SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contacts:
Public Relations
San Francisco Symphony
(415) 503-5474
publicrelations@sfsymphony.org
sfsymphony.org/press

National Press Representation
Shuman Associates
(212) 315-1300
shumanpr@shumanassociates.net

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(High resolution images of Michael Tilson Thomas and Jeremy Denk are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's Online Photo Library)

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS & THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S NOV 13-16 TOUR FEATURES PERFORMANCES AT CARNEGIE HALL, AND IN ANN ARBOR, MI AND CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL

Concerts include Mahler's Symphony No. 9, Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 with Jeremy Denk, Copland's *Symphonic Ode* and Steven Mackey's *Eating Greens*

Tour coincides with release of Orchestra's recording of Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 and *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II* on SFS Media

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 9, 2013) – Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) and the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) perform four concerts in three U.S. cities from November 13-16, with performances at Carnegie Hall in New York on November 13-14, Hill Auditorium at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor on November 16 and the Krannert Center at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana on November 15. The tour repertoire exhibits the breadth of MTT and the SFS's hallmark programming with performances of core repertoire by Mahler, Mozart and Beethoven, along with works by American composers Steven Mackey and Aaron Copland. That same week, on Tuesday, November 12, MTT and the SFS release their new recording of Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 and the *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II* with the SFS Chorus and guest soloists on in-house label SFS Media on CD and digital download.

For the November 13 and 15 performances in New York and Champaign-Urbana, Jeremy Denk joins MTT and the Orchestra in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 in C Major. MTT and the SFS also perform Steven Mackey's *Eating Greens*, Copland's *Symphonic Ode* and Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3, a work MTT and the San Francisco Symphony recorded and released on SFS Media in 2011. The second New York performance on November 14 and the Ann Arbor concert on November 16 feature MTT and the Orchestra in Mahler's Symphony No. 9. Members of the Orchestra will give master classes to students at the University of Michigan School of Music while in Ann Arbor.

The New York concert of November 13 will be broadcast as part of the "Carnegie Hall Live" radio series, a co-production between WQXR classical radio and American Public Media (APM). "Carnegie Hall Live" airs in New York on WQXR 105.9 FM, is distributed by APM to classical stations across the country, and is available for live streaming on www.wqxr.org and www.carnegiehall.org/wqxr. In the Bay Area it will air on Classical KDFC 90.3 on Thursday, November 14 at 8 p.m.

The tour is preceded by concerts of the tour repertoire in San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall on November 7-10. For all four evenings, MTT and the SFS perform Steven Mackey's *Eating Greens*, Copland's *Symphonic Ode* and Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3 and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major with Jeremy Denk.

About Jeremy Denk

Pianist Jeremy Denk has been a guest of the San Francisco Symphony many times since his debut with the Orchestra in 2006, including during its *American Mavericks* Festival and Tour in March 2012 when he performed Cowell's Piano Concerto, Cowell solo piano pieces and Foss's *Echoi.* His performance of Cowell's Piano Concerto was released on MTT & the SFS' *American Mavericks* recording in November 2012. Denk is the recipient of a 2013 MacArthur "genius" Fellowship. He is known for his original and insightful writing on music that has appeared in *The New Yorker, The New Republic*, and on the front page of the *New York Times Book Review*. His website 'think denk,' which recounts his experiences of touring, performing, and practicing, was recently selected for inclusion in the Library of Congress Web Archives. In 2012, Mr. Denk made his debut as a Nonesuch Records artist with a pairing of masterpieces old and new: Beethoven's final Piano Sonata and György Ligeti's Etudes. His recording of the Goldberg Variations was released in September of this year.

About MTT and Mahler

In 2010, Michael Tilson Thomas and the SFS concluded their self-produced Mahler recording project, launched in 2001 and encompassing all of Mahler's symphonies and works for voice, chorus and orchestra. The Orchestra's Mahler cycle on SFS Media has been recognized with seven Grammy Awards, including three Grammy Awards for its recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 and the Adagio from Symphony No. 10. Live concert footage of Mahler's Symphony No. 9 was included in SFS Media's PBS television series *Keeping Score: Mahler*, now available on DVD and Blu-ray. An excerpt of their performance of the *Rondo burleske* movement from Mahler's Symphony No. 9 can be viewed at http://bit.ly/Rondoburl.

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 (MTT), 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 celebrates his 19th season as Music Director in 2013-14. Together, he and the SFS have formed a musical partnership hailed as one of the most inspiring and successful in the country. His tenure with the Orchestra has been praised by critics for 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. In 1996, MTT led the orchestra on the first of their nearly two dozen national and international tours together, which have included stops in Europe, Asia and throughout the United States, with annual performances at Carnegie Hall.

Recent tour highlights include the November 2012 six-city tour of Asia with Yuja Wang, including the Orchestra's first performances in Beijing and Macau, its first visits to Japan and Taiwan in more than 15 years, and concerts in Shanghai and Hong Kong. The Orchestra and MTT performed a two-week national U.S. tour of all-American Mavericks music in March 2012, with Meredith Monk, Jessye Norman, Paul Jacobs, Emanuel Ax, Joan La Barbara, Jeremy Denk, and Mason Bates. Other recent tour highlights include a 2011 three-week tour of Europe; a 2007 European tour that featured two televised appearances at the BBC Proms in London, concerts in Edinburgh, Berlin and Frankfurt, and at several major European festivals, including Lucerne; and their first appearances in mainland China, including opening the Hong Kong Arts Festival, as part of their 2006 Asia tour. They opened Carnegie Hall's 2008-09 season with a gala tribute to Leonard Bernstein that was filmed and broadcast nationally on Thirteen/WNET New York's *Great Performances* on PBS television.

The Orchestra's own SFS Media label showcases the Orchestra's core classical repertoire alongside lesser-heard contemporary and modern works, especially by American composers. As part of an ongoing Beethoven exploration, in spring 2013 SFS Media released a recording of MTT and the San Francisco Symphony performing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 featuring the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and soloists. They have also released recordings of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and the *Leonore* Overture No. 3, his Symphony No. 5 and Piano Concerto No. 4 featuring Emanuel Ax. This November, the SFS releases its recording of Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 and the *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II*, featuring soprano Sally Matthews, mezzo-soprano Tamara Mumford, tenor Barry Banks and bass-baritone Andrew Foster-Williams. In 2012 MTT and the SFS won a Grammy Award for Best Orchestral performance for a their recording of John Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and *Harmonielehre*, and in 2013 were honored with an Echo Klassik award for "Orchestra of the Year" in recognition of this recording from the German Music Critics' Association. The Orchestra's 2011-12 Centennial Season Opening Gala concert was televised on PBS-TV's *Great Performances* and released on DVD and Blu-ray.

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;* 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY NOVEMBER 2013 TOUR & BAY AREA DATES
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS, MUSIC DIRECTOR
Jeremy Denk, piano

Wednesday, November 13 at 8 p.m.

Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall
New York City

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
Jeremy Denk, *piano*
San Francisco Symphony

Beethoven *Leonore* Overture No. 3, Opus 72a
Steven Mackey *Eating Greens*
Mozart Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K.503
Copland *Symphonic Ode*

BROADCAST: This concert will be broadcast as part of the "Carnegie Hall Live" radio series in New York on WQXR 105.9 FM, on classical stations across the country, and is available for live streaming on www.wqxr.org and www.carnegiehall.org/wqxr. In the Bay Area it will air on Classical KDFC 90.3 on Thursday, November 14 at 8 p.m.

Thursday, November 14 at 8 p.m.

Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall
New York City

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
San Francisco Symphony

Mahler / Symphony No. 9 in D major

Friday, November 15 at 8 p.m.

Krannert Center
Champaign-Urbana, IL

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
San Francisco Symphony

Beethoven *Leonore* Overture No. 3, Opus 72a
Steven Mackey *Eating Greens*
Mozart Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K.503
Copland *Symphonic Ode*

Saturday, November 16 at 8 p.m.

Hill Auditorium
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
San Francisco Symphony

Mahler / Symphony No. 9 in D major

PRE-TOUR PERFORMANCES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Thursday, November 7 at 8 pm
Friday, November 8 at 6:30 pm
Saturday, November 9 at 8 pm
Sunday, November 10 at 2 pm

Davies Symphony Hall
San Francisco, CA

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Jeremy Denk piano
San Francisco Symphony

Beethoven *Leonore* Overture No. 3, Opus 72a
Steven Mackey *Eating Greens*
Mozart Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K.503
Copland *Symphonic Ode*

PRE-CONCERT TALK: Scott Foglesong will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

AUDIO PROGRAM NOTES: Listen to a free audio "Program Notes" podcast about Copland's *Symphonic Ode* and Mahler's Symphony No. 9 hosted by KDFC's Rik Malone. All podcasts are archived. Listeners can subscribe, download, or stream podcasts at sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the iTunes store.

BROADCAST: A broadcast of these concerts will air Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com, where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

TICKETS: $15-156.
Tickets are available at sfsymphony.org, by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

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