San Francisco International Piano Festival

August 19-29, 2021
#30 Bach: The Goldberg Variations
Special Presentation
https://tinyurl.com/2ydr26fu
Thursday, August 19, 2021 (PST)
7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Lowry Yankwich, piano & guests of the #30 Bach Podcast

KINDRA SCHARACH, MEZZO-SOPRANO; JEFFREY LADEUR, PIANO

A Winter Journey
YouTube Premiere
https://tinyurl.com/4rnnwzc3
Thursday, August 26, 2021
7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. (PST)
Kindra Scharach, mezzo-soprano; Jeffrey LaDeur, piano
Alexander String Quartet:
Zakarias Grafilo, violin; Frederick Lifitz, violin,
Paul Yarbrough, viola; Sandy Wilson, cello

Piano Break I: Nicholas Phillips
YouTube Premiere https://tinyurl.com/52p5jayy
Friday, August 20, 2021
5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. (PST)
Nicholas Phillips, piano

Le Voyage dans le Temps (Live & live-streamed)
San Francisco Conservatory
Live Stream https://vimeo.com/event/1152873
Saturday, August 21, 2021
7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. (PST)
Jory Vinikour, harpsichord
Philippe LeRoy, harpsichord
Jeffrey LaDeur, piano

A Celebration of Contemporary Piano Music
Old First Concerts Live & live-streamed
Tickets Available https://tinyurl.com/et3ny29
Livestream Link https://tinyurl.com/yphsxmhj
Sunday, August 22, 2021
4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. (PST)
Nicholas Phillips, piano

Paul Sánchez Performs Music of Graham Lynch
(World Premiere)
https://tinyurl.com/bve9s98
Tuesday, August 24, 2021
5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. (PST)
Paul Sanchez, piano

Chamber Music at the Maybeck Studio
By invitation only.
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. (PST)
Davis You, cello; Jeffrey LaDeur, piano;
Jesse Barrett, oboe; Gwendolyn Mok, piano;
Aveta Trio: Sarah Yuan, piano; Eunseo Oh, violin;
Elliott Kim, cello

Piano Legacy with William Wellborn
YouTube Premiere
https://tinyurl.com/3f5v0v2b
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. (PST)
William Wellborn, Guest and Pianist
Jeffrey LaDeur, Interviewer

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to rage throughout the world, San Francisco has begun to experience signs of hope for healing and a return to life, albeit a life forever altered. In acknowledging the complexity and challenge of this transitional moment, the San Francisco International Piano Festival presents its Season 4.5 through the lens of an historical epoch that is both precedent and premonition: the 1918 Spanish Flu, the conclusion of World War I in 1919, and the advent of the roaring twenties. The Piano Festival takes its inspiration from this moment and follows the thread of innocence lost and reclaimed, tragedy mourned, joy in rebirth, and the dizzying juxtaposition of folly and destruction.

A critical voice in our theme of transition is the harpsichord, whose literature, vast and profound in its own right, opened the door to more than 300 years (and counting!) of piano music. World renowned harpsichordists Jory Vinikour and Philippe LeRoy join us this year to share music by Couperin, Rameau, and Bach, a sound world emulated by 20th century composers in their piano works. A perfect example is Ravel’s Le Tombeau de Couperin (1919) performed by Gwendolyn Mok on an 1875 Erard piano; fashioned after the Baroque dance suite, each movement is dedicated to a fallen comrade lost in WWI. The Festival finale takes the frisson between these eras to its height with the juxtaposition of Poulnac’s Suite Française (In the Style of Claude Gervaise) with movements alternated between piano and harpsichord.

The piano festival continues its commitment to contemporary music with a series of premieres by composer Graham Lynch performed by festival favorite Paul Sanchez, and Nicholas Phillips’ performance in collaboration with Old First Concerts features the world premiere of Quinn Mason’s Sonata ‘21. Education remains central to our purpose, and the festival is delighted to collaborate with Young Chamber Musicians once again this season in performance and masterclass with Albert Kim.

It is my hope that the 2021 festival will speak to the many layers of complexity we experience in our daily lives and offer a musical inheritance that we might draw upon as we navigate these challenging times.

Jeffrey LaDeur
Founder and Artistic Director
San Francisco International Piano Festival
Join us in celebrating Bach’s iconic masterpiece through a uniquely curated virtual event: the complete Goldberg Variations as performed by guest artists of the #30 Bach podcast, created and hosted by pianist Lowry Yankwich. The podcast explores J.S. Bach’s masterwork with leading interpreters and innovators, including Angela Hewitt, Simone Dinnerstein, Jeffrey LaDeur, Dan Tepfer, the Borromeo String Quartet, Imani Winds, HieYon Choi, and Mahan Esfahani. The complete composite performance will premiere in a curated video format with insight into the music, performers, and the creation of the podcast with Lowry Yankwich.

Over the course of 15 episodes, the podcast unpacks the music and puts it together again, ultimately arriving at a composite version of the whole work, played in segments by the various interviewees. At the same time, each episode explores a different theme evoked by the music, and its effect on the interviewees. For example, one episode touches on the idea of creativity within constraints with a former principal designer of the Apple iPhone who finds inspiration in the piece. Another delves into the legacy of Bach the improviser with Dan Tepfer, a brilliant jazz pianist who improvises over the structure of the piece. Yet another explores the piece as a source of solace, with commentary from Washington Post critic Philip Kennicott, who wrote a book about learning the piece as a way of processing his mother’s death.

#30 Bach: The Goldberg Variations Special Presentation

https://tinyurl.com/zydr26fu
Thursday, August 19, 2021
7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m. (PST)
The festival presents its first LIVE event with a concert celebrating French music through the ages. Renowned harpsichordists Jory Vinikour and Philippe LeRoy join artistic director Jeffrey LaDeur for this special event, representing the powerful and influential voice of the harpsichord and its impact on piano literature.

7ème Ordre: Les Petits Ages
François Couperin (1668-1733)
La Muse Naissante L’Enfantine, L’Adolescente, Les Délices

Well Tempered Clavier Book II
Prelude and Fugue in E Major BWV 878
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prélude, Aria et Final
César Franck (1822-1890)

Les cyclopes
Gavotte et doubles
Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764)

Homage à Rameau
Masques
D’un cahier d’esquisses
L’île joyeuse
Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Jory Vinikour, harpsichord
Philippe LeRoy, harpsichord
Jeffrey LaDeur, piano

In Collaboration with The Ross McKee Foundation, the festival is proud to welcome back pianist Nicholas Phillips in a program of music by the American eclectic Charles Tomlinson Griffes. A prolific composer Griffes' contributions to art song and solo piano literature established him as an influential, salient voice in early 20th century American music.

Fantasy Pieces Op. 6
Barcarolle
Notturno
Scherzo

The Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan

Roman Sketches Op. 7
The White Peacock
Nightfall
The Fountain of the Acqua Paola
Clouds
Charles Tomlinson Griffes (1884-1920)

Nicholas Phillips, piano

Le Voyage dans le Temps (Live & live-streamed)
San Francisco Conservatory
Live Stream https://vimeo.com/event/1152873

Saturday, August 21, 2021
7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. (PST)

Piano Break I: Nicholas Phillips
YouTube Premiere https://tinyurl.com/52p5jayj
Friday, August 20, 2021
5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. (PST)
A Celebration of Contemporary Piano Music
Old First Concerts Live & live-streamed

Bringing together a varied and compelling array of leading composers of our time, Nicholas Phillips present a live solo recital from Old First Concerts. The Festival is delighted to welcome him back, particularly for the first live recital of the 2021 festival, presented in collaboration with Old First Concerts.

Rang De Basant (2012)
Reena Esmail (b.1983)
Aghavni (2009)
Mary Kouyoumdjian (b.1983)
Mieux vau être seul que mail accompagné (2021)
Mark Olivieri (b.1972)
Hymn for Alaina (2021)
from Music for a New Apocalypse
III. Tyranny of Virtue (2020)
She Steals Me from The Piano’s 12 Sides (2011)
Carter Pann (b.1972)
Lullaby (2015)
Sahba Aminikia (b.1981)
Year End Nocturne (2021)
Mark Winges (b.1951)
Karnavalito No.1 (2013)
Gabriela Lena Frank (b.1972)
Sonata ’21 (2021)
Quinn Mason (b.1996)
1. Moderate, with movement
2. Slowly with feeling
3. Finale (5 with 4 and 3 with 2)
Nicholas Phillips, piano

—denotes World Premiere

Paul Sánchez Performs Music of Graham Lynch
(World Premiere)
https://tinyurl.com/bve9r898

In collaboration with the International Piano Series at College of Charleston (SC) the piano festival is proud to present the world premiere of White Book III by Graham Lynch performed by festival favorite Paul Sánchez. Since 2017, pianist and composer have established a deep artistic collaboration that has resulted in the creation of White Book III, the world premiere of his Saphho Fragments with soprano Kayleen Sánchez, and a forthcoming recording of Lynch’s complete piano music performed by Paul Sánchez and Albert Kim. The recording features Albert Kim in the composer’s White Book II which received its US Premiere at the 2018 San Francisco International Piano Festival. *YouTube Premiere

Absolute Inwardness (World Premiere)

The Couperin Sketchbooks (US Premiere)

White Book III (World Premiere)

For Paul Sánchez
I. Seria Ludo
II. The Hesperides
III. Glow
IV. The Rhine
V. Landscape with Angels
Graham Lynch (b. 1957)
Paul Sánchez, piano

—denotes World Premiere  •—denotes United States Premiere
Chamber Music at the Maybeck Studio
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. (PST)

An intimate evening of chamber music featuring special guests Gwendolyn Mok and Jesse Barrett, Young Chamber Musicians’ Aveta Trio, and YCM alumnus Davis You with festival artistic director and pianist Jeffrey LaDeur.
Please note: this concert is a donor ($2000+) Thank You event and is by invitation only.

Sonata in F Major for Piano and Cello Op. 5, No. 1
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Sonata for Oboe and Piano Op. 166
Camille-Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Trio in C Minor Op.66
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Davis You, cello
Jeffrey LaDeur, piano
Jesse Barrett, oboe
Gwendolyn Mok, piano
Aveta Trio
Sarah Yuan, piano
Eunseo Oh, violin
Elliott Kim, cello

Piano Legacy with William Wellborn
YouTube Premiere
https://tinyurl.com/3hf5we2b
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. (PST)

Beloved by Bay Area audiences and beyond, pianist William Wellborn joins us for music and conversation in celebration of his tenure as President of the American Liszt Society, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. A veteran performer and educator, Mr. Wellborn brings a wealth of knowledge not only of piano literature and historical performance but an encyclopedic knowledge of opera and singers from the first half of the twentieth century through present day. Topics to include the role of the voice in piano playing, Liszt and opera, and not-to-missed historical recordings from the Victrola era.

Sonetto 123 del Petrarca
Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Liszt Rigoletto Paraphrase
Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

William Wellborn, Guest and Pianist
Jeffrey LaDeur, Interviewer
On February 9, 2020, Lieder Alive! presented a Winter gala concert by candlelight featuring Schubert’s Winterreise (Part I) with mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich and pianist Jeffrey LaDeur. The Alexander String Quartet made a special guest appearance to perform Brahms’ Piano Quintet in F Minor with LaDeur, highlighting the musical and symbolic connections between Brahms’ instrumental masterpiece and Schubert’s transcendent song cycle.

Tonight, the festival is pleased to share for the first time selections from this concert, made even more poignant by the winter journey that awaited the world in the weeks following this performance.

Winterreise D. 911 (Selections)
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Quintet for piano and strings in F Minor Op. 34 (selections)
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano
Jeffrey LaDeur, piano
Alexander String Quartet:
Zakarias Grafilo, violin
Frederick Lifsitz, violin,
Paul Yarbrough, viola,
Sandy Wilson, cello

French-American pianist Julia Den Boer is a passionate advocate for contemporary music. Based in New York city, she performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician and is an active commissioner of new works. She is committed to exploring and broadening her instrument’s boundaries through close collaboration with composers and artists.

With The Ross McKee Foundation, we are proud to present Julia Den Boer’s San Francisco International Piano Festival debut and look forward to welcoming her in person next season. Ms. Den Boer’s recital features a mix of new and classic repertoire played with eloquence and conviction.

Miroirs
II. Oiseaux tristes
Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
Composition No. 5
Anthony Braxton (b. 1945)
Mirror, Mirror on the Wall
Rebecca Saunders (b. 1967)
In the Mists
Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

Julia Den Boer, piano
The piano festival continues its partnership with the Young Chamber Musicians program, featuring piano and string ensembles consisting of extraordinary pre-college musicians including the Aveta Trio, Gold Medal winners of the 2021 Junior Fischoff Competition. In addition to current YCM participants, we are proud to welcome back alumnus Davis You who will join Artistic Director Jeffrey LaDeur in Beethoven’s Sonata in F Major Op. 5, No. 1.

Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 5, No. 1  
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Davis You, cello
Jeffrey LaDeur, piano

Pause

Trio in C Minor, Op. 66  
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Aveta Trio:  
Sarah Yuan, piano; Eunseo Oh, violin; Elliott Kim, cello

Recorded in March 2021, two gifted pianists from Young Chamber Musicians engaged in a spirited musical dialogue with Albert Kim. Familiar to festival audiences as a spectacular and insightful pianist, Albert is equally gifted as an educator who joins with young colleagues in exploring the deep questions within the music.

This class focuses on two masterworks by Chopin and Prokofiev performed by Sarah Yuan and Solomon Ge, respectively. Join us for a window into the pianist’s workshop and the process of unraveling the layers behind the notes.

Ballade in G Minor, Op.23  
Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Sarah Yuan, piano

Sonata No. 7 in B-flat, Op. 83  
II. Andante calaroso  
III. Precipitato

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Solomon Ge, piano
Gwendolyn Mok has performed countless recitals and concerti in her multifaceted career in addition to her dedication to mentoring young pianists at San Jose State University and beyond. Ms. Mok has a rare knowledge of historical instruments and has made acclaimed recordings of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Ravel on period instruments.

This Piano Legacy interview explores the teaching of Vlado Perlemuter with whom Ms. Mok studied in Paris, the piano music of Maurice Ravel, and the impact of historical instruments on modern piano playing.

Le Tombeau de Couperin (1919)
Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
performed on a 1875 Erard piano

Gwendolyn Mok, Guest and Pianist
Jeffrey LaDeur, Interviewer

The festival concludes Season 4.5 through the lens of an historical epoch that is both precedent and premonition: the 1918 Spanish Flu, the armistice of 1919, and the advent of the roaring twenties. The Piano Festival takes its inspiration from this moment and follows the thread of innocence lost and reclaimed, tragedy mourned, joy in rebirth, and the dizzying juxtaposition of folly and destruction. Highlights include performances of Couperin, Bach, and Poulenc with Jory Vinikour and Philippe LeRoy, works by Nadia Boulangier and Germaine Tailleferre, and the vertiginous La Valse by Ravel.

Vers la vie nouvelle (1917)
Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979)

Les Folies Francaises, Passacaille in B Minor
François Couperin (1668-1733)

Suite Française
Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

2 Valses for Two Pianos
Germaine Tailleferre (1892-1983)

La Valse (1920)
Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Gwendolyn Mok, piano
Jory Vinikour, harpsichord
Philippe LeRoy, harpsichord
Jeffrey LaDeur, piano

Steingraeber Piano provided by R. Kassman Pianos
The Alexander String Quartet
Zakarias Grafilo, violin; Frederick Lifitz, violin; David Samuel, viola; Sandy Wilson, cello
Beloved by audiences throughout the Bay Area and beyond, the Alexander String Quartet has been ensemble in residence for San Francisco Performances since 1989. The Quartet is dedicated to education and are also prolific recording artists. The ASQ celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2021.

The Aveta Trio
Sarah Yuan, piano; Eunseo Oh, violin; Elliott Kim, cello
Winners of the 2021 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition (Junior Division) the Aveta Trio has dazzled audiences with their performances of Beethoven, Dvorak, Cassado, Mendelssohn and more. The Trio was formed and continues to study through Young Chamber Musicians, Burlingame, in partnership with Music at Kohl Mansion.

Jesse Barrett, oboe
Oboist, orchestral and chamber musician, educator, and new music enthusiast. Jesse is a Bay Area native whose refined performances have established him as one of the finest double reed players in the country.

Julia Den Boer, piano
French-American pianist Julia Den Boer is a passionate advocate for contemporary music. Based in New York city, she performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician and is an active commissioner of new works. She is committed to exploring and broadening her instrument’s boundaries through close collaboration with composers and artists.
Solomon Ge, piano
A versatile pianist and composer, Solomon Ge is a remarkable musician of depth and intelligence. An alumus of Young Chamber Musicians, He is currently pursuing his undergraduate studies at the New England Conservatory.

Albert Kim, piano
Albert Kim teaches and performs in the U.S and China as a solo and collaborative pianist. Faculty at Linfield College from 2013-17, he has served on the keyboard faculty of the University of Central Missouri since fall 2017.

Gwendolyn Mok, piano
Gwendolyn Mok is a leading pedagogue, lecturer, soloist and highly acclaimed recording artist. Born in New York City, Ms. Mok has appeared in many of the world’s leading concert halls, including the Barbican, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, and the Hong Kong Performing Arts Center.

Nicholas Phillips, piano
Described by the New York Times as a "talented and entrepreneurial pianist" and an "able and persuasive advocate" of new music, Nicholas Phillips' playing has been praised for its "beweved accuracy" (Fanfare) and as "razor-sharp yet wonderfully spirited" (American Record Guide). He is active as a soloist and collaborative artist, having performed all across the United States, as well as Europe, South America, Asia, and Africa.

Jeffrey LaDeur, piano
Founder and Artistic Director Jeffrey LaDeur performs internationally as soloist with orchestra, recitalist, and chamber musician. He is known for playing of "understatement, simplicity and 'old school' chord playing where every note sings out with meaning." (Gramophone).

Philippe LeRoy, harpsichord
Philippe has been heard in performance as a solo harpsichordist throughout Europe, and as an organist specializing in Baroque repertoire he favors French, Spanish, and Italian music of the Sixteenth through Eighteenth Centuries. He has performed on France Musique/Radio France on several occasions, and his debut recording was sponsored by the French Association for Artistic Action (now Culture France).

Paul Sanchez, piano
Praised as "a great artist" (José Feghali, 2013), pianist/composer Paul Sánchez is Director of Piano Studies & Artistic Director of the International Piano Series at the College of Charleston, & is Artistic Director of Dakota Sky Academy.

Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano
Mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich has been praised by the San Francisco Chronicle for her "exuberant vitality" "fearless technical precision" "deep-rooted pathos" and "irrepressible musical splendor." As a dedicated recitalist, she has performed more than 250 art songs in 13 languages and enjoys the full complement of recital, concert and opera engagements alike.
The career of internationally-acclaimed harpsichordist and conductor Jory Vinikour has taken him to date from his native Chicago to performance venues on five continents. Following studies in Paris with Huguette Dreyfus and Kenneth Gilbert as a Fulbright scholar, garnering First Prizes in the Warsaw and Prague Spring Festival International Harpsichord Competitions catapulted him to public attention.

William Wellborn enjoys an active career as a pianist, teacher and lecturer, and has performed and lectured widely over four continents. Guest artist appearances include the New Orleans Institute for the Performing Arts, the Paderewski Festival, the American Liszt Society, the Great Romantics Festival in Hamilton, Canada, the Chopin chez George Sand festival de piano in La Châtre, France, the Très Séculos de Piano series in Rio de Janeiro, and the Festival du Chablisien in Chablis, France.

Multifaceted Pianist, Writer, and Creator of the wildly popular Thirty Bach Podcast, Lowry Yankwich has collaborated with artists such as Angela Hewitt, Simone Dinnerstein, Dan Tepfer, and Jeremy Denk.

Cellist Davis You is currently studying with Laurence Loesser at the New England Conservatory of Music. Winner of many competitions, Davis has performed at the Heifetz International Music Institute, as soloist with the Prometheus Symphony, and on NPR’s From the Top. Davis is an alumnus of Young Chamber Musicians.

Pianist Sarah Yuan, age 16, lives in Moraga and is a sophomore at Miramonte High School. She began piano studies at age seven and is currently a student of Sharon Mann.
Goldberg-Variationen
Vierter Teil der Clavier-Übung
Acknowledgements—2021

The San Francisco International Piano Festival would like to acknowledge the following individuals and companies that supported the 2021 season.

**In Kind Contributions**
Maxine Bernstein
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R. Kassman Pianos
Brent Smith
David Xenakis

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Nancy B. Ranney
Celine Ricci
Nathan Zebedeo

The San Francisco International Piano Festival would like to acknowledge the following individuals and companies that supported the 2021 season.
9/11 | The Illustrated Pianist
Pianist/composers from San Francisco and New York share musical impressions of Ray Bradbury’s The Illustrated Man, accompanied by big-screen interactive visuals. Curated by Nicole Brancato.

9/17 | Cross Rhythms
Pianist Sarah Cahill brings together colleagues from across California for a dazzling program that focuses on women composers and composers of color.

9/25 | Prog to Bach and Bach Again
Stephen Prutsman explores texture and architecture, juxtaposing Bach with transcriptions of classics by Yes and Genesis.

⇒ rossmckee.org/current
Come visit for details and tickets. These hybrid events will be available for in-person attendance and streaming.