

SPOOKY SOUNDS AND MAGICAL MELODIES

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 11 AM
Jacobs Music Center



The Family Concert Series is generously sponsored
in part by The Bjorg Family and **us bank**



**San Diego
Symphony.**

Rafael Payare | Music Director

PROGRAM NOTES

Sunny Xia, *conductor*

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

JOHN WILLIAMS

"Hedwig's Theme" from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

ANNA CLYNE

Masquerade

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

Danse macabre, Op. 40

IGOR STRAVINSKY

The Firebird Suite, 1919 version

Introduction

The Firebird and its Dance

Variation of the Firebird

The Princesses' Khorovod

Infernal Dance of King Kashchei

Lullaby

Finale



SUNNY XIA

Conductor

San Diego Symphony Conducting Fellow

Recognized for her innate musicality, compelling presence, and technical precision, conductor Sunny Xuecong Xia's ability to forge an immediate and captivating connection with orchestras and singers alike has led to engagements around the globe.

Xia holds a dual master's degree in Conducting and Violin Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a doctoral degree from Arizona State University. At the Seattle Symphony, she is mentored by Ludovic Morlot and Xian Zhang. For three summers, she attended the Monteux School and Music Festival as a Kurt & Torj Wray Conducting Scholar. An accomplished violinist, she performed as a soloist with orchestras in China and Australia, including the symphony orchestras of Harbin, Zhejiang, Hunan and Guangxi, and the Concertante Ensemble.



Originally from Guangzhou, China, Xia relocated to Sydney, Australia at the age of 14 on a scholarship from the Australian String Academy that allowed her to further her violin studies with Peter Shi-xiang Zhang and Charmian Gadd. A talented basketball athlete, she competed in the New South Wales Metro Junior League before focusing primarily on her musical pursuits. When not performing or enjoying a pick-up game, she can be found reading, hiking, or learning languages. She speaks Cantonese, English, Mandarin, and Teochew, and is improving upon her French, German, and Italian.

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR TODAY

John Williams: "Hedwig's Theme" from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Hedwig isn't just Harry Potter's snowy owl—she's also his loyal companion who delivers letters and guides him through the wizarding world. John Williams gave Hedwig her very own theme: mysterious at the start, with silvery notes on the celesta that sound like moonlight on wings. Then, the music soars with strings and brass, as if Hedwig is gliding high above Hogwarts. Listen for the way the music captures her wisdom, her magic, and her flight.

Anna Clyne: *Masquerade*

Anna Clyne wrote this piece for a giant outdoor festival in London, filled with masks, dancing, and dazzling surprises—like a musical costume party. The music rushes forward with swirling rhythms and sudden changes, almost like turning a corner at Halloween and bumping into someone in disguise! There are moments that sound sneaky, followed by bursts that feel like fireworks. You can imagine parades of masked characters—fun, mysterious, and a little mischievous.

Camille Saint-Saëns: *Dance macabre*

Every year on Halloween night, Death plays his violin at midnight, and the skeletons climb out of their graves to dance. The xylophone clacks like rattling bones, while the strings whirl in dizzy circles. As the music speeds up, you can almost see the skeletons spinning faster and faster—until the rooster crows at dawn, and they all vanish back into the ground.

Igor Stravinsky: *The Firebird Suite* (1919 version)

Stravinsky's *Firebird* comes from a ballet, where dancers tell a fairy tale with their movements. A brave prince wanders into a magical garden guarded by the glowing Firebird. When he captures her, she offers him help in exchange for her freedom. Later, he faces an evil sorcerer and his army of monsters. With the Firebird's power, the prince breaks the spell and rescues a princess. Stravinsky's music paints it all: shimmering flutes for the Firebird's wings, wild dances for the monsters, and at the very end, one of the most glorious, blazing finales in all of music—like the Firebird rising in triumph.

SUBSCRIBE NOW & SAVE!

FAMILY CONCERT SERIES

Ages 6-12. Saturdays at 11 AM



PETER AND THE WOLF

February 7, 2026

Embark on a musical journey celebrating the beauty of the animal kingdom. From the buzzing *Flight of the Bumblebee* to the classic musical story *Peter and the Wolf*, to a world premiere of *Right Whale, Wrong Letter*, this concert is an unforgettable tribute to our furry, finned, and feathered friends!



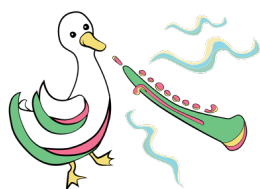
SPACE JUNK

April 11, 2026

Blast off with the San Diego Symphony for a cosmic adventure through music! From the triumphant *Sunrise Fanfare* to Beethoven's dramatic Fifth Symphony and the iconic *Star Wars* theme, this concert will take you to the stars and beyond. With the world premiere of *Space Junk*, it's a family-friendly journey through the galaxy you won't want to miss!

SYMPHONY KIDS SERIES

Ages 0-5, sensory friendly. Saturdays at 10 & 11:30 AM



MEET THE WINDS: MOTHER GOOSE

November 1, 2025



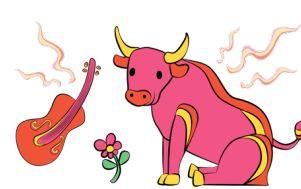
MEET THE BRASS: 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

December 13, 2025



MEET THE PERCUSSION: CLAPPING MUSIC

February 14, 2026



MEET THE STRINGS: FERDINAND THE BULL

March 28, 2026



**San Diego
Symphony**

Rafael Payare | Music Director



For more information and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code
or visit us online at [SANDIEGOSYMPHONY.ORG](https://sandiegosymphony.org)