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*presents*

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**Nancy Whitecar**, *Assistant Director of Young Men's Ensemble & Collaborative Pianist*

**Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 4 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)

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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.

## 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.  
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contact: [curtishuth@oldfirstconcerts](mailto:curtishuth@oldfirstconcerts) for more information.

## 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.

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Stephanie Winters

## COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Friday, February 24 at 8 pm

**Bardin-Niskala Duo—*Songs Reimagined***

**An-Lin Bardin, cello & Naomi Niskala, piano**

An evening of west coast premiers of works by ALAANA (African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and Native American) composers, each inspired by a childhood song or folk song from the composer's heritage, including commissioned works by Yiheng Yvonne Wu, Juantio Becenti, Miguel del Aguila, Michael-Thomas Foumai, and Jean "Rudy" Perrault.

Sunday, February 26 at 4 pm

**Daniela Mineva, piano—*Transfigured Voices***

This program features uncompromising piano scores are deeply spiritual and strikingly expressive by three of the most original and influential Eastern European women composers—Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Galina Ustvolskaya, and Sofia Gubaidulina, performed by Daniela Mineva, who *The New York Times* called a "vibrant and expressive performer who could steal the show in every concert".

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

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Donna Kline	Ruth & Frank Belvin	Susan Worts
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## PROGRAM

### CONCERT GROUP AND CHORAL SCHOLARS

Francesco Durante (1684–1755), misattributed to Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710–1736), ed. Clayton Westermann

**Magnificat - Movement 1. Magnificat**

with the Cal Arte Ensemble

Continuo realized by Nathaniel Pergamit,  
ed. Carol Panofsky

Traditional Carol, arr. Andy Brooke (b. 20th c.)

**I Saw Three Ships**

Calvin Blanford, *soloist*

Traditional Carol, arr. Stuart Nicholson (b. 1948)

**Ding Dong! Merrily on High**

Yongyu Gao, *organ*

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

**Ecce novum**

with the Cal Arte Ensemble

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

**Non Nobis Domine**

### CONCERT GROUP

John Rutter (b. 1945)

**For the Beauty of the Earth**

J. S. Bach (1685–1750), Charles Gounod (1818–1893)

**Ave Maria**

## YOUNG MEN'S ENSEMBLE

Franz Biebl (1906–2001)

### **Ave Maria**

Small Ensemble: Todd Crandell, Miles Kaludzinski,  
Luca Lit, Amit Krishnan, Aryan Gupta, Misha Aganin,  
Lincoln Mendenhall, Brian Wu

Traditional English Carol, arr. Chad Weirick (b. 20th c.)

### **A-Wassailing!**

Ola Gjeilo

### **Ave Generosa**

Stephen Main (b. 1963)

### **The Darkest Midnight in December**

Southern Harmony, 1835, arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

### **Brightest and Best**

with the Cal Arte Ensemble and Finn Heinzen, *bass*

Ken Berg (b. 1955)

### **Come and See the King**

Nigerian Christmas Song, Via Olatunji, arr. Wendell Whalum

### **Betelehemu**

Small Group: Amit Krishnan, Marvin Valdez,  
Miles Kalduzinski  
Ben Carlson, *djembe*

## COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

**Monday, January 23 at 7:30 pm**

### **Earplay—*Mirages***

An ensemble of composers and musicians fueled by a passion for new chamber music perform Carla Magnan's *Mirages* along with three World Premieres by Hendel Almetus, Linda Bouchard, and Richard Aldag.

**Sunday, January 29 at 8 pm**

### **Ives Collective**

**Kay Stern & Susan Freier, violins; Clio Tilton, viola; Stephen Harrison, cello; Elizabeth Schumann, piano**

Presenting powerful live music experiences through fresh and informed interpretations of established masterworks and under-appreciated gems, the Ives Collective performs works by Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, Florence Price, and Max Bruch.

**Friday, February 3 at 8 pm**

**Greek Chamber Music Project—*Uproot: Music for Asia Minor***

**Katerina Clambaneva, vocals; Ellie Falaris Ganelin, flute; Lewis Patzner, cello; Elektra Schmidt, piano**

Remembering the 1923 Population Exchange, which uprooted 1.6 million people across Asia Minor and is considered an act of ethnic cleansing, through songs and stories to generate a universal dialogue about the impact of forced migration and building a bridge to the experiences of modern-day refugees.

**Sunday, February 5 at 4 pm**

**Gabriela Calderón Cornejo – *Musas***

An enlightening performance with commentary on her album *Musas*, which strives to uncover and celebrate a collection of powerful at-risk compositions written by Latin American women born before 1950, including Carmen Barradas, Nelly Mele Lara, Maruja Hinestrova, Aurora Román Casares, and María Mendoza de Baratta.

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

## COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

**Sunday, December 18 at 4 pm**

### **KITKA – *Wintersongs***

KITKA's voices joyfully bestow musical blessings for health, hope, peace, good fortune, and the return of the light as the Winter Solstice and New Year draw near, in a special concert featuring sacred and secular Ukrainian songs for the season.

**Friday, December 23 at 8 pm**

### **Golden Bough**

**Margie Butler, Paul Espinoza & Kathy Sierra**

Share the laughter, song, and joy as Golden Bough performs rare versions of Celtic songs of Winter, as well as their unique take on better known Christmas Carols.

**Friday, January 6 at 8 pm**

**Sarah Cahill, piano**

Sarah Cahill premieres several works, including *Humanitas* by the late Frederic Rzewski, written in honor of his friend Terry Riley, as well as Arlene Sierra's *Birds and Insects Book 3*, selections from Robert Pollock's *Enneagram*, and Carolyn Yarnell's *Nocturne*. She'll also perform *Shadow* by Rebecca Saunders and *Walk in Beauty* by Peter Garland.

**Friday, January 20 at 8 pm**

### **American Mavericks**

**Chelsea Randall, piano**

Chelsea Randall presents a concert celebrating seldom performed and contemporary piano works by Black American composers, as part of her ongoing performance and commissioning project *American Mavericks*, dedicated to 20th and 21st century Black American composers. Her program includes works by George Walker, Chloe Clarke Smith, Dorothy Rudd Moore, Jonathan Bailey Holland, Joyce Solomon Moorman, and Regina Harris Baiocchi.

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

## COMBINED ENSEMBLES

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

### **Shalom**

Julian Brown, *violin*

Isaac Watts (1674–1748), arr. William Llewelyn (b. 1925)

### **Joy to the World**

Yongyu Gao, *organ*

## THE CHOIRS

### CONCERT GROUP

Andrew Altorfer\*  
Nathan Bannister  
Ian Bass\*  
Calvin Blanford\*  
Nick Damon  
Alex Dujmovic  
Kui Fine  
Eli Hart  
Colin Henderson  
Bryant Ho  
Jonah Hsu  
Elliot Lee  
Lyn Leonard  
Ming Lim

Henry Lin  
Brandon Liu  
Isaac Liu  
Michael Long  
Albert Luo  
Florian Mayssat-Basu  
Darius Monstavicius  
Finn Reese^^  
Hersh Saxena  
Arthur Scholom  
Johan Sijp  
Connor Statton^  
Luke Suffoletto  
Alex To  
Oliver To

Adrian Twomey  
Iker Vahamaki  
Abraham Villeda  
Eshu Vinnakota  
Justin Vives  
Colin Xiellie  
Brenden Yu  
Joshua Zheng

### *Leadership Team*

\*Co-Head Chorister  
^Team Captain  
^^ Student Conductor  
&Head Chorister  
Emeritus

### CHORAL SCHOLARS

Misha Aganin  
Spencer Bergland  
Simon Braun  
Yanni Cheng  
Talinn Hatti  
Finley Heinzen  
Miles Kaludzinski  
Amit Krishnan †

Luca Lit †  
Henry Liu  
Paolo Marasco  
Lincoln Mendenhall †  
Krishna Nagarajan  
Matteo Navarro  
Armaan Sharma  
Adrian Vahamaki †  
Marvin Valdez

Tom Vosgian  
Thomas Williams  
Brian Wu  
Ethan Zettler-Bray  
†Section Leader

## YOUNG MEN'S

### ENSEMBLE

Misha Aganin

Aaron Bao

Jacob Bau

Spencer Bergland

Simon Braun

Ben Carlson

Yanni Cheng

Armani Choy †

Danny Cox

Manny Cox

Todd Crandell

Logan Crawford

Christopher Culwell

Jack Day

Sam Dickey

Connor Esmond

David Gu

Aryan Gupta †

Talinn Hatti

Finley Heinzen

Carter Hendrix

Miles Kaludzinski †

Jackson Kay

William Keller

Simon Kirjner

Olivier Kondo

Amit Krishnan †

Kavan Kumar

Luca Lit †

Henry Liu

Liam Lowitz

Paolo Marasco †

Lincoln Mendenhall †

Krishna Nagarajan

Smaran Narayanan

Matteo Navarro

John Phillips

Leon Qin

Diego Ramirez

Peter Reeves

Rhys Salma

Paul Sapilewski

Yash Saxena

Zachary Sayyah

Armaan Sharma

Christopher Spurling

Nikhil Srinivasan

Chase Thompson

Javier Tulabing

Declan Twomey

Adrian Vahamaki †

Marvin Valdez

Tom Vosganian

Theo Waltuch

Thomas Williams

Brian Wu

Ethan Zettler-Bray

## Cal Arte Ensemble

**Julian Brown**, *violin*

**Brandon Wang**, *violin*

**Goetz Leonhardt**, *viola*

**Sam Cotta**, *cello*

The Cal Arte Ensemble was founded in 2015 by pianist Tamami Honma and violinist Julian Brown and have presented many concerts in the Bay Area featuring classical masterpieces for chamber group ensembles including trios, quartets and quintets by Arensky, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Shostakovich, and others. Their performance of Beethoven's *Archduke Piano Trio* received praise from *San Francisco Classical Voice*: "What it needs is the joy in life brought to it by these players. Their relaxed flexibility in phrasing made everything roll along. The finale was the movement most transformed from other performances I've heard." During the pandemic, they created a number of virtual performances on YouTube including complete performances of Fauré's *Requiem* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. See [www.calarte.com](http://www.calarte.com) for more details.

## **ABOUT THE MUSICIANS**

**Ragazzi Boys Chorus** is one of the San Francisco Bay Area's premier music and performance organizations for boys. Currently serving more than 175 boys from over 100 schools in more than 30 communities, Ragazzi is the largest boys chorus in the Bay Area. Ragazzi means "boys" in Italian, and is the term used in opera to refer to children's voices.

Ragazzi has performed with the San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Opera San Jose, Symphony Silicon Valley, and the Stanford University Symphonic Chorus, among others. Ragazzi was honored for its contribution to the San Francisco Symphony's triple Grammy Award-winning recording of Stravinsky's *Perséphone* and produces its own

University, earning her Master's degree in 2013. She accompanies for the Burlingame School District and Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo, and is an active performer throughout the Bay Area. She also serves as a pianist and organist at Burlingame United Methodist Church. She is a member of the Music Teachers Association of California, and her piano students regularly participate in the Certificate of Merit and Royal School of Music programs and exams.

**Nancy Whitecar**, *Assistant Young Men's Ensemble Director and Collaborative Pianist*, is a professional musician and music educator with over 25 years of experience. She teaches general music classes at The Music School at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian church, and accompanies for instrumentalists and choirs throughout the Bay Area. Nancy has directed children's and youth choirs, and taught piano to students of all ages in her private piano studio. She served as accompanist and assistant director of the BeckRidge Chorale in Southeast Michigan for over 20 years, and as Associate Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth, Michigan. Nancy is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, and the California Association of Professional Music Teachers. She graduated from the University of Illinois and holds a Piano Teacher Certificate from Schoolcraft College in Michigan.

discography. Under the leadership of Artistic and Executive Director Kent Jue, the group tours throughout the United States and internationally to widen chorus members' cultural and musical horizons and deepen Ragazzi's reputation for performance excellence. Ragazzi was founded in 1987 by Joyce Keil.

### **Faculty**

**Kent Jue**, *Artistic and Executive Director; Director of Concert Group/Choral Scholars*, is an experienced choral conductor, music educator, and facilitator for lifelong learning in music. An energetic teacher, adjudicator, guest clinician, workshop presenter, and mentor, he is known for building high-level musicianship skills through his engaging style and rapport with students. He has a passion for uncovering the full artistic and expressive potential of individual choristers in an ensemble setting. Kent conducts Ragazzi's most accomplished treble singers, Concert Group, and the select tenor and bass Choral Scholars. He has toured extensively with the Ragazzi program and has led Ragazzi choirs to numerous festivals. An avid collaborator, Kent has prepared ensembles for performances with organizations including San Francisco Symphony, Symphony Silicon Valley, Opera San Jose, and West Bay Opera. Kent has also conducted youth choruses at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and performed and recorded with the Golden Gate Men's Chorus and the Gay Men's Choruses of San Francisco and Boston. He has a Masters of Music Education, with a Kodaly Emphasis from Holy Names University, a Bachelor of Music, Music Education from the University of the Pacific, a certificate in

the Orff-Schulwerk method of music education, and holds a CA teaching credential. As Ragazzi's second Artistic Director, Kent is honored to continue Ragazzi's legacy of musical excellence, and its tradition of developing choral artists of character and distinction.

**Travis Rogers**, *Young Men's Ensemble Director*, has been a professional choral conductor for 45 years. He retired from Napa High School in June of 2017 after thirty-seven years as the choral music director. Mr. Rogers directed the activities of over 300 students (at least half of them boys) each school year in seven different ensembles. Choirs at the school toured frequently nationally and internationally, performing in world famous venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City, St. Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedrals in Dublin, Notre Dame in Paris, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, Westminster Abbey in London, and Sagrada Familia and the Barcelona Cathedral in Spain. NHS ensembles also earned top honors at several national and international competitions in New York City, Hawaii, Australia, Austria, and England as well as top ratings and awards at local, regional and state festivals and competitions.

In 1981, during his second year of teaching at Napa High, Mr. Rogers began the school's first Men's Choir with 20 students. In subsequent years, as many as 220 young men sang in one or more of three separate male ensembles at the school. Typically, each year up to 80% of new enrolling male singers did so with no previous choral training yet earned "Unanimous Superior" ratings at area choral festivals for the

quality of their performances. The 2016–2017 NHS Beginning Men's Choir was the subject of the documentary *Top Row*, currently available on Amazon Prime, which chronicled the group's preparation and subsequent performance at their first choral competition.

Mr. Rogers has served the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) California Chapter in many capacities including repertoire and standards chair for high school and male choirs, summer conference chair and President. He is also a Past-President of the western region of ACDA. Travis Rogers has conducted over thirty honor and district choirs in northern and central California. He has been a choral competition/festival adjudicator and clinician for over thirty years as well as a frequent presenter at professional conferences for ACDA and California Music Educators Association (CMEA).

**Yongyu Gao**, *Collaborative Pianist*, began playing the accordion at age four, establishing a strong musical foundation for piano studies she began at the age of 10. In 2005, Yongyu won first place in the Beijing National Accordion Competition, and third place in the Beijing National Piano Competition. This experience helped her focus on piano, and in 2009, she graduated with a BA from South China University in Music Education with an emphasis in piano performance. After moving to the United States, she played for the Inna Opera Group at the Community Music Center in San Francisco. Yongyu continued her study in piano performance as a Walker Scholar at San Jose State