



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / AUGUST 29, 2024**



## **BASS PEIXIN CHEN JOINS ESA-PEKKA SALONEN AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY FOR VERDI'S REQUIEM, SEPTEMBER 19–21**

**Chen replaces bass-baritone Eric Owens, who regrettably withdraws from this program for personal reasons**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—Bass **Peixin Chen** replaces Eric Owens in Esa-Pekka Salonen and the San Francisco Symphony's performances of Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem, September 19–21. Chen makes his San Francisco Symphony debut with this program. Owens has regrettably withdrawn from these concerts for personal reasons. The performances also feature soprano Leah Hawkins, mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill, tenor Mario Chang, and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus.

To open the program, San Francisco Symphony Chorus Director Jenny Wong conducts the San Francisco Symphony's first performances of three short works for chorus and orchestra by Gordon Getty, a longtime friend of the Symphony: *St. Christopher*; the Intermezzo from *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*, Getty's 2021 opera based on James Hilton's classic novella; and *The Old Man in the Snow*, featuring a poem by Getty.

**Peixin Chen** has sung Sarastro in *The Magic Flute* at the Metropolitan Opera, Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* with LA Opera, Fasolt in *Das Rheingold* at Seattle Opera and Dallas Opera, Colline in *La bohème* with Washington National Opera, and he made his Lyric Opera of Chicago debut in Verdi's *Don Carlos*, singing the Monk and covering Philippe II. Other appearances include *Don Giovanni*, *Boris Godunov*, and *Turandot* at the Met and *Rigoletto* at Santa Fe Opera. He made his European debut at Festival d'Aix en Provence in *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, and sang the General in Peter Sellars's production of Prokofiev's *The Gambler* at the Salzburg Festival. Chen makes his San Francisco Symphony debut with this program.

This season, Chen returns to the Met as Sarastro and to Lyric Opera of Chicago as Colline. Other upcoming appearances include a debut as Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore* at Florida Grand Opera and Sparafucile in *Rigoletto* at LA Opera. He is a graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, and appeared with Houston Grand Opera in Verdi's Requiem, *Turandot*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Norma*, *Aida*, *Il trovatore*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Die Walküre*, among others.

#### 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.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

### Salonen Conducts Verdi's Requiem

Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 7:30pm

Friday, September 20, 2024, at 7:30pm

Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 7:30pm

**Esa-Pekka Salonen** conductor

**Leah Hawkins** soprano [Orchestral Series Debut]

**Karen Cargill** mezzo-soprano [Orchestral Series Debut]

**Mario Chang** tenor

**Peixin Chen** bass [Orchestral Series Debut]

**San Francisco Symphony Chorus**, **Jenny Wong** conductor and director

**San Francisco Symphony**

**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: \$49–205

**Ticket link:** <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/salonen-verdi-requiem>

---

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 --*