

Santa Rosa Symphony

2023
2024
SEASON

NEWS

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Santa Rosa Symphony Presents RACH & the Hollywood Sound

Music from three iconic film scores, along with RACH's Symphony No. 3

January 20, 21 & 22, 2024 at Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — The Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS), conducted by Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong, presents RACH & the Hollywood Sound at Weill Hall, Green Music Center on January 20, 21 & 22, 2024. In the third concert of its four-year exploration of Rachmaninoff's dramatic orchestral music, SRS will be performing legendary suites from the scores of *Psycho*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, and *Schindler's List*—the last featuring concertmaster, Joseph Edelberg. Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 3 with its expansive instrumentation brings the concert to its triumphant conclusion. This project continues to bring together the complete circle of Sergei Rachmaninoff's major orchestral works.

"A great film composer can instantly conjure up a character, a mood, a place, or a culture. For my third installment of Rachmaninoff and Hollywood composers, we start with three completely different film scores that are almost certainly on everyone's "best of" lists. By comparing and contrasting, we can see the unique and brilliant approaches taken to elevate the visuals. Rachmaninoff's Third Symphony jumps us 30 years forward in the composer's life from his previous symphony. Now at the height of his compositional prowess, Rachmaninoff takes even more risks with structure and instrumentation while still bringing the hallmark melodies and dramatic moments that have made him so beloved around the world." **Francesco Lecce-Chong**, SRS Music Director

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

RACH & the Hollywood Sound

Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor

Joseph Edelberg, violin

BERNARD HERRMANN: Suite from *Psycho* for Orchestra

JOHN WILLIAMS: Three Pieces from *Schindler's List*

MAURICE JARRE: Suite from *Lawrence of Arabia* for Orchestra

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 3 in A minor

BIOGRAPHIES:

Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor

Francesco Lecce-Chong is a fast-rising conductor with an international presence. He was appointed Music Director of two U.S. orchestras, the Eugene, and the Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) before he reached the age of 30. He has successfully launched several groundbreaking projects, commissioned dozens of orchestral pieces, and fostered community engagement. Lecce-Chong has appeared with orchestras worldwide, including the San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and collaborated with top soloists such as Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman.

The San Francisco Chronicle described Lecce-Chong's subscription debut with the San Francisco Symphony as “first-rate” and pointed out the “vitality and brilliance of the music-making he drew from members of the San Francisco Symphony.” Other recent subscription debuts include the Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, and Detroit Symphony, as well as a return to the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, where he conducted the US premiere of Brett Dean’s Piano Concerto.

In September 2023, Lecce-Chong debuted in Europe at the prestigious George Enescu Festival, with the Romanian Radio Orchestra leading a program of Hindemith and Bernstein. During his 2023/2024 season with the Santa Rosa Symphony, he continues a cycle of the significant orchestral works of Rachmaninoff paired with film composers entitled “Rachmaninoff & the Hollywood Sound.” He leads the world premieres of new orchestral works by Conrad Tao, Clarice Assad, and Michael Djupstrom.

During Lecce-Chong’s tenure, both Eugene and SRS have achieved significant milestones. One of his first large-scale endeavors was the “First Symphony Project,” which consisted of full-length commissions from four of America’s emerging composers over the course of four seasons, complete with residencies in the communities.

Only last season, Lecce-Chong led the world premieres of five major orchestral works and led the Santa Rosa Symphony in Mozart’s *Magic Flute*, for which he wrote his own original dialogue and created the staging and sets. He continues to build partnerships with local art institutions, schools, and businesses to create original, multi-disciplinary experiences for audiences.

Joseph Edelberg, violin

Concertmaster of the Santa Rosa Symphony since 1997, Joe Edelberg has had the distinct honor of leading this outstanding orchestra under the batons of four inspiring SRS Music Directors. For many years, when not onstage at Weill Hall, he has played with the San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Symphony, as well as in the Bay Area early music scene, with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, and Magnificat Baroque.

He has appeared as guest leader with many Bay Area groups, including the Berkeley Symphony, the Marin Symphony, the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the Magnificat Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, the San Francisco Opera Merola Grand Finals Orchestra, and the California Symphony. Farther afield, he has appeared at the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming, as concertmaster at the Summer Festival Orchestras of Mendocino and San Louis Obispo, and as guest principal second violin of the Bavarian State Opera Orchestra.

Adding to his repertoire are the years spent with the string quartet StringCircle and the new music group Earplay. Edelberg has made solo appearances with the symphonies of Oakland and Berkeley, as well as with the Santa Rosa Symphony. He has recorded with the baroque orchestras mentioned above, the Berkeley Symphony, Chanticleer, and Earplay. Edelberg is a graduate of Amherst College in his native Massachusetts. He has studied with Phillip Naegele, Felix Galimir, and Adolf Bruk.

CLASSICAL SERIES EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS:

CONCERT CONVERSATIONS (*one hour prior to Classical Series performances*)

Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong discusses the music and composers, often with the guest artists, one hour prior to the Classical Concert Series performances in Weill Hall. These informative, pre-concert talks, which are included in the price of the ticket, are general seating. Concert Conversations are held before Saturday and Monday night performances at 6:30 pm and prior to Sunday afternoon performances at 2:00 pm.

PROGRAM NOTES

Program Notes, posted on each of the seven Classical Series concert event pages offer insight and fascinating details about the concert program. See srsymphony.org.

SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS

Classical Series concert event pages include a Spotify playlist of the works on that concert program. Full-season Spotify playlists can also be found on the Symphony’s website under, Plan Your Visit.

PROGRAM BOOKS

New season Program Books are available for all patrons at the concerts.

SPONSORS:

Classical Concert Series Underwritten by **Anderman Family Foundation**
Sponsored by **Willow Creek Wealth Management and Susan and Bruce Dzieza**
Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong sponsored by **David and Corinne Byrd**
Guest Artist **Joe Edelberg** sponsored by **Victor and Karen Trione, in memory of Henry Trione**
Discovery Open Rehearsal Series sponsored by **The Stare Foundation and David Stare of Dry Creek Vineyard**
Pre-Concert Talks sponsored by **Jamei Haswell, in honor of Richard Grundy**
Season Media Sponsor: *The Press Democrat*

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTING:**WHAT:**

Santa Rosa Symphony concert [RACH & the Hollywood Sound](#)

WHO:

[Santa Rosa Symphony](#)
[Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor](#)

Interview Opportunities: Francesco Lecce-Chong

WHEN:

Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 2:00 PM (Discovery Rehearsal, Doors at 1:00 PM, no concert talk)
Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 7:30 PM (Doors at 6:00 PM, Pre-concert talk 6:30 PM-7:00 PM)
Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM (Doors at 1:30 PM, Pre-concert talk 2:00 PM-2:30 PM)
Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:30 PM (Doors at 6:00 PM, Pre-concert talk 6:30 PM-7:00 PM)

WHERE:

Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

TICKET PRICES:

\$32-\$105 for Classical Series performances
Receive ONE FREE TICKET for a youth 7-17 with each paid adult ticket! Call Patron Services to redeem this offer.
Student Rush tickets are available 1-1/2 hours before the performance, \$10/ticket with a valid student ID.

TICKETS: [srsymphony.org](https://www.srsymphony.org) or (707) 546-8742 (Weekdays 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, opening at 10:30 AM
Wednesdays, closed Saturday & Sunday)

ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong, the Symphony's fifth music director in its 96 years, began his tenure in 2018. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education, and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule for 2023-2024 includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), six Discovery Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series, a four-concert Pops Series, and special concerts. Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming in the 2012-2013 season from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

The Symphony is recognized for having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youth annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

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