



Old First Concerts

*presents*

# **Golden Bough**

## *Christmas in a Celtic Land*

**Margie Butler**  
**Paul Espinoza**  
**Kathy Sierra**

**Friday, December 17, 2021 at 8 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 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](https://www.instagram.com/oldfirstconcerts) with information about upcoming events plus photos and videos from our concerts.

## PROGRAM

*Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.*

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

Christmas has long been celebrated as a time for family and friends to gather and share the joy of the season. For over 40 years the Celtic music group Golden Bough has been providing an opportunity for loved ones to join together in song and celebration with their concert program, *Christmas in a Celtic Land*.

An Old World carol states, "Good fortune attend each merry man's friend to do the best that he may, forgetting all wrongs in carol and song to drive the cold winter away." With that in mind, Golden Bough created a special program for the whole family. Celtic songs of Christmas and Winter are inter-mixed with their own compositions written especially for the Yuletide season.

No new comers to the current Celtic trend, Golden Bough (founded in 1980) has been bringing their Winter Concerts to family audiences far and wide. These modern-day minstrels have traveled the world over performing their own brand of Celtic music. They have drawn from the rare carols of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Cornwall for their *Christmas in a Celtic Land* program.

Their Holiday Concert is the perfect setting in which to enjoy Golden Bough's rare carols and songs of celebration for the Winter Solstice and the New Year. With lively instrumental pieces, haunting ballads and humorous sing-alongs, the band creates an atmosphere in which the listener is transported to another place and time. Margie Butler, Paul Espinoza and

Kathy Sierra capture the essence and joy of traditional music on a wide variety acoustic instruments, including; Celtic harp, penny-whistle, guitar, accordion, violin, viola, mandolin, and bodhran (a hand held drum, particular to the Celtic culture).

Golden Bough's three Yuletide CDs; *Winter's Dance*, *Christmas in a Celtic Land*, and *When Winter Comes*, are distributed worldwide and have received enthusiastic response from music fans and critics alike. *Rock & Reel Magazine* in England had this to say about their 2nd Christmas offering; "A vibrant and multi-faceted collection, *Christmas in a Celtic Land* sees Golden Bough at their musical and creative peak." You can find out more about Golden Bough, their recordings, concert schedule and history by visiting their web-site at [www.goldenboughmusic.com](http://www.goldenboughmusic.com).

This joyful Celtic Christmas Concert is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to gather together to celebrate and drive the cold winter away with Golden Bough's unique Yuletide presentation. You'll be hard put to sit still once the fire of Celtic music is flamed by these fine musicians. A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

#### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**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

**Saturday, December 18 at 8 pm**

**Robin Sutherland: celebrating a towering musical genius**  
**Christopher Basso, Elizabeth Dorman, Keisuke Nakagoshi,**  
**Marc Shapiro, *piano*; Jack Van Geem & Daniel Hallett,**  
*marimbas*

Celebrating the life of Robin Sutherland with performances of music by Bach, Debussy, Beethoven, Respighi, Bolcom, and Bernstein by several of his closest friends.

**Friday, January 7 at 8 pm**

**Solomon Ge, *piano***

A young rising star, Solomon Ge makes his San Francisco recital debut with a program of works by Bach, Ravel, Beethoven, and Prokofiev, plus one of his own compositions.

**Saturday, January 8 at 8 pm**

**Slow Wave— Kyle Beard, *clarinet*; Justine Preston, *viola*;**  
**Naomi Stine, *piano***

Exploring the slower end of the sound wave spectrum, Slow Wave performs the World Premieres of works by Bay Area composers Joowan Kim, Emma Logan, and Kyle Hovatter, plus recent works by Brett Eastman and Kalevi Aho.

*For tickets & more information visit [www.oudfirstconcerts.org](http://www.oudfirstconcerts.org)*

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|   |                                       | Stephanie Winters                         |

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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.