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presents

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Paul Dab, *piano*
Yearning and Innocence

Friday, November 12, 2021 at 8 PM

Old First Church

1751 Sacramento St. at Van Ness Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94109

(415) 474-1608 www.oldfirstconcerts.org

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.

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 all 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** with information about upcoming events plus photos and videos from our concerts.

OLD FIRST CONCERTS DONORS

Standing Ovation (\$250 - \$499)

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Enthusiastic Applause
(\$100 - \$249)
B. Amaroso
Barbara Bagot-Lopez
Sarah Bailis
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Katherine & Michael
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of Joyce Frankenburg
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COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Sunday, November 14 at 4 pm—Wood God Blues

Cornelius Boots, *taimu, shakuhachi, compositions & transcription with special guest Kevin Chen, Taimu & shakuhachi*

Premieres, compositions, solos, duos and a sacred Coltrane transcription. This is animistic woodwind music. Avant-garde nature music: soothingly feral new music at the intersection of Zen meditation, rural blues, jubilee gospel & lost paleolithic cave rituals. *Please note this event is live stream only.*

Friday, November 19 at 8 pm—Utsav Lal, *piano, with special guest Manik Khan, sarod*

“Raga & Jazz pianist” Utsav Lal returns to Old First Concerts to present a unique Piano-Sarod jugalbandi duet concert of Indian Classical Music, along with sarod maestro Manik Khan, the youngest son of the legendary Ustad Ali Akbar Khan.

Friday, December 3 at 8 pm—Holiday Guitars

Larry Ferrara & Zachary Donaldson, *guitars*; **Sandra Betti**, *flute*; and the guitar ensemble **Guitars à la mode**

A special program celebrating the yuletide season with the music of J. S. Bach, John Dowland, and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Performances will include guitar, guitar and flute, guitar and harp, as well as festive holiday music for guitar orchestra directed by Larry Ferrara.

OLD FIRST CONCERTS DONORS

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		Susan Worts
		George & Priscilla Yu

PROGRAM

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

Willkommen und Abschied (D767, 1st version)

Suleika I

Suleika II

Michael Robert Smith (b. 1989)

Peter Quince at the Clavier

World Premiere

Just as my fingers on these keys

In the green water, clear and warm

Soon, with a noise like tambourines

Beauty is momentary in the mind

Intermission

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Sandmännchen

Wiegenlied

Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979)

Soir d'hiver

Cantique

Aaron Copland (1900–1990)

The little horses

Simple gifts

Nature, the gentlest mother

I bought me a cat

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Soprano **Winnie Nieh** graduated from Harvard and received Associate diplomas from Trinity College London in piano, violin and voice. Gifted with perfect pitch and a “well-focused”, “impeccably pure and heart-breaking” voice “able to soar above piano or orchestra”, she has appeared as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Austrian Embassy, as well as in Germany, Canada, South Korea and Hong Kong. She made her European solo debut with legendary Maestro Helmuth Rilling in Bach’s *Cantata BWV 147*. She won First Place in the St. Andrews Arts Council (Canada) International Aria Competition, Third Place & Audience Favorite in Madison Early Music Festival’s Handel Aria Competition, was a National Finalist in New York Lyric Opera’s Competition, and a Runner-up in two consecutive *San Francisco Classical Voice* Best of the Bay polls – behind world-renowned pianist András Schiff for “Best Recital Soloist” and behind internationally-acclaimed mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato for “Best Vocal Recital”. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco-based, Grammy-winning vocal ensemble, Chanticleer.

Later this season, she will be premiering Colin Martin’s *Songs from “By Heart”* set to texts by Karen McKinnon, with the New Mexico Philharmonic. Besides her acclaimed solo recitals in both the US and Hong Kong, her recent performances include: the soprano solo in Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Vaughan Williams’s *A Sea Symphony* in Boston, and Handel’s *Messiah* in New Jersey and Colorado.

Paul Dab is a San Francisco based pianist, teacher, vocal coach, and music director. He collaborates with singers and instrumentalists in a variety of musical styles and enjoys presenting audiences with a wide range of music and discussion topics. Paul collaborates with Bay Area organizations including Lamplighters Music Theater, West Bay Opera, and Cinnabar Theater and has been part of the creative process for world premier operas by Hector Armienta and Joseph Colombo. In classes, private lessons, and performances he engages students on a weekly basis through programs at San Francisco Community Music Center, San Francisco Opera Guild,

and Schools of the Sacred Heart. Paul has been a dedicated musician since his grandparents first took him to piano lessons at the age of four. He received degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Vanderbilt University and has worked in educational outreach at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, the Cypress String Quartet, and the Nashville Symphony.

Michael Robert Smith (b. 1989) is an award-winning composer of contemporary concert music. His music has been described as “Relatively simple, elegantly-turned, beautifully vocal music with a compelling through-line from start to finish” (Gabriel Jackson) and has been commissioned and performed by The Crossing, Chorosynthesis, Mouthscape, the SFCM New Music Ensemble, soprano Winnie Nieh, The Glassbrook Vocal Ensemble, Pianist Josh Wilson, The Commonwealth Club of California, cellist Nadia Geier, and violinist Sam Weiser.

Michael has won multiple awards and prizes, including the 1st place prize in the SFCM Biennial Choral Composition competition, 2nd place prize in the SFCM Biennial Art Song Competition, and the Commonwealth Club of California’s Fanfare Commission, which was performed by members of the San Francisco Symphony for the grand opening of the Club’s new building.

In addition to composing, Michael is an active choral performer and church musician, as well as a conductor. He has performed with many prestigious institutions including the New York Philharmonic, The London Philharmonia, the Philadelphia Orchestra (featured soloist), and the Simon Bolivar Orchestra as a member of the Westminster Symphonic Choir.

Michael received his Masters degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and his Bachelor’s degree from Westminster Choir College of Rider University.