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**Telegraph Quartet Performs *Songs of Love and War, Peace and Exile*
with Vocalist Theo Bleckmann and Pianist Dan Tepfer
Presented by San Francisco Performances in the fifth annual PIVOT Festival**



Photos available in high resolution available upon request

Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre | 401 Van Ness Ave | San Francisco, CA
Tickets (\$45 - \$60) available reservations available at www.sfperformances.org

"soulfulness, tonal beauty and intelligent attention to detail ... an incredibly valuable addition to the cultural landscape." – *San Francisco Chronicle*

www.thebleckmann.com | www.telegraphquartet.com

San Francisco, CA – On **Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 7:30pm**, the **Telegraph Quartet** joins forces with category-defying composer-vocalist **Theo Bleckmann** and pianist Dan Tepfer presented by **San Francisco Performances** in **Herbst Theatre** (401 Van Ness Ave). This evening of Berlin cabaret songs includes selections from Bleckmann's 2008 album, *Songs of Love and War, Peace and Exile*, a tribute to his native country.

The musicians will perform Fumio Yasuda's arrangements of songs by Kurt Weill, Hanns Eisler, the German band Kraftwerk, Charles Ives, Richard Strauss, Carl Loewe, Friedrich Hollaender, Mischa Spoliansky, Theo Makeben, Richard Rogers, and others.

About the Telegraph Quartet: The Telegraph Quartet (Eric Chin and Joseph Maile, violins; Pei-Ling Lin, viola; Jeremiah Shaw, cello) formed in 2013 with an equal passion for the standard chamber music repertoire and contemporary, non-standard works alike. Described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "...an incredibly valuable addition to the cultural landscape" and "powerfully adept... with a combination of brilliance and subtlety," the Telegraph Quartet was awarded the prestigious 2016 Walter W. Naumburg Chamber Music Award and the Grand Prize at the 2014 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. The Quartet has performed in concert halls, music festivals, and academic institutions across the United States and abroad, including New York City's Carnegie Hall, San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's *Chamber Masters Series*, and at festivals including the Chautauqua Institute, Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, and the Emilia Romagna Festival. The

Quartet is currently on the chamber music faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as the Quartet-in-Residence.

Notable collaborations include projects with pianists Leon Fleisher and Simone Dinnerstein; cellists Norman Fischer and Bonnie Hampton; violinist Ian Swensen; and the Henschel Quartett. A fervent champion of 20th- and 21st-century repertoire, the Telegraph Quartet has premiered works by John Harbison, Robert Sirota, and Richard Festinger.

In 2018 the Quartet released its debut album, *Into the Light*, featuring works by Anton Webern, Benjamin Britten, and Leon Kirchner on the Centaur label. *The San Francisco Chronicle* praised the album, saying, "Just five years after forming, the Bay Area's Telegraph Quartet has established itself as an ensemble of serious depth and versatility, and the group's terrific debut recording only serves to reinforce that judgment." *AllMusic* acclaimed, "An impressive beginning for an adventurous group, this 2018 release puts the Telegraph Quartet on the map."

Beyond the concert stage, the Telegraph Quartet seeks to spread its music through education and audience engagement. The Quartet has given master classes at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Collegiate and Pre-College Divisions, through the Morrison Artist Series at San Francisco State University, and abroad at the Taipei National University of the Arts, National Taiwan Normal University, and in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Highlights of Telegraph Quartet's 2019-20 season include the group's debut on the Lincoln Center Great Performers series and performances at Gretna Music, Friends of Chamber Music, Morris Museum, Mill Valley Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Houston, Chamber Music Society of Utica, Rossmoor Chamber Music Society, Music at Oakmont, Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech, and Chamber Music San Francisco. For more information, visit www.telegraphquartet.com.

About Theo Bleckmann: Grammy nominated jazz singer and new music composer **Theo Bleckmann's** diverse recorded work includes albums of Las Vegas standards, Weimar art songs, and popular "bar songs" (all with pianist Fumio Yasuda); a recording of newly-arranged songs by Charles Ives (with jazz/rock collective Kneebody); and his acclaimed *Hello Earth—The Music of Kate Bush*. Bleckmann has most recently appeared as a special guest on recordings by Ambrose Akinmusire for Blue Note Records and Julia Hülsmann's trio for ECM Records. In January 2017, ECM released Bleckmann's recording with his new Elegy Quintet, produced by legendary label head and founder, Manfred Eicher. Bleckmann has collaborated with musicians, artists, actors and composers, including Ambrose Akinmusire, Laurie Anderson, Uri Caine, Philip Glass, Ann Hamilton, John Hollenbeck, Sheila Jordan, Phil Kline, David Lang, Kirk Nurock, Frances MacDormand, Ben Monder, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kenny Wheeler, John Zorn, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, and, most prominently, Meredith Monk, with whom Bleckmann worked as a core ensemble member for over fifteen years. He has been interviewed by Terry Gross on NPR's *Fresh Air* and appeared on the David Letterman show with Laurie Anderson. In 2015, Bleckmann premiered a new work for the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, and in 2016 he brought new work to the New York Philharmonic Biennial and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Bleckmann has consistently appeared in the top-five spots in the DownBeat Critics' Polls for Best Male Vocalist, and top-ten spots in their Readers' Polls, and his work on Phil Kline's *Out Cold* helped place that production on WQXR's Operavore "Best Opera of 2012". In 2010, Bleckmann received the prestigious JAZZ ECHO award from the Deutsche Phono-Akademie in his native Germany.

About Dan Tepfer: Dan Tepfer has made a name for himself as a pianist-composer of wide-ranging ambition, individuality and drive—"a remarkable musician" in the words of *The Washington Post* and one "who refuses to set himself limits" in those of France's *Télérama*. The New York City-based Tepfer, born in 1982 in Paris to American parents, has performed with some of the leading lights in jazz, including extensively with veteran saxophone luminary Lee Konitz. As a leader, Tepfer has crafted a discography already striking for its breadth and depth, ranging from probing solo improvisation and intimate duets to richly layered trio albums of original compositions. His Sunnyside/Naïve album *Goldberg Variations/Variations* saw the prize-winning pianist performing J.S. Bach's masterpiece as well as improvising upon it to "build a bridge across centuries and genres" (*The Wall Street Journal*) in "an impressive feat that keeps coming back to a hearty and abiding respect" (*The New York Times*). As a composer, he is a recipient of the Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for works including *Concerto for Piano and Winds*, premiered in the Prague Castle with himself on piano, and *Solo Blues* for Violin and Piano, premiered at Carnegie Hall. Bringing together his undergraduate studies in astrophysics with his passion for

music, his groundbreaking multimedia project Natural Machines integrates computer-driven algorithms into his improvisational process. Awards include first prize and audience prize at the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition, first prize at the East Coast Jazz Festival Competition, and the Cole Porter Fellowship from the American Pianists Association.

About San Francisco Performances: San Francisco Performances has been a leader in the Bay Area cultural scene since its founding in 1979. With a strong curatorial vision and adventurous programming, it is the city's premier presenter of intimate concerts and solo performances.

San Francisco Performances has introduced hundreds of established and emerging classical music, jazz and dance artists to audiences, including Yo-Yo Ma, the Juilliard String Quartet, Philip Glass, Wendy Whelan, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. The organization also champions a new generation, committed to building a contemporary and equitable repertoire. Performers like violinist Jennifer Koh, tenor Lawrence Brownlee and pianist/composer Vijay Iyer are moving their art into the present and future, making it accessible to younger audiences while converting many traditionalists to new possibilities. They represent the path forward.

Quality, intimacy and connection are the hallmarks of San Francisco Performances. They nurture unique relationships with today's best artists to create an accessible, warm and engaging arts experience.

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