



presents

**San Francisco International
Piano Festival
*Beethoven 250***

**Stephen Harrison, *cello* & Gwendolyn Mok, *piano*
Eunseo Oh, *violin* & Sarah Yuan, *piano*
Allegra Chapman, *piano***

Friday, August 28, 2020 at 8 PM
Old First Church
1751 Sacramento St. at Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 474-1608 www.oldfirstconcerts.org

ABOUT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

- Great venue for music with beautiful acoustics and amazing Steinway concert grand piano.
- Primarily local emerging and mid-career professional musicians presenting innovative programs.
- Every concert offers new insights and virtuosic performances.
- Complimentary refreshments served at intermission or after the concert.
- An independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization devoted to presenting music at affordable prices, especially for low-income seniors and students.
- Solo, chamber music, and world music concerts year-round since 1970.

DONATING TO OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Ticket sales provide about 38 percent of our operating revenue each year. In addition, we rely on support from private foundations and Grants for the Arts from the city of San Francisco. Our generous individual donors complete the picture. We invite you to join us in our mission to connect audiences and local musicians and build up the classical music and world music scene in San Francisco. Donations are tax-deductible and donating on our website is easy and secure: www.oldfirstconcerts.org/give/, or checks can be mailed to:

Old First Concerts, 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.
Thank you!

COVID-19 RESPONSE: RETURNING TO THE MUSIC

Old First Concerts is committed to the health and safety of our audiences, performers and staff. We hope to resume concerts soon and have implemented a number of policies and procedures to help us reach that goal, which you can read about on our website.

In the meantime, know that all tickets are fully guaranteed—so if we have to cancel or postpone an event that you’ve purchased a ticket to, you can choose to use the ticket for any concert between now and June 1, 2021, or you can be fully refunded.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Following us on **Facebook** is a great way to keep informed about the latest concert information. While you are there, don’t forget to **share** events with your friends and hit the “Like” button liberally. [facebook.com/oldfirstconcerts/](https://www.facebook.com/oldfirstconcerts/)

You can also find us on **Instagram** [@oldfirstconcerts](https://www.instagram.com/oldfirstconcerts) with information about upcoming events plus photos and videos from our concerts.

PROGRAM

All works by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Sonata for Piano and Cello in G minor, Op. 5, no. 2

Adagio sostenuto e espressivo—Allegro molto più tosto presto

Rondo. Allegro

Stephen Harrison, *cello* & Gwendolyn Mok, *piano*

Sonata for Piano and Violin in G major, Op. 30, No. 3

Allegro assai

Tempo di minuetto, ma molto moderato e grazioso

Allegro vivace

Eunseo Oh, *violin* & Sarah Yuan, *piano*

INTERMISSION

Piano Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109

Vivace ma non troppo—Adagio espressivo

Prestissimo

*Gesangvoll, mit innigster Empfindung. Andante molto cantabile
ed espressivo*

Allegra Chapman, *piano*

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Stephen Harrison has been on the Stanford University faculty since 1983. A graduate of Oberlin College and Boston University, he has been solo cellist of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players since 1985. Stephen has been on the faculty of the Pacific Music Festival, the Orfeo and Schlern International Music Festivals (Italy) and the Rocky Ridge Music Center. He is currently principal cellist at the Mendocino Music Festival, and performs and teaches at the SoCal Chamber Music Workshop and the Telluride Chamber Music Festival.

Born in New York City, **Gwendolyn Mok** has appeared in many of the world's leading concert halls, including the Barbican, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, and the Hong Kong Performing Arts Center. She is frequently invited to play and record with major international orchestras, such as the London Symphony, the Philharmonia, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Beijing Philharmonic Orchestra and the Residency Orchestra of the Hague.

Ms. Mok is a recording artist for Nonesuch/Elektra, Musical Heritage Society, Musician Showcase Recordings, Cala Records, and EMI. Her highly acclaimed debut CD with the Philharmonia of Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G major* on the Cala label was nominated for an Alternative Edison award. A second Cala recording of Saint-Saëns's *Africa—Fantasy for Piano and Orchestra* with the London Philharmonic has been equally applauded. Three solo CDs, *Ravel Revealed* (Ravel's piano works), *Brahms: Late Piano Works*, and *Legacy, The Spirit of Beethoven* were recorded on historic pianos for the Musicians Showcase Recording label. All three CDs received outstanding reviews and are broadcast frequently around the world. Recently two new CDs have been released: Poldowski Art Songs with soprano Angelique Zuluaga and pianist Gwendolyn Mok on the Delos label and EKTA Trilogy, featuring Mok as soloist on *EKTA II*, a concerto written for her by composer Brent Heisinger.

As a chamber musician, Ms. Mok appears regularly in the San Francisco Symphony Chamber Music Series, as well as in the San Jose Chamber Society and the Sacramento Chamber Society series. She collaborates often with members of the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra. A popular soloist with the

Symphony Silicon Valley, Ms. Mok co-produced and appeared in four sold-out performances of The Gershwin Radio Hour. In 2016 Ms. Mok was named President's Scholar by San Jose State University, the highest honor given to an outstanding faculty member for their scholarship and research. Mok was also presented with the Artistic Achievement Award by the College of Humanities & the Arts in 2008.

Ms. Mok began her studies at the Juilliard School of Music, completed her undergraduate work at Yale University, and earned her Masters and Doctorate at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She is currently Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at San Jose State University and maintains a busy performing and recording schedule.

Violinist **Eunseo Oh**, 15, is a sophomore at Lynbrook High School. She has been playing the violin since she was eight years old. She was a first-place winner at Pacific Musical Society's 2018 Competition and a grand prizewinner of the 2016 Korean Times Annual Youth Music Competition. She has participated in many performances and concerts, including annual Junior Bach Festivals since 2016. Eunseo has performed in master classes for acclaimed artists such as Simon James, Danielle Belen, and William van der Sloot. She is a member of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, and studies with Zhao Wei at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Sarah Yuan, age 15, lives in Moraga and is a freshman at Miramonte High School. She began piano studies at age seven and is currently a student of Sharon Mann. Since 2015, Sarah has won awards in the East Bay Piano Competition, San Francisco Chopin Competition, Pacific Musical Society Competition, MTAC Piano Solo Competition, and the Kaufman

International Piano Competition. She received first prize in Etude Club's Young Artist Competition, Sturm-Page Piano Scholarship Competition, and Galante Prize Competition. Sarah has participated in Crowden's Chamber Music Workshop and Piano Texas' PrepFest at Fort Worth, and currently plays with the Young Chamber Musicians' program. She has performed in masterclasses for artists such as Tamas Ungar, Eric Zivian, and the Gryphon Trio. As a member of her school's Public Forum debate team, Sarah has competed at multiple tournaments around the Bay Area.

Described as "brilliant" by the *San Francisco Classical Voice*, San Francisco-based pianist and presenter **Allegra Chapman** is dedicated to connecting deeply with audiences. Allegra has performed as soloist and chamber musician at prestigious venues throughout the United States, Europe, and China, including Alice Tully Hall, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, the Bard Music Festival, the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Museum in Budapest, San Francisco Jazz Center, and Xi'an Concert Hall in Xi'an, China. Her performances have been broadcast on WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, and KALW San Francisco.

Allegra is founding artistic codirector and executive director of Bard Music West, a branch of the Bard Music Festival based in San Francisco that explores the worlds of composers from the past one hundred years.

Allegra recently joined the award-winning Delphi Trio as their new pianist and is a member of Chordless, a voice and piano duo with soprano Sara LeMesh. Upcoming solo engagements include a concerto with the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra and performances at Old First Concerts and the Bard Music

Festival. She also performs regularly with leading Bay Area ensembles including Earplay, Eco Ensemble, Ensemble Illume, Left Coast Ensemble, and San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. She has collaborated with members of International Contemporary Ensemble and the Eusebius, Orion, and Telegraph String Quartets. In 2012, Allegra's unusual collaboration with Yamaha Disklavier and The Juilliard School's Center for Innovation in the Arts was the subject of a feature article and video in the *Wall Street Journal*.

As an educator, Allegra has coached chamber music ensembles at many institutions, including San Francisco State University and Xi'an Conservatory of Music. Her student ensembles have received top prizes in regional and national competitions. Allegra is currently on faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Pre-College division.

Allegra received her MM from The Juilliard School and graduated in the inaugural class of the Bard Conservatory of Music's double-degree program with degrees in history and piano performance. Allegra owes much to her many wonderful teachers who include Joseph Bloom, Jeremy Denk, Seymour Lipkin, Sharon Mann, Julian Martin, John McCarthy, and Peter Serkin.

COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Sunday, September 6 at 4 pm

Mike Greensill, piano with special guest

“Among San Francisco’s many musical blessings, count the sensitivity, wit and inventive bounty of jazz pianist Mike Greensill.”
Steven Winn, *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Friday, September 18 at 8 pm

Lyle Sheffler, guitar

International guitar soloist Lyle Sheffler performs works by Isaac Albéniz, Francisco Tárrega, Heitor Villa-Lobos and others.

Friday, September 25 at 8 pm

**Ensemble ARI—Jiwon Evelyn Kwark, violin; Sarah Hong, cello;
Sharon Lee Kim, piano**

A group of Korean American musicians in the Bay Area building a bridge with Korea and other communities through western instruments while honoring Korean history and culture. Their program features works by Amy Beach, Addie Camsuzou, and Sofia Gubaidulina.

Sunday, September 27 at 4 pm

**Del Sol String Quartet—Sam Weiser & Benjamin Kreith, violins
Charlton Lee, viola & Kathryn Bates, cello**

Fascinated by the feedback loop between social change, technology, and artistic innovation, Del Sol Quartet is a leading force in 21st century chamber music. This program features works by Jonah Gallagher, Erika Oba, Rajna Swaminathan, and Julius Eastman.

plus, in October (more info coming soon!)

Friday, October 9 at 8 pm

Circadian String Quartet

Sunday, October 11 at 4 pm

Sarah Cahill, piano & friends

Friday, October 16 at 8 pm

Stephen Porter, piano

Sunday, October 18 at 8 pm

Lynn Schugren, piano

Tickets and more information at oldfirstconcerts.org

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Old First Concerts' piano is a New York Steinway D model, circa 1980, with Hamburg action. It was donated by The Stanley Ibler Fund, and is maintained by David Love Piano Service and Restoration.