

SF SYMPHONY

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(High-resolution images of the San Francisco Symphony and guest artist headshots are available for download from the [Online Photo Library](#).)

GUEST CONDUCTORS ELIM CHAN AND ROBIN TICCIATI MAKE THEIR SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES DEBUTS IN TWO PROGRAMS, JANUARY 12–22, 2023, AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

January 12–14 Elim Chan conducts the world premiere of a new work by Elizabeth Ogonek, Sergei Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 2 with violinist James Ehnes, and Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 2

January 20–22 Robin Ticciati conducts the San Francisco Symphony premiere of Jörg Widmann’s Violin Concerto, featuring violinist Alina Ibragimova, and Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 4 featuring soprano Ying Fang

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Guest conductors Elim Chan and Robin Ticciati make their San Francisco Symphony Orchestral Series debuts across two weeks of concerts, January 12–22. Featured guest artists include violinists James Ehnes and Alina Ibragimova and soprano Ying Fang. Tickets can be purchased online at sfsymphony.org and by phone at (415) 864-6000.

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On **January 12–14** Elim Chan, principal conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra and principal guest conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducts the San Francisco Symphony in a program featuring works by Elizabeth Ogonek, Sergei Prokofiev, and Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The program opens with the world premiere of Elizabeth Ogonek’s *Moondog*, the final installment in an orchestral triptych that the composer says was inspired by “looking up at the sky.” Ogonek crafted the three works—*Cloudline* (2021), *Starling Variations* (2022), and *Moondog* (2022)—so that they may be played individually or as a set. *Moondog* takes its title from a meteorological effect whereby, as Ogonek explains, “ice crystals reflect light to create two symmetrical orbs that appear on either side of the moon.” Ogonek added, “I wanted this concluding piece to have some nighttime allusions—the image of sitting near a lake at night, watching the moon reflect in the water, off of the water.”

Violinist James Ehnes joins Chan and the Orchestra for Sergei Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 2, a work that unites all four streams of his compositional style: classical, modern, motoric, and lyrical. Chan and the Orchestra close the program with Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 2, a sunny celebration filled with folk tunes he heard on a holiday in Ukraine with family.

January 20–22 Robin Ticciati, music director of Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Glyndebourne Festival Opera, conducts the San Francisco Symphony premiere of Jörg Widmann’s Violin Concerto, featuring Alina Ibragimova in her SF Symphony Orchestral Series debut, and Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 4, featuring soprano Ying Fang. Widmann’s Violin Concerto is cast in a single, extended movement during which the soloist plays almost constantly. The work, which calls to mind Alban Berg’s Violin Concerto, bridges the gap between tonality and atonality with voluptuous harmonies, opulent orchestration, and constantly transforming melodies. Mahler’s 1901 Fourth Symphony is the third and last of the composer’s *Wunderhorn* symphonies, so named because they each incorporate themes from his song cycle *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (“The Boy’s Magic Horn”), a setting of poems from a German folk poetry collection with the same name. The symphony’s finale includes a soprano soloist and features text from the Bavarian folk song, “*Der Himmel hängt voll Geigen*” (“Heaven is Hung with Violins”), which depicts a child’s interpretation of heaven.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Tickets

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony 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.

Health & Safety Information

Davies Symphony Hall is currently operating at full audience capacity. Based on the advice of the San Francisco Symphony’s Health and Safety Task Force, a face covering and vaccination against COVID-19 are strongly recommended but no longer required for entry into Davies Symphony Hall. These policies are subject to change.

Visit sfsymphony.org/safety for the San Francisco Symphony’s complete up-to-date health and safety protocols.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Elim Chan Conducts Tchaikovsky

[Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 2pm](#)

[Friday, January 13, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Elim Chan](#) conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

[James Ehnes](#) violin
San Francisco Symphony

ELIZABETH OGONEK *Moondog* [San Francisco Symphony Commission, World Premiere]

SERGEI PROKOFIEV Violin Concerto No. 2

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 2

Tickets: \$20–135.

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/Elim-Chan-Conducts-Tchaikovsky>

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, January 24 at 8pm 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

Robin Ticciati Conducts Mahler 4

[Friday, January 20, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 2pm](#)

[Robin Ticciati](#) conductor [Orchestral Series Debut]

[Alina Ibragimova](#) violin [Orchestral Series Debut]

[Ying Fang](#) soprano

San Francisco Symphony

JÖRG WIDMANN Violin Concerto [San Francisco Symphony Premiere]

GUSTAV MAHLER Symphony No. 4

Tickets: \$20–165.

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/Robin-Ticciati-Conducts-Mahler>

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, January 31 at 8pm 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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January 12-14 concerts are generously sponsored by the Athena T. Blackburn Endowed Fund for Russian Music.

Elizabeth Ogonek's world premiere is sponsored by Solomon B. Cera and Toby Fischer Cera.

Thursday Matinee Concerts are endowed by a gift in memory of Rhoda Goldman.

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