FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 16, 2021
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Flower Piano 2021 Program Announced

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 17-21, 2021

After five successful years, and a pause in 2020 due to the pandemic, we are excited to bring back Flower Piano to transform San Francisco Botanical Garden once again into the city’s own alfresco concert hall where everyone is invited to play and listen.

"We’ve really missed our collaboration with the Botanical Garden, bringing to the community our unique interactive music festival, Flower Piano. After everything we’ve all been through, we’re looking forward to providing a safe, and joyous musical experience in the Garden for all to enjoy this September” says Dean Mermell, co-founder, together with Mauro ffortissimo, of event partner Sunset Piano.

Flower Piano is a musical event and attraction that provides open access to music and pianos within the natural, outdoor environment of San Francisco Botanical Garden. Free for San Franciscans, for families receiving SNAP or CalFresh benefits, and for everyone else following $3-13 general admission, Flower Piano is truly accessible and encouraged for all.

“We are thrilled to have music back in the Garden,” says Stephanie Linder, Executive Director at the Garden. “Flower Piano brings the Botanical Garden to life like nothing else we’ve ever seen.”

Participants are invited to explore the Garden’s global living plant collections as they seek out the pianos. 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. The most common word used to describe Flower Piano is "magical."

“Flower piano is beloved in San Francisco. It is coming back at a perfect time, allowing our community to heal together through the combination of music and nature,” says Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, San Francisco Recreation & Park Department.

Featured performances by renowned pianists, as well as those offered by our community partners, and musical ensembles will take place at select times and will range from classical, punk, beat, world, and
improvisational music. Full program details are available at sfbg.org/flowerpiano From 9am to 6pm visitors will be encouraged to offer impromptu interludes between the scheduled concerts.

**WHAT:**
Flower Piano

**WHEN:**
Friday, September 17 – Tuesday, September 21

**TIME:**
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM PDT

**WHERE:**
San Francisco Botanical Garden

**TICKETS:**
Flower Piano is free with general admission.
General Admission: Free-$13 – sfbg.org/flowerpiano for tickets

**INFO:**
sfbg.org/flowerpiano

**About Sunset Piano**
Mauro ffortissimo and Dean Mermell together launched Sunset Piano in 2013 when ffortissimo 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 nearly 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 in Golden Gate Park is a public/private partnership between San Francisco Botanical Garden Society and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

**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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