

# Seth Montfort – Audience Request List & Info

Currently memorized works & works he has performed often in past to request for next time:

"... [a] man who can memorize over 100 works, and we're talking complicated works here, send them from memory to fingertips and then while he's at it, throw in a heap of astounding technique, showmanship and sensual grace to nearly blow the roof from its rafters." – [The Pacifica Tribune](#)

"one of our local heroes ... consistently presenting high quality concerts to the public at affordable prices"  
– [AOL Digital City](#)

## Echoes from Austria

1. **Mozart** Sonata in C, K. 330
2. **Mozart** "Turkish" Sonata in A, K. 331
3. **Schubert** Impromptu in A Opus 90/4
4. **Schubert** Sonata in a minor opus 164

## Sturm und Drang

1. **Bach** Prelude and Fugue in D, book 1 no. 5
2. **Beethoven** "Pathétique" Sonata in c minor, Opus 13
3. **Beethoven** "Tempest" Sonata in d minor, Opus 31 No. 2
4. **Wagner/Liszt** Liebestod

## Chopin's Greatest Hits

### Large Scale Works:

1. Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise Brillante in E<sup>b</sup>, Opus 22
2. Ballade No. 1 in g minor, Opus 23
3. Scherzo No. 2 in b<sup>b</sup> minor, Opus 31
4. Scherzo No. 3 in c<sup>#</sup> minor, Opus 39
5. "Heroic" Polonaise in A<sup>b</sup>, Opus 53
6. Grande Valse Brillante in E<sup>b</sup>, Opus 18

### Etudes:

7. Etude in E major, Opus 10 No. 3
8. "Revolutionary" Etude in C minor, Opus 10 No. 12
9. "Harp" Etude in A<sup>b</sup>, Opus 25 No. 1
10. Etude "In Thirds" in g<sup>#</sup> minor, Opus 25 No. 6
11. "Butterfly" Etude in G<sup>b</sup>, Opus 25 No. 9
12. "Ocean" Etude in c minor, Opus 25 No. 12

### Nocturnes:

13. Nocturne in E<sup>b</sup>, Opus 9 No.2
14. Three Nocturnes, Opus 27 - No. 1 in c<sup>#</sup> minor, No. 2 in D<sup>b</sup>;
15. Opus 48 – No. 1 in c minor

### Mazurkas:

16. Mazurka in B<sup>b</sup>, Opus 7 No. 1
17. Mazurka in a minor, Opus 17 No.4
18. Mazurka in D, Opus 33 No. 2
19. Mazurka in b minor, Opus 33 No. 4

### Other:

20. Fantasie-Impromptu, Opus Posthumous

## Ballroom Visions

1. **Weber** Invitation to the Dance
2. **Chopin** "Minute" Waltz in D<sup>b</sup>, Opus 64 No. 1
3. **Chopin** Waltz in c<sup>#</sup> minor, Opus 64 No. 2
4. **Smetena** Ballroom Vision
5. **Cervantez** (19<sup>th</sup> century Cuba) Desires; Valse caprice
6. **Tchaikovsky** Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy from *Nutcracker Suite* (Tchaikovsky's piano arrangement)

## The Complete Christmas Music of Liszt

1. Christmas Tree Suite
2. Christ is Born
3. 2 Liszt transcriptions from the Oratorio Christus

## World's Spookiest Piano

1. **Chopin** "Funeral March" Sonata No. 2 in b<sup>b</sup> minor, Opus 35  
Grave; Doppio movimento  
Scherzo  
Marche Funebre  
Presto
2. **Liszt** Totentanz (piano arrangement by Liszt)
3. **Bartok** Allegro Barbaro

## Civil War Hits

1. **Gottschalk** Grande Tarentelle
2. **Gottschalk** The Union
3. **Blind Tom** Battle of Manassas
4. **Richard Hoffman** Dixiana; Caprice for pianoforte on the Popular Negro Minstrel's Melody "Dixie Land" Negro Minstrel Tune
5. **Stephen Foster** Old Folks at Home with Variations
6. **Charles Grobe** United States Grand Waltz
7. **Homer Bartlett** Grand Polka de Concert, Opus 1

## Slavic Doom

1. **Scriabin** Etude in c<sup>#</sup> minor, Opus 2 No. 1
2. **Scriabin** Etude in d<sup>#</sup> minor, Opus 8 No.12
3. **Rachmaninoff** "The Tornado" Etude Tableaux in e<sup>b</sup> minor, Opus 33 No. 6

## Caribbean Impressions

1. **Gottschalk** Le Bananier, Le Mancenillier
2. **Fernandez** (19<sup>th</sup> century Venezuela) Quick Devil
3. **Dett** – In the Bottoms Suite
4. **Villa Lobos** – Dancas Caracteristicas Africanas
5. **Lecuona** Danzas Afro-Cubanas:  
The Congo at Midnight  
Danza Negre  
...Y la Negra Bailaba  
Danza de los Nanigos  
Danza lucumi  
La Comparsa

## Nazareth (Brazil's Joplin) Greatest Hits

### Ernesto Nazareth's Greatest Hits

1. El Brejeiro (The Brat); Tango
2. Confidencias; Valsa
3. Apenhei-te Cavaquinho; Choro
4. Odeon;Tango
5. Ameno resada (Christmas Carnival); polca
6. Festa Na Passaro (Feast of Birds); valsa

## Guastavino's Greatest Hits (Argentina)

1. Bailecito
2. Gato

## British Miniatures

1. **Elgar** In Smyrna
2. **Lambert** Elegiac Blues
3. **Grainger** Country Gardens
4. **Benjamin** Jamaican Rumba

## Billy Mayerl's Greatest Hits

1. The Four Aces
  - Ace of Clubs
  - Ace of Diamonds
  - Ace of Hearts
  - Ace of Spades
2. Shallow Waters
3. Marigold

## Scott Joplin's Greatest Hits

1. Maple Leaf Rag
2. Solace
3. The Entertainer
4. The Easy Winners
5. Heliotrope Bouquet
6. Pineapple Rag

## Ragtime by Classical Composers

1. **Chopin** "Butterfly" Etude in G<sup>b</sup>, Opus 25, No. 9
2. **Gottschalk** Grande Tarentelle
3. **Delius** Zum Carnival; polka
4. **Debussy** The Little Nigerian
5. **Scott** Danse Negre
6. **Hindemith** Dance of the Wooden Puppet
7. **Satie** Ragtime Parade
8. **Bliss** The Rout Trot
9. **Gershwin & Donaldson** Rialto Ripples Rag
10. **Chavez** A Fox Trot

## The American Indianists

1. **Antonin Dvorak** American Suite
2. **Arthur Farwell** Pawnee Horses & Navajo War Dance
3. **Carlos Troyer** Ghost Dance of the Zunis & Kiowa Apache War Dance
4. **Charles Wakefield Cadman** Idealized Indian Themes
  - Pleasant Moon of the Strawberries
  - From the Land of the Sky Blue Water
  - The Sadness of the Lodge
  - Return of the Braves
5. **Charles Sanford Skilton** Three Indian Sketches
6. **Henry Cowell** Idealized Indian Themes, Opus 54
  - The Power of the Snake
  - The Lover Plays his Flute
  - Deer Dance

## Impressionistic Finger Paintings

1. **Amy Beach** Dreaming
2. **Debussy** L'isle Joyeuse
3. **Ravel** Ondine
4. **Ives** "The Alcotts" from the Concord Sonata

## Paris Café

1. **Satie** Trois Gymnopedies

2. **Gnossienne** 1 and 5
3. **Ravel** Pavane
4. **Debussy** Claire de Lune
5. **Faure** Nocturne no. 4
6. **Poulenc** Waltz in C
7. **Milhaud** *Le boeuf sur le toit* Tango de Fratellini
8. **Mompou** Cancion y Danza 1

## The Complete Authorized Works of Gershwin for Solo Piano

1. Gershwin's Songbook (transcribed by Gershwin)
  1. The Man I Love
  2. Swanee
  3. Nobody But You
  4. I'll Build A Stairway To Paradise
  5. Do It Again
  6. Fascinating Rhythm
  7. Oh, Lady Be Good
  8. Somebody Loves Me
  9. Sweet And Low Down
  10. Clap Yo' Hands
  11. Do Do Do
  12. My One and Only
  13. 'S Wonderful
  14. Strike Up The Band
  15. I Got Rhythm
  16. Who Cares?
  17. That Certain Feeling
  18. Liza
2. Three Preludes
  - Allegro ben ritmado e deciso
  - Andante con moto e poco rubato
  - Allegro ben ritmado e deciso

## Four Incidental Numbers

3. Impromptu in Two Keys
4. Merry Andrew
5. Three-Quarter Blues
6. Promenade
7. Rhapsody in Blue (transcribed by Gershwin)

## Jungle Jazz

1. **Scott** Lotus Land
2. **Godowsky** Shadow Puppets from the Java Suite
3. **Villa-Lobos** Brazilian Cycle
  - Native Planting Song
  - Minstrel Impressions
  - Jungle Festival
  - Dance of the White Indian

## Flamenco Piano

1. **Granados** The Maiden and the Nightingale
2. **Mompou** Cancion y Danza 6

## South of the Border Mariachi Piano

1. **Rosas** Flores de Mexico; polca
2. **Rosas** Tres piezas
  - A Lupe
  - Y para que
  - En el casino (fiendishly difficult 19th Century rag-bordello miniatures)
3. **Ponce** Balada Mexicana
4. **Paul Bowles** Sayula & Huapango No. 1
5. **Ornstein** Tres Mexicanas
6. **Copland/Bernstein** El Salon Mexico

## Seth Montfort's Greatest Hits

1. The Haunted Finger
  2. Duet for Two Fingers
  3. Jinglebaws
  4. The "It's Nota" Sonata
    - Too Mechanical; Moderato ma non troppo
    - Too Romantic; Andante con cantabile
    - Too Foolish; Rondo rodeo
    - Too Many Variations on an Empty Theme
    - Too Flashy
  5. Miniature Collaborations with Jamie Yates
  6. Horsey & The Last Word Is Destinoo for Piano & Untrained Voice
- Beekeeper Fandangos:
7. Polka-Fandango
  8. Rag-Fandango
  9. Rumba-Fandango
  10. Tango-Fandango
  11. Bear Hug
  12. Fandango-Huapango

## Seth Montfort, piano



Seth Montfort is a pianist, composer and the Artistic Director of San Francisco Concerto Orchestra and the Mortuary Orchestra of Guerneville. He has given over 2000 solo recitals, performed in most of the Bay Area's major halls, has been the subject of many recent feature articles and was chosen for "Top Picks" and "Critics Choice" in most of the San Francisco Bay Area's Major Newspapers. He began playing at age 7 but was much more interested in becoming a naturalist in the jungle and an Olympic gymnast than he was in music. But he broke his arm performing gymnastics and was told he would never play the piano again. After seeing the movie, *The Sting*, and while still wearing a cast, he learned some Joplin rags and won his first contest at 11. He discovered the World of the classical concert hall at age 15, when he attended a Denver Symphony concert. This event gave

him his first opportunity to hear a piano concerto which inspired him to learn a concerto himself in order to enter the Denver Symphony's Concerto Competition several months later. He won and thus was able to immediately make his own debut at 16 performing Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand with the Denver Symphony. He was given a standing ovation from over 1,000 people. He soon won more competitions and the chance to perform with other orchestras including the National Repertory Orchestra.

But at 19 he discovered his composers bent and decided to abandon piano performance and the stage to work exclusively on composition. But he was unable to win any grants for his tonal works in the era of atonality. At 25 he decided to return to the stage out of financial necessity. Within weeks he won 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes in both a National and an International piano competition. But he had nowhere near the repertoire required for a piano career. So he spent the next 20 years catching up! Now he is known for an ability to perform extensive marathon concert series from memory, his repertoire includes over 200 major works, half of which are from the New World. His repertoire ranges from Mozart, Beethoven, and Liszt to tangos, polkas and rags from all over the world. Mostly self taught he nonetheless was a finalist in both the New York Chopin Competitions and has won a dozen Regional, National and International Prizes for his interpretations of Chopin, Standard European works and the music of Gershwin. He has given over 100 concerto performances in 20 different concerti by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Scriabin, Delius, Ravel, & Gershwin with many orchestras including locally the Diablo Symphony, Kensington Symphony, The Redwood Symphony, and the North Bay Philharmonic.

Many of Montfort's compositions are still unfinished including his 1 hour long Old World Piano Symphony and his 2 hour long Aztec Piano Symphony, parts of which were performed with dancers from San Francisco Ballet and Opera as a ballet in Progress at the Djerassi Artist Colony during a residency with Victoria Morgan, former Ballet Mistress of San Francisco Opera. He has performed with many other dancers especially Lori Belilove and Company, Artistic Director of The Isadora Duncan Institute in Manhattan, in a variety of prestigious venues throughout the country including the Whitney Museum in New York City. His recent book *Aliens Made Me Play Gershwin* has been described by The Arts Council of Sonoma as a "best seller." He was also chosen by The Arts Council of Sonoma to be the featured performer at their annual awards ceremony. As Artistic Director of San Francisco Concerto Orchestra he has produced 440 orchestral concerts ranging in size from 14 to 70 musicians. For 10 years he also organized and produced numerous local and International musician

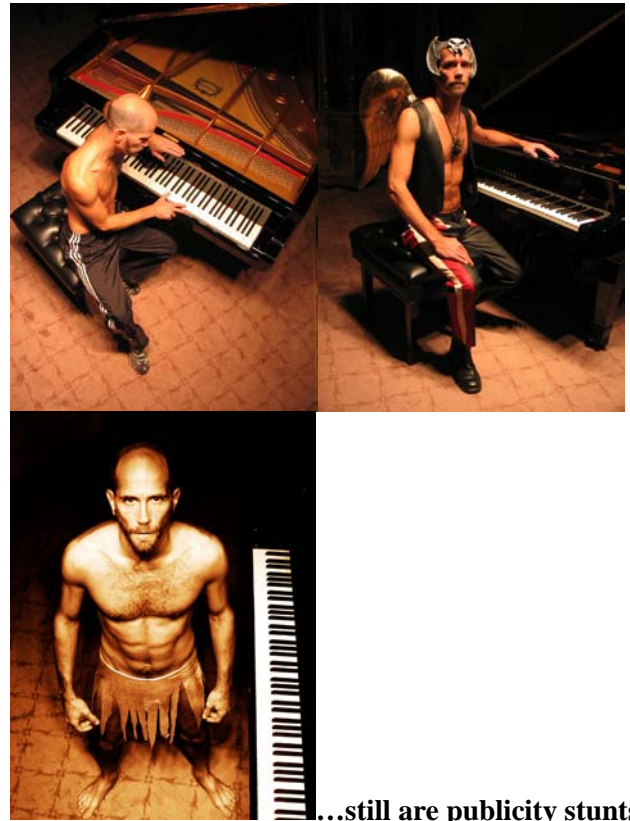
friendly competitions designed to give all musicians (many of whom were highly accomplished - full scholarship Juilliard students etc.) otherwise hard to find opportunities to be prominently featured as soloists, conductors and composers with an orchestra of professionals. These events were an organizational nightmare for Montfort, but popular with musicians all over the USA and World.

Over 500 professional musicians have been featured with the orchestra, many dozens of which already had or have since built major International careers. The orchestra has been described as “solidly impressive” by San Francisco Chronicle and “stellar” by San Jose Mercury. For over 20 years Montfort has run the entire operation himself with few volunteers and no paid staff. Over the last year he finally escaped his orchestral duties for long enough to make 2 solo concert tours throughout Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica and the Desert Southwest US returning to many repeat engagements. He is scheduled to continue performing at home in Guerneville, the Bay Area and throughout the Southwest and Latin America in and near Jungles, Deserts, Temples, Saloons, Colonial Architecture and especially his all time favorite venues, the giant treehouses of the Pura Jungla Reforestation project in Paraiso, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Pura Jungle has now even just built a treehouse big enough for his orchestra. Believing unusual venues ARE the future of Classical music, his next goal is to mix music with his naturalist childhood dream and lead tours to treehouses and other inspiring venues especially throughout the Desert Southwest and Latin America. Why play in Carnegie Hall if you can play in a treehouse in Costa Rica?

**For More info on Seth Montfort & San Francisco Concerto Orchestra**  
go to [www.sfconcerto.org](http://www.sfconcerto.org).

### **What's with Montfort's Publicity Photos?**

Having quite possibly received a record number of listings (perhaps over 2000) in San Francisco Chronicle's Datebook, Montfort, like most accomplished musicians in San Francisco, had very little luck getting publicity photos printed in any of the local press. So he began a “campaign” to create more interesting photos all of which got print immediately and prominently in dozens of magazines and newspapers and even landed him many thousands of dollars in advertising sponsorships including dozens if not hundreds of ads in his most generous sponsor, San Francisco Bay Times. The following are perhaps 3 of his best known pics having frequently made print in the San Francisco Chronicle and many other major local newspapers. Some thought Montfort lost his mind! Others saw this photo “campaign” as nothing more than a publicity stunt. **Yes, these *Battlefield Gymnasium, Liszt in Leather and Jungle Recital* photos were and...**



...still are publicity stunts –  
**The photo above brought 30 senior women to his concert.** But not only was his childhood dream to be a gymnast and jungle naturalist, but each photo was designed for a specific recital. Pianists ARE expected to be gymnastic virtuosos, young Liszt WAS like today's Rock Stars, and especially in Montfort's tropical virtuoso discoveries, classical music actually IS as wild and primitive as musical inspiration gets.

Classical patrons may be reserved but everyone knows the composers and performers have usually not been. Actually they more often have been colorful characters involved in more than their fair share of scandal. Not because they were “straight” or “gay” but maybe because they didn't lack imagination or independence. Montfort got dubbed “The Leather Pianist.” But his concerts were performed in ordinary whatever he felt like. Human nature may not be to think, but merely to react, which is probably why publicity of this type gets so much attention. Most of America's best known composers have been “gay.” But most of our countries best orchestral musicians are “straight” and often happily married with families. They love to perform in the orchestra's occasional concerts in leather, and love to come to the beautiful town of Guerneville. And thanks to the generous local hotels who all give them free rooms, it is the perfect getaway from their grueling professional orchestral schedules. These “straight” musicians with families are evolved people and like the legendary “gay” pianist, Vladimir Horowitz, they love to hit our “gay” bars. But our musicians go to watch and dance. Diversity actually does have value? And if you look for them, you will find a very diverse array of “straight” establishments too. Guerneville has it all.