

SANTA ROSA
SYMPHONY

FRANCESCO LECCE-CHONG Music Director



Resident
Orchestra
Green Music
Center

Classical
REUNION
2021 SEASON 2022

NEWS

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Santa Rosa Symphony Family Series Concert, "Francesco at Bat," conducted by Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong

April 3, 2022 at the Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) —Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) presents "Francesco at Bat" at 3:00 PM on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at the Green Music Center. With the help of a sports announcer, portrayed by local actor Jeff Coté, Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong will demonstrate to an all-age audience how musicians prepare for a concert not unlike sports stars prepare for the big game. Attendees are invited to wear their favorite sports jersey to the concert. Lecce-Chong will even lead a sing-along of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Along the way, the orchestra will perform Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee* (from *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*), Edvard Grieg's *In the Hall of the Mountain King* (*Peer Gynt*), "Nimrod" from Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, Bill Holcombe and Ernest Thayer's *Casey at the Bat*, John Williams' *Olympic Fanfare and Theme* from the 1984 Summer Olympics and more.

Lecce-Chong says, "As a life-long Giants fan, I am so excited to introduce young people and families to the wondrous world of the orchestra through the lens of sports. Athletes and musicians train in many similar ways and a great orchestra works in much the same way as a sports team. I look forward to showing off the incredible talent in our Santa Rosa Symphony and having a lot of fun along the way. Be sure to join the orchestra and myself by wearing your favorite sportswear or jersey to the concert!"

This affordable concert (\$20/adult and \$10/child) also includes a complimentary Instrument Petting Zoo, which provides an opportunity for youngsters (and curious adults) to handle and play orchestral instruments at 2:00 PM. All safety protocols (see below) will be in place for the concert and this Weill Hall lobby activity.

Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong is the Music Director of the Santa Rosa Symphony and the Eugene Symphony in Oregon. The press has described him as a "fast rising talent in the music world" with "the real gift" and recognized his dynamic performances, fresh programming, and deep commitment to commissioning and performing new music as well as to community outreach.

Lecce-Chong has appeared with orchestras around the world including the San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Colorado Symphony and Hong Kong Philharmonic and collaborated with top soloists including Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman.

In spring 2019, Lecce-Chong debuted in subscription concerts with the San Francisco Symphony and with the New York Philharmonic as part of the legendary Young People's Concert Series. The San Francisco Chronicle called his conducting "first rate" praising the "vitality and brilliance of the music-making he drew from members of the San Francisco Symphony." [Read full bio.](#)

Jeff Coté, theater actor and Board President of 6th Street Playhouse in Santa Rosa, has performed in numerous productions in Sonoma County venues, such as 6th Street Playhouse, Lincoln Arts Center and Spreckels Performing Arts Center, with roles including Rooster Hannigan in "Annie" and Bob Cratchit in "A Christmas Carol." In addition, Coté narrated "Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill" at the Cinnabar Theater. A 1988 Santa Rosa High School graduate, Coté studied music with Dan Earl and theater with Elizabeth Craven. He continued his theater studies at Sonoma State University, graduating with a minor in 1992 before earning an MFA in Acting from Indiana University.

The SRS Family Concert Series continues with "Classical Rocks!" (rescheduled from October) on May 1, 2022, and "Gershwin's Magic Key" (rescheduled from January) on June 5, 2022, both conducted by Bobby Rogers.

COVID PROTOCOLS FOR FAMILY CONCERTS AT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER

Adult Patrons and youth 7 years of age and older:

- Masks are required in keeping with CDC recommendations and Sonoma State University guidelines and must cover mouth and nose at all times.
- Photo ID is required (waived for children accompanied by parent)

AND one of the following:

- Proof of vaccination (See COVID Updates page for acceptable forms)
- Negative COVID PCR test (48 hours prior to performance). The test must be conducted by a laboratory.

Patrons ages 3 to 6:

Mask and, if unvaccinated, an at-home antigen test taken on the day of the event.

Please note that at-home tests are only permitted for ages 3-6.

Patrons under 3:

Mask required for age 2 and older. No tests or proof of vaccination is required.

No one will be admitted without adherence to the above protocols. Protocols are subject to change without notice. Patrons are encouraged to [consult the website](#) for current information.

All patrons, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

SPONSORS:

The 2021-2022 Santa Rosa Symphony Family Series is sponsored by **The Alan and Susan Seidenfeld Charitable Trust**, and **Victor and Karen Trione**.

Hi-res photos of Francesco Lecce-Chong available upon request

AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTING:

WHAT: [Santa Rosa Symphony Family Concert: "Francesco at Bat"](#)

WHO: [Santa Rosa Symphony](#)
[Francesco Lecce-Chong](#), conductor
Jeff Coté, actor

WHEN:

Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 3:00 PM (Complimentary Instrument Petting Zoo 2:00 PM)

WHERE: Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

TICKET PRICES:

\$20 / adult; \$10 / youth (12 and under)

3-concert subscription package: \$54/adult; \$27/child

Family packs start at \$144 (minimum of 4 subscriptions, 2 of which are for children)

TICKETS: srsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742 (Weekdays 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, opening at 10:30 AM Wednesdays)

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 94 years, began his tenure in 2018. Alan Silow, President & CEO, began his tenure in 2002. The Symphony is committed to core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), seven Discovery Dress Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series and a four-concert Pops Series, as well as 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 as having one of the most comprehensive music education programs in California, serving nearly 30,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.