



100 YEARS

AMERICAN
Mavericks

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / January 5, 2012 **San Francisco Bay Area version**



*LtoR: Jeremy Denk, John Adams, Michael Tilson Thomas, Meredith Monk, Mason Bates, Jessye Norman and Joan La Barbara
Images of these and more American Mavericks artists are available for download from the online [American Mavericks Press Kit](#)*

**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL SEASON WITH MONTH-LONG
AMERICAN MAVERICKS FESTIVAL AND U.S. TOUR MARCH 8-30, 2012**

Iconic *American Mavericks* Festival returns in 2012 with four world-premiere commissions by John Adams, Mason Bates, Meredith Monk, and Morton Subotnick and performances by Emanuel Ax, Mason Bates, Jeremy Denk, Kiera Duffy, Paul Jacobs, Joan La Barbara, Meredith Monk, Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, Newband, Jessye Norman, PARTCH, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet

Festival includes educational partnerships, interactive online listening guides, pre- and post-concert events, release of a new all-John Adams CD, and live performance recordings of *American Mavericks* concerts for future release on SFS Media

SAN FRANCISCO, January 5, 2012 — In their 2011-12 Centennial Season Music Director [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) (MTT) and the [San Francisco Symphony](#) will break new ground with a far-reaching month-long *American Mavericks* Festival of music by pioneers of the American sound at Davies Symphony Hall March 8-18; on a national tour to Ann Arbor, Chicago and Carnegie Hall through March 30; and with educational partnerships, experiential learning and a host of new media tools to engage audiences in this path-finding music. The Festival explores the music of path-breaking composers such as Charles Ives, John Cage, Henry Cowell, Aaron Copland, Morton Feldman, Lukas Foss, Lou Harrison, Steve Reich, Terry Riley, Carl Ruggles,

David Del Tredici, and Edgard Varèse and builds on their visionary spirit with four world-premiere SFS commissions from John Adams, Mason Bates, Meredith Monk, and Morton Subotnick. The music of the *American Mavericks* Festival will feature soloists Emanuel Ax, Mason Bates, Jeremy Denk, Kiera Duffy, Paul Jacobs, Joan La Barbara, Meredith Monk, and Jessye Norman, as well as Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, PARTCH, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet. The *American Mavericks* Festival expands upon the iconic presentation of music that drew the world's attention to Davies Symphony Hall with the first *American Mavericks* Festival led by MTT in 2000.

MTT and the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony and guest soloists will perform *American Mavericks* Festival repertoire in both orchestral and small ensemble settings and explore the repertoire in unique partnerships with educational institutions Mills College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, University of Michigan, and New York area universities and conservatories. Throughout the month-long Festival the San Francisco Symphony and its *American Mavericks* partners will deepen listeners' experiences by holding master classes, educational events, pre- and post-concert activities, and by offering online resources on the comprehensive AmericanMavericks.org website, a clearinghouse for materials about the music and the Maverick composers. Throughout the month of March, [WQXR](#), the country's most listened-to classical music station, will become the broadcast hub for the *American Mavericks* by presenting an ambitious, multimedia-rich, interactive companion to the performances taking place across the country. [Q2 Music](#), WQXR's New York-based online station devoted to new music from living composers, will become the digital venue for an in-depth exploration of what it means to be an American Maverick. WQXR.org will feature a wide array of musical offerings, including a special live event with MTT.

Michael Tilson Thomas, acclaimed for championing American composers, defines a Maverick composer as someone "...pushing boundaries and exploring new sounds, either made by traditional instruments, by introducing entirely new instruments, or by using the vocabulary of electronics or sounds generated through computer technology... it's young thinking." He continues, "Even though some of them may be a hundred years old, these works are still challenging and thought-provoking today and really shake up your whole conception of things. In many ways, Mavericks have a provocative, confrontational, and amusing attitude about music. Their music contains great poetry, but it also contains a two-fisted assault on your senses, and also a sense of humor. And what many of these composers have in common is their association with California, with the San Francisco Bay Area: Cage, Harrison, Cowell, John Adams, Mason Bates, all spent very important parts of their lives in San Francisco or are from here. San Francisco has always been known for its independent, left of center spirit. What better way to mark the San Francisco Symphony's centennial season than to celebrate that creative pioneering spirit that defines this community and this Orchestra."

AMERICAN MAVERICKS CONCERT PROGRAMS

On March 8 and 9 at 8:00 pm at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco the *American Mavericks* Festival opens with music by composers who laid the groundwork for a new American sound. Charles Ives (1874-1954) is represented by his visionary *Concord* Symphony—a stunning orchestration by Henry Brant of the epic *Concord* Sonata, homage to the Transcendentalists who inspired Ives. Of the work, MTT said, "It is a tour-de-force of orchestral playing, filled with big, heartbreaking and inspiring moments which make you realize how much Ives had his pulse on the essential qualities of being an American." MTT and the SFS' 2011 recording of *Concord* Symphony is currently available from SFS Media. Aaron Copland's *Orchestral Variations*—aggressive, hard-edged, and urban—and Lou Harrison's Concerto for Organ and Percussion, a riveting and thrilling work that fuses sounds both rich and brilliant, open the program. Harrison's 1972 concerto utilizes a variety of percussion instruments from glockenspiel, vibraphone, celesta, and tube chimes to oxygen tanks and

wood drums built by Harrison's partner William Colvig. The solo organ part requires Henry Cowell-style "tone clusters" played with the palm of the hand and wooden slabs. MTT calls the work "a sonic spectacular... overwhelming!" Of Aaron Copland's 1957 *Orchestral Variations*, based upon the piano variations he wrote in 1930, which opens these concerts, the composer shared, "The *Variations* filled a special niche as the first of my works where I felt very sure of myself... The work has been called dissonant, moody, nervous, bare, stark, lonely, concise and austere. But I was utterly convinced about it, and I was not going to be upset by early unfavorable reactions."

The concerts of March 10 and 14 at 8:00 pm feature three great voices of our time: Joan La Barbara, Meredith Monk, and Jessye Norman, who, with MTT and members of the Orchestra, bring selections from John Cage's evocative and playful *Song Books* to life. Director [Yuval Sharon](#) contributes his eclectic, imaginative staging expertise to this music theater performance. Cage published his 89 *Song Books* in three volumes in 1970: two sets of Solos for Voice and a third titled Instructions containing tables and other materials for performance of some of the pieces. The collection explores a very wide variety of notation systems and some are not notated at all: the text is given using different fonts and font sizes for different words, or sometimes changing in mid-sentence. Certain solos consist only of instructions to the performer, of what he or she should do and how, although these instructions may be rather open to interpretation. For example, "Perform a disciplined action" may be an instruction, and according to Cage it does not mean "Do whatever you want," but rather a request to discipline oneself and/or free oneself of one's likes and dislikes. Many of the texts are from Henry David Thoreau's journals and Volume 3 contains a photograph of Thoreau as material for one of the solos. Other authors whose texts Cage used in the work include Norman O. Brown, Marcel Duchamp, Buckminster Fuller and Marshall McLuhan. MTT on *Song Books*: "It's a real adventure... It's a special opportunity to hear Cage *Song Books* done by such an inspired group of artists. It will be produced with lighting and projections that have come out of Cage's own drawings and paintings as well as images suggested by the texts. A lot of care and attention is going into this so that we can make the really interesting choices Cage challenges us to make."

Lukas Foss' 1967 *Phorion* for orchestra, electric piano, organ and guitar opens the March 10 and 14 concerts. The work is based on the Bach Violin Partita in E major, with performers playing silently until the conductor signals when they should become audible, then silent again, creating a "crazy quilt" of bits and pieces of the Bach. In Henry Cowell's Piano Concerto, soloist Jeremy Denk will tap into the far-flung imagination of Cowell's signature tone clusters played with the forearms. MTT on Cowell's Piano Concerto: "The piece is fun, swashbuckling, and outrageous, and it takes a very special spirit such as Jeremy Denk to really put this over with the fervor with which it was meant to be played. We've been having a lot of fun with it and I think audiences will too." The program closes with MTT and the SFS's performances of Carl Ruggles' massive, craggy orchestral *Sun-treader* from 1926-30. MTT on the composer: "Carl Ruggles was a true Maverick composer. He was Ives' best friend, and he lived in seclusion in a tiny New England town most of his life. He spent his 90-some years writing only about seven or eight pieces. But these pieces proclaim his identity from the very first notes. It's a big romantic, haunting, ecstatic sort of language, dealing with very serious things: with mournfulness and with the power of anger, and with the ability of these things to transform themselves into complex and dizzying patterns which then evolve, dissolve, into haunting music.... *Sun-treader* has always been a central piece for me in my life and it's not every orchestra that can play this. It's a huge test for the brass, but also the strings. It's swirling and rangy and has to be played in the same way that *Götterdämmerung* or a major Strauss tone poem needs to be played." Both the Cowell and Ruggles works will be recorded for future release on the Orchestra's own SFS Media label.

MTT and the SFS perform the world premieres of two SFS-commissioned works by Bay Area composers on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8:00 pm John Adams' *Absolute Jest*, a SFS and Carnegie Hall co-commission, was written for the Orchestra's Centennial season. The work is based on fragments of scherzos from Beethoven's

String Quartets and features the St. Lawrence String Quartet. “The inspiration for *Absolute Jest* was a local one,” Adams said. “It came from our own MTT, and his performance of Stravinsky’s *Pulcinella*. In this piece I heard how one composer could take material and the vitality of another composer and weave it into his own musical style and musical language... I have always been a fan of the late Beethoven string quartets. I took fragments of these scherzos and wove them together into what I think will probably be the world’s longest scherzo – a 25-minute-long high-energy scherzo.”

Mason Bates, this season’s *Project San Francisco* composer, has created a new work for the *American Mavericks* Festival scored for organ, electronica and chorus, *Mass Transmission*. “Combining ethereal choral sonorities, shimmering electronic textures, and virtuosic organ figuration, *Mass Transmission* tells the true story of distant loved ones brought together by the earliest long-distance radio transmissions,” Bates said. As part of his *Project San Francisco* composer residency Bates will contribute to educational events both in person and online and on Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 pm at Davies Symphony Hall, organist Isabelle Demers will perform Bates’ *Digital Loom* for organ and electronica in recital. On March 15-17, pianist Emanuel Ax is featured in Morton Feldman’s experimental *Piano and Orchestra*. The program concludes with Varèse’s thrilling *Amériques*. Following the concert on Friday, March 16 Mason Bates will reappear in the nightclub atmosphere of *Davies After Hours* in the second tier lobby of Davies Symphony Hall in the form of his alter-ego, DJ Masonic, joined by friends David Arend on bass, Aaron Kahn on trumpet and Gloria Justen on electric violin.

On March 11 and 18, at 2:00 pm, MTT and musicians of the SFS are featured in two chamber programs, each centered around the world premiere of an SFS commission. On March 11 Morton Subotnick’s *Jacob’s Room: Monodrama (2012)*, a chamber opera, will feature vocalist Joan La Barbara with keyboard and strings. The March 11 program also features solo piano music of Henry Cowell performed by Jeremy Denk. The band PARTCH will perform music of Harry Partch using his original instruments or replicas of those instruments in just intonation. Their selections start with his Sextets from *Castor and Pollux*. “It begins with the encounter of Zeus, the male swan, with the beautiful Leda, and ends with the hatching of the fertilized eggs - first Castor, then Pollux,” Partch explained. “From the moment of insemination, each egg uses exactly 234 beats in cracking. All of the right heavenly houses are in conjunction, and misfortune is impossible. Pairs of instruments tell the story in characteristic ways.” The program continues with *San Francisco*, which Partch described as “a setting of the cries of two newsboys on a foggy night in the twenties;” *The Letter*, which he said was “a Great Depression message from a hobo friend;” *By the Rivers of Babylon*, the setting of a psalm as Partch heard it intoned by a rabbi in San Francisco; and *Barstow*, “eight hitchhiker inscriptions from a highway railing at Barstow, California.” Partch’s works are followed by Terry Riley’s *G Song* for String Quartet performed by members of the Orchestra. On March 18, Meredith Monk premieres a new SFS-commissioned work to the stage, performed by Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble with musicians of the SFS. Also on the March 18 program is Steve Reich’s 1973 *Music for Pieces of Wood* performed on 5 pairs of tuned claves and MTT conducting David Del Tredici’s 1966 settings of two James Joyce poems, *Syzygy*, with soprano Kiera Duffy as soloist. Lukas Foss’ *Echoi* completes the program, featuring clarinet, percussion, violin, and cello in four movements using controlled improvisation. Its creation was influenced by the composer’s work with the Improvisation Chamber Ensemble in Los Angeles.

AMERICAN MAVERICKS FESTIVAL EVENTS

In addition to the programs on stage, the festival offers a variety of events to enhance the festival experience and engage audiences in the music of the *American Mavericks*.

Meet the Maverick: Charles Ives in Words and Music: A pre-concert program for all ticketholders begins at 6:30 pm on March 8 and 9 with actor David Prather and pianist Peter Grunberg highlighting Ives as a

composer, a writer, and a true American eccentric. The program will weave together musical passages from the Concord Sonata with literary passages from Ives' book [Essays Before a Sonata](#) illuminating both the musical material and the expressive intention behind this radical work. This program will also be offered in Ann Arbor on March 24.

Inside Mavericks: a participatory pre-concert event held at 6:30 pm before the concerts on March 10 and 14 in which audience members will learn to sing tone clusters and contemplate their own approach to performing selections from Cage's *Song Books* in addition to a lecture and demonstration from Walden School faculty.

Off the Podium: Following the concert on March 10 ticketholders are invited to an informal Q&A session with pianist Jeremy Denk and stage director Yuval Sharon from the stage of Davies Symphony Hall.

Davies After Hours: On Friday, March 16 following the *American Mavericks* performance of Mason Bates' new SFS commission, *Mass Transmission*, the composer will return to the nightclub atmosphere of the Second Tier lobby as DJ Masonic and spin electronic tracks and beats with friends David Arend on upright bass, Aaron Kahn on trumpet and Gloria Justen on electric violin.

Mavericks Exhibit: An exhibit featuring materials about the composers and works in the *American Mavericks* Festival will be on display in the Davies Symphony Hall Lobby in March.

American Orchestra Forum: On Saturday, March 17 from 1:30-4:30 pm at Davies Symphony Hall MTT, John Adams and Mason Bates are featured guests at the American Orchestra Forum, a season-long, nationwide dialogue on the 21st century American orchestra, in conjunction with the visits of six other major American orchestras during the SFS' Centennial 2011-12 season. The keynote address on March 17 will be given by Michael Tilson Thomas in conversation with Brent Assink, Executive Director of the San Francisco Symphony. Other sessions that afternoon will include San Francisco Symphony *Project San Francisco* Composer Mason Bates in conversation with composer John Adams, as moderated by Mark Clague, Professor of Music from the University of Michigan. Margo Drakos, cellist and chief operating officer of InstantEncore, will be in conversation with Ed Sanders Group Marketing Manager, Creative Lab at Google, moderated by Steven Winn, journalist and author. Among the topics to be explored on March 17 will be how orchestras balance tradition and innovation, how the changing technology has shaped how artists think about music, how classically trained musicians and composers straddle genres, and what some of the unique contributions of the Bay Area to musical creativity have been. Sessions are blogged live and videotaped for later streaming at symphonyforum.org. Beginning in January 2012, podcasts developed from these [free, live events](#) and behind-the-scenes discussions will be posted. The American Orchestra Forum can be followed on Twitter via [@AmOrchForum](https://twitter.com/AmOrchForum). This event is free to the public but registration at symphonyforum.org is recommended.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music American Mavericks Classes: Starting on February 7 and continuing each Tuesday evening throughout the month from 6:30-7:00 pm, the SFCM offers [a class focusing on music to be performed at American Mavericks concerts](#). Each class includes close listening of selected works. Special guests SFS Principal Percussionist Jack van Geem, pianist Peter Grunberg, and composer Charles Amirkhanian will offer inside perspectives. Call (415) 503-6229 or visit the [Conservatory's Adult Extension Programs class description page](#) for information.

American Mavericks Lecture at Jewish Community Center: Leading up to the Festival musicologist and frequent SFS pre-concert lecturer [Susan Key](#) will explore the way musical innovation in the 20th and 21st centuries has been shaped and inspired by the visual arts. [Her talk "Sight and Sound: Maverick Composers and the Visual Arts" takes place at the Jewish Community Center](#), 3200 California Street, in San Francisco on Friday, January 20 from 1:00-2:00 pm. It is free and open to the public.

AMERICAN MAVERICKS MEDIA PROJECTS

John Adams CD Release March 13: In celebration of the *American Mavericks*, MTT and the SFS will release a hybrid SACD recording of John Adams' *Harmonielehre* and *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*. The two will be released on one disc on March 13, and will be available by exclusive pre-release from the iTunes store and from the Symphony store in Davies Symphony Hall on the composer's birthday, February 15. *Harmonielehre* was recorded live during concerts held at Davies Symphony Hall December 8-11, 2010 during John Adams' Project San Francisco composer residency. *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* was recorded at the San Francisco Symphony's Centennial Season Opening Gala on September 7, 2011. The SFS commissioned and performed the world premiere of *Harmonielehre* in March 1985 and MTT commissioned *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 1986.

SFS Media Maverick Recordings: Highlighting their commitment to the music of pioneering American composers, MTT and the SFS will record three works over the course of the Festival for future release on their SFS Media label: Lou Harrison's Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra featuring Paul Jacobs, Carl Ruggles' *Sun-treader*, and Henry Cowell's Piano Concerto with Jeremy Denk. Future release dates will be announced. In February 2011 SFS Media released a recording of [Ives' Concord Symphony](#) as arranged by Henry Brant; it was named by NPR as one of the top 5 self-produced orchestra releases in 2011. This work will be performed again during the *American Mavericks* Festival on March 8 and 9 in San Francisco, March 21 in Chicago, March 24 in Ann Arbor and March 28 at Carnegie Hall.

WQXR/Q2 MUSIC: Throughout the month of March, [WQXR](#), the country's most listened-to classical music station, will become the broadcast hub for the *American Mavericks* by presenting an ambitious, multimedia-rich, interactive companion to the performances taking place across the country. [Q2 Music](#), WQXR's New York-based online station devoted to new music from living composers, will become the digital venue for an in-depth exploration of what it means to be an American Maverick. [Wqxr.org](#) will feature a wide array of musical offerings, including a special live event with MTT.

On March 26 at 7pm ET, Q2 Music will present "American Mavericks: Music and Conversation with Michael Tilson Thomas" via [live video webcast](#) from WQXR's performance venue, The Greene Space. WQXR's David Garland and Nadia Sirota will host an evening with MTT, with featured guests John Adams and the St. Lawrence String Quartet. The event will be broadcast live on 105.9 FM in New York and on [wqxr.org](#), while a video webcast will stream on [thegreenespace.org](#).

Q2 Music's month-long programming will also include pieces by American Maverick composers, with introductions to their works by composers Steve Reich, David Del Tredici, Michael Gordon, David Lang, Angelica Negron, Phil Kline, Missy Mazzoli and Ingram Marshall; interviews from the WQXR and WNYC archives with iconic Maverick composers such as John Cage, Lukas Foss, Terry Riley and Meredith Monk; insights about the music from MTT; and curated playlists from prominent composers and musicians outside the standard Western Classical tradition. Programming will be hosted by guest hosts including Mary Rowell, former ETHEL String Quartet violinist, and Joel Sachs, conductor of The New Juilliard Ensemble; Professor of Music History, Chamber Music, and New Music Performance at The Juilliard School; and biographer of Henry Cowell. Specialty shows with *American Mavericks* guests, *American Mavericks* videos, and videos from MTT will be hosted on the WQXR/Q2 Music site as well. To hear Q2 Music, visit [wqxr.org/q2music](#).

The Listening Room: An online resource for in-depth listening guides to selected works from the Festival with interactive music streaming. Three-minute compilations of excerpts from Carl Ruggles' *Sun-treader*, Varèse' *Amériques*, Ives' *Concord Symphony*, Harrison's *Organ Concerto* and Cowell's *Piano Concerto* posted to [SoundCloud](#) will allow listeners to share comments about the music at any point along the audio track as it plays. These online materials will be utilized by all the *American Mavericks* presenters and educational partners to help listeners engage more deeply with the repertoire through online and in-person discussion.

American Mavericks website: At americanmavericks.org visitors will find in depth explorations of all featured composers, original video and audio features with composers and performers, a wide variety of [multi-media resources](#) and a pdf edition of the complete book about the 2000 *American Mavericks* Festival, *American Mavericks: Musical Visionaries, Pioneers, Iconoclasts* by Susan Key and Larry Rothe. A limited number of the print versions of the book in soft and hard cover are available from the SF Symphony Store at Davies Symphony Hall and from the e-store at sfsymphony.org/store. Fans of the *American Mavericks* Festival are invited to follow Festival activity on Twitter by using the hashtag #AmMavs and Twitter accounts @mtilsonthomas and @sfsymphony.

Break The Rules Student Challenge: Students are invited to participate in challenges designed by Carnegie Hall, the San Francisco Symphony and academic partners including Mills College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, University of Michigan, and New York area universities and conservatories. The challenges involve offering creative responses to selected *American Mavericks* compositions. Creations may be submitted as audio, video, photography or descriptive prose. Information about the submission process will be posted to the AmericanMavericks.org site February 1 and student work will be featured in the [multimedia](#) section of *American Mavericks* website beginning in March.

Podcasts: Free audio program notes about Charles Ives' *A Concord Symphony*, Edgard Varèse' *Amériques* and Cowell's *Piano Concerto* will be downloadable from sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the iTunes store.

\$100 MAVERICKS PASSES TO DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

A special Mavericks Pass buys entrance to any or all Mavericks concerts for \$100 and includes two bonus items: a hybrid SACD copy of the new SFS recording of John Adams's *Harmonielehre* and *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and *Copland and the American Sound*, a *Keeping Score* DVD in which MTT and SFS musicians pay tribute to an American musical icon. Mavericks Passes are available by calling (415) 864-6000 or visiting the Box Office at Davies Symphony Hall and are not available online

Each Mavericks Pass is good for one ticket to the concerts held at Davies Symphony Hall on March 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Patrons will be asked to present their Mavericks Passes at the Box Office to redeem them, or to have the Pass available when they call to redeem by phone. The Mavericks Pass is redeemable for any seat in the house, subject to availability. Loge and Side Box seats will not be offered for the Mavericks Pass. Seats can be claimed only by calling the Box Office or in person at Davies Symphony Hall, not online. The suggested redemption time for Mavericks Passes is 24 hours in advance of each concert.

AMERICAN MAVERICKS U.S. TOUR

CHICAGO: MTT and the SFS will perform March 21 at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, presented by the CSO's Symphony Center Presents: Visiting Orchestras series. The concert program includes Cowell, Adams and Ives.

ANN ARBOR: On March 22, 23, and 24, the Orchestra performs all three *American Mavericks* orchestral programs at Hill Auditorium on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. An *American Mavericks* chamber music performance is scheduled for March 25. The four-day residency includes master classes by SFS musicians, student events, pre- and post-concert activities, and academic collaborations with university music students and faculty.

CARNEGIE HALL and the San Francisco Symphony co-present an *American Mavericks* celebration in New York culminating in four concerts by Tilson Thomas and the Orchestra (two orchestral concerts and two chamber music concerts) March 27-30, 2012. Repertoire includes four New York premieres: John Adams' *Absolute Jest* with the St. Lawrence String Quartet; Mason Bates' *Mass Transmission*, with Bates performing on electronica joined by Paul Jacobs on organ with the Young People's Chorus of New York City; and the new SFS-commissioned work by Meredith Monk and *Jacob's Room: Monodrama (2012)* by Morton Subotnick. Monk and soloists Joan La Barbara and Jessye Norman join the Orchestra to sing selections from John Cage's *Song Books*. Organist Paul Jacobs is soloist in Lou Harrison's Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra. In addition, the Orchestra performs Morton Feldman's Piano and Orchestra with Emanuel Ax, and Charles Ives' *A Concord Symphony*, arranged by Henry Brant, and works by Henry Cowell, Edgard Varèse, Carl Ruggles, Lukas Foss, David Del Tredici, Harry Partch, and Steve Reich. As part of *American Mavericks* in New York, musicians perform a series of free Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concerts in community venues throughout the city. Artists featured in neighborhood concerts include Alarm Will Sound, violinist Jennifer Koh, pianist Lisa Moore, and the JACK Quartet with special guest Steve Mackey. Also, So Percussion and guests perform a tribute to John Cage in Zankel Hall. *Mavericks*-related activities and performances surrounding the Carnegie Hall performances will also take place at other leading New York City cultural institutions, including the Anthology Film Archives, The New York Public Library, Whitney Museum of American Art, The Kitchen, (Le) Poisson Rouge, and WQXR/Q2. Additional details for Carnegie Hall *American Mavericks* performances and events will be announced by Carnegie Hall in mid-January. See [Carnegie Hall's website](#) for a full schedule of events.

ABOUT MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

Michael Tilson Thomas celebrates his 17th season as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony during the Orchestra's 2011-12 Centennial Season. In his inaugural season as Music Director in 1995, Tilson Thomas included an American work on nearly every one of his San Francisco Symphony programs, and ended the season with *An American Festival*, a groundbreaking two-week celebration of American music. In 2000, Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony presented a landmark 12-concert *American Mavericks* Festival, a celebration of America's maverick musical heritage of the 20th century. Also noted for his work as a composer, MTT has given world premieres of many of his works with the San Francisco Symphony. Michael Tilson Thomas's recordings with the San Francisco Symphony have won numerous international awards, including 11 Grammys. Committed to reaching new audiences and increasing access to orchestral music, MTT and the SFS created the acclaimed national [Keeping Score](#) PBS television series and multimedia project. He is founder and artistic director of America's Orchestral Academy, the New World Symphony in Miami, and he has led both YouTube Symphony Orchestra programs in Carnegie Hall and Sydney, Australia.

More complete biographical information about Michael Tilson Thomas can be found [here](#) as part of his [San Francisco Symphony online press kit](#).

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Founded in 1911, the [San Francisco Symphony](#) (SFS) celebrates its Centennial Season in 2011-12 and is widely considered to be among the country's most artistically adventurous and innovative arts institutions. Under Music Director [Michael Tilson Thomas](#), the SFS performs and presents more than 220 concerts

annually for an audience of nearly 600,000 in its home of Davies Symphony Hall and through an active national and international touring program. Since its inception and founding as an orchestra “for the people,” the SFS has played a leading role in the musical life of its community, offering one of the most comprehensive music education and community programs of any orchestra in the world. The San Francisco Symphony maintains a wide-ranging series of educational programs serving over 75,000 children in the Bay Area and millions of children and families around the globe, including comprehensive music education for students K-12, concerts for families and young people, its own Youth Orchestra and the innovative children’s website SFSKids.org. Since it became the first orchestra to have its concerts broadcast over the airwaves in 1935, the SFS reaches millions more around the world with its music through its *Keeping Score* multimedia projects, syndicated television and radio broadcasts, websites, and recordings on its own label, SFS Media.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional details and rich media resources about the *American Mavericks* Festival can be found online at americanmavericks.org. Press releases with weekly up-to-the-minute information about the Festival and Tour will be disseminated to media, and posted to the [San Francisco Symphony’s online press room](#) closer to the time of the performances.

Lead Underwriters of the American Mavericks Festival are David & Roberta Elliott and Lyman & Carol Casey.

Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Columbia Foundation, the Paul L. Wattis Foundation, and The Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

The March 8 and 9, 2012 performances are made possible through the generosity of KPMG LLP.

First performances of Jacob’s Room: Monodrama (2012) by Morton Subotnick commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony with the support of the Ralph I. Dorfman Commissioning Fund.

Additional support for the concert on March 11 is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Columbia Foundation, and the Paul L. Wattis Foundation.

Absolute Jest, by John Adams, was commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony with the support of the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Works of Music.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: *American Mavericks Festival*

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue

[Thursday, March 8 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, March 9 at 8 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*

Paul Jacobs *organ*

San Francisco Symphony

Copland *Orchestral Variations*

Harrison *Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra**

Ives (orch. Brant) *A Concord Symphony*

Meet the Maverick: Charles Ives in Words and Music, a special pre-concert presentation by actor David Prather and pianist Peter Grunberg on the music of Charles Ives begins at 6:30 pm. Free to all ticketholders.

Audio Program Notes: A free audio podcast about Ives' *A Concord Symphony* will be downloadable from sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the iTunes store.

CD Signings: Following the concerts on March 8 and 9 Paul Jacobs will sign copies of his CDs in the Symphony store.

Tickets: \$15-\$145. Available at sfsymphony.org, 415-864-6000, or the [Davies Symphony Hall Box Office](#) on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

\$100 Mavericks Passes buy entrance to any or all American Mavericks Festival concerts and include two bonus items: a hybrid SACD copy of the new SFS recording of John Adams's Harmonielehre and Short Ride in a Fast Machine and Copland and the American Sound, a Keeping Score DVD in which MTT and SFS musicians pay tribute to an American musical icon. Mavericks Passes are available by calling (415) 864-6000 or visiting the Box Office at Davies Symphony Hall. Mavericks Passes are not available online

Please note: Each Mavericks Pass is good for one ticket to the following concerts: March 8, 9, 10 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Present your Mavericks Pass at the Box Office or have your Pass available when you call to redeem. The pass is redeemable for any seat in the house, subject to availability. Loge and Side Box not available. Seats can be claimed only by calling the Box Office or in person at Davies Symphony Hall. Suggested redemption: 24 hours in advance for best service.

** Performances of Lou Harrison's Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra featuring Paul Jacobs will be recorded for future release on SFS Media*

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: *American Mavericks Festival*

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue

[Saturday, March 10 at 8 pm*](#)

[Wednesday, March 14 at 8 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*

Joan La Barbara *vocalist*
Meredith Monk *vocalist*
Jessye Norman *soprano*
Jeremy Denk *piano*
San Francisco Symphony
Yuval Sharon, *stage director*

Foss *Phorion*
Cowell *Piano Concerto***
Cage selections from *Song Books*
Ruggles *Sun-treader***

Inside Mavericks, a special interactive pre-concert presentation where audience members will learn to sing tone clusters and contemplate their own approach to performing selections from Cage's *Song Books* begins 90 minutes before the concert at 6:30 pm. Free to all ticket holders.

Post Concert Q&A: Following the concert on **March 10***, *Off the Podium*, an informal Q&A session, will feature Jeremy Denk and stage director [Yuval Sharon](#). Both these events are free to all ticketholders.

Audio Program Notes: A free audio podcast about Cowell's *Piano Concerto* will be downloadable from sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the iTunes store.

Tickets: \$35-\$145. Available at sfsymphony.org, 415-864-6000, or the [Davies Symphony Hall Box Office](#) on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

\$100 Mavericks Passes buy entrance to any or all American Mavericks Festival concerts and include two bonus items: a hybrid SACD copy of the new SFS recording of John Adams's Harmonielehre and Short Ride in a Fast Machine and Copland and the American Sound, a Keeping Score DVD in which MTT and SFS musicians pay tribute to an American musical icon. Mavericks Passes are available by calling (415) 864-6000 or visiting the Box Office at Davies Symphony Hall. Mavericks Passes are not available online

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** date change since last calendar listing*

*** Performances of Carl Ruggles' Sun-treader and Henry Cowell's Piano Concerto with Jeremy Denk will be recorded for future release on SFS Media*

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Festival [Sunday, March 11 at 2 pm](#)

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue

Joan La Barbara *vocalist*
Jeremy Denk *piano*
PARTCH

Members of the San Francisco Symphony

Cowell Selections for Solo Piano

Terry Riley *G Song for String Quartet**

Morton Subotnick *Jacob's Room: Monodrama* (2012) (World Premiere; San Francisco Symphony Commission)

Partch Sextet from *Castor and Pollux, San Francisco, The Letter, By the Rivers of Babylon, Barstow*

On Sunday, March 11 at 1:00 pm an Inside Mavericks discussion will be held on stage at Davies Symphony Hall before the 2:00 pm performance. Inside Mavericks will bring together participants in the hall and those online for a live discussion about American Mavericks repertoire with a musician from the San Francisco Symphony orchestra. To listen to the music in advance and download a pdf Listening Guide visit americanmavericks.org. Free to all ticketholders.

Tickets: \$36. Available at sfsymphony.org, 415-864-6000, or the [Davies Symphony Hall Box Office](#) on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

\$100 Mavericks Passes buy entrance to any or all American Mavericks Festival concerts and include two bonus items: a hybrid SACD copy of the new SFS recording of John Adams's *Harmonielehre* and *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and Copland and the American Sound, a *Keeping Score DVD* in which MTT and SFS musicians pay tribute to an American musical icon. Mavericks Passes are available by calling (415) 864-6000 or visiting the Box Office at Davies Symphony Hall. Mavericks Passes are not available online

Please note: Each Mavericks Pass is good for one ticket to the following concerts: March 8, 9, 10 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Present your Mavericks Pass at the Box Office or have your Pass available when you call to redeem. The pass is redeemable for any seat in the house, subject to availability. Loge and Side Box not available. Seats can be claimed only by calling the Box Office or in person at Davies Symphony Hall. Suggested redemption: 24 hours in advance for best service.

* repertoire not previously announced

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Festival

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue

[Thursday, March 15 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, March 16 at 8 pm](#)*

[Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Emanuel Ax piano

Paul Jacobs organ

Mason Bates *electronica*

St. Lawrence String Quartet Geoff Nuttall and Scott St. John, violin; Lesley Robertson, viola; Christopher Costanza, cello

San Francisco Symphony Chorus Ragnar Bohlin, director

San Francisco Symphony

Mason Bates *Mass Transmission* (San Francisco Symphony commission; world premiere)

John Adams *Absolute Jest* (San Francisco Symphony & Carnegie Hall co-commission; world premiere)

Feldman Piano and Orchestra

Varèse *Amériques*

The *Inside Music* pre-concert lectures will feature appearances by John Adams and Mason Bates. Talks begin one hour prior to each of the concerts and are open to all ticket holders.

**Davies After Hours:* On Friday, March 16 following the *American Mavericks* performance of Mason Bates' new SFS commission, *Mass Transmission*, the composer will return to the Second Tier lobby-turned-lounge as DJ Masonic and spin electronic tracks and beats with friends David Arend on upright bass, Aaron Kahn on trumpet and Gloria Justen on electric violin. Cash Bar. Free to March 16 ticketholders.

Audio Program Notes: A free audio podcast about Varèse' *Amériques* will be downloadable from sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the iTunes store.

Tickets: \$35-\$145. Available at sfsymphony.org, 415-864-6000, or the [Davies Symphony Hall Box Office](#) on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

\$100 Mavericks Passes buy entrance to any or all American Mavericks Festival concerts and include two bonus items: a hybrid SACD copy of the new SFS recording of John Adams's Harmonielehre and Short Ride in a Fast Machine and Copland and the American Sound, a Keeping Score DVD in which MTT and SFS musicians pay tribute to an American musical icon. Mavericks Passes are available by calling (415) 864-6000 or visiting the Box Office at Davies Symphony Hall. Mavericks Passes are not available online

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AMERICAN ORCHESTRA FORUM: Talking About Creativity

Sat, March 17, 2012, 1:30-4:30 pm

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco

Please note: This three-hour program is comprised of multiple sessions, with breaks in between.

Program: How do orchestras balance tradition and innovation? How has changing technology shaped how artists think about music, how they are trained, and how we experience it? How do classically trained musicians and composers straddle genres? What have been some of the unique contributions of the Bay Area to musical creativity?

Keynote Conversation: Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director, San Francisco Symphony, in conversation with Brent Assink, Executive Director, San Francisco Symphony

Spotlight #1: Mason Bates, composer, in conversation with John Adams, composer, moderated by Mark Clague, University of Michigan

Spotlight #2: Margo Drakos, cellist and chief operating officer, InstantEncore, in conversation with Ed Sanders, Group Marketing Manager, Creative Lab at Google; moderated by Steven Winn

Roundtable discussion: Spotlight speakers with Mark Clague and Steven Winn

Tickets: These events are free; no tickets are required. Advance registration is recommended at www.symphonyforum.org.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: *American Mavericks Festival* [Sunday, March 18 at 2 pm](#)

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
Kiera Duffy *soprano*
Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble *vocalists*
Jeremy Denk *piano*
Members of the San Francisco Symphony

Meredith Monk *Realm Variations* (World Premiere; San Francisco Symphony commission)
Steve Reich *Music for Pieces of Wood*
Foss *Echoi*
David Del Tredici *Syzygy*

Tickets: \$36. Available at sfsymphony.org, 415-864-6000, or the [Davies Symphony Hall Box Office](#) on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

\$100 Mavericks Passes buy entrance to any or all American Mavericks Festival concerts and include two bonus items: a hybrid SACD copy of the new SFS recording of John Adams's Harmonielehre and Short Ride in a Fast Machine and Copland and the American Sound, a Keeping Score DVD in which MTT and SFS musicians pay tribute to an American musical icon. Mavericks Passes are available by calling (415) 864-6000 or visiting the Box Office at Davies Symphony Hall. Mavericks Passes are not available online

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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: *American Mavericks Tour* [Wednesday, March 21 at 8 pm](#)

Orchestra Hall
220 South Michigan Ave, Chicago

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
St. Lawrence String Quartet *Geoff Nuttall and Scott St. John, violin; Lesley Robertson, viola; Christopher Costanza, cello*
San Francisco Symphony

Cowell *Synchrony*
John Adams *Absolute Jest* (San Francisco Symphony & Carnegie Hall co-commission)
Ives (orch. Brant) *A Concord Symphony*

Tickets: \$25-\$180. Available at cso.org, by phone at 312-294-3000, or at the Orchestra Hall Box Office

at 230 Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Tour

[Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 pm](#)

Hill Auditorium
825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
Paul Jacobs *organ*
Jeremy Denk *piano*
Mason Bates *electronica*
University of Michigan Chamber Choir *Jerry Blackstone, director*

Copland Orchestral Variations
Cowell Piano Concerto
Mason Bates *Mass Transmission* (San Francisco Symphony commission)
Harrison Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra

Tickets: \$10-\$75. Available at ums.org, by phone at 734-764-2538, or at the Michigan League Ticket Office at 911 N. University Avenue, Ann Arbor.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Tour

[Friday, March 23 at 8 pm](#)

Hill Auditorium
825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
Joan La Barbara *vocalist*
Meredith Monk *vocalist*
Jessye Norman *soprano*
St. Lawrence String Quartet *Geoff Nuttall and Scott St. John, violin; Lesley Robertson, viola; Christopher Costanza, cello*
San Francisco Symphony
Yuval Sharon, *stage director*

Cowell *Synchrony*
John Adams *Absolute Jest* (San Francisco Symphony co-commission)
Cage Selections from *Song Books*
Varèse *Amériques*

Inside Mavericks, a special interactive pre-concert presentation by composer Eliza Brown takes place at 6:30 pm before the concert. This event is free and open to the general public.

Tickets: \$10-\$75. Available at ums.org, by phone at 734-764-2538, or at the Michigan League Ticket Office at 911 N. University Avenue, Ann Arbor.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Tour

[Saturday, March 24 at 8 pm](#)

Hill Auditorium
825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
Emanuel Ax *piano*
San Francisco Symphony

Ruggles *Sun-treader*
Feldman *Piano and Orchestra*
Ives (orch. Brant) *A Concord Symphony*

Meet the Maverick: Charles Ives in Words and Music, a special pre-concert presentation by actor David Prather and pianist Peter Grunberg on the music of Charles Ives, takes place at 6:30 pm before the concert. This event is free and open to the general public.

Tickets: \$10-\$75. Available at ums.org, by phone at 734-764-2538, or at the Michigan League Ticket Office at 911 N. University Avenue, Ann Arbor.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Tour

[Sunday, March 25 at 4 pm](#)

Rackham Auditorium
915 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*
Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble *vocalists*
Joan La Barbara *vocalist*
Kiera Duffy *soprano*
Jeremy Denk *piano*
Members of the San Francisco Symphony

Meredith Monk *Realm Variations* (San Francisco Symphony commission)
Foss *Echoi*
Morton Subotnick *Jacob's Room: Monodrama* (2012) (San Francisco Symphony commission)
David Del Tredici *Syzygy*

Tickets: \$20-\$42. Available at ums.org, by phone at 734-764-2538, or at the Michigan League Ticket Office at 911 N. University Avenue, Ann Arbor.

Q2 Music presents American Mavericks: Music and Conversation with Michael Tilson Thomas

Monday, March 26 at 7:00 pm

On March 26 at 7pm ET, Q2 Music will present “*American Mavericks: Music and Conversation with Michael Tilson Thomas*” via [live video webcast](#) from WQXR’s performance venue, The Greene Space. WQXR’s David Garland and Nadia Sirota host an evening with San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas featuring the music of John Adams, John Cage and others. Featured guests include John Adams and the St. Lawrence String Quartet. The event will broadcast live on 105.9 FM in New York and on wqxr.org, while a video webcast will stream on thegreenspace.org

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Tour

[Tuesday, March 27 at 8 pm](#)

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall
57th Street and 7th Avenue, New York

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*

Joan La Barbara *vocalist*

Meredith Monk *vocalist*

Jessye Norman *soprano*

St. Lawrence String Quartet *Geoff Nuttall and Scott St. John, violin; Lesley Robertson, viola; Christopher Costanza, cello*

San Francisco Symphony

Yuval Sharon, *stage director*

Cowell *Synchrony*

John Adams *Absolute Jest* (San Francisco Symphony & Carnegie Hall co-commission; New York premiere)

Cage *Selections from Song Books*

Varèse *Amériques*

Tickets: \$10-\$75. Available at carnegiehall.org, 212-247-7800, or at the Box Office at 57th Street and Seventh Avenue in New York City.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Tour

[Wednesday, March 28 at 8 pm](#)

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall
57th Street and 7th Avenue, New York

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor*

Emanuel Ax *piano*

San Francisco Symphony

Ruggles *Sun-treader*

Feldman *Piano and Orchestra*

Ives (orch. Brant) *A Concord Symphony*

Tickets: \$10-\$75. Available at carnegiehall.org, 212-247-7800, or at the Box Office at 57th Street and Seventh Avenue in New York City.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Tour

[Thursday, March 29 at 8:30 pm](#)

Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall
57th Street and 7th Avenue, New York

Michael Tilson Thomas *conductor and host*

Kiera Duffy *soprano*

Paul Jacobs *organ*

Mason Bates *electronica*

Newband *Dean Drummond and Stefani Starin, directors*

Young People's Chorus of New York City *Francisco J. Núñez, Artistic Director*

Members of the San Francisco Symphony

Mason Bates *Mass Transmission* (New York premiere; San Francisco Symphony commission)

David Del Tredici *Syzygy*

Partch *Selected works*

Harrison *Concerto for Organ and Percussion Orchestra*

Tickets: \$50. Available at carnegiehall.org, 212-247-7800, or at the Box Office at 57th Street and Seventh Avenue in New York City.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY: American Mavericks Tour

[Friday, March 30 at 8:30 pm](#)

Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall
57th Street and 7th Avenue, New York

Jeffrey Milarsky *conductor*

Joan La Barbara *vocalist*

Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble *vocalists*

Jeremy Denk *piano*

Members of the San Francisco Symphony

Meredith Monk *Realm Variations* (New York premiere; San Francisco Symphony commission)

Steve Reich *Music for Pieces of Wood*

Foss *Echoi*

Morton Subotnick *Jacob's Room: Monodrama (2012)* (New York premiere; San Francisco Symphony commission)

Tickets: \$50. Available at carnegiehall.org, 212-247-7800, or at the Box Office at 57th Street and Seventh Avenue in New York City.

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