

SAN FRANCISCO BOYS CHORUS



2026 SPRING CONCERT

Coming Together to Sing

Ian Robertson, Artistic Director
Calvary Presbyterian June 6, 2026

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to our Spring Concert!

Today we are proud to celebrate the exciting results of this semester's work with our young artists, coming just after our wonderful success performing with the San Francisco Symphony in *The Lord of the Rings*.

This evening's program also celebrates America's birthday with music that reflects the spirit of freedom, joy, and unity. From a Renaissance madrigal and classical masterworks to Haitian folk music and inspiring American favorites, our singers share a musical journey spanning centuries and cultures.

We also look forward to an exciting summer for our Intermediate Chorus who will participate in the Appalachian Festival of Young Voices in Charleston, West Virginia.

We are delighted to share today's performance with you and are grateful for your supporting these talented young voices.

I would like to thank our wonderful directors, accompanists, administrators, rehearsal and performance staff and, not least, our supportive board of directors.

Have a fabulous summer.

Ian Robertson
Artistic Director
San Francisco Boys Chorus

JUNIOR CHORUS

Alèxa Sessler, Francisco Ortiz & Dylan Librande, directors
Barry Lloyd, piano

Daisy Bell

Harry Dacre (1857-1922)

Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do.
I'm half crazy over the love of you.
It won't be a stylish marriage:
I can't afford a carriage.
But you'll look sweet upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two.

On Top of Spaghetti

Tom Glazer (1914-2003)

On top of spaghetti, all covered with cheese,
I lost my poor meatball when somebody sneezed.
It rolled off the table and onto the floor,
And then my poor meatball rolled out of the door.
It rolled in the garden and under a bush,
And then my poor meatball was nothing but mush.
The mush was as tasty as tasty could be,
Then early next summer, it turned into a tree.
The tree was all covered with beautiful moss.
It grew lovely meatballs and tomato sauce.
So if you eat spaghetti all covered with cheese
Hold onto your meatball and don't ever sneeze!
Ah-Choo!

En El Sol (In the Sun)

Alèxa Sessler (b.1986)

Original Spanish

En el sol, y en la playa con mi familia.
En el sol, alegres y divertidos.
En el sol, nadando entre las olas.
Jugando juntos en la apacible arena.
¡Paz bajo el sol!

English Translation

In the sun, at the beach with my family.
In the sun, happiness and fun.
In the sun, swimming in the waves.
Playing together in the peaceful scene.
Peace under the sun!

JUNIOR CHORUS & APPRENTICE CHORUS

Joshua Marrald, conductor
Barry Lloyd, piano

America This Land I Love

Lyrics: Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1929)

Music: Samuel A. Ward (1847-1903)

Arr. & Additional Lyrics: Douglas E. Wagner (b.1952)

America, America, in my heart you'll ever remain.
America, America, my love for you proclaim.
America, my home, this land where I breathe free;
To live and love, to dream and grow in blessed liberty.

Oh beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

APPRENTICE CHORUS

Joshua Marrald, Dylan Librande, Spiro Tsingarlis & Todd Jolly, directors
Barry Lloyd, piano

La Piñata y Dale Dale

Two Traditional Mexican Folk Songs
Arr. by Marta Rodriguez-Salazar (living)

Original Spanish

Tiren confites y canalones
Pa los muchachos que son muy tragones
Anda muchacho, no te dilates
Con los confites y los cacahuates

No quiero oro, no quiero plata
Yo lo que quiero es quebrar la piñata.

Dale, dale, dale, no pierdas el tino.
Mide la distancia que hay en el camino.
Dale, dale, dale, dale y no le dió.
Quítenle la venda, porque sigo yo!

Dale, dale, dale, no pierdas el tino.
Que de la distancia pierdes el camino.
Ya le diste una, ya le diste dos.
Quítenle la venda, porque sigo yo!

English Translation

Throw out the candies and treats.
For the kids who love to eat!
Come on, little one, don't delay—
Bring on the candies and peanuts right away!

I don't want gold, I don't want silver;
All I want is to break the piñata!

Hit it, hit it, hit it—don't lose your aim!
Measure the distance along the way.
Hit it, hit it, hit it—you swung, but missed!
Take off the blindfold—now it's my turn!

Hit it, hit it, hit it—don't lose your aim!
Or you'll lose your way in the distance.
You hit it once, you hit it twice...
Take off the blindfold—now it's my turn!

APPRENTICE CHORUS

Sarasponda

Traditional Dutch Folk Song
Arr. by Ruth Boshkoff (b.1934)

Sarasponda, sarasponda, sarasponda ret-set-set!
Ah do-ray-oh! Ah do-ray-boom-day-oh!
Ah do-ray-boom-day ret-set-set!
Aw say-paw-say-oh!

Smile

Charlie Chaplin (1889–1977)
Lyrics: Geoffrey Parsons & John Turner

Smile, though your heart is aching. Smile, even though it's breaking.
When there are clouds in the sky, you'll get by.
If you smile through your fear and sorrow,
Smile, and maybe tomorrow, you'll see the sun come shining through for you.

Light up your face with gladness, hide every trace of sadness.
Although a tear may be ever so near,
That's the time you must keep on trying,
Smile, what's the use of crying,
You'll find that life is still worthwhile, if you'll just smile.

I Believe In A Seed

Cynthia Grey (living)

I do not believe a plant will spring up where no seed was sown, where no seed was sown.
I do not believe a world of love and harmony will grow where no seed was sown.
But I believe in a seed! I have great faith in a seed.
Convince me there's a seed there and I'll have great faith in that seed.

Convince me that you have a seed there, planted with love and care,
then I'm prepared to see great wonders blossoming ev'rywhere.
Fields of flowers far and wide! Children's voices sing!
Love and joy and music fill the sky!

-continues

I Believe In A Seed (cont.)

I do not believe a plant will spring up where no seed was sown, where no seed was sown.
I do not believe a world of love and harmony will grow where no seed was sown.
But I believe in a seed! I have great faith in a seed.
Convince me there's a seed there.
I'll have great faith. I'll have great faith! I'll have great faith in that seed.
Just one seed...

Quote by Henry David Thoreau (July 12, 1817 – May 6, 1862)

"Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect great wonders."

INTERMEDIATE CHORUS

Todd Jolly, Christian Emigh, & Spiro Tsingaris, directors
Jenny Ma, piano

Coal Tattoo

Travelin' down that coal town road
List'nin' to my rubber tires whine
Goodbye to buckeye and white sycamore
I'm leavin' you behind

Oh, I've been a coal miner all my life
Layin' down tracks in the hole
Back like ironwood, bent by the wind
Blood veins as blue as the coal

Someone said that's a strange tattoo
You have on the side of your head
I said that's the mark of the number
 nine coal
A little bit more and I'd be dead

Billy Edd Wheeler (1932-2024)
Landon Chai & Micah Soliman, fiddle

But I love the rumble, I love the dark
I love the cool of the slate
Goin' down the road, lookin' for a job
It's trav'lin' and lookin' I hate

Someday when I die and go up to heaven
The land of my dreams
I won't have to worry 'bout losin' my job
To bad times and big machines

I got no job and I got no pay
Just got a worried soul
And a strange tattoo on the side of
 my head
Left by the number nine coal.

INTERMEDIATE CHORUS

Mountain Lullaby

Larry Groce (b.1948)
Emmett Stout, solo

When the moon peeks through the apple tree
And the stars hide in the leaves
When the mist rolls down the valley on kitten's feet
When the sun is slowly swept away
From the lavender sky
Then the mountains fill the night with a sweet lullaby

When the air is full of lilac blooms
Like the water in the stream
And the blackbirds on the branches begin to dream
When the angels pour the Milky Way from the heavens on high
Then the mountains fill the night with a sweet lullaby

Moonlight, starlight, soft as snow
In the meadow fireflies glow

When the morning is a mile away
Down the hill and 'cross the creek
With the owl and whippoorwill playing hide and seek
When you're cozy underneath your quilts
And you're closing your eyes
When your dreams are taking flight
'Til the early morning light
Then the mountains fill the night with a sweet lullaby

I Dream a World

Text by Langston Hughes (1909-1967)
Music by Rollo A. Dilworth (b.1970)

Dream, I dream
I dream a world, yes, I dream a world, oh
I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn

I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day

A world I dream where black or white
Whatever race you be
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free

Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl, attends the needs of
all mankind
Of such I dream, my world!

Children of Light

Music by Valerie Webdell (living)

You were sometimes darkness
But now are you light in the Lord
Walk, walk, walk as children of light

Country Roads

John Denver (1943-1997)
Arr. by Selina Midkiff (b.1945)

Almost heaven, West Virginia
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shendandoah River
Life is old there, older than the trees
Younger than the mountains
Growin' like a breeze

Country roads, take me home
To the place I belong
West Virginia, mountain momma
Take me home, country roads

All my memories gather round her
Miner's lady, stranger to blue water
Dark and dusty, painted on the sky
Misty taste of moonshine
Teardrop in my eye

Country roads...

I hear her voice in the mornin' hours she calls me
The radio reminds me of my home far away
And drivin' down the road
I get a feelin' that I should have been home yesterday

Country roads...

HANDBELLS & TROLL CHORUS

Todd Jolly & Margaret Elam, directors

Peer Gynt Suite
In der Halle des Bergkönigs
(In the Hall of the Mountain King)

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

INTERMISSION

CONCERT CHORUS

Ian Robertson, director
Franz Zhao, piano
Jenny Ma, organ

Come ye Makers of Song

Ruth Watson Henderson (b.1932)

Text from "Come Ye Sons of Art,"

Ode for Queen Mary's Birthday by Henry Purcell

Ruth Watson Henderson is a Canadian composer known for her contributions to choral and vocal music. She has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Order of Canada. This lively setting is set off by its irregular rhythms and tuneful melody.

Come, ye makers of song, come away,
Tune all your voices to celebrate this triumphant day.
Sound the trumpet, 'til around you make the list'ning shores rebound.
On the sprightly hautboy (oboe) play, all the instruments of joy
That skillful numbers can employ, to celebrate the glories of this day.
Strike the viol, touch the lute, wake the harp, inspire the flute.
Sing praise to those whose heav'nly choirs in cheerful lays do all inspire.

Hymn to Freedom

Oscar Peterson (1925-2007)

Oscar Emmanuel Peterson was a Canadian jazz pianist and composer. As a virtuoso who is considered to be one of the greatest jazz pianists of all time, Peterson released more than 200 recordings, won eight Grammy Awards, as well as a lifetime achievement award from the Recording Academy. When Oscar Peterson was asked to close an album with something bluesy, he reached back to the Baptist spirituals of his Montreal childhood and wrote Hymn to Freedom. It embodies a gospel harmony technique that turned a studio request into a civil rights anthem.

When every heart joins every heart and together yearns for liberty,
That's when we'll be free.
When every hand joins every hand and together moulds our destiny
That's when we'll be free.
Any hour any day, the time soon will come when men will live in dignity,
That's when we'll be free.
When every man joins in our song and together singing harmony, that's when we'll be free.

He Will Gather Us Around

Jake Heggie (b.1961)
From the opera *Dead Man Waking* (2000)

GUEST ARTISTS

ANGELA MOSER (SOPRANO) AND BUFFY BAGGOTT (MEZZO-SOPRANO)

Jake Heggie is an acclaimed American composer of opera, vocal, orchestral, and chamber music. He is best known for his operas and art songs as well as for his collaborations with internationally renowned performers and writers.

At the beginning of the opera, in a poor New Orleans school, Sister Helen and Sister Rose teach a hymn to a group of children. Helen is distracted as she thinks about her plan to visit Angola State Penitentiary where her new pen pal, a death row inmate named Joseph De Rocher, has asked her to visit.

Lakmé Flower Duet: *Dôme épais le jasmin*

Léo Delibes (1836 –1891)

Under the dense canopy where white jasmine blends sweetly with the rose,
Upon the flowering bank, laughing with the morn, come, let us drift down together.
Gently we shall glide upon the charming waves, following the fleeting current.
On the trembling water with a carefree hand, come, let us reach the shore,
Where the spring sleeps softly, and the bird sings.



75th Anniversary Tour with Performances in the U.K. and Paris

Clap Your Hands!

Music by George Gershwin (1898-1937)
Words by Ira Gershwin (1896-1983)
Arr. by Pete Quinnl

Clap Your Hands was introduced in the musical *Oh, Kay!* (1926) and was featured by Fred Astaire and Kay Thompson in a song and dance routine in the American musical romantic comedy film, *Funny Face* (1957).

Clap your hands! Slap your thigh! Hallelujah!
Everybody come along and join the jubilee!
Clap your hands! Slap your thigh! Don't you lose time!
Come along, it's "Shake your shoes" time now for you and me!
On the sands of time you are only a pebble,
Trouble must be treated Just like a rebel; send him to the Devil.
Clap your hands! Slap your thigh! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

GRADUATE CHORALE

Harlan Hays, director

Carmina Burana

Carl Orff (1895-1982)

Chorus: In taberna quando sumus

Chorus: Tempus est jocundum

Carmina Burana is a monumental scenic cantata composed by Carl Orff between 1935 and 1936. It is based on a collection of 24 poems found in a 13th-century medieval manuscript of the same name. It is one of the most recognized pieces of classical music in the world.

In *taberna quando sumus* (When we are in the tavern), it says, we drink and gamble and don't think about death, but drink toasts to everyone. Then follows a list of everyone who drinks: The mistress drinks, so does the master, the soldier drinks, so does the cleric, that man drinks, that woman drinks, the servant drinks with the maid...It ends with a rousing exclamation: Damnation to those who sponge on us! Which might sound a bit harsh, but if a thousand people sponged on you, you might demand the same.

Tempus est iocundum is a vibrant, secular love song. Translating to "Time is Joyful," it is part of the "Court of Love" section, featuring lyrics about youthful love, springtime, and passion. Key aspects of the song is a playful and passionate expression of young love, featuring themes of longing, springtime, and the transition from sluggish winter to amorous spring.

CONCERT CHORUS & GRADUATE CHORALE

The Sweet and Merry Month of May

William Byrd (1540-1623)

William Byrd was an English Renaissance composer. Considered among the greatest composers of the Renaissance, he had a profound influence on composers both from his native country and on the Continent. He is often considered alongside Henry Purcell as one of England's most important composers of early music.

"This Sweet and Merry Month of May" is a renowned six voice madrigal published in 1590. It was included in Thomas Watson's **First Set of Italian Madrigalls Englished** and is celebrated for its vivid imagery, polyphonic texture, and joyful, homophonic, and imitative sections.

This sweet and merry month of May,
While Nature wantons in her prime,
And birds do sing, and beasts do play
For pleasure of the joyful time.
I choose the first for holiday,
And greet[Eliza with a rhyme:
O beauteous Queen of second Troy,
Take well in worth a simple toy.

Elijah Rock

Arranged by Greg Gilpin (b.1964)

"Elijah Rock" is a traditional African American spiritual, popularized by arrangers like Moses Hogan, that serves as an anthem of faith, resilience, and hope. It uses biblical imagery—specifically the prophet Elijah and the "rock" (symbolizing God as a shelter)—to encourage standing firm against adversity and finding strength in God, often serving as a song of encouragement during difficult times.

Elijah rock, shout, shout, Elijah rock comin' up Lord!
Satan is a liar and a conjurer too. If you don't watch out, he'll conjure you, too.
If I could I surely would stand on the rock where Moses stood!
Elijah rock, shout, shout, Elijah rock comin' up Lord!

Peze Kafé, Traditional Haitian

Arr. by Sten Källman (b.1952)

Sten Källman, born in Sweden, is known for his folk music arrangements, focusing on music from Scandinavia, Haiti and the Middle East. Sten first traveled and lived in Haiti in 1970 and has since then returned several times.

Peze Kafé is a song from Haiti. It tells the story of a young boy sent to weigh, or buy, coffee. Along the way he is arrested, although we never find out why. He is much more concerned about what his mother will say when he turns up without the coffee than his arrest.

CONCERT CHORUS, INTERMEDIATE CHORUS & GRADUATE CHORALE

The Creation

Chorus: Achievèd is the Glorious Work

Joseph Haydn (1730-1809)

Franz Joseph Haydn was an Austrian composer of the Classical period. He was pivotal in the evolution of chamber music forms like the string quartet and piano trio. His contributions to musical form have led him to be called “Father of the Symphony”, “Father of the String quartet” and “Father of the Sonata Form.” Late in life, he composed the oratorios *The Creation* and *The Seasons*. *The Creation* depicts and celebrates the creation of the world as narrated in the Book of Genesis.

Achievèd is the glorious work;
The Lord beholds it and is pleas'd.
And is well pleas'd
In lofty strains let us rejoice!
Our song let be the praise of God.

Coming Together to Sing

A round by Gerald Wirth (b. 1965)

Coming together, together to sing
Singing for a better, a better future
Coming together to sing, to sing,
We are coming to sing,
Singing for a better, a better future.



National Anthem at Golden State Warriors Game

CELEBRATING AMERICA

America the Beautiful

Samuel A. Ward (1848-1903)

Lyrics by Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929)

"America the Beautiful" is an American patriotic song. Its lyrics were written by Katharine Lee Bates and its music was composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward at Grace Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey, though the two never met. Bates wrote the words as a poem, originally titled "Pikes Peak." It was first published in the Fourth of July 1895 edition of the church periodical, *The Congregationalist*. At that time, the poem was titled "America".

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain.
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee.
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dreams
That sees beyond the years.
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

My Country 'tis of Thee

Composer uncertain

Lyrics by Samuel Francis Smith (1808-1895)

"My Country, 'Tis of Thee", also known as "America", is an American patriotic song whose lyrics were written by Samuel Francis Smith. The song served as one of the de facto national anthems of the United States (along with songs like "Hail, Columbia") before the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the official U.S. national anthem in 1931. The melody is adapted from the de facto national anthem of the United Kingdom, "God Save the King".

My country, 'tis of Thee,
Sweet Land of Liberty
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let Freedom ring.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;

Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Thy silver Eastern strands,
Thy Golden Gate that stands
Fronting the West;
Thy flowery Southland fair,
Thy North's sweet, crystal air:
O Land beyond compare,
We love thee best!

Arr. by Lee Holdridge (b.1944)
Words by Molly Ann Leikin (b.1948)

Lee Elwood Holdridge (born March 3, 1944) is an American composer, conductor, and orchestrator. An 18-time Emmy Award nominee, he has won two Primetime Emmy Awards, two Daytime Emmy Awards, two News and Documentary Emmy Awards, and one Sports Emmy Award. He has also been nominated for two Grammy Awards.

I have seen a summer day
That slowly opens like a rose,
Along a quiet road that wanders by.
And I have smiled and wonder'd
Where it goes.

I have stumbled through the night
Alone as any man can be.
Then found a silent canyon full of stars,
And in my heart I heard them telling me
I was home.

The gentle winds, the rains that fall

The tallest trees, and I'm part of it all

I have seen the silver mountain tops
And golden prairies on my way.
Now everywhere I go across the land
I stand so proudly in the sun and say:
I am home.

I've dreamed of Eden all my life,
I find it more and more each day.
Now everywhere I go across the land
I stand so proudly in the sun and say:
I am home.

Secure the Future of the San Francisco Boys Chorus

The Norman Wong Scholarship Endowment Fund



This Scholarship honors the memory of Norman Wong. The Chorus mattered deeply to Norman, and his experiences as a chorister, camp counsellor and faculty member helped shape his life. He was involved with the Chorus during the leadership of Artistic Director William Ballard.

In recognition of the impact of the Chorus on Norman, friends and family members established this Endowment Fund, designating its awarding to boys having high financial need, with preference given to choristers who advance the racial and ethnic diversity of the Chorus.

Contribute to the Norman Wong Scholarship
Endowment Fund www.sfbc.org/normanwong



The San Francisco Foundation manages the fund for the Chorus and can accept a range of assets to make giving convenient and simple. Donors can contribute: cash, securities, mutual funds, closely held stock, pre-IPO stock, partnership interests and real estate.

2026 SFBC SPRING ROSTER

JUNIOR CHORUS

Shaan Bal	Theodore Houshower	Mateo Mathison
Niam Biswas	Colin Hwang	Bryce Meyer
Rey Bonilla	Riley Ignacio	Emmanuel Ohio-to-Moore
John Brooks	Archer Jian	Axel Panwala
Boomba (Raphael) Cohen	Lukas Kampschuur	Benedict Trac
Zane Daher-Hindrichs	Moses Kwong	Theo Truong
Elio Diaz Hutmacher	Woodson Li	Orlando Vashro-Wanlass
Omri Gelburd	Aiden Lin-Setchkov	Elliott Vigar
Ayan Godbole	Jose Lopez	Benjamin Wong
Kai Gu	Cameron Lu	Robin Young

APPRENTICE CHORUS

Jackson Chang	Savva Iskandar	Cyrus Rahmatian
Elliott Beatty	Dan Jan	Theodore Schlotter
Judah Chavez	Baylor Kim	Wiley Skillern
Winthrop Conrad	Bruce Le	Dimas Soedira
Orion Enders Schmidt	Atticus Liu	Legacy Stevenson
Justin Estrada	Kaivalya Maddipatla	Riley Stout
Luka Foerg	Koki Matushisa	Theodore Taruskin
Ethan Han	Pascal Nakphong	Rowan Tut-Alexander
George Hayes	Omar Noyola	Evan Xu
Finlay Hayes	Alessandro Pasqua	Noe Yang
Dashiell Huynh-Blackaby	Abhaya Pradhan	Elliott Yang
		Felix Zhang

INTERMEDIATE CHORUS

Wesley Baird	Sasha Hibler	Benjamin Sklovskiy
Kairav Bhupatiraju	Tioma Iskandar	Theodore Stanton-Landis
Conor Campanelli	Antonio Jordan-Collins	Emmett Stout
Jameson Chelf	Max Lagunas	Avery Szymanski
Aidan Dolphin	Andrew Li	Colin Thistlethwaite
Sebastian Duenas	Calvin Lindmeier	Cyrus Tiffin
Ari Dworman	Nicholas Percy	Maximiliaan Vanreusel
Philip Friedman	Forest Pinckaers	Parth Vasanth
Ben Gulezian	Ishaan Pitroda	Alexander Vincent
Andriel Handoyo	Andy Ran	Justin Walton
Keene Harrington	Henry Sandlund-Lans-	Duncan Winter-Schadler
Finnian Hauser	fjord	Jaythan Zhen

2026 SFBC SPRING ROSTER

CONCERT CHORUS

Arish Arvind	Tristan Fisher	Dominic Moser
Anthony Awuyno-Akaba	Oliver Hajduk	Edmund Paul
Miles Baird	Noah Hajduk	West Pinckaers
Andrew Brassfield	Nicholas Hogan	Hudson Pratt
Maurice Budin	Oliver Jamil	Lee Reeves
James Duke Butterfoss	Jaeyu Kim	Kabir Sethi
Landon Chai	Jaekang Kim	Micah Soliman
Colin Chan	Mathai Kurien	Oliver Stoltz
Tristan Chow	Halvard Larson	Daylon Thomas
Logan Cook	Solah Malik	Laurence Threlfall
William Dickie	Adrian Mann	Arnan Tin
Francis Eberhard	Giovanni Mendoza	Asa White-Hinman
Dominic Fessenden	Niko Min	Andrew Woo

GRADUATE CHORALE

Owen Baird	Sian Galvan	Elias Soliman
Henry Benton-Aufferbeck	Connor Herrmann	Tally Thomas
Roshan Chandran	Kevin Liang	Séo Vernay-Kim
Aidan Chen	Edgar McConnell IV	Rell Williams
Kenneth Chen	Diego Melgar	Asher Yeung
Drake Cheng-Fitzpatrick	Theodore Raber	
Lucas Durrant	Stanley Rza	

ADULT MEN'S CHORUS

Seth Arnopole	Michael Desnoyers	Issei Robinson
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BEGINNING HANDBELLS

Judah Chavez	Kaivalya Maddipatla	Rowan Tut-Alexander
Justin Estrada	Wiley Skillern	Elliott Yang

ADVANCED HANDBELLS

Miles Baird	Ben Gulezian	Daylon Thomas
Wesley Baird	Oliver Jamil	Cyrus Tiffin
Jameson Chelf	Calvin Lindmeier	Arnan Tin

SAN FRANCISCO BOYS CHORUS

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Consultant

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Joshua Marrald, San Francisco Apprentice Chorus Director
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MEET THE SAN FRANCISCO BOYS CHORUS



The GRAMMY Award-winning SAN FRANCISCO BOYS CHORUS (SFBC), now celebrating its 76th year, was founded in 1948 to provide trained boy singers for the San Francisco Opera. Today, led by Artistic Director Ian Robertson, the SFBC is comprised of nearly 150 singers from 50 Bay Area cities and more than 120 schools at campuses in San Francisco, Oakland, San Mateo, and San Rafael.

Over the past 76 years, members of SFBC have appeared in over 150 productions with the San Francisco Opera, including *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Mefistofele*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and many others. In 2023, SFBC choristers performed in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. Since 1952, SFBC choristers have also performed frequently with the San Francisco Symphony including recent productions of *Deck the Hall*, Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, and a performance with Paul Simon at the Symphony's Black and White Ball.

For more than 35 years, the SFBC has toured domestically and internationally. To date, the Chorus has visited over twenty countries, including Austria, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Romania, Russia, and Scotland, and the former Soviet Union. In 2023, the Chorus performed in Edinburgh, London and Paris as part of its 75th anniversary European concert tour.

The Chorus has performed for Bay Area Nobel Laureates, His Majesty King Charles III, the late HRH Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, His Majesty King Gustav of Sweden, General Colin Powell, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Pope John Paul II. The Chorus has performed for Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Tony Bennett, and at the inaugurations of Gavin Newsom, Mayor Edwin Lee, and President Barack Obama.

SFBC performs at numerous civic and private engagements in the Bay Area, including singing the national anthems for the Oakland Athletics, the Golden State Warriors, the Golden Gate Bridge 75th Anniversary celebration, and at Grace Cathedral's World Tree of Hope lighting ceremony. For many years, KQED-TV has broadcast SFBC's holiday concert in four California television markets.

WELCOME OUR GUEST ARTISTS



California native BUFFY BAGGOTT has gained recognition throughout the United States as an accomplished and versatile mezzo soprano. She studied vocal performance at UCLA and San Francisco State Universities, completed two apprenticeships with the Santa Fe Opera and is an alumnus of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Center for American Artists. Buffy has performed various norms, rheinmaidens and valkyries in Wagner's Ring Cycle with San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera Chicago, Canadian Opera Company and LA Opera (among others). SF Opera appearances include Hecuba (Les Troyens), Flosshilde (Das Rheingold) and Second Secretary (Nixon in China). She is a tenured mezzo soprano with the SF Opera Chorus.



Soprano AGELA EDEN MOSER sings full time with the San Francisco Opera Chorus, and teaches singing from her studio in San Anselmo, California. San Francisco Opera Highlights: Madrigale Quartet Singer in Puccini's Manon Lescaut; Seeker in Mark Adamo's The Gospel of Mary Magdalene; Woman's Voice in Jenůfa, by Janáček. Further operatic and oratorio: Donna Anna, Don Giovanni (Mozart); Mahler's Symphony No. 2; Verdi Requiem; Mozart Requiem; Vivaldi Gloria; Haydn's Coronation Mass; Poulenc Gloria; Orff's Carmina Burana; Fauré Requiem, among others. Ms. Moser's son, Dominic, sings in the San Francisco Boy's Chorus, and she is delighted to join him for this concert!

Visit angelaedenmoser.com for more information.

BIOGRAPHIES



IAN ROBERTSON has been Artistic Director with the San Francisco Boys Chorus (SFBC) since 1996 and has been responsible for the group's phenomenal growth and artistic renaissance as one of the nation's premiere youth choral performance and educational organizations. He has led the SFBC on numerous international tours and in their several acclaimed recording projects. He continues to enhance the collaborative reputation of the SFBC

with San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony and many other music groups.

Maestro Robertson has also served for 36 years as Chorus Director with the San Francisco Opera until his retirement in 2021. While at San Francisco Opera he conducted many performances and prepared more than 350 productions. He was awarded the Olivier Messiaen Foundation Prize in 2003 for his artistic contribution to the preparation of the SF Opera's production of Saint François d'Assise and in 2012 was awarded the SF Opera Medal in recognition of his outstanding achievement as an artistic professional.



TODD JOLLY returned to the staff of the San Francisco Boys Chorus in 2019, after many years' hiatus; currently, he serves as the Associate Artistic Director, Intermediates Director, handbell program director, and the San Mateo rehearsal site director. Since 2007, he has served as the Minister of Music at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley. For 21 years he was a music teacher and the Choirmaster at Stuart Hall for Boys, San Francisco. As the first music director of San Francisco Renaissance Voices, he saw the organization through its initial decade. A musician, educator, and pastor, he is also a published and commissioned composer and arranger who freelances as

a percussionist. He has played, sung, and directed groups across the United States and in Europe.

Rev. Jolly earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education at Trenton State College, followed by graduate studies in Instrumental Conducting. He holds a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Additional training in community organizing with Industrial Areas Foundation, and in composition and song leading as a Fellow of Melodious Accord, have all strongly influenced his work.

Major compositions include an oboe sonata commissioned by William Bennett, two mass settings (recordings released December 2020), an Advent cantata, and seven variations on the hymn tune HYFRYDOL.

Mr. Jolly is a member of American Choral Directors Association, Early Music America, ASCAP, and San Francisco Presbytery.

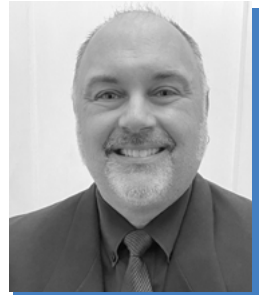
BIOGRAPHIES



MARGARET ELAM finally convinced her parents to allow her to begin studying music at age 6, launching her on a trajectory that included several lead roles with Humboldt Light Opera, California State University, Long Beach Summer Opera, and Humboldt University. Ms. Elam earned a B.A. in Music, with Honors, with a focus on voice, from Humboldt State University. While in Fresno, she performed singing roles with Second Space Theater and Good Company Players, while also accompanying the Junior Company Players. In addition, she was a vocal coach on nine musical theater productions for Good Company Players.

Ms. Elam conducted a children's choir at First Covenant Church in San Francisco and has remained busy as a church soloist.

DR. CHRISTIAN EMIGH is happy to be in his second season with the San Francisco Boys Chorus. He is currently the Director of Middle School Choirs for the Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Emigh served for twenty-two years as the Director of Choral Activities for a large high-school choral program in the East Bay. Choirs under his direction have taken top honors at festivals and competitions across the U.S. and abroad. Highlights during his tenure include engagements at New York's Lincoln Center and the Grand Ole Opry, and invitational performances for ceremonies commemorating the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. Active as a performer, Dr. Emigh is currently in his 15th season as a member of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Beyond his regular conducting and teaching engagements, Dr. Emigh serves as the Advisor for Higher Education for the Northern California Association of Kodály Educators. Dr. Emigh was selected as the California State Teacher of the Year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2017, and 2021.



HARLAN HAYS is voice coach and Graduate Chorale Director for the San Francisco Boys Chorus. An SFBC alum, Harlan was educated at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying Voice with Cesar Ulloa, and currently teaches voice as an Artist in Residence at the Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts. He is a Regular Chorister with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and is currently a member of the Regular Chorus at San Francisco Opera. He was the featured soloist for Carmina Burana in The San Francisco Symphony Chorus' concert in March.

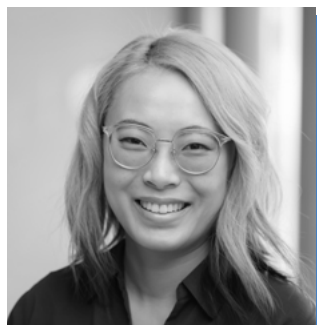
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DYLAN LIBRANDE is an educator, pianist, and composer with a love of music in all its forms. Dylan is the music teacher at Walden Center and School in Berkeley and has taught private classical and jazz piano, theory, and composition lessons throughout the Bay Area. Dylan received his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Composition from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Music Education degree at San Jose State University.

BARRY LLOYD is a graduate of both the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (BA in piano and composition) and the American Conservatory Theater (MFA in acting).

Dubbed “San Francisco’s Crown Prince of Cabaret” (by the then mayor of SF, Dianne Feinstein), he has been a staple of the cabaret scene for the past 45 years. He has been pianist, music director and arranger for some of the brightest stars of cabaret. In 2000 he began his solo career, performing his highly acclaimed one man shows across the country from San Francisco to New York City. Lloyd has been working with the SF Boys Chorus for 15 years and is proud to continue his association with this fine artistic organization.



Canadian pianist JENNY MA is an emerging artist currently located in the Bay Area, recognized for her passion and versatility. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and psychology from the University of British Columbia under the tutelage of Dr. Corey Hamm. During her undergraduate studies, she had also worked closely with pianist Mark Anderson and Rena Sharon. Ms. Ma also holds a Master of Music degree and Professional Studies Diploma in piano performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music,

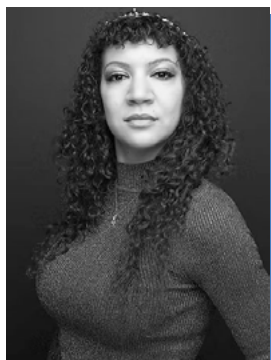
studying with her dear mentor, Paul Hersch. In addition to her role with the San Francisco Boys Chorus, she is a staff pianist at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in both the collegiate and pre-college divisions.

BIOGRAPHIES



JOSHUA MARRALD leads the Apprentice Chorus of the San Francisco Boys Chorus at San Francisco rehearsals. He is a proud alumnus of the SFBC and has performed with choruses across the United States and Europe. Joshua studied music at San Jose State University, earning a Bachelor of Music in Music Education in 2019 as well as certifications in Orff Schulwerk Levels I & II. Outside of the chorus, he serves as Music Director at St. Kevin's Church and works as a music educator with the San Francisco Unified School District.

FRANCISCO ORTIZ earned a B.A. in Music from Dominican University in 2006, where he studied percussion with Ken Crawford and choral/orchestral conducting & voice with Dr. Craig Singleton. In 2008, he received his Master of Music in Music Education degree from Holy Names University where he studied conducting with Judit Hartyányi, Professor at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. Francisco is the Director of the Dominican Chorale. Francisco also serves as Associate Campus Minister at Marin Catholic High School. He lives in Novato with his wife and two daughters.



ALÉXA SESSLER, Juniors Director, San Francisco and San Mateo, is a soprano with a voice described by Joshua Kosman (San Francisco Chronicle) as a “magical gift” and “glorious,” based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has performed leads with Opera San José, the San Francisco Opera Guild, West Edge Opera, Golden Gate Opera, Lamplighters Music Theatre, Pocket Opera, West Bay Opera, Lyric Theatre of San Jose, and Opera Cultura singing the roles of Mimi (La Bohème), Musetta (La Bohème), Nedda (I Pagliacci), Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), Die Königen der Nacht (Die Zauberflöte), Mariana (Das Liebesverbot), Melisande (Ariane et Barbe-Bleue), Phyllis (Iolanthe), Princess Ida (Princess Ida), Adina

(L'Elisir d'amore), Rosina (Il barbiere di Siviglia), Sara (La Llorona), among others. Ms. Aléxa has been a concert soloist for the San Francisco Symphony, Apollo Symphony, Gradus ad Parnassum, Ukiah Symphony, Santa Clara Chorale, and Teatro Degollado in Guadalajara, Mexico. She is known for authenticity, flexibility of style, a strong technical foundation, and the ability to sing a wide range of roles with confidence and distinction.

—continued

BIOGRAPHIES

An active recitalist, Ms. Aléxa often performs in collaboration with composers premiering new works and served on the curatorial staff for West Edge Opera's Aperture project, an opera commissioning residency resulting in several new operas. She appears regularly in the Voices of Hope concert series for the ALS Hope Foundation.

As an instructor and director, Ms. Aléxa has served as a Lecturer of Music at San Francisco State University, several Bay Area Schools, and maintains a studio of private voice students. Passionate about vocal technique and equality, Aléxa has created and implemented educational musical programming to foster, at-risk, and incarcerated youths. As a Teaching Artist with the Opera Guild, Opera Cultúra, West Bay Opera, and many other fine organizations, she has opened children's eyes and ears to the wonders of opera and choral singing.



SPIRO TSINGARIS is a San Francisco native and has performed with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus under the direction of Vance George and Michael Tilson Thomas. He is the fiddle player and male vocalist for the Bluegrass/Gospel group Fret Not. He holds his Bachelor of Music in Choral Conduction and his Master of Arts in Vocal Music Education and studied choral conducting under Dr. Joshua Habermann. Spiro has served as the Music Director at Tamalpais High School for the past 25 years, has served as the Choral Director at First Baptist Church of San Francisco and has been a guest lecturer at the Lark Theater's Great Films Great

Scores series. Spiro was awarded the Marin Public School Music Teacher of the Year, 2024/25 by the Marin Symphony.

San Francisco-based pianist FRANZ ZHAO holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California and a Master of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Active as both a soloist and a collaborator, Franz has performed across North America, Asia, and Europe. In addition to his work with SFBC, Franz also currently holds staff pianist and vocal coach positions at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Young Women's Choral Projects, as well as the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts, where he also acts as the lead Artist-in-Residence for the piano department. Also having a passion for composition, Franz has appeared on NPR's From the Top as both a composer and pianist, where he was a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award. His works have been featured on radio stations such as KDFC and KQED.





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SF BOYS CHORUS WINS TOP PRIZES AT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Janos Gereben on July 22, 2025



[In July 2025,] San Francisco Boys Chorus (SFBC) won a quintet of awards at the Leonardo da Vinci Choral Festival, a prestigious international choral competition in Florence, Italy. SFBC was named the Grand Prix winner, took the gold medal for best sacred music, another gold for its Graduate Men's Chorus, and a silver in the youth groups category. It also won best male soloist thanks to boy soprano Solah Malik.

The chorus had “a singing journey in the heat through Italy, concerts in Padua and Venice in the most beautiful churches,” SFBC’s artistic director, Ian Robertson, told SF Classical Voice. Robertson served as SFBC’s artistic director from 1996-2019, and now is the artistic director once again.

According to Robertson, the chorus sang in five Florentine venues over five days. “These kids did it all and came out on top. Talk about sweat and toil—sun-drenched streets full of markets, food stalls and fancy restaurants, battling the crowds over the Ponte Vecchio to get to the next concert location. [They were] small boys and tall boys on a mission to sing the best music in their best voices.”



Ian Robertson, Artistic Director

Malik enjoyed participating in the competition. “This was my first time in Florence and getting to sing in different unique and historic churches everyday was something special,” Malik said. “Being awarded Best Male Soloist was an honor and took me by surprise. The support and enthusiasm from SFBC, the other choruses, and the audience blew me away. This is an experience I will never forget.”

Also at the festival, Spain’s Coro Joven Voces para la Convivencia took second place and Taiwan’s Tsing Yang Choir took third place. Best Female Soloist was awarded to Taiwan’s Shan-Min Yu, and Best Conductor was awarded to Spain’s Alfonso Elorriaga.



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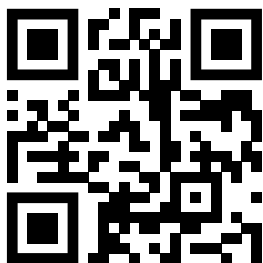
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Legion of Honor Museum	Renaissance Rialto Inc	
Linda Ghilotti	Robert Howard & Elizabeth Cordova	
Josefina & Dawson Leong	Eleanor & Ian Robertson	
Life & Biz Coaching	San Francisco Academy Orchestra	
Calvin Lindmeier	San Francisco Ballet Association	
William" Bill" LIndmeier"	San Francisco Museum of Modern Art	

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JOIN THE CHORUS!

New chorister placement appointments, please visit
sfbc.org/auditions



UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATES

June 11-16, 2026 - Intermediate Chorus tours Charleston, WV

June 21-28, 2026 - Overnight Camp for Intermediates & Concert Chorus

July 3, 2026 - Concert with Los Angeles Children's Chorus
at Calvary Presbyterian Church

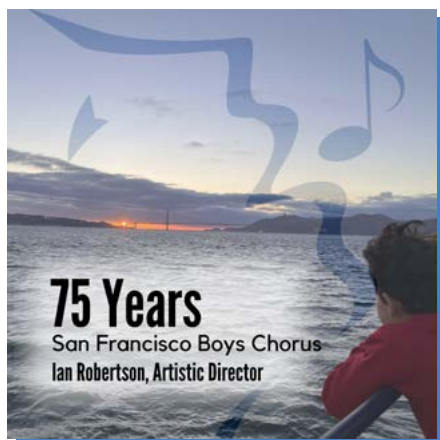
August 3-7, 2026 - Day Camp for Juniors & Apprentices

September 9-10, 2026 - SFBC 2026-2027 Season Begins

September 12, 2026 - New Chorister Placement Appointment Day

More info at www.sfbc.org

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