

PhilharmoniaBaroque Orchestra&Chorale

Music Director
Peter Whelan

THE ²⁶₂₇ POWER OF

Music



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MUSIC DIRECTOR PETER WHELAN



Cover: Philharmonia Baroque
Orchestra & Chorale in performance
at Stanford Live by Kristen Loken
Peter Whelan photo
by Marco Borggreve

Brochure design by Dennis Bolt

Welcome

26 27

It's my great pleasure—and
no small honor—to be writing
to you as Music Director of
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale.

From my first rehearsals last year, I was struck by the
spirit of curiosity, generosity, and sheer musical joy
that runs through this ensemble and its audience.
This season reflects that energy: music chosen for
its character, its drama, and the particular spark it
takes on when played on period instruments by
musicians who truly love this repertoire.

I can't wait to share these concerts with
you—old friends and new alike—and to
discover, together, just how powerful this
music can be when it's allowed to speak
in its own voice.

Warmly,

Peter Whelan, Music Director

**"Peter Whelan is one of the most
dynamic figures in early music today."**

— BBC Radio 3

THE 2026/27 Season IS HERE

We are thrilled to present **Peter Whelan's inaugural season as Music Director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale!**

The season opens with a special project—a semi-staged production of Handel's *Tolomeo*, available as an add-on during the subscriber presale—performed in the Bay Area before traveling east for a summer festival tour, including a return to Lincoln Center. The subscription concert series begins in the fall, as Peter returns to Handel with *Alexander's Feast*, following his acclaimed performances with the Irish Baroque Orchestra at the 2025 BBC Proms.

We invite you to explore the full 2026/27 season. When you subscribe, you enjoy our best prices, exclusive benefits, and early access to in-demand performances. Across the season, you'll hear this music performed on period instruments—bringing you closer to how this music was first heard.

We look forward to welcoming you in 2026/27!



"The performance was so good, I cried."

—Jonathan S., subscriber

"I attend rock concerts—this was my first classical music concert. It was beautiful in every way."

—Linda H., first-time concert attendee

Photos by: Scott Chernis, Sean Pedrucco, Stefan Cohen, Kristen Loken

JULY
23-26



Lauren Snouffer



Nicole Heaston



Kangmin Justin Kim



Dashon Burton



Peter Whelan



James Darrah Black

Special
EVENT

Handel's **TOLOMEO**

*An opera
about exile,
loyalty, and
survival under
pressure*



Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen

Music Director Peter Whelan opens his first Philharmonia season with a semi-staged production of *Tolomeo* that pairs historically informed performance with theatrical elements that sharpen the drama.

Handel's *Tolomeo* tells the story of a king stripped of power, tracing how loyalty and love endure under political collapse as he lives in exile under an assumed identity. Countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen leads an exceptional cast in the title role, while director James Darrah Black—a leading interpreter of Baroque opera—is known for productions that place character and clear storytelling at center stage.

Tolomeo: **Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen**, countertenor

Seleuce: **Lauren Snouffer**, soprano

Elisa: **Nicole Heaston**, soprano

Alessandro: **Kangmin Justin Kim**, countertenor

Araspe: **Dashon Burton**, bass-baritone

Conductor: **Peter Whelan**

Director: **James Darrah Black**

HANDEL *Tolomeo, re d'Egitto*, HWV 25

THURSDAY July 23, 7:30pm

San Francisco: Herbst Theatre

FRIDAY July 24, 7:30pm

Berkeley: First Congregational Church

SUNDAY July 26, 4:00pm

Caramoor Center, NY: Venetian Theater

*This performance is available as an add-on during the subscriber presale.
Single concert tickets go on sale June 2.*

Pictured: David McVicar production
of Handel's *Giulio Cesare*
Photo by Richard Hubert Smith

*Sung in Italian, with English supertitles, this performance is
approximately 2 hours 30 minutes, including a 20 minute intermission.*

NOV 11-13

When music
changes what
people feel
and do

Handel's THE POWER OF MUSIC

Fresh off his 2025 BBC Proms success with the Irish Baroque Orchestra, Music Director Peter Whelan sets the table for the 2026/27 subscription concert season with Handel's *Alexander's Feast*.

Centered on a banquet honoring Alexander the Great, the poet Timotheus uses song to steer the room from pride to tenderness, from fury to reflection—showing music's power to create emotion, not just accompany it. Performed in Dublin in 1742, just weeks before the world premiere of *Messiah*, this version of the work gives soloists, chorale, and orchestra each their moment, with Handel passing the story among them as the drama unfolds.

Peter Whelan, conductor

Sherezade Panthaki, soprano

Rachael Wilson, mezzo-soprano

James Way, tenor

Philharmonia Chorale,

Valérie Sainte-Agathe, director

HANDEL *Alexander's Feast*, or *The Power of Music*
(1742 Dublin version) (U.S. PREMIERE)

"Throughout the evening, Peter Whelan drew a remarkably communicative and urgent performance from all his players... Whelan managed to make every note vital, filling the hall with vibrant sounds yet also conveying the meaning of the work with the importance of music. Rarely has large-scale Handel felt so involving."
—Robert Hugill, *Planet Hugill*



Sherezade Panthaki



Rachael Wilson



James Way



Valérie Sainte-Agathe

WEDNESDAY November 11, 7:30pm Stanford: Bing Concert Hall
FRIDAY November 13, 7:30pm San Francisco: Herbst Theatre
SATURDAY November 14, 2:30pm Berkeley: First Congregational Church

This performance is approximately 2 hours, including a 20 minute intermission.

Photo by Jen Owens. Painting: *Alexander the Great Founding Alexandria* by Placido Costanzi. The Walters Art Museum.

DEC 3-5

Baroque BRILLIANCE

A bright,
celebratory
program for
the season

Baroque Brilliance brings together music by composers active in the same 18th-century musical world, writing in strikingly different styles.

The concert is framed by two jubilant soprano-and-trumpet works: Handel's "Let the Bright Seraphim" and Bach's *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen*, both closely associated with festive and ceremonial occasions. Between them, Telemann's *Burlesque de Quixotte* injects musical humor and storytelling to the program, while C.P.E. Bach's cello concerto offers a more personal, expressive style. A motet for soprano and oboe by Marianna Martines receives its West Coast Premiere, spotlighting an influential voice who moved in the same musical circles as Haydn and Mozart.

Patrick Dupré Quigley, conductor

Kathryn Mueller, soprano

William Skeen, violoncello

Gonzalo X. Ruiz, oboe

Kathryn Adduci, trumpet

HANDEL "Let the Bright Seraphim" from *Samson*

MARTINES *O virgo, cui salutem debet orbis*
(WEST COAST PREMIERE)

TELEMANN *Burlesque de Quixotte*, TWV 55:G10

C.P.E. BACH Concerto for violoncello in A major, Wq 172

J.S. BACH *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen*, BWV 51



Patrick Dupré Quigley, conductor



Kathryn Mueller



William Skeen



Gonzalo X. Ruiz



Kathryn Adduci

THURSDAY December 3, 7:30pm Palo Alto: First United Methodist Church

FRIDAY December 4, 7:30pm San Francisco: Herbst Theatre

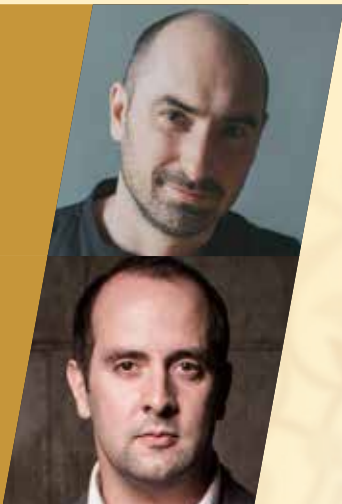
SATURDAY December 5, 2:30pm Berkeley: First Congregational Church

This performance is approximately 2 hours, including a 20 minute intermission.

Photo by Curtis Perry. Painting: Archangel Remiel, Angel of Hope, Vatican Museums.

FEB 5-7

Peter Whelan



Tarik O'Regan



Joseph
Tawadros

*From
Baroque
strings
to a new
voice in the
concerto
tradition*

Vivaldi AND THE OUD

Peter Whelan leads a program anchored in Vivaldi's propulsive string writing, paired with a newly commissioned concerto by Philharmonia Composer-in-Residence Tarik O'Regan.

Vivaldi's overture to *L'Olimpiade* and concertos from *L'Estro armonico*—works built on rhythm, contrast, and forward motion—helped define the Baroque concerto. O'Regan's concerto, receiving its world premiere, features acclaimed oud soloist Joseph Tawadros and places the oud—an ancient plucked instrument central to Middle Eastern musical traditions—in a solo role more often occupied by violin or cello, set against the string orchestra.

Peter Whelan, conductor

Joseph Tawadros, oud

VIVALDI Overture to *L'Olimpiade*

TARIK O'REGAN Concerto for oud, strings, and percussion
(World Premiere)

VIVALDI Concerti for multiple violins from *L'Estro armonico*

FRIDAY February 5, 2027, 7:30pm

SATURDAY February 6, 2027, 2:30pm

SUNDAY February 7, 2027, 2:30pm

San Francisco: Herbst Theatre

Berkeley: First Congregational Church

Stanford: Bing Concert Hall

This performance is approximately 2 hours, including a 20 minute intermission.

Photo by Anthony Lycett. Painting: David Playing the Harp by Jan de Bray, Staatliche Kunsthalle.

MAR 4-6

BAROQUE

on
Stage

Rachell
Ellen Wong



Drama, dance rhythms, and virtuosity for Baroque orchestra

led from the violin by Rachell Ellen Wong,
this program showcases her personal selections
from the Baroque stage and concert hall.

Theatre music by Purcell and a suite
by Rameau are paired with works by
C.P.E. Bach, Vivaldi, and Geminiani,
revealing how contrast,
rhythm, and virtuosity
drive Baroque
drama.

Rachell Ellen Wong,
violin and leader

PURCELL Music for the Theatre

Timon of Athens: Curtain Tune
Overture from *The Virtuous Wife*
Minuet from *The Gordian Knot Untied*
La Furstemberg from *The Virtuous Wife*
Slow Aire from *The Virtuous Wife*
Rondeau from *The Indian Queen*
Hornpipe from *The Fairy Queen*

RAMEAU Orchestral Suite

Air tendre from *Les fêtes d'Hébé*
Overture from *Dardanus*
Musette from *Les fêtes d'Hébé*
Contredanse from *Les surprises de l'Amour*
Loure from *Les surprises de l'Amour*
Prélude pour *l'Adoration du Soleil* from *Les Indes galantes*
Entrée de Polymnie from *Les Boréades*
Chaconne from *Dardanus*
Tambourins I & II from *Dardanus*

C.P.E. BACH Symphony in B minor, H. 661, Wq 182/5

VIVALDI Violin Concerto in E minor, RV 273/278

GEMINIANI *La Follia* Variations (arr. Michi Wiancko)



THURSDAY	March 4, 2027, 7:30pm	Palo Alto: First United Methodist Church
FRIDAY	March 5, 2027, 7:30pm	San Francisco: Herbst Theatre
SATURDAY	March 6, 2027, 2:30pm	Berkeley: First Congregational Church

This performance is approximately 2 hours, including a 20 minute intermission.

Photo by Lucien Knuteson. Painting: *La Camargo Dancing* by Nicolas Lancret, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

APR 9-11

A choral epic about light, nature,
and the origins of humanity

The CREATION

One of the Classical era's most influential and powerful choral works, Haydn's *The Creation* draws on the biblical creation story and texts from John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The music unfolds in three parts, tracing the formation of the world and the emergence of life through vivid choral and orchestral writing.

Music Director Peter Whelan leads Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale and a distinguished cast of soloists in performances that close the season on a celebratory note.

Peter Whelan, conductor

Lucy Crowe, soprano

Nicholas Phan, tenor

Enrico Lagasca, bass-baritone

Philharmonia Chorale, Valérie Sainte-Agathe, director

HAYDN *The Creation*, Hob. XXI:2



Lucy Crowe



Nicholas Phan



Enrico Lagasca



Valérie Sainte-Agathe

FRIDAY April 9, 2027, 7:30pm San Francisco: Herbst Theatre
SATURDAY April 10, 2027, 2:30pm Berkeley: First Congregational Church
SUNDAY April 11, 2027, 2:30pm Stanford: Bing Concert Hall

This performance is approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including a 20 minute intermission.

Photo: Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale in performance at Stanford Live by Kristen Loken.
Painting: Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden by Johann Wenzel Peter, Vatican Museums.

SESSIONS

Philharmonia SESSIONS are intimate concerts that spotlight individual artists and distinctive musical voices in relaxed, informal settings, designed for close listening.

These performances are available as add-ons during the subscriber presale. Single concert tickets go on sale June 2.

JAN 30

SATURDAY, JAN 30, 2027, 8:00 PM

A Special Co-Presentation with
The Freight, Berkeley

THE *Art* OF THE OUD

Cairo-born, eight-time ARIA Award winner Joseph Tawadros is one of the world's leading masters of the oud—an Arabic fretless lute and ancestor of the theorbo, and modern guitar. Renowned for his technique, musicianship, and expressive range, he performs in major concert halls worldwide.

For this rare U.S. solo appearance, Tawadros presents a curated program of original music inspired by the Arabic modal system (*maqam*), blending it seamlessly with elements of Baroque music, jazz, folk, and beyond. The program moves from thrilling, fast-paced works to introspective, lyrical pieces, unified by his distinctive musical voice and the contemporary sound of the oud.

Joseph Tawadros, oud

\$90 Premium
General Admission
Subscribers pay \$85!

\$65 General Admission
Subscribers pay \$60!

Photo by Anthony Lycett.

MAY 6

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2027, 7:30 PM

Oshman Family JCC, Palo Alto

ALEXI KENNEY *with* PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE

The Bach and Mendelssohn families were linked across generations, and through family ties, collaborators, and key musical institutions, they helped shape German music as we know it today.

With commentary by scholar-in-residence Francesco Spagnolo and performances by Alexi Kenney and the Philharmonia Chamber Players, you'll follow family trees, discover the world of music manuscript collecting, and hear how the enduring legacies of the Bach and Mendelssohn families continue to shape the music we love.

Alexi Kenney, violin
Francesco Spagnolo,
scholar-in-residence
Philharmonia Chamber Players

J.S. BACH Chorale
"Erkenne mich, mein Hüter"
from *St. Matthew Passion*

Fanny MENDELSSOHN
String Quartet
in E-flat major, H277

Felix MENDELSSOHN
String Octet
in E-flat major,
Op. 20



Francesco Spagnolo

\$65 General
Admission
**Subscribers
pay \$60!**



Alexi Kenney

Photo by Grittani Creative.

PHILHARMONIA *In Tour*



HANDEL'S *TOLOMEO* @ CARAMOOR

Immediately after concluding its two Bay Area performances, Philharmonia takes Handel's *Tolomeo* on the road, with the third performance of the series taking place on the stage of the Venetian Theater at the legendary Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah, New York. (See page 6 for program information.)

SUNDAY, July 26, 4:00pm
Caramoor Center, NY: Venetian Theater

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE @ LINCOLN CENTER

Philharmonia performs at Lincoln Center Summer for the City 2026 in a program featuring Handel's *Water Music*, alongside Baroque vocal favorites and the orchestra's acclaimed Caroline Shaw commission, *Is a Rose*.

Peter Whelan, conductor
Lauren Snouffer, soprano
Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor
Dashon Burton, bass-baritone

HANDEL *Water Music* Suite No. 1
in F major, selection of arias
and duets
SHAW *Is a Rose*

Full program available
at philharmonia.org

THURSDAY, August 6, 7:30pm
New York (NY), Alice Tully Hall,
Lincoln Center



"The concert
was incredible.
We enjoyed
every
minute!"

"I was brought to tears
by the emotion
of the performance."

"Beautifully
performed
and
uplifting."

"The
music and
performance
were
terrific."

"The chorus
actually
gave me
chills."

"The music was phenomenal!"



Subscriptions *On Sale Now*

Choose 3, 4, or 5 concerts from our subscription concert series in San Francisco, Berkeley, and on the Peninsula for the best prices, and enjoy pre-sale access to add-on concerts at discounted subscriber rates. **Tickets to individual concerts go on sale on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.**

	SAN FRANCISCO Herbst Theatre	BERKELEY First Congregational Church	PENINSULA
Handel's <i>The Power of Music</i>	FRIDAY, NOV 13 7:30 PM	SATURDAY, NOV 14 2:30 PM	WEDNESDAY, NOV 11 7:30 PM Bing Concert Hall
Baroque Brilliance	FRIDAY, DEC 4 7:30 PM	SATURDAY, DEC 5 2:30 PM	THURSDAY, DEC 3 7:30 PM First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto
Vivaldi and the Oud	FRIDAY, FEB 5, 2027 7:30 PM	SATURDAY, FEB 6, 2027 2:30 PM	SUNDAY, FEB 7, 2027 2:30 PM Bing Concert Hall
Baroque on Stage	FRIDAY, MAR 5, 2027 7:30 PM	SATURDAY, MAR 6, 2027 2:30 PM	THURSDAY, MAR 4, 2027 7:30 PM First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto
The Creation	FRIDAY, APR 9, 2027 7:30 PM	SATURDAY, APR 10, 2027 2:30 PM	SUNDAY, APR 11, 2027 2:30 PM Bing Concert Hall

Pricing

The price you see is the price you pay: No additional fees are added to your tickets purchase.

Programs and prices are subject to change.

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Level B	\$355	\$120	\$304	\$76	\$228	\$57
Level C	\$240	\$85	\$208	\$52	\$156	\$39
Level D*	\$150	\$50	\$128	\$32	\$96	\$24

* All venues are ADA-Compliant. Accessible seating is the same price as Level D

Add-On Concerts

Available as add-ons WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION PURCHASE. All concerts go on sale on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

HANDEL'S TOLOMEO

Thur, Jul 23, 7:30 PM
Herbst Theatre, SF
Fri, Jul 24, 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church, Berkeley
\$40–\$175 General Admission
Subscribers pay \$30–\$140!

SESSIONS I

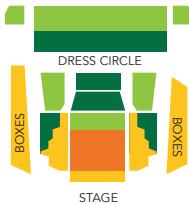
The Art of the Oud
Sat, Jan 30, 2027, 8:00 PM
The Freight, Berkeley
\$90 Premium General Admission
Subscribers pay \$85!
\$65 General Admission
Subscribers pay \$60!

SESSIONS II

Alexi Kenney with Philharmonia Baroque
Thur, May 6, 2027, 7:30 PM
Oshman Family JCC, Palo Alto
\$65 General Admission
Subscribers pay \$60!



SAN FRANCISCO



Herbst Theatre

401 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco

BERKELEY



First Congregational Church

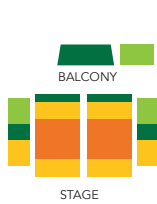
2345 Channing Way
Berkeley

PENINSULA



Bing Concert Hall

327 Lasuen St.
Stanford



First United Methodist Church

625 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto

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We love our subscribers! When you join the Philharmonia subscriber family, you become more deeply connected with the orchestra, and with a growing group of passionate, Baroque music lovers. We recognize and reward your loyalty and commitment with a host of benefits, including:

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- Donate your tickets back to the box office: Give others a chance to buy your seats, and you'll get a tax receipt
- Share the love and gift your tickets to friends or colleagues: They may end up sharing your passion for Philharmonia performances too!

SUBSCRIBE *Now!*

With several concerts selling out last season, subscribing is a great way to lock in your seats and your savings!



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Orchestra&Chorale

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"I was blown
away by the
experience!
What a joy!"

—Joan O,
firsttime attendee

26 27



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