



*presents*

# Golden Bough

**Margie Butler**

*vocals, Celtic harp, tin-whistles, recorders*

**Paul Espinoza**

*vocals, guitar, accordion, octave-mandolin*

**Kathy Sierra**

*vocals, violin, viola, tin-whistle*

**Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 4 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.

## PROGRAM

A' Soalin'

Christmas Comes But Once a Year

I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In

Welsh New Year Song

The Boar's Head/O'Carolan's Draught

Crown of Light, Crown of Thorns

The Mummer's Carol

Themes from *'Everlasting'* and *'The Last of the Mohicans'*

Bring Us a Bowl/Welsh Tunes

The Wexford Carol

Green Grow the Holly/ The Holly & The Ivy Girl

On Christmas Night

All Soul's Night

Sans Day Carol

Mrs. Fogarty's Christmas Cake

The Reindeer Song

The Gloucestershire Wassail

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

“There is a love of this music by the performers that is obvious. A great example of how to do something the right way when many are just doing it, period.” *Wind and Wire Magazine*

Rooted in the traditional music of the seven Celtic nations (Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, The Isle of Man, French Brittany and Spanish Galicia), **Golden Bough** has become a popular and in-demand group on both sides of the Atlantic. Since their formation in 1980, this trio of modern day minstrels has traveled great distances to numerous countries, to bring their music to enthusiastic folk fans the world over.

Blending their voices in pristine harmony, they back themselves on an array of rare and more common acoustic instruments; Celtic harp, guitar, octave-mandolin, mandolin, accordion, violin, viola, penny-whistle and bodhran. To date they have released over 30 recordings. In the recording studio, as well as on stage, Golden Bough captures the essence and joy of traditional music.

In April of 2001 Kathy Sierra joined Golden Bough and brought a new level of energy and excitement to the band. Her vocal harmonies blend naturally with Paul & Margie and together the three create a rich, full sound.

Golden Bough's first European performances were in the streets and small folk clubs of Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, Holland and Switzerland in the early '80's. These simple beginnings soon led to major tours of European cities and a recording contract with a top European World Music label.

**Margie Butler**, *vocals, Celtic harp, tin-whistles, recorders*

Margie's earliest musical influence came at the knee of her father, a talented Irish Tenor. As a child she played piano and violin. It wasn't until she began playing the Celtic harp, however, that her true love of Celtic Music came into full bloom. Besides performing with Golden Bough for the past 24 years, Margie has also recorded a CD of Celtic lullabies and two collections of harp music. Margie received a degree in performing arts from The United States International University for Performing Arts.

**Paul Espinoza**, *vocals, guitar, accordion, octave-mandolin*

Paul's first instrument was the accordion, which he took up at the age of nine. The guitar followed soon after and by the time he was 16 Paul was writing songs and performing in coffeehouses and folk clubs. After several years of performing as a soloist, with a folk trio and later in a rock and roll band, Paul joined forces with Margie. They performed for a time as a duo and then, in 1980, they formed Golden Bough.

**Kathy Sierra**, *vocals, violin, viola, tin-whistle*

Kathy began her violin studies at age 5 in Honolulu, Hawaii and performed in concert with the Honolulu Symphony at age 7. Kathy received her degree in drama and music from Principia College, where she was honored with the Francis Van Der Meid Smith Music Award for outstanding musicianship. Kathy has performed with the Gold Country Chamber Orchestra in Sacramento. Her other musical influences include Eastern European, as well as, Celtic fiddle styles.

## COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

**Friday, January 22 at 8 pm**

**Samantha Cho**, *piano*

Debussy's *Images* and Grieg's youthful and spirited *Sonata in E minor* performed alongside a selection of exquisitely beautiful but less-often heard works by Germaine Tailleferre.

**Sunday, January 24 at 4 pm**

**Ives Collective**—featuring **Elizabeth Schumann**, *piano*

The Ives Collective presents powerful live music experiences through fresh and informed interpretations of established masterworks and underappreciated gems. This program features pianist Elizabeth Schumann in performances of Smetana's *Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15* and Dvořák's *Piano Trio in F minor, Op. 65*

**Friday, January 29 at 8 pm**

**Ensemble 1828**

**Nicole Oswald**, *violin*; **Isaac Pastor-Chermak**, *cello*; **Alison Lee**, *piano*

An evening of French music featuring Debussy's *Cello Sonata*, Franck's *Violin Sonata in A major*, and Ravel's *Piano Trio in A minor*.

**Sunday, January 31 at 4 pm**

**Jason Chiu**, *piano*

Iconic compositions for the piano including all four of Chopin's *Ballades* and Beethoven's ever-popular *Waldstein Sonata* performed alongside works by Debussy, Ravel, and Griffes.

**Sunday, February 21 at 4 pm**

**Chopin's Birthday Bash!**

An annual celebration of the life and music of Frédéric Chopin, organized with the San Francisco Chapter of the Chopin Foundation, featuring an internationally acclaimed pianist.

**Friday, February 26 at 8 pm**

**Wooden Fish Ensemble**

Presenting concerts of music and musicians from a variety of cultural and national backgrounds working together in a collaborative way, including traditional music from Asia and new music by avant-garde composers.

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

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Mary Culp	(\$100 - \$249)	Kimberly Tanner
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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.