

KNAU'S SYMPHONY NIGHT
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
Broadcast Schedule — Spring 2026

Please note: the use of asterisks () in the listings below designate the piece(s) on which the soloist(s) perform. Single or dual asterisks are used to differentiate between performances for broadcasts that contain multiple soloists.*

Salonen Conducts Nico Muhly

AIRS: April 13, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Esa-Pekka Salonen
SOLOISTS: Alexandre Tharaud, piano*

Esa-Pekka Salonen leads the world premiere of Nico Muhly's Baroque-inspired Piano Concerto, performed by Alexandre Tharaud. Also on the program: Paul Hindemith's raucous *Ragtime*, based on a theme by J.S. Bach; Edward Elgar's inventive transcription of Bach's Fantasia & Fugue in C minor; and Hindemith's Symphony *Mathis der Maler*.

Paul Hindemith: Ragtime, from Suite 1922, Opus 26
Nico Muhly: Piano Concerto*
Johann Sebastian Bach
(arr. Edward Elgar): Fantasia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 537
Paul Hindemith: *Mathis der Maler*

Salonen Conducts Brahms 4

AIRS: April 20, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Esa-Pekka Salonen
SOLOIST: Sayaka Shoji, violin*

Sayaka Shoji takes on Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1, a work that revels in dusky enchantments, diabolical dances, and frisky folk tunes. Brahms's fourth and final symphony, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, draws on a lifetime of experience and immersive study.

Shostakovich: Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Opus 77(99)*
Johannes Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Opus 98

Salonen Conducts Beethoven's *Pastoral*

AIRS: April 27, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Esa-Pekka Salonen
SOLOIST: Rainer Eudeikis, cello*

Principal Cello Rainer Eudeikis takes center stage in Esa-Pekka Salonen's Cello Concerto conducted by the composer. Bookending the concerto are two works inspired by the natural world: Beethoven's unapologetically pictorial Sixth Symphony and Debussy's swelling, sparkling oceanic triptych *La Mer*.

Ludwig van

Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 in F major, Opus 68, *Pastoral*

Esa-Pekka Salonen: Cello Concerto*

Claude Debussy: *La Mer*

Enigma Variations

AIRS: May 4, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Nicholas Collon
SOLOIST: Conrad Tao, piano*

Conrad Tao stars in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, a work the composer valued above all his other piano compositions. Under the baton of Nicholas Collon, the program opens with Thomas Adès's Three-piece Suite from his cheeky chamber opera, *Powder Her Face*. Edward Elgar's famed *Enigma Variations* closes the program with an assortment of melodies depicting his friends.

Thomas Adès: Three-Piece Suite from *Powder Her Face*

Pyotr Ilyich

Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Opus 23*

Edward Elgar: *Enigma Variations*, Opus 36

Fauré's Requiem

AIRS: May 11, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Kazuki Yamada
SOLOISTS: Hélène Grimaud, Piano*; Liv Redpath, soprano**; Michael Sumuel, bass-baritone**; SFS Chorus**

Conductor Kazuki Yamada leads the SF Symphony and Chorus in Fauré's tenderly radiant and humane Requiem, an underrated stunner. Pianist Hélène Grimaud performs Ravel's sprightly Piano Concerto in G major.

Dai Fujikura: *Entwine*
Maurice Ravel: Piano Concerto in G minor*
Gabriel Fauré: Requiem, Opus 48**

Blomstedt Conducts Schubert & Brahms

AIRS: May 18, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Herbert Blomstedt

Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt leads two treasures of the German symphonic tradition, both indebted to earlier masters. Schubert spoke about the "haunting" influence of Mozart when he wrote his Fifth Symphony. Brahms worked on his First Symphony for more than 20 years, fretting obsessively about living up to Beethoven's example.

Franz Schubert: Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, D.485
Johannes Brahms: Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Opus 68

Esa-Pekka Salonen & Yuja Wang
AIRS: May 25, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Esa-Pekka Salonen
SOLOIST: Yuja Wang

Esa-Pekka Salonen takes the podium for Debussy's *Images*, a work that outlines a vivid realm of ancient dances, sun-splashed Spanish ballads, and intoxicating orchestral colors. Yuja Wang brings her dramatic flair and interpretive finesse to two piano concertos: Maurice Ravel's dark and intense Piano Concerto for the Left Hand and Einojuhani Rautavaara's post-modern Piano Concerto No. 1.

Claude Debussy: *Gigues* from *Images pour orchestre*
Claude Debussy: *Rondes de printemps* from *Images pour orchestre*
Maurice Ravel: Piano Concerto in D major for the Left Hand*
Einojuhani
Rautavaara: Piano Concerto No. 1, Opus 45*
Claude Debussy: *Ibéria* from *Images pour orchestre*

Chan Conducts All-Tchaikovsky
AIRS: June 1, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Elim Chan

Elim Chan leads selections from Tchaikovsky's ethereal and primal fairy tale, *Swan Lake*. Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony, *Pathétique*, inhabits a mood of exquisite longing. He called it "the best thing I ever composed or shall compose."

Pyotr Ilyich
Tchaikovsky: Selections from *Swan Lake*, Opus 20
Act II: No. 10 Scene Moderato
Act I: No. 2 Valse
Act II: No. 13 Danse des cygnes (IV) Allegro moderato – Pas d'action (V)
Andante
Act IV: No. 29 Scène finale

Pyotr Ilyich
Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Opus 74, *Pathétique*

Alsop Conducts Music of the Americas

AIRS: June 8, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Marin Alsop
SOLOIST: Gabriela Montero, piano*

Conductor Marin Alsop guides the SF Symphony through an exhilarating journey that spans the United States, Venezuela, and Mexico. Gabriela Ortiz's playfully seductive *Antrópolis* sets the stage while the Venezuelan composer and pianist Gabriela Montero performs her Piano Concerto No. 1, *Latin*. Paired fanfares by Aaron Copland and Joan Tower join with Samuel Barber's primal and propulsive Symphony No. 1.

Gabriela Ortiz: *Antrópolis*
Gabriela Montero: *Latin Concerto*
Aaron Copland: *Fanfare for the Common Man*
Joan Tower: *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 1*
Samuel Barber: *Symphony No. 1, Opus 9*

Guerrero Conducts *Pines of Rome*

AIRS: June 15, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Giancarlo Guerrero

Conductor Giancarlo Guerrero brings out all the Technicolor glory of Ottorino Respighi's vivid Roman postcards, *Fountains of Rome* and *Pines of Rome*. Stravinsky's ballet *Petrushka* is equally dramatic, placing us amid the hurly-burly of a Russian carnival where a trio of magical puppets comes to life. Kicking off the concert is Kaija Saariaho's astronomical *Asteroid 4179: Toutatis*.

Kaija Saariaho: *Asteroid 4179: Toutatis*
Igor Stravinsky: *Petrushka* (1947 version)
Ottorino Respighi: *Fountains of Rome*
Ottorino Respighi: *Pines of Rome*

Salonen Conducts *The Firebird*

AIRS: June 22, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Esa-Pekka Salonen
SOLOIST: Isabelle Faust, violin*

Igor Stravinsky's wild Russian folk-fable of a ballet *The Firebird*, retains the power to shock and enthrall into its second century. Kicking off this program conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen is Magnus Lindberg's 2002 Bach-inspired piece *Chorale*. Alban Berg's famed *Violin Concerto*—played here by Isabelle Faust—functions both as an elegy for a surrogate daughter who died too soon, and as a requiem for himself.

Magnus Lindberg: *Chorale*
Alban Berg: *Violin Concerto**
Igor Stravinsky: *The Firebird*

Salonen Conducts Sibelius 7

AIRS: June 29, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Esa-Pekka Salonen

Bookended by two spectacular Richard Strauss tone poems, Esa-Pekka Salonen leads *Rewilding*, the SF Symphony's first commission from Gabriella Smith, reflecting her passion for conservation and ecological reform. Jean Sibelius's final symphony, the Seventh, distills symphonic form to its bare essentials.

Richard Strauss: *Don Juan*, Opus 20
Jean Sibelius: *Symphony No. 7 in C major*, Opus 105
Gabriella Smith: *Rewilding*
Richard Strauss: *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, Opus 28

Salonen Conducts Mahler 2

AIRS: July 6, 2026

ORCHESTRA: San Francisco Symphony
CONDUCTOR: Esa-Pekka Salonen
SOLOIST: Heidi Stober, soprano*; Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano*;
SFS Chorus

In his final program as San Francisco Symphony Music Director, Esa-Pekka Salonen leads Mahler's Second Symphony—a San Francisco Symphony staple. Reinforcing its theme of spiritual transcendence, Mahler wrote his own text for the finale: "Rise again . . . What you have conquered, will bear you to God!"

Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 2 in C minor*