



Old First Concerts

presents

Sarah Cahill
piano

Friday, July 16, 2021 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 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

Franghiz Ali-Zadeh (b. 1947)
Music for Piano (1989/1997)

Hannah Kendall (b. 1984)
On the Chequer'd Field Array'd (2013)
Mindplay
Middlegame
Coda

Anna Bon (1738–?)
Sonata op. 2, no. 5 in B minor (1757)

Agi Jambor (1909–1997)
Sonata (1949)

Leokadiya Kashperova (1872–1940)
from **Au sein de la nature** (1910)
from *Deux roses*
Le murmure des blés

Zenobia Powell Perry (1908–2004)
Rhapsody (1960)

Madeleine Dring (1923–1977)
from **Colour Suite** (1963)
Blue Air
Brown Study

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Music for Piano: **Franghiz Ali-Zadeh** was born in Baku, Azerbaijan. In recent years, she has devoted herself to study of the Azerbaijani virtuosic improvisatory style called *mugham*. She has received international acclaim for her compositions, which fuse characteristics of traditional Azerbaijani music with modern Western techniques. As a pianist she is known for her performances of twentieth century composers including Schoenberg, Cage and Crumb, whose music she performed in Baku for the first time. For this piece, Ali-Zadeh lays a beaded necklace on the strings of the piano to evoke a traditional instrument, the tar.

On the Chequer'd Field Array'd: **Hannah Kendall** grew up in London, and her music is often inspired by social and political themes. For her *Tuxedo* series, a painting by Jean-Michel Basquiat provides one of many graphic scores that Kendall has used as inspiration throughout her career. Rather than create 'representations' of these images, she uses them to spark her writing process. She writes: "The title *On the Chequer'd Field Array'd* is taken from the 1763 poem *Caissa* by Sir William Jones and depicts the three sections of a game of chess (the opening, middlegame, and endgame), each taking inspiration from different sources." The sources for the three movements come from Albert Einstein, Marcel Duchamp, and David Janowski.

Sonata op. 2, no. 5 in B minor: Italian composer **Anna Bon di Venezia** was four years old when she started studying at a convent music school and began touring with her parents as a musical wunderkind. When she was sixteen, Bon and her parents accepted a position in the Bayreuth-based court of Princess Wilhelmine of Prussia, who was an accomplished musician, and Bon published her *Six Keyboard Sonatas, Op. 2* at the age of nineteen. Her death year is often given as 1767, but that is apparently the year she got married; after that she disappears from the historical record. She wrote all her surviving compositions before age twenty.

From *Au sein de la nature*: While she has been remembered primarily as Igor Stravinsky's piano teacher, **Leokadiya Kashperova** was a brilliant pianist and composer in her youth. She was considered the best student of the legendary Anton Rubinstein at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. When she was in her forties, she impulsively married a Bolshevik revolutionary who was one of her students, and they managed to escape the imminent Revolution. Her compositions were never performed or published, but a British musicologist, Dr. Graham Griffiths, is working with Boosey & Hawkes to make her scores available. These are two pieces from a suite titled *In the Midst of Nature*.

Sonata: **Agi Jambor** was born in Budapest, Hungary. She studied with the great pianist Edwin Fischer and played Mozart sonatas with Albert Einstein, and won the 1937 Chopin competition in Warsaw. When the Nazis came to power, she and her husband hid in the homes of friends and moved frequently, and Jambor worked in the Resistance. After she and her husband finally arrived in the

United States, she played for President Truman in the White House and became an activist against McCarthyism and the Vietnam War. She composed her three-movement *Piano Sonata*, dedicated to the victims of Auschwitz, after the death of her husband. Dr. John DesMarteau edited the sonata with Jambor's guidance, and it is dedicated to him.

Rhapsody: Zenobia Powell Perry grew up in the town of Boley, Oklahoma, and studied piano with R. Nathaniel Dett, who encouraged her to compose. She acted as assistant to choral conductor William L. Dawson at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Eleanor Roosevelt became her friend, ally, and mentor, and she was active in the Civil Rights Movement. Her symphonic works and operas explore her own African American and Native American heritage. She dedicated her *Rhapsody* to her daughter, who she managed to raise alone while teaching college and studying composition.

Colour Suite: Madeleine Dring grew up in London, and from a young age, she acted and enjoyed writing music for the theater and radio. She wrote cabaret songs and West End Revue material, as well as music for ballet and children's plays, theatrical works, and chamber music. She also acted on ITV Television Playhouse, for which she also wrote music. Her *Colour Suite*, subtitled "Five Rhythmic Studies for Piano," reflects her interest in jazz, calypso, and other vernacular forms, combined with her classical training.

ABOUT THE SARAH CAHILL

Called "A leading light of the new-music piano scene" by *The New York Times*, **Sarah Cahill** has commissioned new works from Frederic Rzewski, Terry Riley, Pauline Oliveros, Mary Watkins, Roscoe Mitchell, Annea Lockwood, and many other composers. Upcoming concerts include the Barbican Centre in London; the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Florida; Gualala Arts, with Regina Myers; Mills College; and the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive. She will perform again at Old First Concerts, in programs with multiple pianists, on September 17th and October 29th. She was named a 2018 Champion of New Music, awarded by the American Composers Forum (ACF) at a recital at Old First Concerts. Her radio show *Revolutions Per Minute* can be heard every Sunday on KALW-FM, and she is on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Sunday, August 15 at 4 pm

Samantha Cho, piano

Mozart's *Rondo in A minor, Sonata in C major, K. 545* and *Sonata in B-flat major, K. 570* are paired with Sofia Gubaidulina's *Musical Toys* and *Invention*.

Sunday, August 22 at 4 pm

San Francisco International Piano Festival—Nicholas Phillips

A varied and compelling array of works by leading composers of our time, including a World Premiere by Quinn Mason and works by Sahba Aminikia, Reena Esmail, Chen Yi, Tania León, and more.

Friday, August 27 at 8 pm

Terrie Baune, violin & John Chernoff, piano

Grażyna Bacewicz's *Sonata No. 4* and Béla Bartók's *Sonata No. 1*

Sunday, August 29 at 4 pm

San Francisco International Piano Festival—*Les Années Folles*

featuring **Jory Vinikour & Philippe LeRoy, harpsichords &**

Gwendolyn Mok & Jeffrey LaDeur, piano

Works by Boulanger, Poulenc, Couperin, Tailleferre, & Ravel.

Saturday, September 11 at 8 pm

The Illustrated Pianist

Pianist-composers present their interpretations of short stories from Ray Bradbury's iconic collection *The Illustrated Man*. Presented with the Ross McKee Foundation for the Musical Arts.

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Enthusiastic Applause (\$100 - \$249)	Michael Korbholz	Hal Christiansen
B. Amaroso	Laurence Kornfield	Helen Cohen
Barbara Bagot-Lopez	Marshall Krause	Fred Cummins
Sarah Bailis	Pam Zipkin & Robert Lampkin	John Diamante
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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.