

Sfems THE SAN FRANCISCO EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**"LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD": TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR
THE SAN FRANCISCO EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY'S 2021-22 CONCERT SEASON**

SFEMS moves out of the pandemic with a full in-person and digital season.

Oct. 22-24: The Paris Quartet

Dec. 3-5: Aulos Ensemble with Julianne Baird

Jan. 14 (SPECIAL EVENT): Quicksilver Baroque

Jan. 29 (SPECIAL EVENT): Profeti della Quinta

Feb. 25-27: Agave Baroque

Apr. 8-10: Tabea Debus & Alon Sariel

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 31, 2021—One of the nation's leading organizations for the advancement of historically informed performance, the **San Francisco Early Music Society** (SFEMS) has announced its 45th concert season showcasing some of the most outstanding artists in the field.

The season begins October 22 and runs through April 10, with four concert sets and two special events presented in Palo Alto, Berkeley, and San Francisco. Building upon its robust digital presence last season, the organization will also present “**Snapshots**,” a concurrent virtual season featuring online-only content from this year’s artists.

Inaugurating the concert season is **The Paris Quartet**—comprised of Bay Area luminaries with reputations far beyond—as they demonstrate the blossoming of the trio into the quartet with the music of Couperin, Rameau, Bach and, of course, Telemann. These concerts will take place October 22–24.

The next concert set features valedictory performances from one of America’s preeminent and pioneer early music ensembles. On December 3–5, the **Aulos Ensemble**, with special guest soprano **Julianne Baird**, will celebrate a half-century of performing and recording with a festive holiday concert of favorites from the 16th through 18th centuries, including music by Rameau, Scarlatti, Couperin, and J.S. Bach.

In January, SFEMS will present two special events, each providing a fascinating historical perspective on two very different parts of the musical world. On January 14, **Quicksilver Baroque** brings to life the sumptuous and emotionally extravagant music of the (undeservedly) lesser-known composers of the Habsburg court in Vienna, otherwise known as the very first Viennese school.

Two weeks later on January 29, **Profeti della Quinta**, an *a cappella* men’s group based in Switzerland that has enchanted the early music world with their deep musicianship and pristine singing, will trace the evolution of the Italian madrigal from the highly expressive polyphony of Cipriano de Rore to the revolutionary madrigals of Claudio Monteverdi. Their works shaped the incoming Baroque era and laid the groundwork for the musical dramas and early opera that would soon follow. Quicksilver Baroque’s concert will take place in the gorgeous acoustic of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, while Profeti della Quinta’s performance will occur in the glorious setting of San Francisco’s iconic Grace Cathedral.

In their February 25–27 concerts, Bay Area-based ensemble **Agave Baroque** will delve deeply into the collective genius of the Bach family, whose compositions encompassed everything from French-style orchestral suites to vivacious Italianate concertos and hearty Germanic music. Agave’s concerts will demonstrate the versatility and creative stylings of many, many members of the Bach family—which coincidentally included many, many members by the name of Johann.

Ending the season on a more playful note, SFEMS will welcome back recorder sensation **Tabea Debus** and lutenist **Alon Sariel** on April 8–10 as they answer the question: what, exactly, makes an earworm an earworm? Debus and Sariel explore the history and mystery of the earworm through some of the most memorable (whether we like it or not) music of the 14th through the 18th centuries.

Continuing to embrace its new virtual community, SFEMS will also present, for the first time, a concurrent digital season, "**Snapshots**," that aims to provide a unique perspective on its in-person events. "Snapshots" will feature interviews, bonus tracks, and other exclusive insights into this season's artists and their music.

Tickets for SFEMS' 2021–22 season are \$20–\$55, with discounts for seniors, students, SFEMS members, and season subscribers. For the two special events (**Quicksilver Baroque** and **Profeti della Quinta**), ticket prices are \$20–\$65. The "**Snapshots**" season package will cost \$60 general and \$45 for members. Detailed information about concert times and venues follows below.

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1975, SFEMS is one of the nation's leading organizations for the advancement of historically informed performance of early music. Through its concert series, publications, outreach activities, affiliate support and educational programs SFEMS encourages the development of amateurs, supports professionals, and increases public involvement and participation in early music. SFEMS is the presenter of the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition of early music.

Among the hundreds of ensembles and solo artists SFEMS has supported over four-plus decades are many whose national or regional debuts occurred under its auspices: Anonymous 4, Benjamin Bagby, Frans Brüggen, Concerto Palatino, Fretwork, Laurette Goldberg, Hilliard Ensemble, John Holloway, Emma Kirkby & Anthony Rooley, Wieland Kuijken, Gustav Leonhardt, PAN, Joshua Rifkin, Jordi Savall, Max Van Egmond and Vox Luminis, to name a few.

FACT SHEET

WHO:

The Paris Quartet

Janet See, *flute*; **Lisa Weiss**, *violin*; **Peter Hallifax**, *viola da gamba*; **Katherine Heater**, *harpsichord*

PROGRAM:

The Great Trios and Beyond

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, October 22 | PALO ALTO

8 PM @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street at Lincoln

Saturday, October 23 | BERKELEY

7:30 PM @ St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Avenue, Berkeley

Sunday, October 24 | SAN FRANCISCO

4 PM @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell Street

WHO:

Aulos Ensemble

Christopher Krueger, *flauto traverso*; **Marc Schachman**, *baroque oboe*; **Linda Quan**, *baroque violin*; **Myron Lutzke**, *baroque cello*; **Arthur Haas**, *harpsichord*; **Julianne Baird**, *Soprano*

PROGRAM:

In Dulci Jubilo

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, December 3 | PALO ALTO

8 PM @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street at Lincoln

Saturday, December 4 | BERKELEY

7:30 PM @ St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Avenue

Sunday, December 5 | SAN FRANCISCO

4 PM @ First Unitarian Universalist Society
1187 Franklin Street

WHO:

Quicksilver Baroque

Robert Mealy and **Julie Andrijeski**, *violins and directors*; **Dominic Teresi**, *dulcian*;
David Morris, *viola da gamba*; **Greg Ingles**, *sackbut*; **Charles Weaver**, *guitar and lute*;
Avi Stein, *harpsichord and organ*

PROGRAM:

The (Very) First Viennese School

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, January 14 | BERKELEY

8 PM @ First Congregational Church of Berkeley
2345 Channing Way

WHO:

Profeti della Quinta

Doron Schleifer and **Roman Melish**, *countertenors*; **Lior Leibovici** and **Jacob Lawrence**, *tenors*; **Elam Rotem**, *bass, harpsichord & musical direction*; **Orí Harmelin**, *theorbo*

PROGRAM:

The Story of the Italian Madrigal

WHEN & WHERE:

Saturday, January 29 | SAN FRANCISCO

7:30 PM @ Grace Cathedral
1100 California Street

WHO:

Agave Baroque

Aaron Westman and **Anna Washburn**, *violins*; **Kati Kyme**, *viola*; **William Skeen**, *cello*;
Kevin Cooper, *theorbo/baroque guitar*; **Henry Lebedinsky**, *harpsichord*.

PROGRAM:

Bach: All in the Family

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, February 25 | PALO ALTO

8 PM @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street at Lincoln,

Saturday, February 26 | BERKELEY

7:30 @ St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Avenue

Sunday, February 27 | SAN FRANCISCO

4 PM @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell Street

WHO:

Tabea Debus & Alon Sariel

Tabea Debus, *recorder*; **Alon Sariel**, *lute*

PROGRAM:

Ode to an Earworm

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, April 8 | PALO ALTO

8 PM @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street at Lincoln

Saturday, April 9 | BERKELEY

7:30 PM @ St. John's Presbyterian Church

2727 College Avenue

Sunday, April 10 | SAN FRANCISCO

4 PM @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco

TICKETS:

Individual tickets: \$20—\$65

Tickets may be purchased online at sfems.org or by phone at **510-528-1725**. The box office may also be reached by email at tickets@sfems.org.

For more concert information and downloadable photos click [here](#).

SFEMS is committed to the safety of its performers, staff, and audiences. Our COVID protocols can be found [here](#).