

**Gardens of
Golden Gate Park**

Conservatory of Flowers
Japanese Tea Garden
San Francisco Botanical Garden

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2022

Press Contact: Brendan Lange

Cell: (415) 497-3268

Office: (415) 661-1316

blange@sfbg.org

Flower Piano

San Francisco Botanical Garden and Sunset Piano are excited to present one of the most unique, creative, and innovative events in the Bay Area

September 16-20, 2022

Special Opening Event Wednesday, September 14 – *Fall and Fly*

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

"*Flower Piano* is located at that magical intersection of music and nature," says Dean Mermell, co-founder, together with Mauro Fortissimo, of event partner Sunset Piano. "It's a uniquely safe outdoor space where we can be our best as humans, enjoying the Bay Area's finest musicians in the city's most beautiful setting."

Participants are invited to explore the 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 performances, open play time for participants, and community partner performances - reflecting a range of genres, ages, and cultures. The experience brings joy, hope, awe, and a deep sense of community. Participants are inspired to become Garden members and enjoy other Garden programs throughout the year.

"We are excited to work with our partners at the Recreation and Park Department, Sunset Piano, and all the musicians and community organizations that bring Flower Piano to life and I am grateful to our sponsors and staff that make this special event happen," says Stephanie Linder, CEO of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park.

New this year is a very special opening event, *Fall and Fly*, on Wednesday September 14 from 5–6:30pm, where a groundbreaking commissioned work created for 12 grand pianos will be performed on the Garden's Great Meadow. San Francisco-based composer Benjamin Gribble has written *Fall and Fly*, an experimental work in three movements, exploring the textures of a 12-piano choir. Stanford Symphony director Paul Phillips will personally conduct this one-of-a-kind

performance. Special guest speakers, writers, and poets will contextualize the evening with themes of renewal and regrowth.

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. Free for all San Franciscans, for families receiving SNAP or CalFresh benefits, and for everyone else following \$3-\$25 general admission, Flower Piano is accessible and encouraged for all.

“Music in Golden Gate Park is a storied San Francisco tradition and Flower Piano has carved out its place as one of the most beautiful, creative and beloved events. The combination of music, nature and human connection is truly special, and I am so grateful we can provide it for our community,” says Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

Lead sponsors for Flower Piano 2022 include Delle Maxwell and Patrick Hanrahan, Silicon Valley Bank, The John and Marcia Goldman Foundation, Ronald Whittier Family Foundation, Sarah and Stuart Ryan, Outside Lands Works, Fiorella, and Almonte Spa.

Media sponsors include FunCheap SF, KQED, San Francisco Chronicle, and San Francisco Magazine.

WHAT:

Flower Piano

Special Flower Piano Opening Event: *Fall and Fly*

WHEN:

Friday, September 16 – Tuesday, September 20

Special Opening Event: *Fall and Fly*: Wednesday, September 14

TIME:

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM PDT

Special Opening Event: *Fall and Fly*: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM PDT

WHERE:

San Francisco Botanical Garden

Golden Gate Park

1199 9th Avenue, SF, CA 94122

SPONSORSHIP:

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

Contact Director of Philanthropy Brooke Bedingfield at 415-661-1316 ext. 305 or bbedingfield@sfbg.org for more info

TICKETS:

Flower Piano is free with general admission to the Botanical Garden

General Admission: Free-\$25 Gardens of Golden Gate Park passes – sfbg.org/visit for current details

Fall and Fly is \$40 general, \$25 for Gardens of Golden Gate Park 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

San Francisco Botanical Garden connects people to plants, the planet, and each other. 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. 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" or "GGGP").

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.

###



Gardens of Golden Gate Park

Conservatory of Flowers
Japanese Tea Garden
San Francisco Botanical Garden

