



**San Diego  
Symphony**

Rafael Payare | Music Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

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Raindrop

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## **Music Director Rafael Payare and San Diego Symphony Announce 2020-2021 Season**

**Rafael Payare** will begin his second season as San Diego Symphony Music Director with continued exploration of the music of **Shostakovich, Mahler and Strauss**

Special guest artists include **Inon Barnatan, Garrick Ohlsson, Marc-André Hamelin, Ingrid Fliter, Alisa Weilerstein**, and many more

Guest conductors include **Edo de Waart, Trevor Pinnock, Jahja Ling** and **Gemma New**

**Immigrant Composers:** A season-long focus on the rich contributions of composers born outside of the U.S., but spent an important part of their career in the U.S.

**Nine artists to make their Jacob Masterworks series debut, plus 14 classical works receiving their San Diego Symphony premiere**

***In the Name of the Earth*** San Diego's annual city-wide festival to include performances of works by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **John Luther Adams** and curated works by percussionist and conductor **Steven Schick** to highlight the festival

**Beethoven 250th Anniversary** celebration continues with eight works including his **Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor", Triple Concerto** and **Symphony No. 7**

During the 2020-21 season, the San Diego Symphony will take audiences on a journey of exploration – weaving in themes of nature and immigration that impact our country, borders and beyond. Through the continued leadership of Music Director Rafael Payare, the musicians of the San Diego Symphony, and the world's finest guest artists, the season will discover the world around us—and within ourselves.

Payare will conduct nine weeks of concerts in the 2020-21 season, and will continue his focus on works by Strauss and Mahler that push the level of artistry of the orchestra. Throughout the season, Payare and the Orchestra are joined by renowned international talents such as Harry Bicket, conductor; Guy Braunstein, violin; Veronika Eberle, violin; Marc-André Hamelin, piano; Trevor Pinnock, conductor; and Stefan Vinke, tenor.

“Now more than ever, we all need live musical performances to unite us and uplift us,” said Martha Gilmer, San Diego Symphony CEO. “Although it’s currently a dark and isolating time for people all around the world, we hope the announcement of our 2020-21 season offers a beacon of light. The season ahead will allow us to rediscover – through the works of the great composers – the wonders of the wider world around us and the power and beauty that music provides.”

“The inspirational musicians of our own San Diego Symphony, and our beloved Music Director Rafael Payare, together with an array of the world’s finest guest artists, will lead us on a voyage of joyful discovery throughout the 2020-21 season, exploring the stirring symphonic dramas of composers close to Rafael’s heart – Mahler, Strauss, and Shostakovich – and completing in a blaze of triumph our celebration of Beethoven at 250,” added Gilmer. “We will celebrate the power of nature as reflected in orchestral sound, and explore the astonishing story of our own Immigrant Composers and the long history of their deep and fascinating musical contributions to the artistic life of the United States. So, come join us and let’s look forward to making and enjoying live music again together very soon!”

Another highlight of the season will be the annual three-week **January Festival** entitled ***In the Name of the Earth***, curated by **Steven Schick**, where the Symphony will explore the deep connection musicians, artists and all humanity have long had with nature—and a reminder of its importance and fragility. Non-subscription events and events by partner organizations will be announced at a later date.

A focus throughout the 2020-21 season will be the rich contributions immigrant musicians have made to America’s musical culture, and the many iconic works that wouldn’t exist without those who left their homelands. America is a land that has always provided opportunities for immigrants; and in return, immigrants have contributed to society and made cultural life in America such a rich and diverse one. Eight works featured this season by composers who were born outside of the U.S., but spent an important part of their career in the U.S., include: Bartók (Hungarian), Chen Yi (Chinese-American), Anna Clyne (British), Tan Dun (Chinese-American), Reinaldo Moya (Venezuelan-American), Rachmaninoff (Russian-American), Esa-Pekka Salonen (Finnish), and Anna Thorvaldsdottir (Icelandic).

This season also continues the celebration of **Beethoven’s 250th birthday**, gaining new perspectives on his influence through performances of his works and of pieces written by other composers in the shadow of his influence. This season, the San Diego Symphony will feature seven of his works.

“As we all know very well, music has a unique power to heal the human soul,” said Payare. “In music, there are no boundaries of language or limits of understanding. All you have to do is to listen, and let the music do its work. That is why the San Diego Symphony musicians and I are so excited to welcome you to our 2020-21 season when you – our wonderful audience – will once again fill the hall and we will make music for you.

In my second year as music director, I look forward with huge enthusiasm to building on the momentum of what we created together last season, inspired by your energy as you listen, and tapping into the deep talent of our fantastic musicians. Most of all, I look forward to the sheer excitement of being out in

our community and on stage in front of you with our orchestra again, continuing to change lives through music!”

### **Programming Highlights**

Opening the season with **Beethoven’s *Triple Concerto*** and **Shostakovich’s *Fifth Symphony***, Payare and the San Diego Symphony take centerstage along with Concertmaster **Jeff Thayer**, **Alisa Weilerstein**, and **Inon Barnatan**. In November, Payare continues the exploration of **Shostakovich** with the composer’s **Symphony No. 8**, a deeply personal reflection on World War II. During the January Festival, Payare conducts **Mahler’s** greatest work ***Das Lied von der Erde* (The Song of the Earth)**, a reflective look at humankind’s relationship with nature. This pivotal, grand orchestral composition features the added power of vocal expression by opera singers. **Principal Guest Conductor Edo de Waart** returns with three wide ranging programs that include works by **Elgar**, **Rachmaninoff**, **Anna Clyne**, and **Brahms’s *A German Requiem***. The season comes to a dramatic conclusion with a two-week focus on **Tchaikovsky**, and the season finale program on May 21-23 with three incredible works by **Strauss**, Tchaikovsky and **Elgar’s** beloved Cello Concerto with **Alisa Weilerstein**.

Also on the schedule is the **West Coast premiere** of Brett Dean’s new Piano Concerto, ***Gneixendorf Music — A Winter’s Journey***, which imagines the thoughts and feelings of an aging Beethoven, October 16 and 18. Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **John Luther Adams’ *Become Desert*** — a work **co-commissioned** by the San Diego Symphony — will **premiere** January 15 and 17.

Prominent conductors from around the globe performing with the esteemed San Diego Symphony include Harry Bicket, Gemma New, Trevor Pinnock, Matthias Pintscher, and Edo de Waart, principal guest conductor of San Diego.

Building on the success of past seasons by intentionally programming to attract new audiences with diverse musical genres, the 2020-21 season welcomes back **Jazz @The Jacobs** curated by Gilbert Castellanos, and **Broadway @The Jacobs**, in its second year, featuring concerts with **Megan Hilty** on October 23 and **Patti LuPone** on January 9. Special concerts this season include the **Vienna Boys Choir** on November 21, **Steve Hackman’s *Brahms v. Radiohead*** on November 22, and the always-popular **Noel Noel** holiday concerts.

### **Annual January Festival**

Through a three-week January festival: “**In the Name of the Earth**”, the deep connection musicians and composers have with nature will be explored. San Diegans are particularly blessed by the unique beauty of our region, where the ocean, desert and mountains meet, and where two countries share not just a border but also a delicate ecosystem. Curated by percussionist and conductor **Steven Schick**, “In the Name of the Earth” focuses on music and art that pays tribute to nature’s power and majesty. The San Diego Symphony performs works ranging from Beethoven and Mahler to contemporary masters like Tan Dun, Anna Thorvaldsdottir and John Luther Adams. As the season unfolds, additional performances and events by other artists from various disciplines, environmentalists, and partner organizations will be announced.

### **Debuts in the 2020-2021 Season**

**Fourteen works** will receive their San Diego Symphony Orchestra debut during the 2020-21 season. They include: JOHN LUTHER ADAMS: *Become Desert* (**co-commission and premiere**); BRITTEN: “Four Sea Interludes” from *Peter Grimes*; CHEN YI: *Ge xu* (Antiphony); ANNA CLYNE: *Abstractions*; BRETT DEAN: Piano Concerto, *Gneixendorf Music — A Winter’s Journey* (**West Coast premiere**); TAN DUN: *Water*

*Concerto*; JANÁČEK: *Taras Bulba*; REINALDO MOYA: *Siempre lunes, siempre marzo* (Always Monday, Always March); MOZART: *Serenade No. 10 for Winds, Gran Partita*; RAMEAU: *Suite from Les Boréades*; ESA-PEKKA SALONEN: *Nyx*; SHOSTAKOVICH: *Symphony No. 8*; STRAVINSKY: *Scherzo fantastique*; ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR: *Metacosmos*.

The San Diego Symphony brings the world's top artists to Southern California audiences. The 2020-21 Jacobs Masterworks season highlights **nine** highly acclaimed and accomplished **guest musicians** making **debuts** with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra and they include: Harry Bicket, conductor; Guy Braunstein, violin; Michelle DeYoung, mezzo-soprano; Veronika Eberle, violin; Ingrid Fliter, piano; Paul Huang, violin; John Moore, baritone; Trevor Pinnock, conductor; Stefan Vinke, tenor.

### **Fox Theatre Film Series**

The Fox Theatre Film Series continues to bring film to life in a new way for audiences. The 2020-21 series features Daniel Craig as James Bond in **Casino Royale in Concert** on November 20. Conducted by Scott Terrell, the orchestra will perform composer David Arnold's thrilling musical score live to picture. On December 18, to celebrate the holidays, Charles Dickens' classic Christmas tale – **A Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert** – is brought to life by Jim Henson's beloved Muppet characters and the San Diego Symphony. Featuring John Powell's Oscar®-nominated score performed live to picture, DreamWorks' **How to Train Your Dragon – In Concert** conducted by Nicholas Buc will be performed May 1. In addition, silent film **Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror**, will spook audiences on Halloween Eve accompanied by our huge original pipe organ. Silent film director F.W. Murnau created the classic 1922 German expressionist retelling of every kid's favorite campfire tale: Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

### **Family Concerts**

Children and their parents are introduced to symphonic music through engaging and enlightening family concerts. This season's family concerts include **Play Me a Story: The Firebird**, where audiences will learn musical concepts such as rhythm, melody, harmony and discover the unique qualities of each instrument section of the orchestra; **Noel Noel Family**, featuring timeless holiday classics; **Orchestra as Ecosystem**, explore how natural and orchestral ecosystems work together in harmony; **Symphony in Space**, featuring classic and modern orchestral favorites paired with dynamic visuals and video, this concert will be an irresistibly engaging journey.

### **Special Subscription Options**

This season the San Diego Symphony is offering four new subscription options. Subscription Package pricing ranges from \$54 - \$1,442.

- Payare Fridays (7 concerts): \$140 to \$756
- Piano Saturday (4 concerts): \$80 to \$432
- Beethoven Sunday (4 concerts): \$80 to \$432
- Glorious Voices (4 concerts): \$80 to \$432

Subscriptions for 2020-2021 are available for renewal Sunday, April 5. Single tickets go on sale Sunday, August 23.

San Diego Symphony  
Copley Symphony Hall / Jacobs Music Center  
750 B Street, San Diego, CA 92101  
Box Office: 619.235.0804

Website: [www.sandiegosymphony.org](http://www.sandiegosymphony.org)

**JACOBS MASTERWORKS 2020-2021 SEASON**

**FRI OCT 9 & SAT OCT 10, 8PM | SUN OCT 11, 2PM**

**SEASON OPENER: BEETHOVEN & SHOSTAKOVICH**

Rafael Payare, conductor

Jeff Thayer, violin

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Inon Barnatan, piano

REINALDO MOYA: *Siempre lunes, siempre marzo* (Always Monday, Always March)

BEETHOVEN: *Triple Concerto* for Violin, Cello and Piano

SHOSTAKOVICH: *Symphony No. 5*

**FRI OCT 16, 8PM | SUN OCT 18, 2PM**

**BISS, DEAN, & BEETHOVEN'S EMPEROR**

Rafael Payare, conductor

Jonathan Biss, piano

BEETHOVEN: *Symphony No. 2*

BRETT DEAN: *Piano Concerto, Gneixendorf Music—A Winter's Journey* (West Coast premiere)

BEETHOVEN: *Piano Concerto No. 5, Emperor*

**FRI NOV 6 & SAT NOV 7, 8PM**

**PAYARE, BEETHOVEN, SHOSTAKOVICH**

Rafael Payare, conductor

BEETHOVEN: *Symphony No. 1*

SHOSTAKOVICH: *Symphony No. 8*

**FRI NOV 13 & SAT NOV 14, 8PM | SUN NOV 15, 2PM**

**PAYARE CONDUCTS SALONEN & BEETHOVEN**

Rafael Payare, conductor

Veronika Eberle, violin

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN: *Nyx*

PROKOFIEV: *Violin Concerto No. 1*

BEETHOVEN: *Symphony No. 7*

**SAT DEC 5, 8PM | SUN DEC 6, 2PM**

**DE WAART CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN & ELGAR**

Edo de Waart, conductor

Garrick Ohlsson, piano

BEETHOVEN: *Piano Concerto No. 3*

ELGAR: *Symphony No. 1*

**FRI JAN 15, 8PM | SUN JAN 17, 2PM**

**BECOME DESERT & STRAVINSKY'S FIREBIRD**

Steven Schick, conductor

San Diego Master Chorale

ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR: *Metacosmos*



STRAVINSKY: Suite from *The Firebird*

JOHN LUTHER ADAMS: *Become Desert* (SDSO co-commission & premiere)

**SAT JAN 23, 8PM | SUN JAN 24, 2PM**

**WATER CONCERTO & SCHEHERAZADE**

Gemma New, conductor

Steven Schick, percussion

BRITTEN: "Four Sea Interludes" from *Peter Grimes*

TAN DUN: *Water Concerto*

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: *Scheherazade*

**FRI JAN 29 & SAT JAN 30, 8PM**

**HUMANS & NATURE: MAHLER'S SONG OF THE EARTH**

Rafael Payare, conductor

Michelle DeYoung, mezzo-soprano

Stefan Vinke, tenor

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 6, *Pastoral*

MAHLER: *Das Lied von der Erde* (The Song of the Earth)

**FRI FEB 5, 8PM | SUN FEB 7, 1PM**

**BEETHOVEN & RACHMANINOFF**

Matthias Pintscher, conductor

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8

RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 2

**FRI FEB 26 & SAT FEB 27, 8PM | SUN FEB 28, 2PM**

**SCOTTISH FANTASY & PEER GYNT**

Jahja Ling, conductor

Paul Huang, violin

CHEN YI: *Ge xu* (Antiphony)

BRUCH: *Scottish Fantasy* for Violin and Orchestra

GRIEG: Selections from *Peer Gynt*

**SAT MAR 6, 8PM | SUN MAR 7, 2PM**

**GABRIELI, DVOŘÁK, MOZART**

Trevor Pinnock, conductor

GABRIELI: Selected Canzonas for Brass

DVOŘÁK: Serenade for Strings

MOZART: Serenade No. 10 for Winds, *Gran Partita*

STRAVINSKY: *Scherzo fantastique*

**FRI MAR 12 & SAT MAR 13, 8PM**

**PAYARE CONDUCTS LISZT & BARTÓK**

Rafael Payare, conductor

Marc-André Hamelin, piano

WAGNER: "Prelude and Liebestod" from *Tristan und Isolde*

LISZT: Piano Concerto No. 2

BARTÓK: Concerto for Orchestra



**SAT MAR 20, 8PM | SUN MAR 21, 2PM**

**PAYARE, RÖSCHMANN, DEBUSSY**

Rafael Payare, conductor

Dorothea Röschmann, soprano

MOZART: Symphony No. 29

R. STRAUSS: *Four Last Songs*

DEBUSSY: *Images*

**FRI APR 9 & SAT APR 10, 8PM | SUN APR 11, 2PM**

**RACHMANINOFF'S SYMPHONIC DANCES**

Edo de Waart, conductor

Ingrid Fliter, piano

ANNA CLYNE: *Abstractions*

SCHUMANN: Piano Concerto

RACHMANINOFF: *Symphonic Dances*

**FRI APR 16 & SAT APR 17, 8PM**

**BRAHMS' GERMAN REQUIEM**

Edo de Waart, conductor

Joëlle Harvey, soprano

John Moore, baritone

San Diego Master Chorale

HAYDN: Symphony No. 96, *The Miracle*

BRAHMS: *A German Requiem*

**FRI MAY 7 & SAT MAY 8, 8PM | SUN MAY 9, 2PM**

**HANDEL'S WATER MUSIC & MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS**

Harry Bicket, conductor

Rose Lombardo, flute

RAMEAU: Suite from *Les Boréades*

HANDEL: Selections from *Water Music*

J.S. BACH: Orchestral Suite No. 2

HANDEL: Selections from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

**FRI MAY 14, 8PM | SUN MAY 16, 2PM**

**PAYARE CONDUCTS TWO BY TCHAIKOVSKY**

Rafael Payare, conductor

Guy Braunstein, violin

TCHAIKOVSKY: Violin Concerto

JANÁČEK: *Taras Bulba*

TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 2, *Little Russian*

**FRI MAY 21 & SAT MAY 22, 8PM | SUN MAY 23, 2PM**

**SEASON FINALE: PAYARE & WEILERSTEIN**

Rafael Payare, conductor

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

R. STRAUSS: *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*



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ELGAR: Cello Concerto  
TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 4

**2020-2021 SPECIAL CONCERTS**

**SAT NOV 21, 8PM**  
**VIENNA BOYS CHOIR\***

**SUN NOV 22, 7:30PM**  
**STEVE HACKMAN'S BRAHMS V. RADIOHEAD**

**SAT DEC 12, SUN DEC 13, SAT DEC 19, SUN DEC 20, 7:30PM**  
**SUN DEC 20, 2PM**  
**NOEL NOEL**

**FRI FEB 19, 8PM**  
**LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION\***

**2020-2021 FAMILY CONCERT SERIES**

**SUN OCT 25, 2PM**  
**PLAY ME A STORY: THE FIREBIRD**

**SUN DEC 13, 2PM**  
**NOEL NOEL FAMILY**

**SUN FEB 14, 2PM**  
**ORCHESTRA AS ECOSYSTEM**

**SUN APR 25, 2PM**  
**SYMPHONY IN SPACE**

**2020-2021 FOX THEATRE FILM SERIES**

**FRI OCT 30, 7:30PM**  
**NOSFERATU: A SYMPHONY OF HORROR\***

**FRI NOV 20, 7:30PM**  
**CASINO ROYALE IN CONCERT**

**FRI DEC 18, 7:30PM**  
**A MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL IN CONCERT**

**SAT MAY 1, 7:30 PM**  
**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON IN CONCERT**

How To Train Your Dragon © 2010 DreamWorks Animation LLC. All Right Reserved.

**2020-2021 BROADWAY @ THE JACOBS**



**FRI, OCT 23, 8PM**  
**MEGAN HILTY\***

**SAT JAN 9, 8PM**  
**PATTI LUPONE: *DON'T MONKEY WITH BROADWAY***

**SAT FEB 20, 8PM**  
**FRANK & ELLA**

**2020-2021 JAZZ @ THE JACOBS**

**SAT OCT 17, 8PM**  
**DUETS – DIANNE REEVES, CHUCHO VALDÉS & JOE LOVANO\***

**SAT NOV 28, 8PM**  
**THE JOEY ALEXANDER TRIO\***

**SAT FEB 6, 8PM**  
**JAZZ TRUMPET MASTERS\***

**SAT MAR 27, 8PM**  
**DIZ N' BIRD: CHARLIE PARKER AND DIZZY GILLESPIE: JAZZ AT MASSEY HALL (THE QUINTET)\***

*\*The San Diego Symphony does not perform on these concerts.*

**About the San Diego Symphony**

Founded in 1910, the San Diego Symphony is the oldest orchestra in California and one of the largest and most significant cultural organizations in San Diego. The Orchestra performs for more than 250,000 people each season, offering a wide variety of programming at its two much-loved venues, Copley Symphony Hall in downtown San Diego and The Shell at Embarcadero Marina Park South on San Diego Bay. In early 2018, the San Diego Symphony announced the appointment of Rafael Payare as music director. Payare leads the orchestra's 82 full-time musicians, graduates of the finest and most celebrated music schools in the United States and abroad. The San Diego Symphony also serves as the orchestra for the San Diego Opera each season, as well as performing at several regional performing arts and community centers. For over 30 years, the San Diego Symphony has provided comprehensive learning and community engagement programs reaching more than 65,000 students annually and bringing innovative programming to San Diego's diverse neighborhoods and schools. For more information, visit [www.sandiegosymphony.org](http://www.sandiegosymphony.org).

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