



Contact:
Public Relations
San Francisco Symphony
415.503.5474
publicrelations@sfsymphony.org
www.sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / AUGUST 7, 2025



SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY SEPTEMBER 2025 PROGRAMMING

Season-Opening Festivities & Special Events

The San Francisco Symphony kicks off its 2025–26 season with three special events, September 11–13:

- **September 11: All San Francisco Concert**, an annual concert presented in recognition of local community service organizations, takes place September 11 with conductor Jaap van Zweden, pianist Parker Van Ostrand, and the Orchestra
- **September 12: Opening Gala**, conducted by Jaap van Zweden, features pianist Yuja Wang performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 on a program with John Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and Respighi's *Pines of Rome*
- **September 13: Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group** perform with Edwin Outwater and the SF Symphony for a celebration of *Hardly Strictly Bluegrass*

Orchestral Series

September 18–20 James Gaffigan and the Orchestra open the SF Symphony's Orchestral Series season with a program highlighting the multifaceted influences that shape the sounds of American music, featuring works by Carlos Simon, George Gershwin, and Duke Ellington

September 26–28 Donald Runnicles leads the Orchestra in Alban Berg’s Seven Early Songs, featuring mezzo-soprano Irene Roberts in her Orchestral Series debut, and Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 1

Film Series

September 4–6 Anthony Parther conducts *Marvel Studios’ Infinity Saga Concert Experience*, which takes fans on an epic cinematic journey covering 23 films in one momentous concert event

Community Chamber Concert Series

September 7 SF Symphony musicians Anne Richardson, Wyatt Underhill, and Matthew Young perform a free Community Chamber Concert at the SF Public Library’s Eureka Valley Branch

September 21 SF Symphony musicians perform at the 10th anniversary of Flower Piano in Golden Gate Park

September 25 SF Symphony musicians perform at the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—In September, the San Francisco Symphony kicks off its 2025–26 season with the Orchestra’s annual All San Francisco concert as well as the Opening Gala with pianist Yuja Wang, both conducted by Jaap van Zweden. The September programming lineup also features two Orchestral Series programs led by James Gaffigan and Donald Runnicles and featuring Hélène Grimaud and Irene Roberts, concerts celebrating Marvel Studios’ music and films, and a special guest performance with Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group in a concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival.



Season-Opening Festivities and Special Events

September 11: All San Francisco Concert

On September 11, Jaap van Zweden leads the San Francisco Symphony in the Orchestra’s annual All San Francisco Concert. The program includes John Adams’ *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*; Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1, featuring San Francisco Conservatory of Music student pianist Parker Van Ostrand, and Ottorino Respighi’s *Pines of Rome*. The All San Francisco Concert is a 46-year-strong tradition celebrating the people who work tirelessly to make the Bay Area a more just and equitable place. This special San Francisco Symphony program is offered at a subsidized ticket price of \$12 for Bay Area nonprofit, social services, and grassroots organizations. Founded by native San Franciscan, veteran philanthropist, and patron

of the arts Ellen Magnin Newman, and led by an advisory committee of nonprofit and community leaders, the All San Francisco Concert is an important pillar of the San Francisco Symphony's ongoing work to make the Symphony an accessible, welcoming space for all Bay Area residents, regardless of income. A limited number of \$12 tickets will be released for sale to the general public on August 12.

In honor of its founder, the All San Francisco Concert also includes the presentation of the Ellen Magnin Newman Award. Recipients of the award are celebrated at the All San Francisco Concert and receive a Symphony concert series subscription for two as well as a cash grant. This year's recipient of the Ellen Magnin Newman Award is [SCRAP](#). Founded in 1976 and based in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood, SCRAP works at the intersection of the arts, arts education, and the environment. SCRAP's mission is to put the materials and methods of art-making in reach for everyone, helping people turn everyday objects into creative projects that fuel the human spirit, support community vibrancy, and reinforce environmental awareness. Each year, SCRAP's programs serve more than 33,000 people with circular access to creative materials and services at their depot and in the community—all while diverting over 200 tons of waste from landfills.

September 12: Opening Gala

The San Francisco Symphony celebrates the start of the 2025–26 season with the Opening Gala on September 12, with a program led by Jaap van Zweden and featuring superstar pianist Yuja Wang performing Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's virtuosic Piano Concerto No. 1. The program also features John Adams' thrilling *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and Ottorino Respighi's majestic and atmospheric *Pines of Rome*, a tone poem inspired by scenes from the Italian capital. Patrons can reserve a VIP sponsorship package, including exclusive preconcert cocktail receptions and postconcert seated dinner experience. Proceeds from the Gala directly support the Symphony's acclaimed education, community, and artistic programs, which serve tens of thousands throughout the Bay Area each year. [Read more](#) about the Opening Gala.

September 13: Celebrating Hardly Strictly Bluegrass: Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group with the SF Symphony

Presented in partnership with Hardly Strictly Bluegrass (HSB), the San Francisco Symphony and singer, composer, and actor Lyle Lovett join forces on September 13 for a celebration of the iconic San Francisco music festival's 25th anniversary. Lovett and the Orchestra will be joined by conductor Edwin Outwater and Lovett's Acoustic Group. Lovett has broadened the definition of American music in a career that spans 14 albums. Coupled with his gift for storytelling, the Texas-based musician fuses elements of country, swing, jazz, folk, gospel, and blues in a convention-defying manner that breaks down barriers.

Two dollars from every ticket purchase will go towards the San Francisco Symphony's [Music & Mentors](#) program, which provides vital services to orchestras, bands, and world music instrumental programs in San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) middle schools and high schools.



Orchestral Series

September 18–20: Gaffigan Conducts Gershwin & Ellington

September 18–20, James Gaffigan, General Music Director of Komische Oper Berlin, leads a vibrant program highlighting the multifaceted influences that shape the sounds of American music through the jazz-inflected style of Duke Ellington, the genre-blending compositions of George Gershwin, and the textural storytelling of Carlos Simon. The program opens with Simon's *The Block*, a short orchestral study inspired by six paintings by artist Romare Bearden. Bearden's work highlights the energy and joyous scenery of six different buildings located on one block in Harlem. Gaffigan then conducts two jazz-influenced works by Gershwin—Piano Concerto in F, featuring Hélène Grimaud as soloist, and *An American in Paris*. The program closes with Duke Ellington's *Harlem*. "Growing up in New York City, I got to meet all sorts of people from all types of backgrounds," said Gaffigan. "My high school was a microcosm for our country, and it was beautiful. I wish everyone had the opportunity to experience that. This program is extraordinary music all rooted in our country and its diverse people and communities."

September 26–28: Runnicles Conducts Mahler 1

Donald Runnicles, Music Director of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Chief Conductor of the Dresden Philharmonic, and former Music Director of the San Francisco Opera leads the San Francisco Symphony in Alban Berg's *Seven Early Songs*, featuring mezzo-soprano Irene Roberts in her Orchestral Series Debut. The compositions show his admiration for the music of Gustav Mahler and Richard Strauss in particular. Runnicles also conducts Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*, often referred to "Titan," because in early versions of the work, the composer stated that he was inspired by *Titan*, a novel by Jean Paul.

Film Series

September 4–6: *Marvel Studios' Infinity Saga Concert Experience*

Anthony Partridge conducts *Marvel Studios' Infinity Saga Concert Experience*, a symphonic cinematic journey covering 23 Marvel films. Accompanied by film clips projected onto a large screen, this program highlights iconic superheroes Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Black Panther, Doctor Strange, Captain Marvel, the Guardians of the Galaxy, and more.

Community Chamber Concert Series

September 7: San Francisco Public Library Eureka Valley 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 September 7 at 3:00pm at the San Francisco Public Library's Eureka Valley Branch, Assistant Concertmaster Wyatt Underhill, violist Matthew Young, and Associate Principal Cello Anne Richardson 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.

September 21: Flower Piano

On September 21 at 12:00pm at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Symphony musicians give a performance in the Great Meadow as part of the 10th anniversary of [Flower Piano](#). This concert is a free event for San Francisco residents with proof of residency, such as a driver's license.

September 25: San Francisco Disability Cultural Center

On September 25 at 6:00pm, San Francisco Symphony musicians perform at the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center, which celebrated the grand opening of a brick-and-mortar location at 165 Grove Street in July 2025. To learn more about the Center, visit disabilityculturalcenter.org.

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.

FILM SERIES***Marvel Studios' Infinity Saga Concert Experience***

Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, September 5, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 2:00pm

Anthony Parnter conductor

San Francisco Symphony

VARIOUS composer

VARIOUS director

Tickets: \$149–259

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/MARVEL-INFINITY-SAGA

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: SFPL Eureka Valley Branch

Sunday, September 7, 2025, at 3:00pm

Wyatt Underhill violin

Matthew Young viola

Anne Richardson cello

Information: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Sep-7

SPECIAL EVENT

All San Francisco Concert

Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 7:30pm

Jaap van Zweden conductor

Parker Van Ostrand piano

San Francisco Symphony

JOHN ADAMS *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1

OTTORINO RESPIGHI *Pines of Rome*

This performance for Bay Area nonprofits and community organizations is a representation of our commitment to equitable access to our concerts.

Tickets: A limited number of tickets are available to the public for \$12 beginning August 12.

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/allsf

SPECIAL EVENT

Opening Gala

Friday, September 12, 2025, at 7:00pm

Jaap van Zweden conductor

Yuja Wang piano

San Francisco Symphony

JOHN ADAMS *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1

OTTORINO RESPIGHI *Pines of Rome*

Tickets:

Concert-only tickets: \$199–499

Gala Dinner (Individual tickets): \$2,500–10,000

Concert-only tickets: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Opening-Gala

Gala Dinner packages: sfsymphony.org/gala

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, October 5, 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.

SPECIAL EVENT

Celebrating Hardly Strictly Bluegrass: Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group with the SF Symphony

Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 7:30pm

Edwin Outwater conductor

Lyle Lovett guest artist

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: \$49–225

Ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Lyle-Lovett

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Gaffigan Conducts Gershwin & Ellington

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, September 19, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 7:30pm

James Gaffigan conductor

Hélène Grimaud piano

San Francisco Symphony

CARLOS SIMON *The Block*

GEORGE GERSHWIN Piano Concerto in F

GEORGE GERSHWIN *An American in Paris*

DUKE ELLINGTON *Harlem*

Tickets: \$30–185

Open Rehearsal ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/GERSHWIN-ELLINGTON-OR

Concert ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/GERSHWIN-ELLINGTON

Pre-rehearsal talk: Thursday, September 18 from 9:00am–9:30am: A pre-rehearsal talk will be presented from the stage with David H. Miller from the UC Berkeley Department of Music. Free to all ticketholders.

Preconcert talk: Thursday, September 18 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; Friday, September 19 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; and Saturday, September 20 from 6:30pm–7:30pm: A preconcert talk will be presented from the stage with David H. Miller from the UC Berkeley Department of Music. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, October 12, 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.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

Flower Piano

Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 12:00pm

San Francisco Symphony musicians

Information: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/Free-Community-Sep-21

COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

San Francisco Symphony Chamber Concert: San Francisco Disability Cultural Center

Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 6:00pm

San Francisco Symphony musicians

Information: disabilityculturalcenter.org

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Runnicles Conducts Mahler 1

Friday, September 26, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, September 28, 2025, at 2:00pm

Donald Runnicles conductor

Irene Roberts mezzo-soprano [Orchestral Series Debut]

San Francisco Symphony

ALBAN BERG Seven Early Songs

GUSTAV MAHLER Symphony No. 1

Tickets: \$55–185

Concert ticket link: sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2025-26/RUNNICLES-CONDUCTS-MAHLER-1

Preconcert talk: Friday, September 26 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; Saturday, September 27 from 6:30pm–7:00pm; and Sunday, September 28 from 1:00pm–1:30pm: A preconcert talk will be presented from the stage with David H. Miller from the UC Berkeley Department of Music. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, October 19, 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.

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#):



The San Francisco Symphony receives support from 10,000 individual donors and 160 partner institutions.

San Francisco Arts Commission is Lead Municipal Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

Chevron is the Centennial Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

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

The September 11 and 13 concerts are presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

The September 12 concert is generously sponsored by the William and Gretchen Kimball Fund.

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

Preconcert lectures are supported in memory of Horacio Rodriguez.

Irene Roberts' performance is made possible through the generosity of the Mrs. George J. Otto Memorial Vocalist Fund.

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 --