



presents

Stephen Porter

piano

Friday, October 16, 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

Ludwig van Beethoven
Six Bagatelles, Op. 126
(last piano work)

Toni Lester
Here, Now, Sound
Night Walks
Know This

"These pieces are dedicated to the memory of my late father, noted jazz saxophonist and Blue Note recording artist, Samuel Conrad 'Connie' Lester"

Norberto Oldrini
Maiden & Death
Fiend

Andrew List
Egyptian Etudes

Thoth: The God of Wisdom and Magic
Amon-Re: The Almighty Father, The God of All People

Martin Skafte
Preludes
Lines and Timelines
Finding Memory Again

Claude Debussy
Images, Books I and II
Reflections in the water
Homage to Rameau
Movement
Bells through the leaves
And the moon descends on the temple that was
Goldfish

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Toni Lester – *Here, Now, Sound* | *Night Walks* | *Know This*

These pieces are dedicated to the memory of my late father, noted Blue Note recording jazz saxophonist, Samuel Conrad 'Connie' Lester.

Norberto Oldrini *Maiden & Death* (2015)

The wind of the time has swept some well-known Schubert's notes and turned them topsy-turvy. That's what remains.

Written for Stephen Porter's *Re-Imagining Schubert* concert, premiered in New York in 2015.

Norberto Oldrini *Fiend* (2016)

Commissioned by the company Natalie Johnson Dance for the long choreography *Sleeptalking*, premiered in New York in 2017, *Fiend* is a small musical study about the theme "F(r) iend", and written after the choreography.

After a slow and calm beginning, a waltz explodes in a chromatic conflict of harmony and contrapuntal, and then sublimates in something quite different. As a concert piece, it has already performed in the US, Mexico and Italy.

Andrew List *From the Temple of Dendera – Twelve Etudes for Piano Inspired by the Egyptian Zodiac*

From the Temple of Dendera: Twelve Etudes for Piano was commissioned by pianist George Lopez Artist-in-residence at Bowdoin College. Each etude is a musical portrait of an Egyptian God represented in the Dendera Zodiac.

The sculptured Dendera Zodiac is a widely known Egyptian bas-relief from the ceiling of the *pronaos* (or portico) of a chapel dedicated to Osiris in

the Hathortemple at Dendera. This chapel was begun in the late Ptolemaic period; its *pronaos* was added by the emperor Tiberius. The date for the relief is 50 BC, since it shows the stars and planets in the positions they would have been seen at that date. The relief, which scholar John H. Rogers characterized as "the only complete map that we have of an ancient sky", has been conjectured to represent the basis on which later astronomy systems were based. It is now on display at the Musée du Louvre in Paris.

Martin Skafte *Preludes*

The preludes here chosen for performance by Stephen Porter are both part of a larger book of 12 preludes, each one inspired by a corresponding prelude from Claude Debussy's *premier livre*.

They were all written as an attempt at creating a "fictional dialogue" in which my music could speak with Debussy's music, with the goal being that a third voice would emerge out of the process; a voice that would potentially carry something from both worlds within it. A voice I could then continue working with, to push my own musical language forward and refine it further.

I later continued with a second book of preludes, completing the process by working with all 24 of Debussy's preludes.

The two preludes played by Mr. Porter are Nos. 5 and 7 from the first book. They are perhaps the two preludes of mine that are most closely attached to the preludes which they draw their inspiration from - if not necessarily in style, then perhaps in spirit.

ABOUT THE PERFORMER

Stephen Porter has appeared as a soloist in London, Paris, Sarajevo, Lake Como, Istanbul and Rio de Janeiro, among other cities. He is a four-time artist resident of the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, and his concerts in the past season include the Église Saint Louis en l'Île, the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, the Gothenburg Academy of Music and Drama in Sweden, and the Malmö Academy of Music in Sweden. In 2020 for the Beethoven 250th birthday year he gives recitals of Beethoven along with premieres by composers from Sweden, Italy and the U.S., beginning with the Musica Prospettiva Festival in Torrita di Siena, Italy. Recent New York City appearances at SubCulture, the Fabbri Mansion and Symphony Space have been praised by the press, with *New York Arts* calling Mr. Porter's twenty-four Debussy Preludes "a powerful revelation ... as if the voice of the composer were speaking to us." His Schubert performances are widely admired, the *Boston Musical Intelligencer* says he "reached the level of sublimity," and in the acclaimed biography *Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph*, author Jan Swafford calls his interpretation of Beethoven's *Appassionata* "unforgettable." Mr. Porter has had the privilege of performing and recording with two Grammy Award winning soloists, mezzo-soprano Krista River (2020 Best Opera) and bass-baritone Dashon Burton (2014 Best Chamber Music). His recitals with Ms. River include works by Ned Rorem and John Harbison coached by the composers. They have recorded a disc of Grieg's *Haugtussa*, six *Lyric Pieces*, and Schumann's *Frauenliebe und leben*. With Mr. Burton he has recorded the music of Toni Lester, released on the 2017 CD titled *Will The Time Ever Come?*

COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Sunday, October 18 at 8 pm

Lynn Schugren, piano - *The Sierra Prelude Project*

A series of ten newly commissioned preludes by composers including Alexis Alrich, Eleanor Armer, Robert Greenberg, Durwynne Hsieh, and more, evoking the Sierra Nevada Mountains, from the beauty of sunrise and the sounds of the forests to the destruction caused by man or wildfire.

Friday, October 23 at 8 pm

Aaron Rosengaus, viola & Jennifer Lee, piano

English music for viola and piano written during the difficult and confusing era of the two World Wars, a time with parallels to our current Covid-19 pandemic. Works by Frank Bridge, Rebecca Clarke, Arnold Bax, and Julius Harrison.

Sunday, October 25 at 4 pm

The music of Kimio Eto

Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto, Brian Mitsuhiro Wong & Isabella

Kazuai Lew, kotos & bass kotos

A rare opportunity to hear a collection of Kimio Eto's compositions in arrangements made by Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto, many of which remain unpublished to this day. Kimio Eto was like a shooting star of Japanese koto music in the 50s and 60s, ahead of his time in using his traditional instrument to reach out to the world through music, inspiring friendly connections between Japan and America.

Friday, November 13 at 8 pm

Circadian String Quartet: *Images*—Monika Gruber & David

Ryther, violins; Omid Assadi, viola; David Wishnia, cello

Debussy's *String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10* plus arrangements from his *Préludes* for string quartet made by David Ryther.

Sunday, November 15 at 2 pm

Old First Concerts 50th Anniversary Gala!

Celebrate our 50th anniversary with us as we showcase an incredible line-up of some of our favorite musicians live from our space and in pre-recorded performances made especially for today!

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.