



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

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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY MAY 2025 PROGRAMMING

Orchestral Series

May 2–3 Giancarlo Guerrero conducts Ottorino Respighi's *Pines of Rome* and *Fountains of Rome*, Igor Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, and the first SF Symphony performances of Kaija Saariaho's *Asteroid 4179: Toutatis*

May 15–17 Dalia Stasevska leads the Orchestra in Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, the world premiere of Anna Thorvaldsdottir's *Before we fall* with cellist Johannes Moser, and Jean Sibelius' *Symphony No. 5*

May 23–25 Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen returns to Davies Symphony Hall, conducting Igor Stravinsky's *The Firebird*; the first SF Symphony performances of Magnus Lindberg's *Chorale*; and Alban Berg's *Violin Concerto*, featuring Isabelle Faust

May 29–June 1 Salonen conducts Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4* and *Violin Concerto*, joined by Hilary Hahn

Special Event

May 18 Live Nation and SF Symphony Present Jon Batiste *Maestro Tour*

Great Performers Series & Shenson Spotlight Series

May 20 Jean-Yves Thibaudet & Michael Feinstein perform *Two Pianos: Who Could Ask for Anything More?* with the SF Symphony

May 21 Spotlight Series artist Tony Siqi Yun plays a solo piano recital of works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Johannes Brahms, Ferruccio Busoni, and Robert Schumann

Film Series

May 8–10 Ludwig Wicki conducts Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* live-to-picture

Chamber Music Concerts

May 11 SF Symphony Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik, cellist Peter Wyrick, and pianist Anton Nel perform a chamber music program at the Legion of Honor

May 3 SF Symphony musicians Barbara Bogatin and Raushan Akhmedyarova perform a free Community Chamber Concert at the SF Public Library's Merced Branch

Youth Orchestra

May 18 Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu leads the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra in a concert of works by Hector Berlioz, Anna Clyne, and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony's May programming lineup features four Orchestral Series programs led by Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen and guest conductors Giancarlo Guerrero and Dalia Stasevska, a performance by pianists Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Michael Feinstein with the SF Symphony, and a Shenson Spotlight Series recital by pianist Tony Siqi Yun. The month also includes a concert featuring award-winning singer Jon Batiste, as well as live-to-picture film series performances of *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, a chamber music concert at the Legion of Honor, and the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra's final performance of the 2024–25 season, with Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu.



Orchestral Series

May 2–3: Guerrero Conducts *Pines of Rome*

Giancarlo Guerrero, Music Director of the Nashville Symphony, conducts the first SF Symphony performances of *Asteroid 4179: Toutatis* by Kaija Saariaho, who first became intrigued by Toutatis when she discovered that its orbit was close to Earth. She wrote, “I started to find its unusual shape and complex rotation interesting... Toutatis does not have a fixed north pole like the Earth... so Toutatis doesn’t have anything you could call a ‘day.’” The Orchestra also performs the 1947 version of Igor Stravinsky’s dramatic ballet score *Petrushka* and Ottorino Respighi’s *Fountains of Rome*, a tone poem depicting the Fountain of Trevi, the Fountain at the Villa Medici, and more. The program closes with one of Respighi’s most popular works, *Pines of Rome*, which premiered in 1924 after *Fountains of Rome*.

May 15–17: Stasevska Conducts Sibelius 5

Dalia Stasevska, Chief Conductor of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, leads the Orchestra in Ralph Vaughan Williams' evocative *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*. Johannes Moser joins Stasevska and the Orchestra to perform the world premiere of Anna Thorvaldsdottir's *Before we fall*, an SF Symphony commission. The composer describes the work's core inspiration as "the notion of teetering on the edge, of balancing on the verge of a multitude of opposites. The musical structure flows between lyricism and a sense of distorted energy." [Read more](#) about *Before we fall*. Stasevska also conducts Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 5, which features rich orchestral textures, bold brass proclamations, and a final movement inspired by serene scenes of Nordic swans.

May 23–25: Salonen Conducts *The Firebird*

The San Francisco Symphony's 2024–25 season culminates in four weeks of programs led by Esa-Pekka Salonen, May 23–June 14, marking the end of his tenure as Music Director. May 23–25, Salonen conducts the first SF Symphony performances of *Chorale* by Magnus Lindberg, a longtime friend and collaborator of Salonen. Isabelle Faust joins Salonen and the Orchestra to perform Alban Berg's Violin Concerto, which the composer dedicated to the memory of Manon Gropius, the daughter of Gustav Mahler's widow, who passed away at 18 years old. The program closes with Igor Stravinsky's vibrant *The Firebird*, based on Russian folklore. Released on Apple Music Classical in 2024, Salonen and the SF Symphony's recording of *The Firebird* was nominated for the 2025 Grammy® Award for Best Orchestral Performance.

May 29–June 1: Esa-Pekka Salonen & Hilary Hahn

Salonen leads the Orchestra in Ludwig van Beethoven's relaxed and cheerful Symphony No. 4, originally commissioned for a Silesian count. Robert Schumann poetically captured the Fourth's relationship to its more heavyweight neighbors when he called it "a slender Grecian maiden between two Nordic giants." Hilary Hahn joins Salonen and the Orchestra for Beethoven's Violin Concerto, his first and only violin concerto, seldom performed during his lifetime. Luckily, 17 years after his death, it was rescued from obscurity by Joseph Joachim and Felix Mendelssohn, who, as soloist and conductor, performed it so persuasively that it became an instant staple of the concert repertoire, as it has remained ever since.

Special Event

May 18: Live Nation and SF Symphony Present Jon Batiste *Maestro Tour*

Multi-Grammy and Academy Award-winner Jon Batiste presents a performance at Davies Symphony Hall as part of his *Maestro Tour*, a uniquely intimate concert experience showcasing his genre-defying artistry. In this performance, he seamlessly melds styles at the piano, reinventing his own catalog alongside classical music, Black American musical traditions, contemporary pop, stream-of-consciousness experimental improvisations, and more. *Maestro Tour* comes during a landmark year for the visionary musician, following his recent Grammy wins—including Best Music Film for the critically acclaimed Netflix documentary *American Symphony* and Best Song Written for Visual Media for "It Never Went Away" from the film; his National Anthem performance at the 2025 Super Bowl; and the debut of *MY UNITED STATE*, a two-track project exploring his personal identity through the filter of the American identity. *The San Francisco Symphony does not appear in this concert.*

This concert is sold out. Limited numbers of returned tickets may become available; check Ticketmaster for current information.



Great Performers Series

May 20: Thibaudet & Feinstein with the SF Symphony

Pianists Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Michael Feinstein perform their innovative program *Two Pianos: Who Could Ask for Anything More?*, exploring the musical world of George Gershwin, with conductor Keith Lockhart and the San Francisco Symphony. The concert showcases music spanning the 20th century world of classical music and the Great American Songbook, presented with historical and social commentary and anecdotes.

Shenson Spotlight Series

May 21: Tony Siqi Yun

Pianist Tony Siqi Yun performs a solo recital including Johannes Brahms' Theme and Variations in D minor, Opus 18b; Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, *Appassionata*; Ferruccio Busoni's *Berceuse* from *Elegies*, and Robert Schumann's Symphonic Etudes. In 2019, Yun won First Prize and a Gold Medal at the inaugural China International Music Competition performing Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto. In the 2024–25 season, Yun debuts with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and the Nashville Symphony.

Film Series

May 8–10: *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*—Film with Live Orchestra

Ludwig Wicki conducts Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* live-to-picture in a program featuring the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and the Pacific Boychoir Academy. With a score composed by Howard Shore, the 2002 fantasy adventure is the second installment of Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, as the Fellowship of the Ring continues their quest to destroy the One Ring.



San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

May 18: San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Wattis Foundation Music Director Radu Paponiu conducts the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra in its final performance of the 2024–25 season. The concert features Anna Clyne's *This Midnight Hour*, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Petite Suite de concert*, and Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*.

Chamber Series

May 11: 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, former Symphony cellist Peter Wyrick, and guest pianist Anton Nel performing Joseph Haydn's Piano Trio in G major, Hob.XV:25; Frank Bridge's Phantasie for Piano Trio; and Felix Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor.

Community Chamber Concert Series

May 3: San Francisco Public Library Merced 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 May 3 from 2:00–3:00pm at the San Francisco Public Library's Merced Branch, San Francisco Symphony musicians Barbara Bogatin (Blair Cello Chair) and Raushan Akhmedyarova (Second Violin) perform a [Community Chamber Concert](#) featuring classical and folk selections from a range of composers and engage in a Q&A with the audience. 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Guerrero Conducts *Pines of Rome*

Friday, May 2, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 7:30pm

Giancarlo Guerrero conductor
San Francisco Symphony

KAIJA SAARIAHO *Asteroid 4179: Toutatis* [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

IGOR STRAVINSKY *Petrushka* (1947 version)

OTTORINO RESPIGHI *Fountains of Rome*

OTTORINO RESPIGHI *Pines of Rome*

Tickets: \$49–149

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/pines-of-rome

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, May 25, 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.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert

Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 2:00pm

Barbara Bogatin cello

Raushan Akhmedyarova violin

Information: sfpl.org/events/2025/05/03/performance-san-francisco-symphony-chamber-concert

FILM SERIES

***The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*—Film with Live Orchestra**

Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, May 9, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 2:00pm

Ludwig Wicki conductor

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

HOWARD SHORE composer

PETER JACKSON director

Tickets: \$325–375, limited availability.

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/lord-of-the-rings

CHAMBER SERIES

Gunn Theater at Legion of Honor

Sunday, May 11, 2025, at 2:00pm

Alexander Barantschik violin

Peter Wyrick cello

Anton Nel piano

JOSEPH HAYDN Piano Trio in G major, Hob.XV:25

FRANK BRIDGE Phantasie for Piano Trio

FELIX MENDELSSOHN Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, Opus 66

Tickets: \$125

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/chamber-gunn-may

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Stasevska Conducts Sibelius 5

Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, May 16, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 7:30pm

Dalia Stasevska conductor

Johannes Moser cello

San Francisco Symphony

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis

ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR Cello Concerto, *Before we fall* [San Francisco Symphony Commission and World Premiere]

JEAN SIBELIUS Symphony No. 5

Tickets: \$30–179

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

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

Prerehearsal talk: Thursday, May 15 from 9:00am–9:30am: A prerehearsal talk by Laura Prichard will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

Preconcert talks: Thursday, May 15 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; Friday, May 16 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; and Saturday, May 17 from 6:30pm–7:00pm: A preconcert talk by Principal Timpani Edward Stephan will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

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

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 2:00pm

Radu Paponiu conductor

San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

ANNA CLYNE *This Midnight Hour*

SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR *Petite Suite de Concert*

HECTOR BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

Tickets: \$30–65

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/youth-orchestra-may

SPECIAL EVENT

Live Nation and SF Symphony Present Jon Batiste *Maestro Tour*

Thursday, May 18, 2025, at 8:30pm

Jon Batiste vocalist and pianist

Tickets: ticketmaster.com/jon-batiste-the-maestro-tour-san-francisco-california-05-18-2025/event/1C0062473AD86EE8

This concert is sold out. Limited numbers of returned tickets may become available; check Ticketmaster for current information.

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Thibaudet & Feinstein with the SF Symphony

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 7:30pm

Keith Lockhart conductor

Jean-Yves Thibaudet piano

Michael Feinstein piano

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$59–139

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/thibaudet-feinstein

SHENSON SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Tony Siqi Yun

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7:30pm

Tony Siqi Yun piano

JOHANNES BRAHMS Theme with Variations in D minor, Opus 18b

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Opus 57, *Appassionata*

FERRUCCIO BUSONI *Berceuse élégiaque*, Opus 42

ROBERT SCHUMANN Symphonic Études, Opus 13

Tickets: \$55

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/tony-siqi-yun

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Salonen Conducts *The Firebird*

Friday, May 23, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 2:00pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor

Isabelle Faust violin

San Francisco Symphony

MAGNUS LINDBERG *Chorale* [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

ALBAN BERG Violin Concerto

IGOR STRAVINSKY *The Firebird*

Tickets: \$30–179

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

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, June 15, 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Esa-Pekka Salonen & Hilary Hahn

Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 2:00pm

Friday, May 30, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 7:30pm [UC Davis Mondavi Center]

Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 2:00pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor

Hilary Hahn violin

San Francisco Symphony

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 4

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto

Tickets: \$49–250

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

Preconcert talk: Thursday, May 29 from 1:00pm–1:30pm: A preconcert 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, June 29, 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.

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Giancarlo Guerrero's and Dalia Stasevska's appearances are supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.

The May 9 concert is supported in part by Sarah A. Schoellkopf & R. William Neil.

The Chamber Music Series at the Legion of Honor is supported by Ann Paras.

The San Francisco Symphony premiere of Anna Thorvaldsdottir's Before we fall for Johannes Moser is made possible by a generous gift from Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting.

The May 15-17 concerts are supported in part by the Barbara Brookins Young Artist Fund and the Joan L. Danforth Guest Artist Fund.

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

The May 18 concert is generously sponsored by the Ralph I. Dorfman Commissioning Fund.

The May 18 concert is presented in honor of the Pierre Monteux Society—a dedicated community of San Francisco Symphony supporters whose long-term giving commitments help secure the future of the Symphony for generations to come.

The Youth Orchestra concerts are supported by Bank of America.

Additional sponsorship for the Youth Orchestra concerts is provided by The Hearst Foundations, National Endowment for the arts, and Alexander M. & June L. Maisin Foundation.

Chevron is the Presenting Sponsor of the Great Performers Series.

The May 23-25 and May 29-June 1 concerts, part of The Barbro and Bernard Osher Masterworks Series, are made possible by a generous gift from Barbro and Bernard Osher.

Thursday matinee concerts are endowed by a gift in memory of Rhoda Goldman.

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