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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / DECEMBER 9, 2025**

## **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY JANUARY 2026 PROGRAMMING**

### **Orchestral Series**

January 15–17 Edward Gardner leads the SF Symphony in Ralph Vaughan Williams's Overture from *The Wasps*, Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 featuring Randall Goosby, and Gustav Holst's *The Planets* with the SF Symphony Chorus

January 22–24 John Storgårds makes his Orchestral Series debut conducting the United States premiere of Outi Tarkiainen's *The Rapids of Life*, Dmitri Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Seong-Jin Cho and SF Symphony Principal Trumpet Mark Inouye, and Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5

January 29–31 Jaap van Zweden conducts Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 featuring Emanuel Ax, and Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 7

### **Shenson Spotlight Series**

January 21 Jaeden Izik-Dzurko plays a solo piano recital with music by César Franck, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Alexander Scriabin

### **Film Series**

January 9–10 Julian Pellicano conducts live-to-picture performances of Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*

### **Chamber Music Concerts**

January 13 & 25 SF Symphony musicians perform free Community Chamber Concerts at the SF Public Library's Bernal Heights and Western Addition branches

January 18 SF Symphony Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik, cellist Peter Wyrick, and pianist Anton Nel perform a chamber music program at the Legion of Honor

## **Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival**

**January 18 Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu and the SFSYO host the 10th annual Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival, which highlights the California Youth Symphony, Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra, Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra, and Young People's Symphony Orchestra**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—The San Francisco Symphony's January programming lineup features three Orchestral Series programs led by guest conductors Edward Gardner, John Storgårds, and Jaap van Zweden and a Shenson Spotlight Series debut recital with pianist Jaeden Izik-Dzurko. The month also includes live-to-picture film series performances of *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, chamber music concerts at the Gunn Theater at the Legion of Honor and the SF Public Library Bernal Heights and Western Addition branches, and the 10th annual Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival.



### **Orchestral Series**

#### **January 15–17: Gardner Conducts *The Planets***

Edward Gardner, Principal Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director of the Norwegian Opera and Ballet, leads the SF Symphony in the first SF Symphony performances of Ralph Vaughan Williams's energetic Overture from *The Wasps*, a satirical play by Aristophanes. Randall Goosby joins Gardner and the Orchestra to perform Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1. Bruch dedicated the work to violinist Joseph Joachim, who not only helped revise it, but also performed the premiere of the concerto in 1868. Gardner also leads the Orchestra in Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, an iconic representation of our solar system and the astrological significance of each planet. In the last movement, Gardner and the Orchestra are joined by the SF Symphony Chorus.

#### **January 22–24: Beethoven 5 & Seong-Jin Cho**

John Storgårds, Chief Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, makes his Orchestral Series debut conducting the United States premiere of Outi Tarkiainen's *The Rapids of Life*, which Tarkiainen describes as "a work about that paramount moment, about a female's instinctive birth-giving and a little child of nature who opens his eyes for the first time." The program also features pianist Seong-Jin Cho and Principal Trumpet Mark Inouye as soloists in Dmitri Shostakovich's lively Piano Concerto No. 1, which was originally conceived as a trumpet concerto. Storgårds closes the program with Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, known for its heroic character and familiar opening motive.

"I am honored and grateful to be performing Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1 with Seong-Jin Cho," said Inouye. "Shostakovich had confessed to a student of his that the work was originally conceived as a concerto for trumpet and orchestra, but it ultimately became a piano concerto with a solo trumpet part. The piano concerto's outer movements contain a lightness and joy that

are seldom found in his orchestral compositions. The inner movements provide a deep contrast that is hauntingly beautiful and profoundly lyrical. It is a unique portrait of Shostakovich that I'm so thrilled that we'll be able to perform!"

### **January 29–31: Jaap van Zweden & Emanuel Ax**

Jaap van Zweden, Music Director of the Seoul Philharmonic and Music Director Designate of Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, returns to the SF Symphony to conduct Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 7, an epic tribute to Richard Wagner that includes a contrabass tuba and four Wagner tubas. The program also includes Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major with Emanuel Ax, one of Mozart's noblest and most imposing conceptions.

### **Shenson Spotlight Series**

#### **January 21: Jaeden Izik-Dzurko**

Pianist Jaeden Izik-Dzurko kicks off the Shenson Spotlight Series with a solo recital including Alexander Scriabin's Fantasy in B minor, Opus 28; César Franck's Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue; and Sergei Rachmaninoff's Ten Preludes, Opus 23. The Shenson Spotlight Series, now in its fifth season, features ascendant artists in their Davies Symphony Hall debuts. Izik-Dzurko is a current recipient of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship and the 2024 winner of the Dame Fanny Waterman Gold Medal at the Leeds International Piano Competition. In the 2025–26 season, he gives debut performances at London's Wigmore Hall, the Leipzig Gewandhaus (Mendelssohn-Saal), Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, and more.



### **Film Series**

#### **January 9–10: *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*—Film with Live Orchestra**

Julian Pellicano conducts Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* in Concert Live to Film with the San Francisco Symphony. Featuring an energetic score by Klaus Badelt and Hans Zimmer, the fantasy swashbuckler film follows pirate Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) as he attempts to recover his stolen ship, the Black Pearl, and rescue the kidnapped Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley), aided by Elizabeth's childhood friend Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) who bears a secret connection to the curse of the Black Pearl.

### **Chamber Music Concerts**

#### **January 13 & 25: Free Concerts at San Francisco Public Library Bernal Heights Branch and Western Addition 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 January 13 at 5:30pm at the San Francisco Public Library's Bernal Heights Branch, Assistant Principal 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. On January 25 at 2:00pm at the San Francisco Public Library's Western Addition Branch, First Violin Yvette Kraft (Isaac Stern Chair), Second Violin Kingston Ho, Viola Leonid Plashinov-Johnson 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.

### **January 18: Chamber Music at Gunn Theater at Legion of Honor**

This chamber music program at the Gunn Theater at the Legion of Honor features SF Symphony Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik (Naoum Blinder Chair), former Symphony cellist Peter Wyrick, and guest pianist Anton Nel performing Franz Schubert's Notturmo in E-flat major, D.897; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Violin Sonata in B-flat major, K.378; and Johannes Brahms's Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Opus 8.

### **San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra**

#### **January 18: Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival**

Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu and the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra host the 10th Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival (BAYOF) at Davies Symphony Hall on January 18. Conceived in 2009, the biennial festival showcases some of the Bay Area's most talented youth orchestral ensembles, including the California Youth Symphony, Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra, Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra, and Young People's Symphony Orchestra. Each orchestra takes turns performing onstage, and the concert concludes with a performance by the Festival Orchestra, comprised of selected musicians from all five ensembles. The program includes Giuseppe Verdi's Overture to *Nabucco*, Paul Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Johannes Brahms's *Academic Festival* Overture, the first movement of Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 8, Gabriela Lena Frank's Pinkillo Serrano from *Apu: Tone Poem for Orchestra*, the final movement of Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5, and the final movement of Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10. KPIX television anchor emerita Wendy Tokuda serves as master of ceremonies at the concert. Proceeds from the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival are donated to charitable organizations that support homeless and underserved youth in each orchestra's local community.

### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

#### **Tickets:**

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony Hall can be purchased via [sfsymphony.org](https://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.

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### **FILM SERIES**

#### ***Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*—Film with Live Orchestra**

Friday, January 9, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 2:00pm

**Julian Pellicano** conductor  
**San Francisco Symphony**

*Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*

**KLAUS BADELT** composer

**GORE VERBINSKI** director

Tickets: \$109–230

Ticket link: [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/PIRATES-OF-THE-CARIBBEAN](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/PIRATES-OF-THE-CARIBBEAN)

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### **COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES**

**San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Bernal Heights Branch**  
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 5:30pm

**Jessie Fellows** violin  
**Katie Kadarauch** viola  
**Anne Richardson** cello

Information: [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Jan-13](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Jan-13)

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### **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES**

**Gardner Conducts *The Planets***

Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 7:30pm  
Friday, January 16, 2026, at 7:30pm  
Saturday, January 17, 2026, at 7:30pm

**Edward Gardner** conductor  
**Randall Goosby** violin  
**San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong** director  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS** Overture from *The Wasps* [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

**MAX BRUCH** Violin Concerto No. 1

**GUSTAV HOLST** *The Planets*

Tickets: \$55–189

Ticket link: [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/GARDNER-CONDUCTS-THE-PLANETS](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/GARDNER-CONDUCTS-THE-PLANETS)

**Preconcert talks:** Thursday, January 15 from 6:30pm–7:00pm, Friday, January 16 from 6:30pm–7:00pm, and Saturday, January 17 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: Preconcert conversations with Kenric Taylor (founder of GustavHolst.info), hosted by Benjamin Pesetsky and featuring a special performance of Gustav Holst’s Songs for Voice and Violin, will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, February 8, 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.

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### **CHAMBER SERIES**

**Gunn Theater at Legion of Honor**

Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 2:00pm

Alexander Barantschik violin

Peter Wyrick cello

Anton Nel piano

FRANZ SCHUBERT Notturmo in E-flat major, D.897

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Violin Sonata in B-flat major, K.378

JOHANNES BRAHMS Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Opus 8

Tickets: \$125

Ticket link: [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/LEGION-OF-HONOR-JAN](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/LEGION-OF-HONOR-JAN)

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### **YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

**Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival**

Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 3:00pm

California Youth Symphony

Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra

Young People’s Symphony Orchestra

GIUSEPPE VERDI Overture to *Nabucco*

PAUL DUKAS *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*

JOHANNES BRAHMS *Academic Festival* Overture

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK Allegro con brio from Symphony No. 8

**GABRIELA LENA FRANK** Pinkillo Serrano from *Apu: Tone Poem for Orchestra*

**SERGEI PROKOFIEV** Allegro giocoso from Symphony No. 5

**DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH** Andante–Allegro from Symphony No. 10

**Tickets:** \$25–70 (tickets for children 17 and under are 50% off)

**Ticket link:** [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Bay-Area-YO-Festival](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Bay-Area-YO-Festival)

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### **SHENSON SPOTLIGHT SERIES**

**Jaeden Izik-Dzurko**

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7:30pm

**Jaeden Izik-Dzurko** piano

**ALEXANDER SCRIABIN** Fantasy in B minor, Opus 28

**CÉSAR FRANCK** Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF** Ten Preludes, Opus 23

**Tickets:** \$65

**Ticket link:** [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Spotlight-Izik-Dzurko](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Spotlight-Izik-Dzurko)

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### **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES**

**Beethoven 5 & Seong-Jin Cho**

Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 7:30pm

Friday, January 23, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 7:30pm

**John Storgårds** conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

**Seong-Jin Cho** piano

**Mark Inouye** trumpet

**San Francisco Symphony**

**OUTI TARKIAINEN** *The Rapids of Life* [United States Premiere]

**DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH** Piano Concerto No. 1

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 5

**Tickets:** \$50–269

**Open Rehearsal ticket link:** [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/OH-BEETHOVEN-5](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/OH-BEETHOVEN-5)

**Concert ticket link:** [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/BEETHOVEN-5](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/BEETHOVEN-5)

**Pre-rehearsal talk:** Thursday, January 22 from 9:00am–9:30am: A pre-rehearsal talk will be presented from the stage with horn player and musicologist Alicia Mastromonaco. Free to all ticketholders.

**Preconcert talks:** Thursday, January 22 from 6:30pm–7:00pm, Friday, January 23 from 6:30pm–7:00pm, and Saturday, January 24 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: Preconcert talks with horn player and musicologist Alicia Mastromonaco will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, February 15 at 7:00pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

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## **COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES**

**San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Western Addition Branch**  
Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 2:00pm

**Yvette Kraft** violin

**Kingston Ho** violin

**Leonid Plashinov-Johnson** viola

**Information:** [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Jan-25](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Jan-25)

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## **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES**

**Jaap van Zweden & Emanuel Ax**

Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 7:30pm

Friday, January 30, 2026, at 7:30pm

Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 7:30pm

**Jaap van Zweden** conductor

**Emanuel Ax** piano

**San Francisco Symphony**

**WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART** Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K.503

**ANTON BRUCKNER** Symphony No. 7

**Tickets:** \$30–185

**Ticket link:** [sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/JAAP-VAN-ZWEDEN-EMANUEL-AX](https://sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/JAAP-VAN-ZWEDEN-EMANUEL-AX)

**Preconcert talks:** Thursday, January 29 from 6:30pm–7:00pm, Friday, January 30 from 6:30pm–7:00pm, and Saturday, January 31 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: Preconcert talks with Scott Foglesong from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, February 22, at 7:00pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

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

*The January 29–31 concerts are generously sponsored by Andy and Teri Goodman.*

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