

**Topic** : Ballet Accompaniment as a career

**Description** : An overview of the roles a pianist has at a ballet company and its school. This talk covers the skill sets required to be a successful ballet accompanist. A dancer will be part of the lecture and demonstration.

**Bio** - Jamie Narushchen joined San Francisco Ballet School as an accompanist in 1987, and in 2013, was named a Lee R. Crews Endowed Pianist for San Francisco Ballet, a position he holds in addition to his current work for the School. As both the pianist supervisor and music teacher for SF Ballet School, Narushchen accompanies class and rehearsals, teaches music classes, and organizes the schedules of full and part-time pianists for about 130 classes weekly that require live accompaniment. He also regularly provides accompaniment for West Coast auditions held by American Ballet Theater, The Juilliard School, and Boston Ballet, and enjoys the opportunity to play for Mark Morris' and Suzanne Farrell's classes during their visits to the Bay Area.

Alongside SF Ballet's Music Director and Principal Conductor Martin West, Narushchen also teaches a course at San Francisco Conservatory of Music that helps pianists prepare for a career as a dance accompanist. Through his label JANRecords, Narushchen has released four albums of music for ballet class and beyond to critical acclaim.

Narushchen studied piano performance at Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory, taking additional coursework in composition at SF Conservatory of Music.