

Gardens of Golden Gate Park

Conservatory of Flowers
Japanese Tea Garden
San Francisco Botanical Garden

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLOWER PIANO PROGRAM AND TICKETS LIVE

Gardens of Golden Gate Park and Sunset Piano are excited to present one of the most unique, creative, and innovative events in the Bay Area

September 8-12, 2023

Special Opening Event Thursday, September 7 in the NEW Flower Piano Lounge

In the final days of summer and for the eighth time since 2015, *Flower Piano* will again transform San Francisco Botanical Garden into the city's own alfresco concert hall where everyone is invited to play and listen.

“Every year, *Flower Piano* reaffirms my hope for humanity,” says Dean Mermell, co-founder, together with Mauro Fortissimo, of event partner Sunset Piano. “While many of our favorite performers will return to play, we're also looking forward to some phenomenal new talent this year.”

Participants are invited to explore the Botanical Garden's global living plant collections as they seek out the 12 pianos spread out across the 55-acre living museum. At each of the pianos, there will be scheduled professional and community partner performances as well as ample open play time for anyone to sit down and play—reflecting a range of genres, ages, and cultures. Spontaneous community music-making around the pianos during unscheduled times are often cited as favorite moments among Flower Piano attendees.

Featured Flower Piano performers this year include familiar favorites such as Tammy Hall, Allison Lovejoy, and Kev Choice, while also welcoming several new artists to Flower Piano such as Sixth Station Trio doing a Studio Ghibli tribute, John Brothers Piano Company from Oakland performing original music, and computer scientist, composer, artist, and author Jaron Lanier performing a set with Colin Farish they are describing as “Entangled Synchronicity While Surfing in a Global Musical Flux”.

Also new this year during Flower Piano 2023 the Celebration Garden in the Botanical Garden will be transformed into an intimate experience called the *Flower Piano Lounge*. The *Flower Piano Lounge* will be a separately ticketed space at Flower Piano where guests will enjoy private

concerts with access to full-service bars offering alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages as well as food makers from our partners at Off the Grid, comfortable lounge furniture, exclusive bathrooms, and expedited entry with in-and-out privileges between the Lounge and rest of the Garden for Flower Piano.

The Lounge will host this year's opening event on Wednesday, September 7 from 4-8pm which will feature Latin Grammy winning tango pianist, arranger and composer Pablo Estigarribia accompanied by local tango dancers. Additional Lounge performers include jazz flamenco virtuoso pianist Alex Conde, Australian born pianist and composer Van-Anh Nguyen, as well as local bands Lavay Smith and the Red Hot Skillet Lickers and The Orange Sunshine.

"We're excited to offer the new Flower Piano Lounge this year and hope people will really enjoy the experience," says Stephanie Linder, CEO of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park.

Flower Piano is a musical event and attraction that provides open access to music and pianos within the beautiful, outdoor environment of San Francisco Botanical Garden. Flower Piano is free with general admission to San Francisco Botanical Garden, which is free for all San Franciscans, veterans regardless of residency, families receiving SNAP or CalFresh benefits via the Museums For All program, and for everyone else following \$3-\$17 general admission. Flower Piano is accessible and encouraged for all.

"Flower Piano has become a beloved San Francisco tradition, adding to the magic and beauty of Golden Gate Park – you don't want to miss this incredible gift to the City and our visitors," says Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

Lead sponsors for Flower Piano 2023 include the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, the John and Marcia Goldman Foundation, and the 5Ryan Foundation.

WHAT:

Flower Piano

NEW Flower Piano Lounge

WHEN:

Flower Piano: Friday, September 8 – Tuesday, September 12

Special Opening Event in the Flower Piano Lounge: Thursday, September 7

Flower Piano Lounge Sessions: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, September 8, 9, 10

TIME:

Flower Piano: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM PDT

Special Opening Event in the Flower Piano Lounge: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM PDT

Flower Piano Lounge Sessions:

Friday: 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM PDT

Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM PDT

Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM PDT

WHERE:

San Francisco Botanical Garden
Golden Gate Park
1199 9th Avenue, SF, CA 94122

SPONSORSHIP:

Sponsorship levels \$2,500-\$100,000

TICKETS:

Flower Piano is free with general admission to the Botanical Garden

General Admission: Free-\$28 Gardens of Golden Gate Park passes – sfbg.org/visit for details

Flower Piano Lounge tickets are \$40 general, \$32 for Gardens of Golden Gate Park Members

All Access *Flower Piano Lounge* tickets are also available for \$130 general, \$110 for Members

INFO:

Complete program and ticket links can be found at sfbg.org/flowerpiano

About Sunset Piano

Mauro fortissimo and Dean Mermell together launched Sunset Piano in 2013 when fortissimo covertly rolled an old grand piano onto the bluffs over Half Moon Bay. As word spread through social media, the crowds grew way beyond the occasional dog walker. Thousands came to hear the music before the county ordered the piano removed. Since then, Sunset Piano has expanded this impromptu musical and social experiment, temporarily placing pianos in a wide variety of unexpected natural and urban settings around the Bay Area every year, from the top of Montara Mountain to Market Street. *Flower Piano*, a collaboration with San Francisco Botanical Garden, is Sunset Piano's largest and most ambitious undertaking. Mermell's documentary about Sunset Piano is entitled *Twelve Pianos*. For more information visit TwelvePianos.com or SunsetPiano.com.

About San Francisco Botanical Garden

Established in 1940, San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum is one of the three Gardens of Golden Gate Park along with the Conservatory of Flowers and Japanese Tea Garden which are collectively jointly operated by a public/private partnership between the San Francisco

Recreation and Park Department and the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society (a nonprofit 501c3 organization doing business as the Gardens of Golden Gate Park). The Gardens of Golden Gate Park connect people to plants, the planet, and each other. San Francisco Botanical Garden is a living museum within Golden Gate Park. San Francisco Botanical Garden offers 55 acres of beautiful gardens displaying 8,000 different kinds of plants from around the world, including many that are rare and endangered.

About the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department currently manages more than 220 parks, playgrounds, and open spaces throughout San Francisco, including two outside city limits—Sharp Park in Pacifica and Camp Mather in the High Sierras. The system includes full-complex recreation centers, swimming pools, golf courses, sports fields and numerous small-to-medium-sized clubhouses that offer a variety of sports- and arts-related recreation programs for people of all ages. Included in the Department’s responsibilities are Golden Gate Park, Coit Tower, the Marina Yacht Harbor, the San Francisco Zoo and Lake Merced.

In 2017, San Francisco became the first and only city in the nation where all residents have access to a park within a 10-minute walk, a direct result of the Department’s commitment to increasing and improving parkland in the city.

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