Kids, as well as the host of *Reading Rainbow*. The concert also includes selections from Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* Suite and additional programming to be announced. At the end of the program, Paponiu and the Youth Orchestra invite the audience to join them in a joyful sing-along of popular holiday carols. The Youth Orchestra's performance of *Peter and the Wolf* is an annual holiday favorite and has been a regular part of their 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, Joshua Dela Cruz, Michael Tilson Thomas, Leonard Nimoy, and Robin Williams, among many other lauded actors, comedians, musicians, and public figures.

Prior to the public performance on December 13, the San Francisco Symphony and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital San Francisco partner for the third time to welcome recently discharged pediatric patients and their families to a free holiday open rehearsal with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. The open rehearsal will feature the SFSYO, led by Radu Paponiu, in *Peter and the Wolf*, with Mychal Threets as guest narrator. The event also includes a festive audience sing-along featuring popular holiday carols. This private rehearsal offers UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital San Francisco patients and their families a safe, welcoming space to gather and enjoy festive holiday memories this December. Inside the concert hall, families will be accommodated according to their children's unique needs, with designated areas for immunocompromised attendees to enjoy the performance at a comfortable distance from other guests. Spanish-language interpreters will also be available.

A Merry-Achi Christmas (December 13)

On **December 13**, Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández returns to Davies Symphony Hall for their annual 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.*

Home for the Holidays (December 14)

In [Home for the Holidays](#) (December 14), renowned R&B group All-4-One and vocalists Sheena Easton, Ruben Studdard, and Lindsey Webster honor the memory of legendary singer Peabo Bryson – a beloved presence at the SF Symphony's holiday concerts for nearly 30 years – by performing some of Bryson's signature hits, as well as holiday classics. *The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this performance.*

Please note that Home for the Holidays has been rescheduled from December 9 to December 14. Patrons who already purchased tickets for Home for the Holidays do not need to do anything; tickets and seat location will be honored.

Holidays with Bernadette Peters and the San Francisco Symphony (December 15)

On **December 15**, [Bernadette Peters](#) – a three-time Tony Award honoree known for her illustrious career on Broadway, television, and film – joins the San Francisco Symphony and conductor Tedd Firth for a glamorous evening of festive tunes, Broadway favorites, and music from her acclaimed albums.

Holiday Gaiety (December 17)

On **December 17**, the SF Symphony is joined by trailblazing country music artist and multi-hyphenate [Orville Peck](#) for [Holiday Gaiety](#), the Symphony's annual irreverent holiday variety show. Co-emceed by conductor Edwin Outwater and San Francisco drag icon Peaches Christ, the evening brings together orchestral music, festive holiday favorites, drag, burlesque, and comedy.

Joining Peck, Outwater, and Peaches Christ are burlesque performer Frankie Fictitious, drag entertainer and operatic tenor Creatine Price (*Drag Race France* and *France's Got Talent*), drag entertainer and vocalist Katya Smirnoff-Skyy, Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Now in its ninth year, Holiday Gaiety has been co-emceed by Outwater and Peaches Christ since its inception. Past guests have included drag entertainers Bob the Drag Queen, Sapphira Cristál, Adore Delano, Bianca del Rio, Monét X Change, and Thorgy Thor; actors and vocalists Cheyenne Jackson, Jane Lynch, Dylan Mulvaney, and Alex Newell; and vocalist and aerialist Nikola Printz, among others.

Please be advised this show contains mature content.

Holidays with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra (December 22)

On **December 22**, the [Tommy Dorsey Orchestra](#), led by music director Jeff Bush, takes the Davies Symphony Hall stage for a night of swinging holiday favorites featuring vocalist Hayden Grove. Founded in 1935, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra holds an enduring place in big band history as one of the finest all-around dance bands of the swing era. *The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this performance.*

Holly Jolly Pops with the San Francisco Symphony (December 23)

On **December 23**, conductor Enrico Lopez-Yañez joins the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus for [Holly Jolly Pops](#), a festive program of holiday favorites old and new, brought to life with the full richness of orchestra and chorus. Vocalists Ashley Brown and Christian Dante White also join the Orchestra and Chorus for the program, which includes holiday tunes like "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Deck the Halls," "The Christmas Song," "Toyland," and more, along with a special visit from Santa Claus.

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 Deck the Hall on December 6 (3:30pm only), *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (December 10–11), *Peter and the Wolf* (December 13), *Elf – In Concert* (December 18–20), and Holly Jolly Pops with the San Francisco Symphony (December 23).

Location:

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

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2026 HOLIDAY CONCERTS

HOLIDAY

Pink Martini with the SF Symphony

Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor

Pink Martini guest artist

Ari Shapiro vocalist

Jimmie Herrod vocalist

Edna Vazquez vocalist

Gina Belafonte vocalist

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Pink-Martini

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Handel *Messiah*

Friday, December 4, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 5, 2026, at 7:30pm

Ruben Valenzuela conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Lauren Snouffer soprano

Reginald Mobley countertenor [Orchestral Series Debut]

Zachary Wilder tenor

Enrico Lagasca bass-baritone [Orchestral Series Debut]

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL *Messiah*

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Handel-Messiah

SPECIAL EVENT

Deck the Hall

Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 11:30am (Signature Fundraiser Concert)

Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 3:30pm (Holiday Concert)

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser conductor

Sofia Gotch soprano

San Francisco Ballet Training Program, Tamara Rojo artistic director

San Francisco Boys Chorus, Ian Robertson director

Young Women's Choral Projects, Matthew Otto director

Mariachi Bonitas de Dinorah, Dinorah Klingler director

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Terrance Kelly artistic director

San Francisco Symphony

LEROY ANDERSON *Sleigh Ride*

BABATUNDE OLATUNJI (arr. Beck) "Betelehemu"

JOHN RUTTER (arr. Pont) *Star Carol*

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Spanish Chocolate from *The Nutcracker*

RICHARD RODGERS & OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II "Do Re Mi" from *The Sound of Music*

TRADITIONAL / JOSÉ FELICIANO *Campana sobre Campana / Feliz Navidad*

TRADITIONAL (arr. Robertson) "A Hannukah Celebration"

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Russian Dance from *The Nutcracker*

TRADITIONAL "Ding Dong Merrily on High"

ADOLPHE ADAM (arr. Clydesdale) "O Holy Night"

TRADITIONAL Audience Carol Sing-along

Concert Tickets (3:30pm): sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Deck-The-Hall

**Tickets for children under 18 are 50% off for the 3:30pm concert*

Signature Fundraiser Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Event/Deck-The-Hall

HOLIDAY

Holiday Brass

Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor

Members of the San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Holiday-Brass

HOLIDAY

***Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas* — Film with Live Orchestra**

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

Friday, December 11, 2026, at 7:30pm

Joshua Gersen conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas

JAMES HORNER composer

RON HOWARD director

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Grinch

**Tickets for children under 18 are 50% off*

HOLIDAY

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

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

Radu Paponiu conductor

Mychal Threets narrator

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Selections from *Nutcracker Suite*

SERGEI PROKOFIEV *Peter and the Wolf*

TRADITIONAL Carol Sing-along

Additional programming to be announced

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Peter-and-the-Wolf

**Tickets for children under 18 are 50% off*

HOLIDAY

A Merry-Achi Christmas

Sunday, December 13, 2026, at 7:30pm

Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández

José Hernández musical director

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

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/A-Merry-Achi-Christmas

HOLIDAY

Home for the Holidays

Monday, December 14, 2026, at 7:30pm

All-4-One vocalists

Sheena Easton vocalist

Ruben Studdard vocalist

Lindsey Webster vocalist

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

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Home-for-the-Holidays

HOLIDAY

Holidays with Bernadette Peters and the San Francisco Symphony

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

Tedd Firth conductor

Bernadette Peters vocalist

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Bernadette-Peters

HOLIDAY

Holiday Gaiety

Thursday, December 17, 2026, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor and co-emcee

Peaches Christ co-emcee

Orville Peck vocalist

Frankie Fictitious burlesque performer

Creatine Price drag entertainer and operatic tenor

Katya Smirnoff-Skyy drag entertainer and vocalist

Sister Roma from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Jacob Stensberg director and conductor

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Holiday-Gaiety

HOLIDAY

Elf – In Concert

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

Saturday, December 19, 2026, at 2:00pm

Sunday, December 20, 2026, at 2:00pm

John Debney conductor
San Francisco Symphony

Elf

JOHN DEBNEY composer

JON FAVREAU director

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Elf

**Tickets for children under 18 are 50% off*

HOLIDAY

Holidays with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra

Tuesday, December 22, 2026, at 7:30pm

Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Jeff Bush music director

Hayden Grove vocalist

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

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Tommy-Dorsey-Orchestra

HOLIDAY

Holly Jolly Pops with the SF Symphony

Wednesday, December 23, 2026, at 7:30pm

Enrico Lopez-Yañez conductor

Ashley Brown vocalist

Christian Dante White vocalist

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2026-27/Holly-Jolly-Pops

**Tickets for children under 18 are 50% off*

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The San Francisco Symphony receives support from 10,000 individual donors and 140 partner institutions.

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

Support for the San Francisco Symphony Chorus is provided through the San Francisco Symphony Chorus Endowment Fund, generously established by Peter G. Neumann.

The December 5 concert is sponsored by Moira Conzelman.

The Film Series is presented in honor of Misty Tyree, whose remarkable legacy gift ensures her lasting commitment to the San Francisco Symphony and its artistic mission.

Peter and the Wolf on December 13 is generously supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Youth Symphony Fund.

Home for the Holidays on December 14 is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

The San Francisco Symphony's Official Radio Partner is Classical California.

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