

PhilharmoniaBaroque

Orchestra&Chorale



philharmonia.org



25 Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale 26



Welcome to Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale's 25/26 season! We are overjoyed to bring back many Philharmonia favorites, as well as some of the world's most sought-after guest conductors in historically-informed performance. We also welcome **Nicholas McGegan** back to the podium to continue his exceptional music making with our ensemble. This is a season about togetherness, exploration, and learning. In addition to major works by **Vivaldi**, **Handel**, and **Rameau**, we bring to light some lesser known composers such as **Galuppi**, **Durante**, and **Erlebach**—continuing our mission of capturing the style, spirit, and distinctive sound of the Baroque era.

In addition, we will present a world premiere by trailblazing Jamaican-British composer **Roderick Williams**, and the US premiere of *The Holdfast*—a tour de force that lifts the gorgeous voices of our chorale, by Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award winning composer **Caroline Shaw**.

We invite you to relish the experience of live music with us and explore the sonorities of historical instruments while enjoying time with your friends and family. Our goal is to continue to build upon the legacy of Philharmonia Baroque and to re-engage and develop our family of music lovers.

We hope you are as excited as we are for this season of spectacular music and camaraderie, and we can't wait for you to join us.

Emma Moon

Executive Director & CEO

Anne Katz

President of the Board

OCT 16-19

Václav Luks

Maya Kherani

Fury and Heartbreak

"In the fury of most righteous wrath!" These are the words you'll hear set by Vivaldi in this concert of Italian Baroque fervor and passion from both the Venetian and Neapolitan styles. Vibrant soprano Maya Kherani returns to Philharmonia as a muse, singing two stories of abandonment and heartbreak through the zealous music of Handel and Marcello, accompanied by both furious and tender music for strings.

Václav Luks, conductor
Maya Kherani, soprano

GALUPPI Concerto a quattro No. 4 in C minor

MARCELLO Cantata for Soprano and Strings *Arianna abbandonata*

HANDEL Cantata for Soprano and Strings *Armida abbandonata*, HWV 105

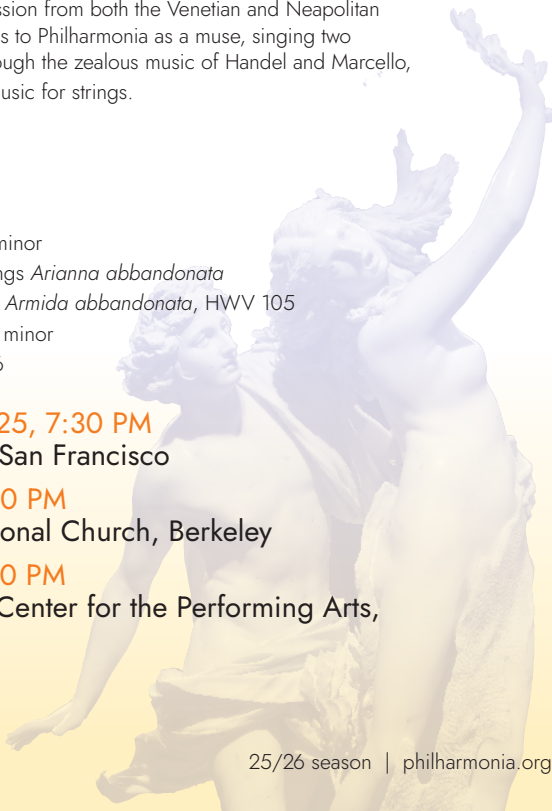
DURANTE Concerto a quattro No. 2 in G minor

VIVALDI *In furore iustissimae irae*, RV 626

THURSDAY **October 16, 2025, 7:30 PM**
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

SATURDAY **October 18, 2:30 PM**
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

SUNDAY **October 19, 2:30 PM**
Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts,
Mountain View



DEC 5-7

Valérie Sainte-Agathe

Gloria

Get into the holiday spirit with Chorale Director Valérie Sainte-Agathe and the Philharmonia Chorale as they lift their voices in Vivaldi's gripping *Gloria*, a masterpiece of joy and grandeur that has enlivened audiences for centuries. You'll also experience Corelli's timeless *Christmas Concerto*, a fascinating world premiere by Roderick Williams, and the US premiere of Caroline Shaw's *The Holdfast*, filled with smooth vocalism and ethereal harmonies. We're certain this concert will leave you breathless with a sense of wonder and holiday cheer.

Valérie Sainte-Agathe, conductor

Philharmonia Chorale, Valérie Sainte-Agathe, director

RODERICK WILLIAMS *Quem Pastores Laudavere* **WORLD PREMIERE**

CORELLI Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 8 in G minor, *Christmas Concerto*

CAROLINE SHAW *The Holdfast* **US PREMIERE**

VIVALDI *Gloria*, RV 589

FRIDAY December 5, 2025, 7:30 PM
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

SATURDAY December 6, 2:30 PM
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

SUNDAY December 7, 2:30 PM
Bing Concert Hall, Stanford

FEB 6-8

Nicholas McGegan

Nola Richardson

Aaron Sheehan

Baroque Garlands

Two magical garlands paint a story in Rameau's *La Guirlande*—a mystical one-act opera telling a story of love through Baroque dances and irresistible arias. This concert includes another magical garland: Handel's towering *Dixit Dominus*, which shows off a different side of the High Baroque style, through its complex counterpoint and startlingly dramatic choruses. We are thrilled to welcome Nicholas McGegan back to the podium to guide us through these Baroque triumphs.

Nicholas McGegan, conductor

Nola Richardson, soprano

Aaron Sheehan, tenor

Philharmonia Chorale, Valérie Sainte-Agathe, director

HANDEL *Dixit Dominus*, HWV 232

RAMEAU *La Guirlande*

FRIDAY February 6, 2026, 7:30 PM
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

SATURDAY February 7, 2:30 PM
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

SUNDAY February 8, 1:00 PM
Bing Concert Hall, Stanford



MARCH 13-15

Christine Brandes

Reginald Mobley

Pearls of Sorrow

The Thirty Years' War in Europe and the institution of chattel slavery in America began just one year apart. Separated by culture, continent, and reason, there is a throughline that connects these harrowing events: beautiful music that arises during times of struggle. The music of Schütz, Erlebach, and members of the Bach family share the same spirit as many of the songs and spirituals sung by enslaved Africans and Black Americans to this very day. By highlighting that common space, perhaps we can open ourselves to understanding our true connections to one another.

Christine Brandes, conductor
Reginald Mobley, countertenor

MUSIC BY Locatelli, J.C.F. Bach, J.S. Bach, Schütz,
Buxtehude, Pohle, Erlebach, and American Spirituals

FRIDAY March 13, 2026, 7:30 PM
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

SATURDAY March 14, 2:30 PM
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

SUNDAY March 15, 2:30 PM
Bing Concert Hall, Stanford

APR 23-25

Shunske Sato

Kinks and Quirks: *The C.P.E. Bach Effect*

"After dinner, I prevailed upon C.P.E. Bach to sit down again to a clavichord...he grew so animated and possessed, that he not only played, but looked like one inspired." Possessed and entranced too is the F-major symphony by C.P.E. Bach: kinks and coils at every turn, with heaps of non sequiturs that fit bizarrely and beautifully together. Internationally renowned violinist and Philharmonia favorite Shunske Sato guides us through the connection between works by some of the 18th and 19th centuries' most beloved composers.

Shunske Sato, violin and leader

C.P.E. Bach Symphony No. 3 in F major, Wq. 183/3

MOZART Incidental Music from *Thamos, King of Egypt*, K. 345

MENDELSSOHN Concerto for Violin and Strings in D minor, MWV O3

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1 in C major, Op. 21

THURSDAY April 23, 2026, 7:30 PM
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

FRIDAY April 24, 7:30 PM
First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

SATURDAY April 25, 2:30 PM
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

SESSIONS I

The Art of the Lute

Dive into the delicate sounds of the lute with the riveting Thomas Dunford in Philharmonia SESSIONS, our casual and intimate concert series. Dunford's recital displays the full capabilities of this magnificent instrument with music spanning from 16th through 21st centuries.

Thomas Dunford, lute

DOWLAND A Fancy
DOWLAND Come Again

DUNFORD Blind Man

DOWLAND Semper Dowland, semper dolens
THE BEATLES Something

DOWLAND A Dream
DUNFORD Sometimes

DOWLAND Frog Galliard
THE BEATLES Blackbird

DOWLAND King of Denmark's Galliard
DOWLAND Can She Excuse

DOWLAND Mrs. Winter's Jump
DUNFORD That's So You

MARAIS Voix Humaines
DUNFORD Love Will Find a Way

DOWLAND Lachrimae
THE BEATLES Let It Be

SATIE Gymnopédie No. 1
THE BEATLES Imagine

DALZA Calata alla Spagnola
DUNFORD We Are the Ocean

FRIDAY

November 14, 2025, 8 PM

Swedish American Hall,
San Francisco

TICKETS:

\$60 General Admission

\$85 Premium General Admission



SPECIAL CONCERTS



SESSIONS II

Philharmonia Baroque with Avi Avital

*A Special
Co-Presentation
with The Freight*

Electrifying Israeli mandolinist Avi Avital returns to Philharmonia in a program spanning several centuries. From J.S. Bach's intensely stormy Concerto in D minor, to Bartok's whimsical *Romanian Folk Dances*, we're certain this music will make you fall in love with the unique sound of the mandolin.

Avi Avital, mandolin and leader

VIVALDI Concerto for Strings in A major, RV 158

J.S. BACH Concerto No. 1 in D minor, BWV 1052 (transcr. Avital)

VIVALDI Concerto for Mandolin in C major, RV 425

SOLLIMA Concerto for Mandolin

BARTÓK *Romanian Folk Dances* (arr. Avital)

FRIDAY February 20, 2026, 8 PM The Freight, Berkeley

TICKETS:

\$60 General Admission

\$85 Premium General Admission

ON TOUR

Philharmonia in SoCal

This season, we are delighted to return to Southern California with Avi Avital. Catch the “explosively charismatic” (*The New York Times*) Avi Avital and the orchestra in Santa Monica next February. We hope to see you, your friends, and family on the road! (see page 10 for program details)



SUNDAY
February 22, 2026, 2 PM
Broad Stage, Santa Monica

For tickets and info visit
philharmonia.org/tour





Nicholas McGegan



Francesco Spagnolo



Yair Harel

Jews & Music

Jewish Nightlife

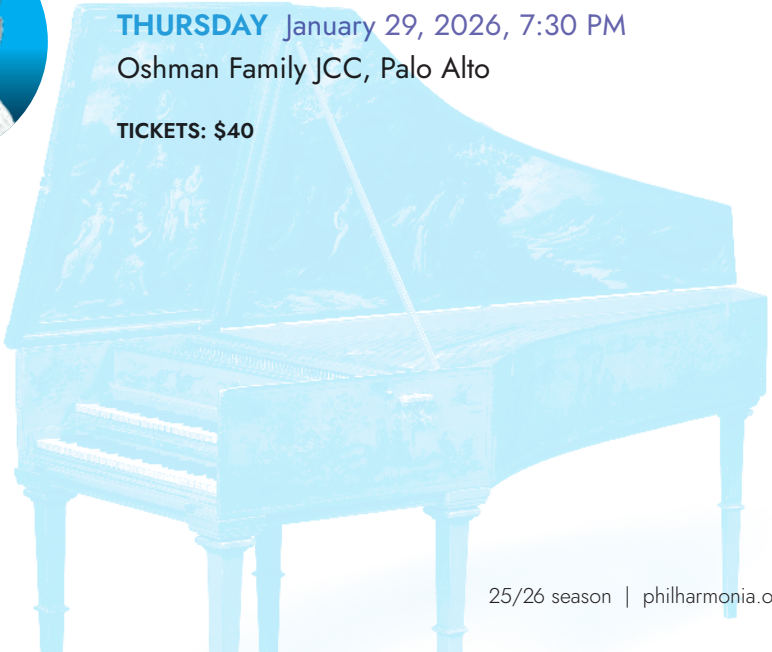
Hebrew Poetry, Kabbalah, and Coffee

Discover how the ritual performance of Jewish texts at night has related to social change across Jewish history. This event focuses on three topics: the rise of Kabbalistic nocturnal rituals in the Italian ghettos since the 16th century; the performance of Hebrew poetry in North Africa and the Middle East in the modern era; and the renaissance of piyyut (Hebrew liturgical poetry and song) in Israel from the 1970s to the present. You'll be treated to traditional Syrian and Moroccan songs, as well as works by familiar Baroque composers Rossi and Boccherini throughout the discussion.

Nicholas McGegan, conductor and harpsichord
Francesco Spagnolo, Jews & Music Scholar-in-Residence
Yair Harel, voice/percussion
Philharmonia Baroque Chamber Players & Chorale Quartet

THURSDAY January 29, 2026, 7:30 PM
Oshman Family JCC, Palo Alto

TICKETS: \$40



SPECIAL EVENTS



Fanfare

Philharmonia's Subscriber Appreciation Party expresses gratitude and appreciation for our loyal subscribers. Featuring food, drinks, and musical performances, Fanfare offers an opportunity for subscribers to connect with fellow patrons, have a unique artistic experience, and share in the organization's success as Philharmonia subscribers. **BY INVITATION**

SUNDAY September 14, 2025, 2 PM
Venue to be announced

Spring Gala 2026

Save the date for
Philharmonia's
Spring Gala on
April 10, 2026,
honoring former
Music Director
Nicholas McGegan.
We'll have a ball
with great food,
music, and more!



JOIN THE FUN!

Subscription Series

SAN FRANCISCO CONCERTS

Herbst Theatre

BERKELEY CONCERTS

First Congregational Church

THE MARMOR PENINSULA CONCERTS

Fury & Heartbreak	THU, OCT 16 7:30 PM	SAT, OCT 18 2:30 PM	SUN, OCT 19 2:30 PM Mountain View CPA
Gloria	FRI, DEC 5 7:30 PM	SAT, DEC 6 2:30 PM	SUN, DEC 7 2:30 PM Bing Concert Hall
Baroque Garlands	FRI, FEB 6 7:30 PM	SAT, FEB 7 2:30 PM	SUN, FEB 8 1:00 PM Bing Concert Hall
Pearls of Sorrow	FRI, MAR 13 7:30 PM	SAT, MAR 14 2:30 PM	SUN, MAR 15 2:30 PM Bing Concert Hall
Kinks & Quirks: The C.P.E. Bach Effect	THU, APR 23 7:30 PM	SAT, APR 25 2:30 PM	FRI, APR 24 7:30 PM First United Methodist

Special Concerts

Tickets sold separately from Subscription Series.

Special Concert and Single Tickets on sale Monday, June 2.

JEWIS & MUSIC

Jewish Nightlife:
Hebrew Poetry,
Kabbalah, Music
Thursday, January 29, 7:30 PM
Oshman Family JCC, Palo Alto
TICKETS: \$40

SESSIONS I

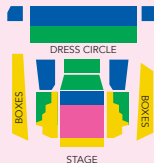
The Art of the Lute
Friday, November 14, 8 PM
Swedish American Hall,
San Francisco
TICKETS: \$60 GA
\$85 Premium GA

SESSIONS II

Philharmonia Baroque
with Avi Avital
Friday, February 20, 8 PM
The Freight, Berkeley
TICKETS: \$60 GA
\$85 Premium GA

Venues

SAN FRANCISCO SERIES



Herbst Theatre

401 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA
94102

BERKELEY SERIES



First Congregational Church

2345 Channing Way
Berkeley, CA
94704

1 CHOOSE YOUR SERIES

We offer three subscription series: **San Francisco**, **Berkeley**, and **Peninsula**. As a subscriber, you can always exchange your tickets to a date outside of your original selection, free of charge.

2 CHOOSE YOUR SEATS

Each venue has four price levels. You will be assigned the best available seating based on your subscription tier. Renewing subscribers, **subscribe by June 2** to keep your seats.

PRICE LEVEL	<u>FULL SEASON</u> SAVE 25%	<u>CHOOSE 4</u> SAVE 20%	<u>CHOOSE 3</u> SAVE 20%
Level A <i>Premium</i>	\$625 \$469	\$400	\$300
Level B	\$435 \$326	\$278	\$209
Level C	\$315 \$236	\$202	\$151
Level D*	\$175 \$131	\$112	\$84

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

3 CHOOSE YOUR CONCERTS

Full season subscriptions include all five main season concerts. Choose-your-own subscribers select the 3 or 4 concerts that best suit your tastes and schedules. And subscribers always receive \$5 off our special concerts: SESSIONS, Jews & Music, and more! All tickets are mailed to you in August.

Ready to Subscribe?

Full-price single tickets will be available June 2. Subscribe now and save!

ONLINE Head to philharmonia.org/subscribe

PHONE Call Patron Services Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm at **(415) 295-1900**

EMAIL Email contact info and subscription choices to tickets@philharmonia.org

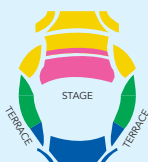
MAIL Renewing subscribers may mail renewal forms to:
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale Patron Services
414 Mason Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94102

Ticket sales cover only a portion of our expenses—please consider including a tax-deductible donation with your order!

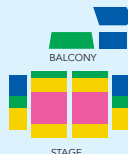
THE MARMOR PENINSULA CONCERTS



Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts
500 Castro St.
Mountain View, CA 94041



Bing Concert Hall
327 Lasuen St.
Stanford, CA 94305



First United Methodist Church
625 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

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(415) 295-1900



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