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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY FEBRUARY 2025 PROGRAMMING

Orchestral Series Concerts

February 6–7 & 9 Paavo Järvi conducts Dmitri Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2, performed by Kirill Gerstein, and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 7

February 13–16 Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen returns to the SF Symphony for a program featuring Yuja Wang in two piano concertos: Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand and Einojuhani Rautavaara's Piano Concerto No. 1

February 21–23 Salonen leads the Orchestra in the world premiere of a new work by Emerging Black Composers Project winner Xavier Muzik; Sergei Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring Daniil Trifonov; and Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*

February 28–March 2 Robin Ticciati conducts Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, featuring Francesco Piemontesi in his Orchestral Series debut, and Sergei Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2

Great Performers Series

February 9 Seong-Jin Cho performs the complete piano solo works of Maurice Ravel

February 26 Joshua Bell and Academy of St Martin in the Fields perform works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Franz Joseph Haydn, and Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Shenson Spotlight Series

February 19 Tessa Lark kicks off the Shenson Spotlight Series with a solo violin recital

Special Events

February 8 San Francisco Symphony celebrates the 25th anniversary of its annual Lunar New Year concert with conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, pipa player Wu Man, and Assistant Principal Cello Amos Yang

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Symphony’s February programming lineup features four Orchestral Series programs led by Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen and guest conductors Paavo Järvi and Robin Ticciati, alongside a star-studded lineup of guest pianists including Kirill Gerstein, Francesco Piemontesi, Daniil Trifonov, and Yuja Wang. The month also features a solo piano recital by Seong-Jin Cho; a performance by Academy of St Martin in the Fields, led by violinist Joshua Bell; and violinist Tessa Lark in the first recital of the 2024–25 Shenson Spotlight Series. In addition, the San Francisco Symphony marks the 25th anniversary of its annual Lunar New Year concert, celebrating the Year of the Serpent.



Orchestral Series

February 6–7 & 9: Järvi Conducts Mahler 7

Paavo Järvi, Music Director of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and Artistic Director of Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, is joined by pianist Kirill Gerstein for Dmitri Shostakovich’s lighthearted Piano Concerto No. 2, which the composer wrote for his son’s 19th birthday. Järvi also conducts the Orchestra in Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 7, which Mahler described as having a symmetrical structure: three night pieces (a genre in which Mahler excelled), with a finale representing bright day, and a first movement as foundation for the whole.

February 13–16: Esa-Pekka Salonen & Yuja Wang

Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen returns to the SF Symphony podium for a program featuring Yuja Wang in two piano concertos. First on the program is Maurice Ravel’s Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, originally commissioned by pianist Paul Wittgenstein, who was instrumental in expanding the repertoire for piano music written for the left hand. Wang also performs the first SF Symphony performances of Einojuhani Rautavaara’s postmodern Piano Concerto No. 1, which the composer describes as a return to “the aesthetics of expressiveness.”

Salonen also leads the Orchestra in Claude Debussy’s *Images pour orchestre*, a composition in three sections: *Gigues*, *Rondes de printemps*, and *Ibéria*. Spanish composer Manuel de Falla complimented Debussy’s musical depiction of Spain in the most popular of the three, *Ibéria*, describing “the echoes from the villages, a kind of sevillana [...] which seems to float in a clear atmosphere of scintillating light; the intoxicating spell of Andalusian nights, the festive gaiety of a people dancing...”

February 21–23: Esa-Pekka Salonen & Daniil Trifonov

Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts the world premiere of *Strange Beasts* by Xavier Muzik, who won the third annual Emerging Black Composers Project Michael Morgan prize in 2023. “With this work, I aim to explore personal anxieties by examining my relationship to the manufactured world around me,” said Muzik. “I see my ‘self’ reflected in the artificial structures here in Los Angeles, my home, alive with hubris—stoic monuments exemplifying dominion over nature and time. Yet, as these monuments inevitably fade and crack, so do my personal mythologies thus revealing their inane fallibility. I seek to confront the transient natures of both the external world and my internal narratives to challenge my perspective and find meaning beyond the facade of permanence.”

Daniil Trifonov performs Sergei Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 2, one of the most challenging piano concertos in the repertoire. Salonen and the Orchestra close the program with Igor Stravinsky’s iconic *The Rite of Spring*, which the composer described as being “unified by a single idea: the mystery and great surge of creative power of spring.”

February 28–March 2: Ticciati Conducts Rachmaninoff 2

Robin Ticciati, Music Director of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Glyndebourne Festival Opera, leads the Orchestra in Ludwig van Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4, featuring an evocative second movement that pits the soloist against the orchestra in dramatic fashion. Francesco Piemontesi is soloist in his Orchestral Series Debut. Ticciati also conducts Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 2, a late-Romantic jewel that has also inspired the work of pop and rock artists.



Great Performers Series

February 9: Seong-Jin Cho Piano Recital

Seong-Jin Cho performs the complete piano solo works of Maurice Ravel, including *Gaspard de la nuit*, *Le tombeau de Couperin*, *Miroirs*, and more. Having loved Ravel since childhood and immersed himself in the composer while studying at the Paris Conservatoire, Cho has chosen to mark the 150th anniversary of the composer’s birth in 2025 by recording his complete solo piano music and the two piano concertos. He will release the first of the two albums, *Ravel: The Complete Solo Piano Works*, on January 17, 2025. *This program includes two intermissions.*

February 26: Joshua Bell & Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Joshua Bell and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields return to Davies Symphony Hall for a program in collaboration with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The concert features Johann Sebastian Bach’s Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043, with SFCM student violinist Fiona Cunninghame-Murray performing alongside Bell; Franz Joseph Haydn’s Symphony No. 29 in E major; and Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade*, performed with SFCM students.

Shenson Spotlight Series

February 19: Tessa Lark

Violinist Tessa Lark kicks off the 2024–25 Shenson Spotlight Series with a solo violin recital, accompanied by pianist Amy Yang. The concert features Lark's original compositions *Ysaÿe Shuffle* and *Jig and Pop*, as well as Béla Bartók's Romanian Folk Dances, Eugène-Auguste Ysaÿe's Sonata No. 4 in E minor for Solo Violin, Fritz Kreisler's *Chanson Louis XIII et Pavane* and *Syncopation*, and John Corigliano's Violin Sonata. Lark's debut commercial recording was *Sky*, a bluegrass-inspired violin concerto written for her by Michael Torke and performed with the Albany Symphony Orchestra. The recording was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo in 2020. Her newest album, *The Stradgrass Sessions*, was released in spring 2023.

Special Events

February 8: Lunar New Year: The Year of the Serpent

The San Francisco Symphony celebrates the 25th anniversary of its annual Lunar New Year concert with a program conducted by Francesco Lecce-Chong. The program includes An-Lun Huang's Saibei Dance, from *Saibei Suite* No. 2; Tian Zhou's *Indigo* from Concerto for Orchestra; and the world premiere of a new work by Shuying Li. Pipa player Wu Man joins the Orchestra to perform Zhao Jiping's Pipa Concerto No. 2, and Assistant Principal Cello Amos Yang plays selections from Chen Gang and He Zhanhao's *The Butterfly Lovers* Concerto. The concert closes with Huan-Zhi Li's *Spring Festival Overture*.

The celebration begins at 4:00pm with preconcert lobby festivities open to all ticketholders, featuring an array of entertainment and activities, such as lion dancers, dragon's beard candy making, fortune readers, calligraphy artists, and cultural performances.

The postconcert Lunar New Year Banquet begins at 6:30pm in Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall, located at 300 Franklin Street at the rear of Davies Symphony Hall, and features a lucky draw and live music, including a special performance. [VIP dinner packages](#) include access to the preconcert Ruby Reception, premium concert seating, and seating at the banquet.

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

Järvi Conducts Mahler 7

Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 10:00am [Open Rehearsal]

Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 7:30pm

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

Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 2:00pm

Paavo Järvi conductor
Kirill Gerstein piano
San Francisco Symphony

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Concerto No. 2

GUSTAV MAHLER Symphony No. 7

Tickets: \$30–179

Open Rehearsal ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/jarvi-mahler7-OR>

Concert ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/jarvi-mahler7>

Prerehearsal talk: Thursday, February 6 from 9:00am–9:30am: A prerehearsal talk by Sarah Cahill will be presented from the stage. Free to all ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, March 2, 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

Lunar New Year

Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 5:00pm

Francesco Lecce-Chong conductor
Wu Man pipa
Amos Yang cello
San Francisco Symphony

AN-LUN HUANG Saibei Dance, from *Saibei* Suite No. 2

TIAN ZHOU *Indigo* from Concerto for Orchestra

SHUYING LI New Work [San Francisco Symphony Commission and World Premiere]

CHEN GANG & HE ZHANHAO Selections from *The Butterfly Lovers* Concerto

ZHAO JIPING Pipa Concerto No. 2

HUAN-ZHI LI (arr. LONG YU) *Spring Festival* Overture

Tickets: \$49–119

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/lunar-new-year>

Preconcert activities: At 4:00pm, there will be preconcert lobby festivities, featuring an array of entertainment and activities, such as lion dancers, dragon's beard candy making, fortune readers, calligraphy artists, and cultural performances. Open to all ticketholders.

VIP packages: VIP dinner packages include access to the preconcert Ruby Reception, premium concert seating, and seating at the postconcert Banquet in Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall at 6:30pm. VIP packages can be purchased here: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Event/Lunar-New-Year>

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Seong-Jin Cho Piano Recital

Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 7:30pm

Seong-Jin Cho piano

MUSIC OF MAURICE RAVEL

Sérénade grotesque

Menuet antique

Pavane pour une infante défunte

Jeux d'eau

Sonatine

Miroirs

Gaspard de la nuit

Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn

Valses nobles et sentimentales

Prélude

À la manière de Borodine

À la manière de Chabrier

Le tombeau de Couperin

Tickets: \$89-255

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/seong-jin-cho>

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Esa-Pekka Salonen & Yuja Wang

Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 7:30pm

Friday, February 14, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, February 16, 2025, at 2:00pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor

Yuja Wang piano

San Francisco Symphony

CLAUDE DEBUSSY *Gigues* from *Images pour orchestre*

CLAUDE DEBUSSY *Rondes de printemps* from *Images pour orchestre*

MAURICE RAVEL Piano Concerto for the Left Hand

EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA Piano Concerto No. 1, Opus 45 [First San Francisco Symphony Performances]

CLAUDE DEBUSSY *Ibéria* from *Images pour orchestre*

Tickets: \$49–305

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/esa-pekka-salonen-yuja-wang>

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, March 9, 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.

SHENSON SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Tessa Lark

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 7:30pm

Tessa Lark violin

Amy Yang piano

BÉLA BARTÓK Romanian Folk Dances

EUGÈNE YSAÏE Sonata No. 4 in E minor for Solo Violin, Opus 27, no.4

TESSA LARK *Ysaÿe Shuffle*

TESSA LARK *Jig and Pop*

FRITZ KREISLER *Chanson Louis XIII et Pavane*

FRITZ KREISLER *Syncopation*

JOHN CORIGLIANO Sonata for Violin and Piano

Tickets: \$55

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/tessa-lark>

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Esa-Pekka Salonen & Daniil Trifonov

Friday, February 21, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 2:00pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor

Daniil Trifonov piano

San Francisco Symphony

XAVIER MUZIK *Strange Beasts* [San Francisco Symphony Commission and World Premiere]

SERGEI PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 2

IGOR STRAVINSKY *The Rite of Spring*

Tickets: \$49–199

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

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, March 16, 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.

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

Joshua Bell & Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 7:30pm

Joshua Bell violin and leader

Fiona Cunninghame-Murray violin

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Musicians from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN Symphony No. 29 in E major

NICOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Scheherazade*

Tickets: \$95–399

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/joshua-bell-academy>

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Ticciati Conducts Rachmaninoff 2

Friday, February 28, 2025, at 7:30pm

Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 7:30pm

Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 2:00pm

Robin Ticciati conductor

Francesco Piemontesi piano [Orchestral Series Debut]

San Francisco Symphony

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF Symphony No. 2

Tickets: \$49–179

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2024-25/ticciati-rachmaninoff>

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Sunday, March 23, 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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Paavo Järvi and Robin Ticciati's appearances are supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.

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

The Lunar New Year concert is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

The commissioning of Shuying Li's new work is supported by the Ralph L. Dorfman Commissioning Fund.

Chevron is the Presenting Sponsor of the Great Performers Series.

The February 13-16 concerts and the February 28-March 2 concerts are generously sponsored by the Athena T. Blackburn Endowed Fund for Russian Music.

The February 13-16 concerts are generously sponsored by The William and Gretchen Kimball Fund.

Lead support for the February 21-23 concerts is provided by The Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.

The February 21-23 concerts, a part of The Barbro and Bernard Osher Masterworks Series, are made possible by a generous gift from Barbro and Bernard Osher.

Francesco Piemontesi's appearance is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.

The February 28-March 2 concerts are sponsored by the J. Peter Cahill Guest Pianist Fund.

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