



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

**SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY AND MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS ANNOUNCE
2012-13 SEASON CONCERT PROGRAMS, RECORDINGS,
AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**



(Images of Michael Tilson Thomas, Renée Fleming, Lang Lang, Juraj Valcuha, and Khatia Buniatishvili available online in the [2012-2013 Press Kit](#))

Orchestra's 101st season highlights include Tilson Thomas-led explorations of music by Beethoven, Stravinsky, and enhanced concert experiences around Grieg's *Peer Gynt* and Beethoven's *Missa solemnis*

MTT conducts the SFS in the first concert performances by an orchestra of Bernstein's complete *West Side Story*

Orchestra to perform two world premieres, three US premieres, three West Coast premieres, and 13 San Francisco Symphony premieres

MTT leads premieres of new SFS commissions by Robin Holloway, Jörg Widmann and Samuel Carl Adams

Soprano Renée Fleming and pianist András Schiff perform in *Project San Francisco* residencies; Schiff begins two-year exploration of Bach's works for keyboard

Distinguished guests include Joshua Bell, Pinchas Zukerman, Julia Fischer, Lang Lang, Yuja Wang, Marc-André Hamelin, Gil Shaham, Jonathan Biss, Yefim Bronfman, David Robertson, Vasily Petrenko, and Marek Janowski, with debuts by Vladimir Jurowski, Jaap van Zweden, Juraj Valcuha, Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, Michael Fabiano, and The Dmitri Pokrovsky Ensemble

Great Performers Series features concerts by the Warsaw Philharmonic and Russian National Orchestra plus recitals by Itzhak Perlman, Gil Shaham, Renée Fleming with Susan Graham, and Matthias Goerne with Christoph Eschenbach

**MTT and Orchestra to record John Adams' *Absolute Jest*;
SFS Media to release American Mavericks Festival recordings of works by Henry Cowell, Lou Harrison, and Carl Ruggles, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony**

MTT leads Orchestra and pianist Yuja Wang on tours of Asia and East Coast

Four-concert series at the new Green Music Center at Sonoma State University; Orchestra to inaugurate new Bing Concert Hall at Stanford University in January 2013

San Francisco – March 5, 2012 – The [San Francisco Symphony](#) (SFS) and Music Director [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) (MTT) today announced their 2012-13 season concert programs and events, outlining an adventurous eleven-month season marked by signature concerts and staged productions that expand the boundaries of the orchestral concert experience. The Orchestra's first season in its second century combines a commitment to new and rarely heard music with in-depth explorations of core repertoire and composers, offering audiences added context and connections to the music performed.

In his 18th season as Music Director, MTT leads the Orchestra in 17 weeks of programs in San Francisco and on tour in Asia and the US. Highlights include explorations of music by Stravinsky and Beethoven, tracing both composers' early musical influences and ideas from rarely performed pieces forward through their later, well-known works. MTT will create original, staged concert productions around Grieg's *Peer Gynt* and Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* with video elements, and lead the first-ever concert performances by an orchestra of Bernstein's complete music for *West Side Story*. The Orchestra premieres new work by contemporary composers, including performances of new commissions by Jörg Widmann, Robin Holloway, and Samuel Carl Adams, and the world premiere of a work by SFS Assistant Concertmaster Mark Volkert.

On its SFS Media label, the Orchestra releases recordings from its Centennial Season performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and works from the American Mavericks Festival by Henry Cowell, Carl Ruggles, and Lou Harrison. The music of John Adams will be recorded live in concert for release on SFS Media. Soprano Renée Fleming and pianist András Schiff are this season's *Project San Francisco* resident artists, with Schiff beginning a two-year exploration of the keyboard works of Bach. The SFS continues to broaden access to music to a wider community, expanding its *Community of Music Makers* amateur workshops and instrument training and support programs for young people.

Subscription ticket packages for the [San Francisco Symphony's](#) 2012-13 season are on sale now to renewing subscribers and the general public. Ticket information is available through the San Francisco Symphony Web site at www.sfsymphony.org, through the SFS Patron Services Office 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. Single tickets for individual concerts will go on sale on July 23.

"The artistic partnership of [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) and the [San Francisco Symphony](#) continues to set the standard for music making of the highest level," said Brent Assink, SFS Executive Director. "As we begin our second century, our vision is defined by our community's abiding love of music. We offer a commitment to new music as well as to creating new ways of connecting with the core traditions of orchestral music. We continue to provide new ways for listeners to join us and make meaningful connections with our music, be it through impassioned performances in the concert hall, leading-edge media projects, or music in our schools and our community."

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS' PROGRAMS

A BEETHOVEN EXPLORATION

In May 2013, MTT leads the Orchestra in three concert programs that explore Beethoven's earliest inspirations and how they informed not only his own style but that of composers who came long after. Over the course of two

weeks, the journey traces Beethoven's advanced and often revolutionary musical ideas, culminating in enhanced performances of one of his most significant works, *Missa solemnis*.

A rare opportunity to hear the *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II*, a work written at the age of 19 and arguably Beethoven's first masterpiece, is paired with the composer's Symphony No. 2. The cantata offers a glimpse into a young Beethoven finding his musical voice and features mezzo-soprano Tamara Mumford, tenor Barry Banks, and bass-baritone Andrew Foster-Williams all making their SFS debuts, and soprano Sally Matthews returning. Mandolinist Joseph Brent makes his SFS debut in performances of Sonatina for Mandolin and Fortepiano, and the Overture from *The Creatures of Prometheus* opens the program.

The first SFS performances of *An die ferne Geliebte* (To the Distant Beloved), with tenor Michael Fabiano making his debut with the Orchestra, are paired with Symphony No. 4. The song cycle, one of the first by a major composer, was an important inspiration for later writers of song cycles, especially Schumann. The SFS brass section is showcased in the first performances of Three *Equali* for Four Trombones. The St. Lawrence String Quartet joins the Orchestra for performances of John Adams's *Absolute Jest*, an SFS co-commission inspired by Beethoven string quartets that will be premiered during the 2012 American Mavericks Festival.

For performances of Beethoven's choral masterpiece *Missa solemnis*, which will include staged elements including video projections, joining the Orchestra and Chorus are soprano Laura Claycomb, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, tenor Michael Fabiano and bass Shenyang.

"In *Missa solemnis*, Beethoven offers very powerful musical ideas," said Michael Tilson Thomas. "There are references to early music that harken back to the Renaissance but at the same time very advanced musical ideas as far forward into the future as Wagner. By using different musical forces, installations, and video, we hope to more powerfully reveal these many musical streams and the incredible impact of this work."

STRAVINSKY'S RITE REVISITED: Inspirations and Legacy of *The Rite of Spring*

In June, marking the 100th anniversary of the premiere of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, Michael Tilson Thomas leads two concert programs designed to give audiences new insight into the composer's folk music inspirations and the paradigm-shifting legacy of Stravinsky's groundbreaking ballet score. Both programs include this defining work of Stravinsky's, paired with other lesser-known music that reflects the creative roots of his work and its lasting influence. MTT first met Stravinsky as a student in Southern California and has remained one of the composer's most ardent advocates. The MTT/SFS 1999 all-Stravinsky recording won three Grammy Awards, and MTT created and hosted an hour-long documentary devoted to *The Rite of Spring* in the first season of the Orchestra's [Keeping Score](#) series on PBS.

In the first of two programs looking at the inspirations and influence of *The Rite of Spring*, MTT leads members of the Orchestra and the Russian folk music specialists The Dmitri Pokrovsky Ensemble in the rarely performed work *Les Noces*, which captures the earthly exuberance of a Russian village wedding. The program also includes *Renard*, a one-act chamber-opera ballet for which Stravinsky wrote lyrics based on Russian folk tales. The Dmitri Pokrovsky Ensemble, known for its unique singing style evoking the vitality of authentic Russian village music, also performs a selection of traditional Russian folk songs. In the second program, which traces the influences of *The Rite of Spring* into Stravinsky's later neoclassical and serial works, violinist Gil Shaham joins MTT and the Orchestra in the Violin Concerto, and MTT conducts the rarely heard ballet score *Agon*. *Agon* was last performed by the SFS in 1999 during the MTT-led Stravinsky Festival.

"The folk music he heard in Russian villages made an enormous impression on a young Stravinsky," said Michael Tilson Thomas. "In *The Rite of Spring*, he wanted to use the sophisticated symphony orchestra to evoke the wild

power of village music. His purpose is to lead us into the psychological world behind those sounds. It is one of the most revolutionary works in the history of music.”

BERNSTEIN'S *WEST SIDE STORY* – First concert performances by an orchestra of the complete music

In June, the San Francisco Symphony will be the first orchestra to perform Leonard Bernstein's complete music for the musical *West Side Story* in concert. MTT and the SFS have received permission from all four rights-holders to perform the work in its entirety in a concert setting. In 1957, Bernstein's collaboration with choreographer Jerome Robbins, writer Arthur Laurents, and lyricist Stephen Sondheim led to one of the most beloved musicals in American theater. MTT first met Bernstein several years after the *West Side Story* premiere and has conducted the iconic composer/conductor's music frequently at the SFS. With the Orchestra, MTT has led an acclaimed staged version of *On the Town* and opened Carnegie Hall's 2008 season with a Bernstein Celebration Gala that was broadcast on PBS. This complete concert version will include all of the musical numbers from the original Broadway musical. The full cast of singers will be announced at a later date.

PEER GYNT - Original suite of music in semi-staged production

In an original semi-staged concert experience based around Ibsen's epic five-act play, *Peer Gynt*, Michael Tilson Thomas will present a program of music from Edvard Grieg and other composers. The January 2013 concert program takes Grieg's Incidental Music for Ibsen's play as a touchstone, weaving in related music by other composers, among them Robin Holloway and Alfred Schnittke, offering a range of music that reflects the scope and variety of moods within the play. The presentation will include staged and dramatic elements that offer audiences a deeper perspective on this classic work of Scandinavian literature.

MTT LEADS SFS COMMISSIONS AND PREMIERES

MTT and the Orchestra continue their commitment to expanding the classical canon with new commissions and premieres, as well as first performances by composers of the core classical tradition. MTT leads the world premiere of Robin Holloway's new, SFS-commissioned arrangement of Debussy's settings of *Poems of Paul Verlaine*, sung by Renée Fleming. With Yefim Bronfman at the piano, the SFS performs the U.S. premiere of German composer [Jörg Widmann's](#) new piano concerto, an SFS co-commission. MTT also leads the world premiere of SFS Assistant Concertmaster Mark Volkert's new work for string orchestra, *Pandora*.

Tilson Thomas also conducts the first SFS performances of selections from Mozart's unfinished opera *Zaïde*, performed by the Orchestra and guest soloists. MTT leads the Orchestra in the West Coast premiere of [Samuel Carl Adams's](#) new work, *Drift and Providence*. Adams, born in 1985, is the son of composer John Adams. His music draws primarily from experimental forms, noise, jazz and structured improvisation, programming, and phonography. The work is co-commissioned with the New World Symphony in Miami Beach and MTT will conduct the world premiere there this April. Adams' new work will also be performed on the Orchestra's March 2013 East Coast tour, one year after his father's *Absolute Jest* is premiered in Carnegie Hall. MTT and the SFS also perform Italian composer Luciano Berio's mid-1970s piece *Eindrücke* for the first time.

Among other highlights of MTT's concerts with the Orchestra during the season:

- The Orchestra performs two Mahler symphonies at Davies Symphony Hall and on tour. Audiences will hear Mahler's Symphony No. 5 on the Orchestra's tour throughout Asia, and Mahler's Symphony No. 9 will be performed at Carnegie Hall and in Washington, D.C.

- An all-French program at the Orchestra's Opening Gala September 19, with violinist Joshua Bell performing Saint-Saëns's Introduction and Rondo capriccioso and Chausson's *Poème*.
- A concert week featuring Yuja Wang in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Lang Lang in Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 2, on separate programs.
- In March, Wang returns to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4.
- MTT leads the Orchestra in Bruckner's Symphony No. 7.

ADDITIONAL PREMIERES AND FIRST PERFORMANCES

In addition to the SFS premieres and two commissions being conducted by MTT, the SFS also performs the U.S. premiere of Levon Atovmyan's arrangement of Prokofiev's *Ivan the Terrible*. The SFS last performed the complete music in 1979, in the arrangement by Abram Stassevich; the new arrangement was discovered in the late 1980s. Vladimir Jurowski conducts, in his debut with the Orchestra. Also, Roberto Abbado and the Orchestra perform the U.S. premiere of Italian composer Ivan Fedele's *Scena*.

Pablo Heras-Casado conducts Magnus Lindberg's new work *EXPO* in its West Coast premiere with the SFS, and Christoph Eschenbach and baritone Matthias Goerne perform the West Coast premiere of Detlev Glanert's orchestrations of Brahms's *Four Preludes and Serious Songs*.

Additional first SFS performances include Poulenc's *Stabat mater* with the SFS Chorus and conductor Charles Dutoit; Ingvar Lidholm's *Poesis*, with Herbert Blomstedt on the podium; Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 1 with Yan Pascal Tortelier; Handel's *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day* with Bernard Labadie; Scriabin's *Reverie* with Vladimir Jurowski conducting, and the Overture to Schumann's *Genoveva* led by Roberto Abbado.

PROJECT SAN FRANCISCO: ANDRÁS SCHIFF AND RENÉE FLEMING

Pianist [András Schiff](#) and soprano [Renée Fleming](#) are this season's Project San Francisco resident artists, offering recitals and performances with the Orchestra throughout the season. Schiff begins a two-year residency in 2012-13 focused on J.S. Bach's works for solo keyboard, including the complete *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, the *French Suites*, and the *English Suites*, and works for keyboard and orchestra. Schiff is considered one of the foremost proponents of Bach's keyboard music. His recital performances are co-presented by the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Performances.

Fleming performs works by Debussy and Henri Duparc with the Orchestra and MTT, including a world-premiere work by Robin Holloway that weaves together Debussy's settings of *Poems of Paul Verlaine*. These are the first SFS performances of music by Duparc on a regular season program since 1945. The following week Fleming performs in recital with mezzo-soprano Susan Graham and pianist Bradley Moore, featuring a wide-ranging program of operatic and concert music by composers including Chausson, Debussy, and Fauré.

2012-13 SEASON OPENING

The San Francisco Symphony's 101st season opens Wednesday, September 5, 2012 with two weeks of concerts of Russian and German masterworks led by conductor Semyon Bychkov. Joining Bychkov and the Orchestra is violinist Pinchas Zukerman, performing Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1. The Orchestra performs Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, and the program opens with Wagner's Overture to *Tannhäuser*. The second week of concerts, beginning September 12, is devoted to performances of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7, *Leningrad*.

In its Opening Gala concert on September 19, Michael Tilson Thomas leads violinist Joshua Bell and the Orchestra in Saint-Saëns's Introduction and Rondo capriccioso and Chausson's *Poème*, selections from Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Ravel's *Boléro*. This year's gala is in honor of Marcia Goldman and San Francisco Symphony President John D. Goldman, in recognition of his decade of leadership as he steps down from the post in October. The Orchestra's low-priced All San Francisco community concert takes place September 20, with St. Petersburg-born violinist and Jean Sibelius Violin Competition winner Alina Pogostkina making her SFS debut performing the works by Saint-Saëns and Chausson. The Orchestra's annual free fall outdoor concert will be led by MTT at Justin Herman Plaza on September 21.

GUEST ARTISTS AND CONDUCTORS

In addition to Schiff and Fleming, the San Francisco Symphony's 2012-13 season features some of the world's most acclaimed guest conductors, instrumentalists, and singers. Returning after previous successful engagements at Davies Symphony Hall are Semyon Bychkov, who conducts two concert weeks to open the season, Charles Dutoit, Marek Janowski, David Robertson, Vasily Petrenko, Kirill Karabits, SFS Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt, Roberto Abbado, Christoph Eschenbach, Pablo Heras-Casado, Yan Pascal Tortelier, and Bernard Labadie.

Soloists include violinists Pinchas Zukerman, Joshua Bell, Julia Fischer; Arabella Steinbacher, James Ehnes, and Gil Shaham; pianists Yuja Wang, Lang Lang, Yefim Bronfman, Marc-André Hamelin, Jonathan Biss, David Fray, Stephen Hough, and Khatia Buniatishvili, and cellist Gautier Capuçon. The St. Lawrence String Quartet returns. Returning singers include soprano Renée Fleming, Laura Claycomb, and Erin Wall; mezzo-sopranos Sasha Cooke and Larissa Diadkova; tenors Nicholas Phan and Paul Groves; baritone Matthias Goerne and bass Shenyang.

Making their conducting debuts on the SFS podium are Russian conductor Vladimir Jurowski (Principal Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra), Jaap van Zweden (Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; Music Director of Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra starting in 2012-13); and Juraj Valčuha, who has debuted with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and New York Philharmonic in recent seasons. Mei-Ann Chen, music director of the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, makes her debut with the SFS in the Chinese New Year concert.

Debut artists appearing this season with the SFS include pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and violinist Alina Pogostnika. Singers include soprano Lydia Teuscher, mezzo-sopranos Tamara Mumford and Jennifer Johnson-Cano; tenors Barry Banks, Michael Fabiano, and Andrew Stenson; baritone Andrey Breus; bass-baritones Andrew Foster-Williams and Michael Sumuel; and The Dmitri Pokrovsky Ensemble.

GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES

[Andrés Schiff](#), the Symphony's Project San Francisco resident artist, performs Bach's *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Books 1 and 2; *French Suites* for Keyboard; and *English Suites* for Keyboard in a series of recitals throughout the season. His recital performances are co-presented by the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Performances.

In addition to the Schiff and Renée Fleming-Susan Graham recitals, also appearing as part of the Great Performers Series in 2012-13 are the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor Antoni Wit, making their San Francisco debut, with pianist Yulianna Avdeeva; the Russian National Orchestra with conductor Patrick Summers and pianist Daniil Trifonov; recitals with violinists Itzhak Perlman and Gil Shaham; and baritone Matthias Goerne in recital with Christoph Eschenbach on piano.

TOURS TO ASIA AND EAST COAST

In November 2012, the Orchestra makes its first concert appearances in Asia since 2006 in a three-week, seven-city tour. Visiting Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, and Tokyo, the Orchestra performs Mahler's Symphony No. 5, Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 (MTT last led the SFS in this work in SF in 2000); and works

by John Adams, Henry Cowell, and Lou Harrison. Beijing-born pianist Yuja Wang joins the Orchestra on tour performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2.

In March 2013, the Orchestra returns to New York's Carnegie Hall for two concerts and one each in Newark and Washington, D.C. Repertoire includes Mahler's Symphony No. 9, Brahms's Symphony No. 1, the New York premiere of Samuel Carl Adams's new work *Drift and Providence*, and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with Yuja Wang (in New York and Newark).

RECORDINGS

With a slate of new recordings and releases, the Orchestra's recording series on its own SFS Media label continues to reflect the artistic identity of its programming, a commitment to the work of American maverick composers alongside that of the core classical masterworks. MTT and the SFS will record three works of pioneering American composers during the American Mavericks Festival in March 2012 for release next season: Lou Harrison's Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra featuring Paul Jacobs; Henry Cowell's Piano Concerto with Jeremy Denk; and Carl Ruggles' *Sun-treader*.

Also scheduled for release during the 2012-13 season is a recording of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, *Choral*. In their concluding concerts together in the 2011-12 Centennial season, MTT leads the Orchestra and SFS Chorus in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with soloists Erin Wall, Kendall Gladen, William Burden, and Nathan Berg.

During the Beethoven weeks in May 2013, MTT and the Orchestra's performances of John Adams' *Absolute Jest* with the St. Lawrence String Quartet will also be recorded for future release. *Absolute Jest* was inspired by and based on fragments of Beethoven's scherzos for string quartets. Release dates for all recordings will be announced at a later date.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY MUSICIANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

San Francisco Symphony principal musicians are featured in variety of solo turns with the Orchestra this season. Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik leads a program of Vivaldi, Bach, and Mozart and also performs as soloist; SFS piccolo player Catherine Payne and Associate Principal Oboe Jonathan D. Fischer are also featured soloists on the program. Barantschik and Principal Viola Jonathan Vinocour are featured in performances of Benjamin Britten's Double Concerto in B minor for Violin and Viola, with Kirill Karabits on the podium. Principal Oboe William Bennett is the soloist in Richard Strauss's Oboe Concerto, led by conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier.

The San Francisco Symphony Chorus is in the spotlight during eight weeks of the 2012-13 season. With MTT on the podium, they perform music from Grieg's *Peer Gynt*, Beethoven's *Missa solemnis*, the first SFS performances of Beethoven's *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II*, and the first concert performances by an orchestra of the complete Leonard Bernstein music for *West Side Story*. Charles Dutoit leads the Chorus and Orchestra in Berlioz's *Te Deum* and the first SFS performances of Poulenc's *Stabat mater*, with soprano Erin Wall and tenor Paul Groves. The SFS Chorus performs with Vladimir Jurowski conducting the U.S. premiere of Levon Atoymyan's arrangement of Prokofiev's music from *Ivan the Terrible* with mezzo-soprano Larissa Diadkova and baritone Andrey Breus. The Chorus will also be featured in the first SFS performances of Handel's *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*, led by Bernard Labadie. Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin conducts the Chorus in Handel's *Messiah*.

GREEN MUSIC CENTER SERIES & COLLEGE CAMPUS CONCERTS

In the 2012-13 season, the San Francisco Symphony begins a four-concert, Thursday evening series at the brand new [Donald and Maureen Green Music Center](#) on the campus of Sonoma State University. With performances at the state-of-the-art, 1,400-seat Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall, MTT leads the Orchestra in the U.S. premiere of Jörg Widmann's new piano concerto with Yefim Bronfman and Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* in December, and Yuja Wang joins the Orchestra and Tilson Thomas for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 in March. In January, Charles Dutoit leads the Orchestra with violinist James Ehnes in a program of Lalo, Ravel, and Elgar's Enigma Variations, and in May, David Robertson, the Orchestra, and pianist Marc-André Hamelin perform Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Ravel's Piano Concerto in D for the Left Hand. Ravel's *La Valse* and Elliott Carter's Variations for Orchestra complete the program.

Other performances on college campuses around the Bay Area include a concert at the inaugural opening of the [Bing Concert Hall](#) at Stanford University in January 2013. The performance will be "dormcast" across the entire Stanford campus. The Orchestra also performs two concerts at the [Mondavi Center](#) at the University of California at Davis. At UCD, MTT leads the Orchestra in a concert of Mahler's Symphony No. 5 and Samuel Carl Adams's *Drift and Providence* in September 2012 and SFS Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt conducts Nielsen's Symphony No. 5 and Beethoven's Violin Concerto with Julia Fischer in April 2013.

SPECIAL CONCERTS

Special events of the San Francisco Symphony's 101st season include its annual *Día de los Muertos* Community Concert; a Halloween film presentation of *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* with Cameron Carpenter providing organ accompaniment; and the annual Chinese New Year concert and celebration with conductor Mei-Ann Chen.

The SFS offers its holiday season concerts in December, with three performances of Handel's *Messiah* with the SF Symphony Chorus led by Ragnar Bohlin; its annual performances of Prokofiev's *Peter & the Wolf* with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra at Davies Symphony Hall and Flint Center in Cupertino, the Deck the Hall children's concert and party, and the annual New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball to welcome 2013. Also for kids, the SFS offers four *Music for Families* concerts beginning in December.

The Orchestra's three-concert Organ Series for 2012-13 features Chelsea Chen making her debut at Davies Symphony Hall, and the return of organists Paul Jacobs and Cameron Carpenter.

The musicians of the SF Symphony perform both classical and contemporary repertoire in more intimate groups in two annual chamber music series, with six concerts at Davies Symphony Hall beginning October 14 and four at the Palace of the Legion of Honor.

The Orchestra offers its summer series of concerts, *Summer & the Symphony*, at Davies Symphony Hall in July 2013, with stars performing with the SFS and with their own groups, and a concert series devoted to classical masterworks.

The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra performs three concerts under the direction of Wattis Foundation Music Director Donato Cabrera, beginning in November.

Complete programs and artists for all holiday and summer concerts will be announced at a later date.

PRESIDENT JOHN D. GOLDMAN TO STEP DOWN, SAKURAKO FISHER TO ASSUME ROLE IN FALL 2012

In October, John D. Goldman, President of the SFS since 2001, will step down, completing eleven years of distinguished accomplishments central to raising the artistic profile, expanding education programs, and strengthening the use of media and technology at the 100-year-old arts institution. SFS Vice President and President-Elect Sakurako Fisher will begin her term as President at the Orchestra's Annual Meeting in October. Goldman's decade of accomplishments includes the current Centennial season celebration, and the completion of its Second Century campaign, *Keeping Score* multimedia project, 10-year Gustav Mahler recording project, and expansion of the Orchestra's education programs. Goldman, who remains on the Symphony's board of directors, will be honored at Davies Symphony Hall in a public tribute concert in October, with performances by the Orchestra, Chorus, and SFS Youth Orchestra.

"It's been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as President of the San Francisco Symphony," said Goldman. "To lead this organization through a time of incredible growth and artistic success, working alongside the always-inspiring Michael Tilson Thomas and our exceptional Executive Director, Brent Assink, as well as the many committed donors, board and staff members who contribute their heart, vision, and soul to this organization. I am confident that Sako Fisher is clearly ready, willing, and able to lead the San Francisco Symphony into its next century."

"John has been a close creative partner and friend for more than a decade, and his love of music and passion for the Orchestra is inspiring," said Tilson Thomas. "His vision and commitment for this Orchestra and for sustaining its future, both on stage and far beyond the walls of Davies Symphony Hall, has guided all of us. While he may be resigning as President, I'm sure his presence and his contributions will be felt and appreciated by all of us for a long time."

"I've long admired John's leadership and vision for not just championing the musicians' incredible level of artistry but continuing to grow and broaden the reach and impact of their music," said Sakurako Fisher. "I'm deeply honored by the support of the San Francisco Symphony and my colleagues on the board. I'm excited to serve as the next President of this incredible, vibrant, and forward-thinking institution, and to work with everyone at the Symphony to reach even greater heights."

Sakurako Fisher has been a member of the San Francisco Symphony's Board of Governors since 1992 and is currently President-Elect, Vice President of the Board of Governors and Chair of the Development Steering Committee. Active in several arts-related and educational institutions, she serves on the National Board of the Smithsonian Institution as its vice chair and chairs its development committee. She also sits on the U.S. advisory boards for the Union Centrale des Arts et Decoratifs and the Centre Pompidou. Sakurako Fisher is an advisory board member of the Department of Humanities and Sciences and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford and also serves as trustee and former vice chair of development of the Thacher School in Ojai, California. Twice chair of the board of ODC/Dance, Fisher has also served on the boards of Stern Grove and the Asian Art Museum Foundation and has recently completed a term as vice chair of the board of The Exploratorium.

MUSIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CONCERTS

In its second century, the SF Symphony continues its commitment to bringing orchestral music and access to music to people at every age and life stage. The Symphony's pioneering music education programs in San Francisco public schools make it possible for every student in grades 1-12 to experience music in the classroom. Its *Adventures in Music* program in San Francisco's public schools reaches every first through fifth grader with a

comprehensive music education program. The *Instrument Training and Support* program, expanded in 2011-12, now offers substantial instrumental support for every San Francisco public middle and high school with a music program. Through the SFS Youth Orchestra and performances on three college campuses, the SFS continues to offer connections to young adults. And for adults, the Symphony offers *Community of Music Makers* amateur music-making choral and instrumental workshops, giving people the opportunity to develop their musical skills onstage at Davies Symphony Hall with the support of the staff, musicians, and resources of the SF Symphony.

For musicians seeking rehearsal or performance partners, a new chamber musicians' convening website is being developed with San Francisco Classical Voice (sfcv.org) for launch in 2012. Also, a new sfskids.org children's music website is in development in conjunction with the University of California at Irvine Center for Computer Games and Virtual Worlds and will launch in 2012.

The San Francisco Symphony performs free and low-cost concerts throughout the year, to offer as many people as possible the opportunity to hear and experience orchestral music. The annual free fall concert at Justin Herman Plaza takes place in September, with MTT conducting the Orchestra. The Orchestra also performs its annual low-priced All-SF concert for children served by San Francisco's community groups, low-cost *Concerts for Kids*, the *Music for Families* series, and annual free summer concerts in the city parks.

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Founded in 1911 and celebrating its Centennial Season in 2011-12, the [San Francisco Symphony](#) (SFS) is widely considered to be among the country's most artistically adventurous and innovative arts institutions. The Orchestra was established by a group of San Francisco citizens, music-lovers, and musicians in the wake of the 1906 earthquake, and played its first concert on December 8, 1911. Almost immediately, the Symphony revitalized the city's cultural life. The Orchestra has grown in stature and acclaim under a succession of distinguished music directors: American composer Henry Hadley, Alfred Hertz (who had led the American premieres of *Parsifal*, *Salome*, and *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Metropolitan Opera), Basil Cameron, Issay Dobrowen, the legendary Pierre Monteux (who introduced the world to *Le Sacre du printemps* and *Petrushka*), Enrique Jordá, Josef Krips, Seiji Ozawa, Edo de Waart, Herbert Blomstedt (now Conductor Laureate), and current Music Director [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) (MTT). Led by Tilson Thomas, now in his seventeenth season as Music Director, the SFS presents more than 220 concerts annually for an audience of nearly 600,000 in its home of Davies Symphony Hall and through national and international tours.

Since Tilson Thomas assumed his post as the SFS's eleventh Music Director in September 1995, he and the San Francisco Symphony 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 for outstanding musicianship, innovative programming, highlighting the works of American composers, and bringing new audiences to classical music. In addition, the orchestra has been recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in music education and the use of multimedia, television, technology, and the web to make classical music available worldwide to as many people as possible.

In its Centennial season, the orchestra reprises its acclaimed [American Mavericks Festival](#) of music by pioneering modern American composers, featuring the world premieres of four commissioned works in two weeks of concerts at Davies Symphony Hall and on a two-week national tour, including four performances at Carnegie Hall. Its annual Project San Francisco residencies focus on artists and composers in a variety of musical settings, and in 2011-12 spotlight violinist Joshua Bell and composer Mason Bates. The San Francisco Symphony regularly mounts special weeklong semi-staged productions with multimedia, and in the Centennial Season plans a week of music from early San Francisco, hosted and curated by MTT, in addition to performances given of semi-staged

works by Debussy, Bartók, and *Polaris*, a new work from composer Thomas Adès, with video elements by artist Tal Rosner.

Since 1996, when Tilson Thomas led the Orchestra on the first of their more than a dozen national tours together, they have continued an ambitious yearly touring schedule that takes them to Europe, Asia and throughout the United States. In May and June 2011, they made a three-week tour of Europe, culminating in Vienna performances of three Mahler symphonies to commemorate the anniversaries of the composer's birth and death. Recent touring highlights also include a three-week 2011 European tour, and a 2006 Asian tour that included the Orchestra's first appearances in mainland China.

Tilson Thomas and the Orchestra have recorded all nine of Gustav Mahler's symphonies and the Adagio from the unfinished Tenth Symphony, and the composer's works for voices, chorus, and orchestra for SFS Media. Their 2009 recording with the SFS Chorus of Mahler's sweeping Symphony No. 8, *Symphony of a Thousand*, and the Adagio from Symphony No. 10 won three Grammy Awards, including Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance. The San Francisco Symphony recently released its new recording of John Adams' *Harmonielehre* and *Short Ride in A Fast Machine*, and has also recorded scenes from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, a collection of Stravinsky ballets, a Gershwin collection, and *Charles Ives: An American Journey*, among others. In addition to fourteen Grammy Awards, seven of them for the Mahler cycle, the SFS has won some of the world's most prestigious recording awards, including Japan's Record Academy Award and France's Grand Prix du Disque.

Tilson Thomas and the SFS launched the national [Keeping Score](#) PBS television series and multimedia project in 2006, to help make classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds. The project, an unprecedented undertaking among orchestras, is anchored by eight composer documentaries, hosted by Tilson Thomas, and eight live concert films, and includes www.keepingsscore.org, an innovative website to explore and learn about music; a national radio series; documentary and live performance DVD and CDs; and an education program for K-12 schools to further teaching through the arts by integrating classical music into core subjects. To date, more than nine million people have seen the *Keeping Score* television series, and the Peabody Award-winning radio series has been broadcast on almost 100 stations nationally.

The San Francisco Symphony provides the most extensive education programs offered by any American orchestra today. In 1988, the Symphony established *Adventures in Music* (AIM), a free, comprehensive music education program that reaches every first- through fifth-grade child in the San Francisco Unified School District. The SFS *Instrument Training and Support* program reaches all San Francisco public middle and high schools with instrumental music programs. In 2011-12, the Symphony expanded its educational offerings to include *Community of Music Makers*, a program that includes workshops with amateur choral and orchestral musicians, and supports musicians with professional coaching, rehearsals, and other learning opportunities. Also launching in 2012 is a revitalized children's music education website www.sfskids.org, developed in conjunction with the UC Irvine Center for Computer Games and Virtual Worlds. The SFS also offers opportunities to hear and learn about great music through its programs *Concerts for Kids*, *Music for Families*, the internationally-acclaimed SFS Youth Orchestra, and annual free and community concerts.



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