



*presents*

# Old First Concerts 50th Anniversary Gala

**Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 2 PM**  
Old First Church  
1751 Sacramento St. at Van Ness Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
(415) 474-1608 [www.oldfirstconcerts.org](http://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/](http://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.

**A NOTE FROM THOMAS CULP  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*I love, admire and support* Old First Concerts because it presents the musicians and music of my community at a modest cost, and encourages audience support for the musical arts by presenting new and developing artists in performance, bringing them to the attention of the public as well as the music community.

Many artists have received their first critical notices after performing at O1C, which has been instrumental in bringing performers and management together as well as additional engagements both locally and nationally. Established musicians enjoy the freedom to choose their repertoire, a choice that is not available to them as members of an orchestra.

In addition, Old First Concerts provides audiences with a diverse repertoire of high-quality music ranging from classical and avant-garde to world music. Old First Concerts has been critically recognized for innovative programming variety and outreach. Our audiences are loyal and knowledgeable. Performers notice and respond to the quality of listening.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SERIES**

Old First Center for the Arts was founded in 1970 by John Bodo, an amateur cellist and the pastor of Old First Presbyterian Church. Originally the Series was administered by Old First Presbyterian church and since 1983 Old First Concerts has been an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.

## ARTISTIC BACKGROUND

Old First Concerts has collaborated with the San Francisco Symphony's New and Unusual Series (renamed *Wet Ink*), San Francisco Opera's Schwabacher Debut Recital Series, Yefim Maizel's Opera Academy of California, John Parr's series *Basically British* featuring SF Opera Alder Fellows, and San Francisco Conservatory's BluePrint Series of new music and Honors concerts. Old First Concerts has co-commissioned with the San Francisco Arts Commission and Chamber Music America. Notable performers have included oboist Heinz Holliger, bassist Ray Brown, sarodist Ali Akbar Khan, husband wife duo Wesla Whitfield and Mike Greensill, kotoist Kazue Sawai, piano/organist Terry Riley, guitarist David Tanenbaum, pianists including Dennis Russell Davies, Clive Swansbourne, Joel Fan, and Jeffrey Kahane, and quartets including the Coull, Lark, and Kronos.

True to our mission composers including Elliot Carter, Ellen Zwilich, Ernst Bacon, Lou Harrison, Sir Michael Tippett, George Benjamin, George Tsontakis, Charles Wuorinen, Charles Shere, Jorge Liderman, John Cage, Ned Rorem, Kirke Mecham, Peter Schickele, Roger Nixon, Robert Sierra, Christian Wolff, Aaron Jay Kernis, Elinor Armer, Pablo Ortiz, John Marvin, Ursula Mamlok, Hyo-shin Na, Paul Chihara, Andrew Imbrie, David Conte, Joel Wallach, Chen Yi, John Harbison, and Terry Riley have all introduced performances of their works on our stage.

While we focus on supporting Bay Area musicians at all stage of their careers, we are always happy to host musicians of exceptional caliber from outside the area to provide our audiences with the best in contemporary chamber music. Recent performers from beyond the Bay area include: M.

Lamar, Thorwald Jørgensen, Will Chow, Club Glee, José López, The Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra, Jason Stoll, Grant Ferris, Duo AMA, Naama Liany, Utsav Lal, Eric Liu, Robert Stallman, Holes in the Floor, Bin Huang, Yu&I Duo, Uppsala Cathedral Choir, Enrico Pompili, Ksenia Nosikova, Paul Yeager, Kevin Kenner, Ivan Ilic, Tao Lin, Alfonso Alberti, Zephyr Ensemble, Zodiac Trio, and Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton.

In addition to all of the performers in today's program, who make regular appearances on our series, we want to celebrate some of the other local performers who we are proud to have had perform on our stage many times over the years, including Temirzhan Yerzhanov, Empyrean Ensemble, Laurel Ensemble, Adesso, Piedmont Children's Choirs, Wooden Fish Ensemble, Eos Ensemble, KITKA, Thomas Schultz, Volti, Kay Stern & Joan Nagano, Ives String Quartet (now Ives Collective), Voci, SF Piano Quartet, Sqwonk, SF Guitar Quartet, Clerestory, Sarn Oliver, Melodiya, Amos Yang, Jupiter Chamber Players, Heidi Melton, The Living Earth Show, Luciano Chessa, Mobius Trio, Miles Graber, Tom Rose, San Francisco Composers Chamber Orchestra, Schola Cantorum, Melody of China, sfSound Group, Shana & Avi Downes, Empyrean Ensemble, Shoko Hikage, and so, so many others.

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

As a community organization, Old First Concerts is encouraged by the financial support that we have received through Concert Memberships, individual donations and funding from:

San Francisco Grants for the Arts  
William & Flora Hewlett Foundation  
Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation  
San Francisco Arts Commission- Cultural Equity Grant  
Crescent Porter Hale Foundation  
California Arts Council  
Chamber Music America  
Stanley Ibler, Jr. Fund for Music  
The Zellerbach Family Fund  
California Lawyers for the Arts  
Bernard Osher Foundation  
Bank of America Community Fund  
National Endowment for the Arts

### **ARTIST'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Old First Concerts is Delighted to Recognize the following Artists who have served on a Advisory Committee over our history: Dan Becker, Donna Bruno, Lawrence Ferrara, Daniel Glover, Mike Greensill, Corey Jamason, Esther Landau, Jodi Levitz, Mack McCray, Ron McFarland, Emil Miland, Bettina Mussumeli, Hyo-shin Na, Joan Nagano, John Parr, Elizabeth Prior, Stephen Prutsman, and Victor Romasevich.

## PROGRAM

**Matthew Wolka**, Old First Concerts Director - Welcome

**William Wellborn**, *piano*

*Impromptu in A major, Op. 7, No. 2* by Jan Václav Voříšek

*Impromptu in E-flat Major D. 899 #3* by Franz Schubert

**James Armstrong**, *piano*

*Sanctuary* by James Armstrong

**Robert Schwartz**, *piano*

*La leggierezza* from *Three Concert Etudes (S.144)* by Franz Liszt

**John Ferguson**, *piano*

*Molto vivace* from *Symphony No. 9*

by Ludwig van Beethoven (arr. Franz Liszt)

our #1 video on YouTube - over 460,000 views!

**Hadley McCarroll**, *piano*

*Hymne* from *Serenade in la* by Igor Stravinsky

*Midsummer Nocturne* by Aaron Copland

**Thomas Culp** - Old First Concerts Board President

**Daniel Glover**, *piano*

*Polonaise in C, Op. 89* by Ludwig van Beethoven

**Gwendolyn Mok**, *piano*

*Fantasy on Melodies of Beethoven* by Carl Czerny

**Christopher Burt** - Old First Concerts Board Vice President

***NEW MUSIC at Old First Concerts***

**Friction Quartet**

*Short and Reflectaphor a* from *Family Group with Aliens*  
by Piers Hellawell

**Sarah Cahill, piano**

*She Dances Naked Under Palm Trees* by Theresa Wong

**ZOFO**

*Tupan and Davul* by Erberk Eryilmaz

**Del Sol Quartet**

*Borne* (excerpt) by Rajna Swaminathan

**Ensemble for These Times - Margaret Halbig, piano**

*Twilight Mazurka* by Alden Jenks

**Thomas Culp - Old First Concerts Board President**

***CHAMBER MUSIC at Old First Concerts***

**Holes in the Floor**

*Clair de lune* by Claude Debussy (arr. Blaise Dejardin)

**Ensemble ARI**

**Jean Ahn, Director**

**martha & monica**

*Con moto - Adagio* from *Pohádka* by Leoš Janáček

**SF SOTA – Ava Soifer**



**Winnie Nieh**, *soprano* & **Paul Dab**, *piano*

*Simple Gifts* Shaker song attr. Elder Joseph Brackett,  
arr. Aaron Copland

**WORLD MUSIC/JAZZ at Old First Concerts**

**Cascada de Flores - Arwen Lawrence & Jorge Liceaga**

**Lawrence Ferrara**, *guitar*

*Sunburst* by Andrew York

**Henry Plotnick**, *piano*

Improvisation

**Cornelius Boots**, *shakuhachi*

*Underground Sun* by Cornelius Boots

**KITKA**

**Shira Cion**, *Director*

*K'viria*

**Matt Wolka**, Old First Concerts Director - Thanks so much for being part of Old First Concerts during the past 50 years and we look forward with hope to the future!

## COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

**Friday, November 20 at 8 pm**

**Ensemble for These Times—*Old Becomes New***

**Nanette McGuinness, soprano; Anne Lerner, cello**

*& season guest Margaret Halbig piano*

*with special guest appearance by Dalit Warshaw, piano*

New music by living composers inspired by older forms, styles, and themes, taking something old and giving it a new perspective for these times by refashioning it into something brand new.

**Saturday, December 5 at 8 pm**

**San Francisco Yiddish Combo**

The SFYC is embarked on a journey around the world to present their own unique blend of everything that is Klezmer, mixed with years of experience in the jazz, blues, folk, and even hip hop world.

**Friday, December 18 at 8 pm**

**Daniel Glover, piano**

A Covid compromise—a program of symphonies and concertos without orchestra, honoring Beethoven's 250th birthday—rare solo piano works that also exist(ed) as orchestra works. Since we currently have no chance to attend live orchestra concerts, this recital will remind us of what we have been missing, as well as celebrate the legacy of Beethoven. Works by Muzio Clementi, Beethoven-Alkan, Corigliano, and Liszt, as well as a work by Beethoven only just discovered earlier this year!

**plus an annual holiday tradition, date to be confirmed:**

**Golden Bough—Margie Butler, Paul Espinoza, and Kathy Sierra**

*Christmas comes but once a year and Golden Bough rings in good cheer,*

*Families gather one and all to raise their voices in the hall.*

Share the laughter, song and joy as Golden Bough performs rare versions of Celtic songs of Winter, as well as their unique take on better known Christmas Carols. Blending their voices in pristine harmony, Margie Butler, Paul Espinoza and Kathy Sierra back themselves on an array of rare and more common acoustic instruments including; Celtic harp, penny-whistle, violin, octave-mandolin, mandolin, accordion, guitar, harmonica, recorder and bodhran.

*Tickets and more information at [oldfirstconcerts.org](http://oldfirstconcerts.org)*

## OLD FIRST CONCERTS DONORS

<b>Bravissimo!</b> (\$1000 and up)	Abby Rumsey	Marshall Krause
Anonymous (3)	Leslie & Bob Stafford	Will Leben
Christopher and Cindy Burt	John Stedman	Mack & Meikui McCray
Claudine Cheng	<b>Enthusiastic Applause</b>	Henry Mahncke &
Mary Culp	(\$100 - \$249)	Kimberly Tanner
Thomas Culp &	Anonymous	Robert Maldonado
Charles Wagner	B. Amaroso	Jordan Moncharmont
Philip & Elayne Dauber	Christine Beckstrom	Milton Mosk
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Randal Wong &	Julia Erickson	Jack Shoemaker
Jamila Champsi	Judith Ets-Hokin	Ted Teipel
Susan Worts	David Featherstone	Elizabeth Varnhagen
<b>Encore Performance</b>	William Feister &	Robert & Martha Warnock
(\$500 - \$999)	Judith Ross	George Wiepert
Anonymous (2)	Patricia Ferrari	Danielle & Gary Wohl
Ruth & Frank Belvin	Rachel Fisher	Keith Yamamoto
Erika Bodo	Thomas Flaherty	Norman Young
Jeanne Kirkwood	Yuko Franklin	
Joan B. O'Connor	and Club Glee	<b>Friends of Old First Concerts</b>
Lynne Ogata	RT Freebairn-Smith	Anonymous
Ann Stone	Robert Friedman Presents	Susan Baker-Lehne
Stephen & Sarah Taber	Shoko Furuya &	Ralph Beren
Paul Upham	Christopher Kitting	Les Bruno
Brett Waxdeck	Dr. & Mrs. E. C. Gaenslen	Hal Christiansen
George & Priscilla Yu	Rochelle Gatlin	John Diamante
<b>Standing Ovation</b>	William Grant	Maggi Henderson
(\$250 - \$499)	Elizabeth Greening	John Gosselin
Anonymous (2)	Helen & Michael Gross	Sarah McCuskey
Jean Ahn	David Hammer	Alan & Hitomi Onizuka
George Becker	Eleanor Hammer	Stephani Phipps
Roland & Lois Feller	Barbara Imbrie	Becky A. Reed
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Howard & Wendy Kleckner	Sally Ketchum	Katie Struble
Betty Meissner	Michael Korbholz	Stephanie Winters
James Robinson		

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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.