

Beethoven 7 & Leonore Overture No. 3
Recording on SFS Media
Press Quotes

"It's not easy to argue with a performance of the Seventh Symphony so robust and dramatic...this rendition exemplifies the best of Thomas' performing philosophy. It's constantly alert and reactive - you can practically hear the players making split-second decisions as the piece unfolds - yet there's a solid interpretive frame that keeps things going in the right direction. The outer movements especially sound fiercely kinetic, and the scherzo practically bursts out of the gate even as Thomas holds onto the reins."

- [Joshua Kosman, San Francisco Chronicle](#)

"You would be hard-pressed to ever find a better recorded performance. The dynamic range alone captures every nuance, and MTT's decision to record "live" is repaid with stunning presence and rich acoustics."

- [Philip Campbell, Bay Area Reporter](#)

"Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, is given... energetic treatment in a sweeping performance that contains fireworks (and explosive fortes) aplenty. However, Tilson Thomas never sacrifices detail in order to provide a convincing musical narrative. In particular, the poised and perfectly paced rendition of the symphony's second movement is a thing to cherish. One of several recordings SFS is releasing this year, it's well worth seeking out."

- [Christian Carey, Sequenza21](#)

"This vibrant, solid Seventh is excellent in every way and boasts the same big sonic picture of the last release."

- [Classical CD Review.com](#)

"What emerges clearly in the first seconds of the Beethoven disc is an orchestra that doesn't just play together, but thinks together, and a conductor who gives the musicians plenty to think about. Dynamics, for example, receive exceptional attention, so that even minute shifts have expressive impact. Phrases are built organically, meaningfully. The smallest details of orchestration emerge with admirable finesse and color. The strings produce a seamless tone; woodwinds exude character; the brass have bite without turning edgy... The absorbing account of the symphony is aided at every turn by the orchestra's remarkably crisp articulation."

- [Tim Smith, Baltimore Sun](#)

"Beautifully performed and recorded, with an engaging rhythmic lightness plus lots of intelligence and taste. 3 stars"

- [David Patrick Stearns, *Philadelphia Inquirer*](#)

"There's freewheeling energy here -- you can feel it -- along with beautifully refined playing by the members of the orchestra, whose close listening is palpable."

- [Rich Scheinin, *San Jose Mercury News*](#)

"The charismatic American conductor and his San Francisco Orchestra have resurrected his Beethoven. His approach is extremely solid and controlled, and the California phalanx's performance is formally and technically impeccable...although it already has a vast discography, this lovely concert reading will appeal to the conductor's fans and to hi-fi fans, who will delight in blasting their buildings awake with a demonstration sound recording, for both its overall quality and its sense of respect for detail."

- Pierre-Jean Tribot, *Res Musica* (France)