

FACTS ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

- Founded in 1911 and performing its 102st season in 2013-2014, the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) is widely considered to be among the country's most artistically adventurous and financially stable arts institutions.
- Nearly 600,000 people hear over 220 concerts and presentations of the SFS each year.
- More than 60,000 people hear the SFS at no cost each season.
- More than 11,500 individual donors from throughout the region join businesses and foundations in supporting the SFS.
- Throughout its history, the SFS has presented over 250 world premieres, commissioned almost 100 new works, and received sixteen awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers for adventurous programming and/or commitment to American music.
- The SFS acts as a cultural ambassador for the Bay Area through its nearly 60 national and international concert tours, almost 250 recordings, including commercial videos on DVD and Blu-ray, and through its radio broadcasts, heard on more than 300 stations nationally and internationally.
- Thousands of free tickets to SFS events are provided to a wide variety of groups each season. The Symphony distributes 7,000 complimentary tickets annually to Bay Area community groups and underserved populations. In addition, the SFS annually donates hundreds of tickets to charities for auctions or other fundraising efforts.
- The low-priced All San Francisco Concert, held for more than 30 years, welcomes more than 100 local social service and neighborhood organizations.
- The SF Symphony's renowned education programs date back to 1919 and are the most comprehensive of any U.S. orchestra. The SF Symphony's second concert, in 1911, was a concert for children.
- The *Adventures in Music* (AIM) music education program is provided by the SFS at no cost to the schools and reaches every San Francisco Unified School District student in grades one through five. AIM reaches nearly 24,000 students and more than 1,100 teachers annually and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2012-2013.
- More than 26,000 Bay Area school children, teachers, and chaperones attend *Concerts for Kids* each season.
- The Orchestra continues to expand its Instrument Training Program, giving added support and lending resources to instrumental music students and teachers in SF's public middle and high schools.
- The SFS and Michael Tilson Thomas created *Keeping Score*, an unprecedented multimedia program designed to make classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds. *Keeping Score* is a national PBS television series comprising eight composer documentaries and eight live concert films; an interactive web site, www.keepingsscore.org, to explore and learn about music; a national radio series; documentary and live performance DVDs; and an education program for K-12 schools to further teaching through the arts by integrating classical music into core subjects.
- www.sfskids.org, launched in 2002, teaches children and families about music and has had more than four million visits. A newly retooled site is currently being built with the University of California at Irvine Center for Computer Games and Virtual Worlds.
- More than thirty years ago, the SFS founded the SFS Youth Orchestra, now led by Wattis Foundation Music Director Donato Cabrera. The young musicians perform annually for audiences of more than 10,000. MTT and SFS musicians coach these young players, and master classes are offered by renowned visiting guest artists, including Yo-Yo Ma, Sir Simon Rattle, David Robertson, and Midori.

- The SFS Chorus is comprised of 30 professional and 120 volunteer singers and was founded in 1973. The SFS is one of only a handful of major orchestras in the United States with its own chorus. Led by Ragnar Bohlin, the Chorus has been recognized for its excellence with multiple Grammy awards, most recently in 2010 for its performance with Tilson Thomas and the SFS in Mahler's Symphony No. 8.
- The SFS Volunteer Council is an organization of approximately 1,500 committed volunteers, whose purpose is to support the SFS in areas of fundraising, audience development, and community outreach.
- Davies Symphony Hall, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2010, was built at a cost of \$27.5 million. Named for Louise M. Davies, the largest individual contributor, the building is owned by the City of San Francisco, which contributed \$10 million toward its construction. Davies Symphony Hall underwent a successful \$10 million acoustic renovation in 1992.
- The San Francisco Symphony has won 15 Grammy Awards, including seven for its Mahler recording cycle of all of the composer's symphonies and his works for voice, orchestra and chorus.
- The San Francisco Symphony was an early pioneer of the composer-in-residence concept. John Adams was the first composer to assume that role, in 1982.

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