



Old First Concerts

and Ross McKee Foundation

present

Robin Sutherland

*celebrating a towering
musical genius*

**Christopher Basso, Elizabeth Dorman,
Keisuke Nakagoshi & Marc Shapiro, *piano***

Jack Van Geem & Daniel Hallett, *marimbas*

Saturday, December 18, 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 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

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Partita in B-flat major, BWV 825

Praeludium

Allemande

Courante

Sarabande

Menuet 1

Menuet 2

Gigue

Elizabeth Dorman, *piano*

Claude Debussy (1862–1918)

selections from **Children Corner, L113**

V. The little shepherd

IV. The snow is dancing

Ottorino Respighi (1879–1936)

Notturmo from **Sei Pezzi per pianoforte, P044**

Christopher Basso, *piano*

Leonard Bernstein & Roger Edens, arr. Marc Shapiro

Some Other Time

Marc Shapiro, *piano*

William Bolcom (b. 1938)

Graceful Ghost Rag

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943), arr. Earl Wild

Dreams, Op. 38, No. 5

Keisuke Nakagoshi, *piano*

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Sonata No. 22 in F major, Op. 54

In tempo d'un menuetto (attacca)

Allegretto

Christopher Basso, *piano*

Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Daniel Hallett

Goldberg Variations Suite

Aria

Variation 16

Variation 5

Variation 25

Variation 7

Aria arrangement

Jack Van Geem and Daniel Hallett, *marimbas*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Christopher Basso's piano performances have been heralded as "riveting, with a multi-dimensional array of colors and shapes" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*) an "undeniably extraordinary" (*Wilmington News Journal*). *The Boston Globe* writes of his Prokofiev *8th Piano Sonata*: "Basso used his coruscating virtuosity, his flexible rhythmic spine, and his chameleon colors to communicate the sorrow, the irony, the rage and the compassion of this great score." His playing has also been described as thoughtful, expressive and above all, deeply moving and engaging.

Basso was named First Place Prizewinner in the Second International Van Cliburn Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Ft. Worth, Texas. National performance venues include recitals at The Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Florida, the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the Rockport Chamber Music Festival in Rockport, Massachusetts, the

Shandalee Music Festival in Livingston, New York, and The Nicolai Hall Series in Mill Valley, California. Basso has performed in the Bay Area with local artists, including violinists Ian Swensen and Krista Bennion Feeney, violist Jodi Levitz, cellists Jennifer Culp and Jean-Michel Fonteneau, pianists Robin Sutherland and Keisuke Nakagoshi, and the Ives Quartet.

Christopher Basso received B.M. and M.M. degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His piano mentors are many, and include Paul Hersh, Mack McCray, Nina Svetlanova, David Brown, and Marcia Spitz. Basso teaches piano at San Francisco Community Music Center. As an educator, Basso imparts in his students — youngsters and adults alike — a lifelong appreciation for music, helping nurture creative examination and practice, while guiding in finding a standard for self-expression and personal fulfillment.

Praised by Joshua Kosman of the *San Francisco Chronicle* for her “elegance and verve,” pianist **Elizabeth Dorman** enjoys performing music both new and old as a soloist and chamber musician. A finalist of the 2018 Leipzig International Bach Competition, Elizabeth has been widely recognized as a leading performer for her inquisitive interpretations of Bach’s music on the modern piano.

Elizabeth has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the Louisville Orchestra, the Santa Rosa Symphony, the Leipzig Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, Symphony Parnassus, Folsom Lake Symphony, and as a soloist for interdisciplinary projects at New World Symphony. She has been presented as a soloist and chamber musician at venues including the Kennedy Center, Davies Symphony Hall, Herbst Theater, Merkin Hall,

Carnegie's Weill Hall, Leipzig's Hochschule für Musik, and her live solo performances have been nationally broadcast on NPR and public radio. She has appeared at festivals including Tanglewood, Britt, Sarasota, Aspen, Toronto Summer Music, Icicle Creek, and Banff Centre.

Working with the Bridge Arts Ensemble, Stony Brook University, and the Ross McKee Foundation, Elizabeth has produced concerts, lectures, and workshops for music students and was honored with the Father Merlet Award from Pro Musicis for her work training high school music students in community engagement.

A native of San Francisco, Elizabeth began her training in piano and double bass at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music under Paul Hersh and Stephen Tramontozzi. She was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts from Stony Brook University where she studied with Gilbert Kalish. Other important mentors in her musical development include Robert Levin, the Emerson String Quartet, Christina Dahl, Wu Han, Mark Sokol, Emmanuel Ax, and Arthur Haas.

Jack Van Geem served for 32 years as Principal Percussionist with the San Francisco Symphony, spent 38 years teaching at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and nine at the Colburn School of Music. He is the author of five publications and featured on three solo CDs. He is a prominent wood worker in Mendocino for the last five years.

Daniel Hallett enjoys a multifaceted musical career that ranges from collaborations with contemporary composers to creating transcriptions of classical works. He is passionate about bringing unknown music to light and advancing the marimba as a serious musical instrument in the public eye.

Hallett began his studies at Berklee College of Music with marimba virtuoso Nancy Zeltsman. In his time at Berklee he collaborated with composer Phil Carlsen on the world premiere of *Susurrus*, a new solo marimba work, and a recording of the composer's landmark marimba quartet *Evening's Sabres* with three colleagues at Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

In recent years, Hallett performed two works for solo marimba at the annual Hot Air Music Festival: Derek Tywoniuk's *Savino* for marimba and tape, and *Reflections on the Nature of Water* by Jacob Druckman, commonly recognized as one of the masterworks for solo marimba. He was also invited by Jacob Nissly, Principal Percussionist at the San Francisco Symphony, to demonstrate *Reflections* for the Percussion Audition Committee at SFS in spring of 2020.

Upcoming projects include a recording and concert of the complete *Goldberg Variations* with professor Jack Van Geem; a chamber recital of works for violin and marimba with colleagues at SFCM; a collaboration with Bay Area composer Charles Boone on a new piece for marimba and glockenspiel; a solo recital replete with adaptations of works by Schubert, Debussy, Thomas, and Beethoven; and a lifelong goal to adapt Beethoven's complete piano sonatas (yes, all 32 of them) for two marimbas.

Keisuke Nakagoshi began his piano studies at the age of ten, arriving in the United States from Japan at the age of 18. Mr. Nakagoshi earned his Bachelors degree in Composition and Masters degree in Chamber Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music., where he studied composition with David Conte and piano with Paul Hersh. Graduating as the recipient of multiple top awards, Keisuke was selected to represent the SFCM for the Kennedy Center's Conservatory

Project, a program featuring the most young musicians from major conservatories across the United States.

Mr. Nakagoshi has performed to acclaim on prestigious concert stages across the United States, including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. He has received training from some of the most celebrated musicians of our time – Emanuel Ax, Gilbert Kalish, Menahem Pressler, Robert Mann, Paul Hersh, David Zinman – and enjoys collaborating with other accomplished musicians such as Lucy Shelton, Ian Swensen, Jodi Levitz, Robin Sutherland, Lev Polyakin, Axel Strauss, Mark Kosower, Gary Schocker and also conductors such as Alasdair Neale, George Daugherty, Nicole Paiement, Michael Tilson Thomas and Herbert Blomstedt. In 2014, he made a solo debut with San Francisco Symphony on Ingvar Lidholm's *Poesis* with Herbert Blomstedt conducting.

In 2009, Keisuke and Swiss pianist Eva-Maria Zimmermann formed ZOFO, a piano duet team commissioning and performing music for piano four hands and their first CD was nominated for Grammy award for best chamber music/small ensemble in 2013. Mr. Nakagoshi is currently Pianist-in-Residence at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and he serves as pianist in the production team for Opera Parallèle.

Marc Shapiro is an acting member of the San Francisco Symphony, principal keyboardist for both the California Symphony and Berkeley Symphony, and an active chamber music performer throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

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.

Sunday, January 23 at 4 pm

Basma Edrees, *violin* & **Ava Nazar**, *piano*

From Brahms to Piazzolla through Reza Vali

Basma & Ava's program revolves around the music of the contemporary Iranian composer Reza Vali. Nicknamed the Persian Bartók, Vali is considered one of today's leading exponents of using folk songs as a basis for composing contemporary music.

Friday, January 28 at 8 pm

Chelsea Hollow, *soprano* & **Taylor Chan**, *piano*

Cycles of Resistance

A program chronologically exploring poetry and texts of resilience and rebellion throughout the 20th and 21st centuries featuring nine world premieres in eight languages.

Sunday, January 30 at 4 pm

Ives Collective

Kay Stern, *violin*; **Jeremy Preston**, *violin*; **Susan**

Freier, *viola*; **Stephen Harrison**, *cello*; **Elizabeth Schumann**, *piano*

The Ives Collective presents powerful live music experiences through fresh and informed interpretations of established masterworks and underappreciated gems. This performance includes works by Mahler, Schubert, and Bruch.

For tickets & more information visit www.oldfirstconcerts.org

COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Friday, February 4 at 8 pm

Circadian String Quartet—*Fanny and Felix*

**Monika Gruber, violin; David Ryther, violin; Omid Assadi, viola;
David Wishnia, cello**

Celebrate the enduring musicality and strong bond of the famous sister and brother composers—Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn—both prodigiously talented musicians but unequally supported and encouraged in their talents due to the prevalent sexism of the time.

Sunday, February 6 at 4 pm

Sierra Ensemble

Matthew Vincent, violin; Janis Liberman, horn; Marc Steiner, piano

Sierra Ensemble performs the premieres of two genre-expanding new works for horn, violin and piano: the World Premiere of Richard Aldag's *Trio for Violin, French horn, and Piano* and the US Premiere of Tolga Özdemir's *Chaopolis*.

Friday, February 11 at 8 pm

Passionflower Duo—*Schubert's Winterreise*

Gabrielle Lochard, soprano & Jonathan Liu, piano

A new reading of Franz Schubert's *Winterreise* by the dynamic recital partnership Passionflower Duo, specializing in classical song. "In preparing the piece, we've tried to approach it with an eye towards life, sincerity, and sometimes even a sense of humor, to find some of these colors and textures in the meditation on grief and heartbreak that *Winterreise* presents.

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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.