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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY JUNE 2025 PROGRAMMING

Orchestral Series

June 6–8 Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen leads the Orchestra in the world premiere of Gabriella Smith's *Rewilding* on a program with Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 7, and Richard Strauss's *Don Juan*, and *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*

June 12–14 Salonen conducts Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with soprano Heidi Stober, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in his final concerts as Music Director

Great Performers Series & Shenson Spotlight Series

June 1 cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason perform a duo recital

June 4 Spotlight Series artist Xavier Foley plays a double bass recital of original works and Johann Sebastian Bach's Suite No. 5 in C minor

Special Events

June 20 & 22 James Gaffigan conducts a program including Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem, choral pieces by Gordon Getty, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*, featuring soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen, mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton, tenor Mario Chang, bass Morris Robinson, and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus

June 26–27 SF Symphony performs songs by David Bowie reimagined for orchestra, together with the band from Bowie's final album, *Blackstar*

Chamber Music Concerts

June 15 SF Symphony musicians present a chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall

June 21 SF Symphony musicians Amos Yang and Charles Chandler with pianist John Wilson perform a free Community Chamber Concert at the SF Public Library's Main Branch

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—In June, Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen leads his final concerts with the San Francisco Symphony, closing out the 2024-25 Orchestral Series season with two programs that include the world premiere of Gabriella Smith's *Rewilding*, Jean Sibelius's Symphony No. 7, Richard Strauss's *Don Juan* and *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2. The June programming lineup also features a duo recital by cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason, and a Shenson Spotlight Series recital by double bassist Xavier Foley. The month also includes performances of Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem and works by Gordon Getty, concerts featuring music by David Bowie reimagined for orchestra, a chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall, and a free Community Chamber Concert at the SF Public Library's Main Branch.



Orchestral Series

June 6–8: Salonen Conducts Sibelius 7

Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts the San Francisco Symphony in the world premiere of *Rewilding*, a new work by composer Gabriella Smith inspired by her work in ecological restoration. “Rewilding” is a form of ecological restoration that turns areas transformed by humans back into functioning natural ecosystems. “Throughout my life, I’ve worked on many different rewilding projects around the world, the most recent being on a former airplane runway in Seattle,” said Smith. “There are so many beneficial environmental results of rewilding, but the one that keeps me coming back is pleasure: the pleasure of getting my hands in the dirt, of hearing northern flickers and Bewick’s wrens, of biking to and from the site (another climate solution that consistently brings me joy), and the pleasure of being part of something bigger.” The program also features Jean Sibelius’s Symphony No. 7, the composer’s final symphony, as well as two of Richard Strauss’s tone poems—*Don Juan* and *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*.

June 12–14: Salonen Conducts Mahler 2

Salonen’s tenure as Music Director culminates June 12–14 as he conducts the San Francisco Symphony, Chorus, and vocal soloists—including soprano Heidi Stober and mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke—in Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 2, a realization of the composer’s views on universal themes of life, death, and resurrection. Known as the *Resurrection* Symphony, the

work's finale features Mahler's own text: "Rise again...What you have conquered, will bear you to God!"

Great Performers Series

June 1: Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason Duo Recital

The 2024–25 Great Performers Series closes with a duo recital featuring cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason performing Gabriel Fauré's Cello Sonata No. 1 in D minor, *Tor Mordón* by Natalie Klouda, Felix Mendelssohn's Cello Sonata No. 1 in B-flat major, and Francis Poulenc's Cello Sonata. The sibling musicians previously performed together at Davies Symphony Hall in 2022.

Shenson Spotlight Series

June 4: Xavier Foley

Double bassist Xavier Foley performs a recital of nine original works and Johann Sebastian Bach's Suite No. 5 in C minor. Foley is a first prize winner of the 2016 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions, winner of the 2014 Sphinx Competition, and a 2018 Recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant. He has toured extensively with the Sphinx Virtuosi, playing his original concerto "Galaxy" *Concertante* for two double basses commissioned by Sphinx Virtuosi, New World Symphony, and Carnegie Hall.



Special Events

June 20 & 22: Verdi Requiem & Gordon Getty

Conducted by James Gaffigan and featuring the SF Symphony and Chorus, soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen, mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton, tenor Mario Chang, and bass Morris Robinson, Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem is a dramatic and deeply-felt setting of the Catholic funeral mass. The program opens with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*, K.618, a short choral piece written mere months before the composer's death.

These concerts also feature three short works for chorus and orchestra by Gordon Getty, noted composer and longtime friend of the Symphony: the world premiere of *St. Christopher*; the concert premiere of the Intermezzo from *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*, Getty's 2021 opera based on James Hilton's classic novella; and the first San Francisco Symphony performances of *The Old Man in the Snow*, featuring a poem by Getty.

June 26–27: BLACKSTAR Symphony: The Music of David Bowie

The San Francisco Symphony presents a concert celebrating David Bowie's final album, *Blackstar*, created in collaboration with *Blackstar* Artistic Director Donny McCaslin. The program—conducted by multi-Grammy Award-winner and one of *Blackstar*'s orchestrators, Vince Mendoza—includes the album in its entirety plus some of Bowie's greatest hits, including "Space Oddity," "Life on Mars," "Heroes," and more. Also an acclaimed saxophonist, McCaslin

performs live onstage alongside his jazz quartet—the same ensemble that recorded the *Blackstar* album. Joining them are Bowie’s longtime bandmate Gail Ann Dorsey, vocalist David Poe, and special guest artist John Cameron Mitchell (best known for his starring role in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*).

Chamber Series

June 15: Chamber Music at Davies Symphony Hall

In this chamber music concert, San Francisco Symphony musicians perform Anton Arensky’s Cello Quartet, Johannes Brahms’ String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat major, Aleksey Igudesman’s Latin Suite for Two Violas, and Caroline Shaw’s *Entr’acte*.

Community Chamber Concert Series

June 21: San Francisco Public Library Main 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 June 21 at 3:00pm at the San Francisco Public Library’s Main Branch, San Francisco Symphony musicians Amos Yang (Assistant Principal Cello, Urbanek Chair) and Charles Chandler (bass) along with pianist John Wilson perform a [Community Chamber Concert](#) featuring classical selections from a range of composers and engage in a Q&A with the audience. The concert is a celebration of Make Music Day, which launched in 1982 in France as the Fête de la Musique and is now held on June 21 in more than 1,000 cities in 120 countries. All Community Chamber Concerts are free and open to the public. [See the full list of upcoming concerts.](#)

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.

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason Duo Recital

Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sheku Kanneh-Mason cello

Isata Kanneh-Mason piano

FELIX MENDELSSOHN Cello Sonata No. 1 in B-flat major

GABRIEL FAURÉ Cello Sonata No. 1 in D minor

NATALIE KLOUDA *Tor Mordôn*

FRANCIS POULENC Cello Sonata

Tickets: \$30–119

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/kanneh-mason

SHENSON SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Xavier Foley

Tuesday, June 4, 2025, at 7:30pm

Xavier Foley double bass

XAVIER FOLEY *Lost Child*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH Suite No. 5 in C minor for Solo Cello (arr. for bass)

XAVIER FOLEY *Letting Go*

XAVIER FOLEY *Ambiguity*

XAVIER FOLEY *Brown Chapel*

XAVIER FOLEY *Changes*

XAVIER FOLEY Etude No. 3 “Lament”

XAVIER FOLEY Etude No. 10 “The Dance”

XAVIER FOLEY Etude No. 11 “The Singer”

XAVIER FOLEY Irish Fantasy for Solo Double Bass

Tickets: \$55

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/xavier-foley

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Salonen Conducts Sibelius 7

Friday, June 6, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 2:00pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor
San Francisco Symphony

RICHARD STRAUSS *Don Juan*

JEAN SIBELIUS Symphony No. 7

GABRIELLA SMITH *Rewilding* [San Francisco Symphony Commission and World Premiere]

RICHARD STRAUSS *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*

Tickets: \$30–179

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/salonen-sibelius7

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, July 6, 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.

Lobby Exhibit: Composing the World explores the creative processes of Gabriella Smith and Xavier Muzik—two composers who transform their surroundings into music in strikingly different but equally profound ways.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Salonen Conducts Mahler 2

Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, June 13, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 7:30pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor

Heidi Stober soprano

Sasha Cooke mezzo-soprano

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

GUSTAV MAHLER Symphony No. 2

Tickets: \$145–399

Open Rehearsal ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/salonen-mahler2-OR

Concert ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/salonen-mahler2

Prerehearsal talk: Thursday, June 12 from 9:00am–9:30am: A prerehearsal talk by Laura Prichard will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, July 13, 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, June 15, 2025, at 2:00pm

Olivia Chen violin

Jessie Fellows violin

Yuna Lee violin

Wyatt Underhill violin

Katarzyna Bryla viola

Katie Kadarauch viola

Leonid Plashinov-Johnson viola

Jonathan Vinocour viola

Sébastien Gingras cello

Anne Richardson cello

CAROLINE SHAW *Entr'acte*

ANTON ARENSKY Cello Quartet

ALEKSEY IGUDESMAN Latin Suite for Two Violas

JOHANNES BRAHMS String Quartet No. 3

Tickets: \$50

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/Chamber-at-Davies-June

SPECIAL EVENT

Verdi Requiem & Gordon Getty

Friday, June 20, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 2:00pm

James Gaffigan conductor

Rachel Willis-Sørensen soprano

Jamie Barton mezzo-soprano

Mario Chang tenor

Morris Robinson bass

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART *Ave verum corpus*, K.618

GORDON GETTY Intermezzo from *Goodbye, Mr. Chips* [Concert Premiere]

GORDON GETTY *St. Christopher* [World Premiere]

GORDON GETTY *The Old Man in the Snow* [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

GIUSEPPE VERDI Requiem

Tickets: \$39–89

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/gaffigan-verdi-and-getty

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert

Saturday, June 21, 2025, at 3:00pm

Amos Yang cello

Charles Chandler bass

John Wilson piano

Information: sfpl.org/events/2025/06/21/performance-celebrate-make-music-day-members-sf-symphony

SPECIAL EVENT

BLACKSTAR Symphony: The Music of David Bowie

Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, June 27, 2025, at 7:30pm

Donny McCaslin artistic director

Vince Mendoza conductor

John Cameron Mitchell guest artist

Gail Ann Dorsey vocalist

David Poe vocalist

Jason Lindner keyboard

Tim Lefebvre bass

Nate Wood drums

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$50–199

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/BLACKSTAR-Davie-Bowie

Food & Drink Special: Swing by the bar to sample a beautiful sparkling and glittering Stardust cocktail inspired by the music. Pair it with a delicious Lightning Cookie.

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Chevron is the Presenting Sponsor of the Great Performers Series.

The June 1 concert is sponsored by Rachel B. Wagman, MD.

The June 4 and 6 concerts are presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Lead support for the June 6–8 performances of Gabriella Smith's Rewilding is provided by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Works of Music.

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

Sasha Cooke and Heidi Stober's performances are generously sponsored by Anderson Norby.

Open rehearsals are endowed by a bequest from The Estate of Katharine Hanrahan.

The June 20 concert is generously sponsored by Moira Conzelman in memory of her husband Bruce Conzelman.

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