



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR



Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / February 23, 2016



(High resolution images of Christian Reif are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY APPOINTS CHRISTIAN REIF AS RESIDENT CONDUCTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY AND WATTIS FOUNDATION MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

SAN FRANCISCO, February 23, 2016 – The San Francisco Symphony (SFS) today announced the appointment of Christian Reif as Resident Conductor and Wattis Foundation Music Director of the SFS Youth Orchestra, beginning in September, 2016.

In his position, Reif will lead the internationally acclaimed SFS Youth Orchestra and serve as Resident Conductor of the SFS, assisting Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and several guest conductors with subscription concerts, touring, semi-staged productions, recordings and other special projects. In addition he will conduct the San Francisco Symphony in selected *Concerts for Kids*, *Adventures in Music*, and *Music for Families* concerts, which annually draw more than 26,000 young people and their families from throughout the Bay Area to Davies Symphony Hall.

German conductor Christian Reif made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony in September, 2015 conducting the West Coast premiere of Ted Hearne's *Dispatches*, following its premiere at the New World Symphony (NWS) in Miami. He is completing his second season as the Conducting Fellow with the NWS where he also serves as cover conductor for Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas. "Christian has impressed me with his fine conducting of remarkably versatile repertoire as well as his dedicated mentoring of young musicians," says Michael Tilson Thomas. "I know he will be an ideal addition to our San Francisco Symphony team."

Says Reif: "I am truly excited to join the San Francisco Symphony and its world class Youth Orchestra. I deeply appreciate the excellence of the San Francisco Symphony and the positive spirit of collaboration we found when I worked with them this past season. I look forward to the years ahead of working with both ensembles."

A few of his projects in the 2015-16 season include conducting the U.S. premiere of Kaija Saariaho's *Only the Sound Remains* at the Ojai Music Festival, with Peter Sellars directing; leading the Munich Chamber Opera in performances of Mozart's *La finta semplice* in Munich's Cuvilliés Theater; returning to Tanglewood as a Conducting Fellow; and conducting the closing concert of the Lakes Area Music Festival in Minnesota. In the 2014-15 season, Reif conducted the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra in several world premieres as part of Tanglewood's 75th anniversary and also worked as cover conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In 2014, he served as assistant conductor for Alan Gilbert at the New York Philharmonic Biennial. He has been leader of several orchestras and ensembles both in the US and abroad including The Juilliard Orchestra, Salzburg Chamber Soloists, Georgian Chamber Orchestra and the Israel Chamber Orchestra.

Reif's enthusiasm in performing contemporary music has led to his involvement in many world premieres including Michael Gordon's *El Sol Caliente*, a city symphony in honor of Miami Beach's centennial, and concertos for DJ and orchestra performed at the nightclub-like PULSE events of the New World Symphony.

A dedicated and enthusiastic educator, Reif coaches pianists, instrumentalists and singers. Education concerts he hosted and conducted at the New World Symphony in 2014/15 and 2015/16 were also broadcasted globally online. After studying with Dennis Russell Davies at the Mozarteum Salzburg, Reif completed his Master of Music in Conducting at The Juilliard School under Alan Gilbert. He is currently a member of Germany's prestigious Conductor's Forum (Dirigentenforum).

Reif is the winner of the German Operetta Prize 2015, awarded by the German Music Council; recipient of the Charles Schiff Conducting Award for his outstanding achievements at The Juilliard School, and has two Kulturförderpreise of his home region in Germany, awards given to promising artists who promote cultural advancement in their communities.

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Tumblr](#), and [Instagram](#):



The San Francisco Symphony receives support from over 10,000 individual donors and 150 partner institutions.

Emirates is the Official Airline of the San Francisco Symphony.

San Francisco Chronicle / SFGate.com is the Official Media Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

- SFS -