

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

FIFTEEN FIRSTS

1. The first San Francisco Symphony Music Director was an American – composer and conductor Henry Hadley (1911-1915).
2. The Orchestra performed its first concert on December 8, 1911. The program included Wagner's Prelude to Die Meistersinger, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, Haydn's Theme and Variations from the Emperor Quartet, and Liszt's Les Preludes. The Orchestra rehearsed for this performance 16 times.
3. The San Francisco Symphony's second concert was a concert for young people held on December 29, 1911, and the first series of concerts for young people began in 1922.
4. In 1924, the San Francisco Symphony was the first major American orchestra to hire women as full-time musicians other than as harpists.
5. The first San Francisco Symphony recording was of Auber's *Fra Diavolo* Overture and the Prelude and Good Friday Spell from Wagner's *Parsifal*. It was led by SFS Music Director Alfred Hertz and recorded in 1925 by the Victor Talking Machine Company, precursor to RCA Victor.
6. The San Francisco Symphony was the first orchestra with its own syndicated radio show. The Standard Symphony Hour began broadcasting in 1926 and continued as the Standard Hour until 1955.
7. The San Francisco Symphony performed the first concert held at Sigmund Stern Grove in 1932.
8. The San Francisco Symphony's first tour was to Los Angeles in 1928. Its first U.S. tour was in 1947, and its first overseas tour, to Japan, was in 1968.
9. The Symphony held its first Black and White Ball fundraiser in 1956.
10. Seiji Ozawa led the Orchestra on its first European tour in 1973. On that tour, the first radio signal ever relayed live via satellite broadcast the opening performance in Paris back home in San Francisco. The Orchestra also performed in the USSR with cellist Mstislav Rostropovich.
11. The San Francisco Symphony's first composer in residence was John Adams, in 1982. Prior to that appointment he held the position of New Music Advisor with the SFS, starting in 1978.
12. The opening concert in Davies Symphony Hall was a San Francisco Symphony performance led by then-Music Director Edo de Waart on September 13, 1980.
13. The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra performed its first season of concerts in 1981, led by their first Music Director, SFS Associate Conductor Jahja Ling.
14. The San Francisco Symphony won its first Grammy award in 1993, for a recording of Orff's *Carmina burana*, led by then-Music Director Herbert Blomstedt and featuring the San Francisco Symphony Chorus led by Vance George. As of January 2015, the San Francisco Symphony has won a total of 15 Grammy awards.
15. Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas's first performances with the San Francisco Symphony took place in 1974. He led the Orchestra as a guest conductor in performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 9.