

# The Morrison Artists Series celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season in 2015-16



Dear Patrons,

It's a great pleasure to introduce you to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the Morrison Artists Series, ushering in a new and inspiring year of outstanding chamber music performances offered admission-free to San Francisco Bay Area audiences.

Here's the season at a glance:

- September 27, 2015: the **Alexander String Quartet** with guest **violinist Andrew Duckles**
- November 8, 2015: from London, the virtuosic **Fidelio Trio** in their San Francisco debut
- December 4, 2015: the **Telegraph String Quartet** in a special Showcase Performance
- February 19, 2016: the **Amphion Quartet** with special guest **Bridget Kibbey, harp**
- March 13, 2016: cello virtuoso **Jay Campbell** in recital with pianist **Conor Hanick**
- April 17, 2016: from the Netherlands, the superlative **Calefax Reed Quintet**
- May 6, 2016: the stunning a cappella quartet, **New York Polyphony**

Please scroll down for more information about our 2015-16 artists and the repertoire they'll be performing. It promises to be a superb season, filled with musical gems and moving performances, and I personally invite you to join me in being a part of this banner season. All performances take place in San Francisco State's McKenna Theater. For more information please visit our web site at <http://morrison.sfsu.edu>.

As always, we offer a pre-concert talk one hour prior to each performance, and the public is cordially invited to observe master classes in the San Francisco State School of Music led by our guest artists.

Thank you as always for your enthusiastic participation as a member of the Morrison Artists Series distinguished audience. I look forward to seeing you in McKenna Theater!

Richard Festinger  
Artistic Director

**The Alexander String Quartet with Special Guest Andrew Duckles, viola**  
Sunday, September 27, 2015, 3:00 pm, with pre-concert talk 2:00 pm.  
Master class Friday, September 25, 2015, 2:10-4:00 pm.

San Francisco State's resident string quartet continues to delight and inspire Bay Area audiences with superb performances of classical, romantic and modern repertoire. The Alexander String Quartet has performed in the major music capitals of five continents. Its interpretations and recordings of Beethoven, Bartok and Shostakovich, have won international critical acclaim.



Violist Andrew Duckles is known as a recording artist, soloist, chamber musician and teacher. Formerly principal viola of the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet orchestras, he makes his home in Southern California. Duckles began his orchestral career with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and has made appearances as principal viola of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Long Beach Symphony and New West Symphony.

Program: W. A. Mozart (1756-1791), Viola Quintet in C major, K. 515 (1787)  
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976), String Quartet No. 2 in G major (1975)  
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), Viola Quintet in F major, Opus 88 (1882)

**The Fidelio Trio, in its San Francisco Debut Performance**  
Sunday, November 8, 3:00 pm, pre-concert talk, 2:00 pm.  
Master class Monday, November 9, 2015, noon-2:00 pm



Based in London, the virtuosic Fidelio Trio performs diverse repertoire internationally, and broadcasts regularly on BBC, WNYC, NPR and other world networks. Since their debut at London's South Bank the trio has appeared at Wigmore Hall, Kings Place, Purcell Room and the London Royal Opera House; at festivals including City of London Cheltenham Music Festival, St. Magnus International Festival, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Brighton, Vale of Glamorgan, West Cork Music, Belfast Festival at Queens and National Concert Hall, Dublin, Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre, Casa da Musica (Porto), Centre Culturel Irlandais (Paris), Contemporaneamente Festival, Lodi and Palazzo Albrizzi, Venice (Italy), Johannesburg Music Society, Symphony Space and SubCulture in New York, Princeton University and MIT.

In addition to the full range of classical and romantic repertoire for piano trio, they are constantly commissioning new works by leading international composers.

Program: Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921) Piano, Trio No 2 in E Minor Op 92 (1892)  
Judith Weir (b. 1954), Piano Trio No 2 (2003-4)  
Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951), Verklarte Nacht (1899),  
piano trio arrangement by Eduard Steuermann

**Special Showcase Performance: The Telegraph Quartet**

Friday, December 4, 2015, 8:00 pm, pre-concert talk, 7:00 pm

Master class Friday, December 4, 2015, 2:10-4:00 pm

Presenting the 2014 Grand Prize winners of the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition in this season's Showcase Performance featuring a local ensemble of exceptional distinction.



Described as “intensely urgent” and “poignantly resonant”, the Telegraph Quartet received the prestigious Grand Prize of the 2014 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition for its passionate approach to standard and contemporary chamber music repertoire alike, and has gone on to perform in concert halls, music festivals, and academic institutions across the United States. Last season highlights featured the quartet as Guest Artists for the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Chamber Music Masters Series, an ensemble residency with San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music's Presidio Sessions, and a tour of the Mid-West states of Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois, sponsored by the Fischhoff Foundation. The Quartet gave its first Carnegie Hall appearance earlier this season in Weill Recital Hall.

Program: Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), String Quartet in C major, Opus 20 No. 2 (1772)  
Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942), Five Pieces for String Quartet (1923)  
George Rochberg (1918-2005), Quartet no. 3 (1972)

## **The Amphion Quartet with Special Guest Bridget Kibbey, harp**

Friday, February 19, 2016, 8:00 pm, pre-concert talk, 7:00 pm

Master class Friday, February 19, 2016, 2:10-4:00 pm

The dazzling young harp virtuoso Bridget Kibbey joins forces with the Amphion Quartet in a concert of remarkable works for this unusual and sonorous combination of instruments.



Hailed for its “gripping intensity” and “suspenseful and virtuoso playing” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), the Amphion String Quartet won the 2011 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition, and in 2013 became a part of Lincoln Center’s Chamber Music Society Two Program, making its Alice Tully Hall debut in March 2014, about which the *New York Times* praised “the focused, forceful young Amphion String Quartet” for its “sharply

detailed performances.” The quartet has delighted audiences throughout the United States, including recent performances at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, the Caramoor Festival, and the Library of Congress. Their first CD, featuring quartets by Grieg, Janacek and Wolf, was released by the UK-based recording label Nimbus.



“Bridget Kibbey makes it seem as though her instrument had been waiting all its life to explode with the gorgeous colors and energetic figures she was getting from it.” - *The New York Times*

Lauded for her compelling artistry and virtuosity, harpist Bridget Kibbey is a recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Classical Recording Foundation's Young Artist Award, a 2015 Salon de Virtuosi Grant, and the only harpist to win a position with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Chamber Music Society Two. She tours internationally as concerto soloist and recitalist, and performs with some of today’s most compelling artists.

**Program:** J.S. Bach (1685-1750), Concerto for Harpsichord in F minor, BWV.1056 (1739)  
Claude Debussy (1862-1918), Danses sacrée et profane, harp and strings (1904)  
Nathan Shields, Tenebrae, for harp and string quartet (2009)  
Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953), String Quartet No. 1 (1930)  
Andre Caplet (1878-1925), Conte Fantastique, for harp and strings (1908)  
Traditional Celtic Reels, arranged for harp & strings by Bridget Kibbey

## **Cellist Jay Campbell in Recital with Pianist Conor Hanick**

Sunday, March 13, 2016, 3:00 pm, pre-concert talk, 2:00 pm

Master class Monday, March 14, noon to 2:00 pm

Jay Campbell is the most exciting young cellist to recently emerge on the concert stage. His vividly ravishing performances illuminate as never before the richness of the repertoire for this most evocative of musical instruments.



With a diverse spectrum of repertoire and eclectic musical interests, cellist Jay Campbell was named First Prize winner of the 2012 Concert Artist Guild auditions. He is the recipient of awards from the BMI and ASCAP foundations and has been heard on television, radio broadcasts and in concert halls around the world, including concerto appearances in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Kultur und Kongresszentrum-Luzern, and the Aspen Music Festival. Dedicated to the music of our own time, he has collaborated with an array of artists, including composers Elliott Carter, Pierre Boulez, Kaija Saariaho, and John Zorn.

Pianist Conor Hanick has given acclaimed solo and chamber music performances around the world and collaborated with music's most accomplished instrumentalists, conductors,

ensembles, and composers. In performances ranging from the early Baroque to the newly written, Conor's playing has been described as "brilliant," "astounding," (New York Times) "expert," (Philadelphia Inquirer), and "sparkling," (Strad) reminding New York Times chief critic Anthony Tommasini of a "young Peter Serkin." Although Conor has been recognized as a "true champion of contemporary music" (NPR) through his deep commitment to the music of our time, Tommasini wrote that Conor's "technical refinement, color, crispness and wondrous variety of articulation ... benefit works by any master."



**Program:** Anton von Webern (1883-1945), Drei Kleine Stücke, op. 11 (1914)  
Robert Schumann (1810-1856), Fantasiestücke, Op. 73 (1849)  
Anton von Webern, Zwei Stücke (1899)  
Robert Schumann, Adagio und Allegro, Op. 70 (1849)  
Gyorgy Kurtag (b. 1926), Signs, Games, and Messages (1987-2008)  
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), Sonata in F Major, Op. 99 (1886)

## The Calefax Reed Quintet

Sunday, April 17, 2016, 3:00 pm, pre-concert talk 2:00 pm

Master class Monday, April 18, noon to 2:00 pm



“Five extremely gifted Dutch gents who almost made the reed quintet seem the best musical format on the planet.” – *The Times*

Five passionate wind players, virtuoso musicians and brilliant arrangers, Calefax is a source of inspiration to a fresh generation reed players that follows in their footsteps. The repertoire of Calefax spans many centuries of music, breathing new life into classical chamber music in arrangements for their unique reed quintet line up of oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bass clarinet and bassoon, and some two hundred original works have by been written for them by composers from all over the world, drawing on influences from classical and world music, jazz and improvisation.

Program: J. S. Bach (1685-1750), Prelude and Fugue in E flat Major, WTC Book I  
Robert Schumann (1810-1856), Waldszenen, Opus 82  
Richard Strauss (1864-1949), Till Eulenspiegels Lustige Streiche  
Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915), Etudes  
Jakob TV (b. 1951), Billie  
Steve Reich (b. 1936), New York Counterpoint

## New York Polyphony

Friday, May 6, 2016, 8:00 pm, pre-concert talk, 7:00 pm

Master class Friday, May 6, 2016, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, Choral Rehearsal Room



Four *a cappella* male voices who beautifully illuminate great vocal repertoire from the middle ages and Renaissance to vibrant, newly commissioned works of our own time. Praised for a “rich, natural sound that’s larger and more complex than the sum of its parts,” (*National Public Radio*) New York Polyphony is regarded as one of the finest vocal chamber ensembles in the world. These four “singers of superb musicianship and vocal allure,” (*The New Yorker*) apply a

modern touch to repertoire that ranges from austere medieval melodies to cutting-edge contemporary compositions. Their dedication to innovative programming, as well as a focus on rare and rediscovered Renaissance and medieval works, has not only earned New York Polyphony critical acclaim, but also helped to move early music into the classical mainstream. The ensemble's growing discography includes two GRAMMY nominated releases, and albums that have topped the "best of" lists of *The New Yorker*, *Gramophone*, and *BBC Music Magazine*.

Program:       A Lily Among Thorns:  
Medieval, Renaissance and New settings of Love Songs

Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599), Regina caeli  
John Dunstable (c.1380-1453), Speciosa facta es  
John Pyamour (d. 1431), Quam pulchra es  
John Plummer (c. 1410-c. 1483), Tota pulchra es  
Michael McGlynn (b. 1964), O pia Virgo  
Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599), Quae est ista/Surge propera  
Antoine Brumel (c. 1460-c. 1515), Sicut lilium  
Jacob Clemens (c.1510-c.1555), Ego flos campi / Sub umbra illius  
Ivan Moody (b. 1964), Canticum Cantorum  
Trinity Roll MS (compiled c. 1415), There is no Rose  
John Scott (b. 1956), There is no Rose  
Geoffrey Williams (b. 1976), There is no Rose