



# SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

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## **THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY EARNS 2013-14 ASCAP AWARD FOR ADVENTUROUS PROGRAMMING**

**SAN FRANCISCO, June 4, 2014** – American Society of Composers and Publishers ([ASCAP](#)) announced today that the [San Francisco Symphony](#) and Music Director [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) have earned a 2013-14 Award for Adventurous Programming, American Programming on Foreign Tours. This is one of four Adventurous Programming awards announced at the League of American Orchestras National Conference in Seattle, WA. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> ASCAP Award for the SF Symphony.

The SF Symphony featured two American works in its critically acclaimed European tour March 14-26, 2014. Tour programs included *Absolute Jest*, a work by San Francisco Bay Area composer John Adams commissioned and recorded by MTT and the SFS, slated for release on CD in 2015. Also performed was The Alcotts movement from *A Concord Symphony* by Charles Ives orchestrated by Henry Brant, recorded and released on SFS Media in 2011.

ASCAP and the League of American Orchestras present the Awards for Adventurous Programming each year to orchestras that challenge the audience, build the repertoire and increase interest in contemporary music. The SFS has won 19 ASCAP Awards, most recently the 2011-12 Morton Gould Award for Innovative Programming and an award for the SFS Youth Orchestra's American Programming on Foreign Tours. The SFS was recognized by ASCAP for programming contemporary music in the 2006-2007 season, and won the First Place Award for Programming of Contemporary Music for the 2004-2005 season. The SFS also was awarded the 2002 Morton Gould Award for Innovative Programming. In 2001 and 1997, the SFS won the John S. Edwards Award for Strongest Commitment to American Music. ASCAP also recognized the SFS education and media programs with the 2004 Leonard Bernstein Award for Educational Programming and the 2004 Deems Taylor Broadcast Award for the *Keeping Score* television pilot, *The Making of a Performance: Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony*.

### **About the San Francisco Symphony**

The San Francisco Symphony, widely considered to be among the most artistically adventurous and innovative arts institutions in the U.S., celebrated its Centennial season in 2011-12. Under Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, the SFS presents more than 220 concerts and presentations annually for an audience of nearly 600,000 in its home of Davies Symphony Hall and through an active national and international touring program.

Tilson Thomas assumed his post as the SF Symphony's eleventh Music Director in September 1995 and will celebrate his 20th season as Music Director next year. Together, he and the SFS have formed a musical partnership hailed as one of the most inspiring and successful in the U.S. His tenure with the Orchestra has been praised by critics for its outstanding

musicianship, innovative programming, highlighting the works of American composers, and bringing new audiences to classical music. Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony maintain a leading presence among American orchestras around the world through an active touring program, award-winning recordings, and innovative broadcast and education projects.

The San Francisco Symphony's commitment to music education has resulted in the groundbreaking television, radio, multimedia and website project [Keeping Score](#); an award-winning children's website, [www.sfskids.com](http://www.sfskids.com); and [Adventures in Music](#), a nationally acclaimed in-school music education program in San Francisco schools. The *Keeping Score* series has been viewed by over six million people since its first broadcast in 2006 and has been acclaimed for making classical music accessible to a wider, more diverse audience.

### **About ASCAP**

Established in 1914, [ASCAP](#) is the first and leading U.S. Performing Rights Organization (PRO) representing the world's largest repertory totaling over 9 million copyrighted musical works of every style and genre from more than 500,000 songwriter, composer and music publisher members. ASCAP has representation arrangements with similar foreign organizations so that the ASCAP repertory is represented in nearly every country around the world where copyright law exists. ASCAP protects the rights of its members and foreign affiliates by licensing the public performances of their copyrighted works and distributing royalties based upon surveyed performances. ASCAP is the only American PRO owned and governed by its writer and publisher members.

### **League of American Orchestras**

[The League of American Orchestras](#) leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of approximately 800 orchestras across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned symphonies to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles. The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement for managers, musicians, volunteers, and boards. Its conferences and events, award-winning *Symphony* magazine, website, and other publications inform music lovers around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit [americanorchestras.org](http://americanorchestras.org) to learn more.

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