



Old First Concerts

presents

Anita Graef, *cello*

with **Louise Chan, *piano***

Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 4 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 look forward to having audiences back in our space when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we are happy to be able to continue presenting artists of the highest caliber to our audience in the Bay Area—and beyond—via livestreamed events. We are following city guidelines and safety protocols to help ensure the safest possible environment for our performers and staff.

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

Nina Shekhar (b. 1995)
Cajón (2016)

Teagan Faran/orig. Ángel Villoldo
El Choclo (2020)

Astor Piazzolla
Le Grand Tango (for cello and piano) (1973)

Robert Schumann
Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70 (1849)

David Baker
Sonata for Cello and Piano (1973)

Fast

Slow

Fast

ARTISTS

Described as "a world class musician" (*Galena Gazette*) who plays with "high energy and polish" (WQXR), cellist **Anita Graef** has earned recognition for her music making as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer. Recent appearances include Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert series, and "Concerts from the Library of Congress." She has also performed in recital as a guest of various radio programs, including "Young Artists Showcase" on WQXR, WFMT, WGTE, WOSU and others. She directs and performs with the Juliani Ensemble, an innovative, multi-faceted chamber ensemble, with whom she has performed at Preston Bradley Hall, as well as numerous renowned concert halls. Frequent orchestral appearances include the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, originally as a CCM-CSO Fellow, as well as the Louisville Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic and others. Recent and upcoming appearances include a recital at Columbia University, debuts in San Francisco, Toronto, San Diego, and performances throughout North America and Europe.

She has performed at various festivals, including fellowships with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, as principal cellist of Brevard Music Festival, the Catskills Chamber Music Festival, as assistant principal cellist of Miami Music Festival, as well as Credo Chamber Music Festival at Oberlin Conservatory. She has been a prizewinner at numerous competitions, including First Prize at the Golden Classical Music Awards, ongoing finalist status at the Tannenwald and ECSO Competitions, Third Prize at The North International Music Competition, and Silver Prize at the Muse International Competition.

She has had occasion to work with and perform for musicians such as Stephen Geber, Johannes Moser, Felix Wang, Roberto Diaz, Joel Smirnoff, Eric Kim, Charles Pickler, Yehuda Hanani, Martin Katz, Paul Watkins of the Emerson Quartet, Anne Martindale Williams, the Shanghai String Quartet, the Calidore Quartet, and the Chiara Quartet. Former teachers include Anthony Elliott, Marc Johnson, Hans Jorgen Jensen, and several members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, including Jonathan Pegis, Richard Hirschl, and Brant Taylor. She has performed in orchestras under the baton of maestros such as Leonard Slatkin, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, James Gaffigan, Peter Oundjian, David Efron, JoAnn Falletta, Rossen Milanov, Louis Langree, James Conlon and Keith Lockhart.

Born into a family of professional musicians, Anita grew up surrounded by music. She began piano studies at age two, while beginning to study cello at age four, going on to make her concerto debut at the age of twelve. She went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, where she studied with professor Anthony Elliott. Following this, she completed studies for a Master's Degree at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of Ilya Finkelshteyn.

When not making music, Anita enjoys reading, cooking, crocheting, weight lifting, hiking, spending time with friends and family, and exploring new cities.

Anita performs on a modern Italian cello by Ferdinando Garimberti, dated 1923. For more information, visit anitagraef.com.

Pianist **Louise Chan**, a native of Ottawa, Canada, has performed as a solo and chamber musician for audiences across North America, including Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Weill Hall in New York, and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. She is a past winner of the Canadian Music Competition, and has appeared as a soloist with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Northwestern Summer Orchestra. She and violinist Kate Carter, as Blue Violet Duo, released their debut CD, *American Souvenirs*, in the fall of 2018, which was featured as WFMT 98.7's Album of the Day. They perform regularly in the Midwest, including repeat engagements at the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts. Dr. Chan has served as principal pianist of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and on the faculty of Northeastern Illinois University. She is currently on faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago, and performs as a keyboardist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. She is a member of the Royal Conservatory of Music's College of Examiners. She holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University.

COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Sunday, March 21 at 4 pm

Ives Collective—**Susan Freier**, *violin/viola*; **Kay Stern**, *violin*;
Stephen Harrison, *cello* & **Gwendolyn Mok**, *piano*
Franz Schubert's *String Trio in B-flat major, D. 581* and Amy
Beach's *Piano Quintet in F-sharp minor, Op. 65*.

Sunday, March 28 at 4 pm

Junior Bach Festival—Honors Concert

An all-J. S. Bach concert showcasing some of the most talented young musicians in Northern California. A chance to hear Bach's music played with tremendous skill and youthful exuberance!

Sunday, March 11 at 4 pm

Pacific Pythagorean Music Festival

Del Sol String Quartet hosts this annual festival devoted to music that uses mathematically "pure ratios" - finding harmony and resonance in alternate tuning systems. With performances by an all-star lineup of Bay Area performers from experimental to traditional styles, this year's four-hour celebration will also feature several world premieres.

Saturday, April 17 at 8 pm

Quinteto Latino—**Diane Grubbe**, *flute*; **Kyle Bruckmann**, *oboe*;
Leslie Tagorda, *clarinet*; **Shawn Jones**, *bassoon*;
Armando Castellano, *French horn*
Program details coming soon!

Sunday, May 16 at 4 pm

Scattered Melodies—Hwayoung Shon, *gayageum*

A rare performance of Kim Juk Pa's *Scattered Melodies*, an hour-long work for solo gayageum inspired by the popularity of improvised instrumental shaman music and narrative storytelling in late 19th century Korea.

More programs will be added to the calendar as confirmed, so check out oldfirstconcerts.org for the most up-to-date information as well as to purchase tickets.

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Standing Ovation	William Grant	Maggi Henderson
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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.