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CONDUCTOR SEMYON BYCHKOV LEADS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN TWO WEEKS OF CONCERTS NOVEMBER 6-14 FEATURING AN ALL-RACHMANINOFF PROGRAM AND THE SF SYMPHONY DEBUT OF CELLIST GAUTIER CAPUÇON

Conductor [Semyon Bychkov](#) will lead the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in two weeks of concerts November 6-14 in Davies Symphony Hall. The first week of concerts will be an all-Rachmaninoff program, featuring the composer's *The Bells* and Symphony No. 2. Soloists performing in *The Bells* are soprano Nuccia Focile (making her SF Symphony debut), tenor Frank Lopardo, and baritone Mikhail Petrenko. The San Francisco Symphony Chorus is featured on *The Bells*. Bychkov has recorded both works with the WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln for CD and DVD. The second week features the first SFS performances since 1998 of [Henri Dutilleux's](#) *Métaboles* (1965) and the SFS debut of cellist [Gautier Capuçon](#) in Schumann's Cello Concerto. The previously scheduled U.S. premiere of Detlev Glanert's new work *Shoreless River (Fluss ohne Ufer)* will not be performed at these concerts.

Bychkov is a [particularly ardent advocate](#) of Rachmaninoff's. "I love the Second Symphony, which of course is a very different Rachmaninoff, a young man with absolutely crazy talent," he writes. "The orchestration is extraordinary: everything is overblown, yet I don't care, because I think a man of that age is supposed to overdo things. It would be a pity to see someone so young acting old and wise." Dutilleux, Bychkov says, is "among the composers from whom [I have] learned the most. Every note is precious, and he has not written many. It is very mysterious music, as mysterious as the person himself, the beautiful product of an independent mind. Forty years ago, just as ever, it took someone very strong to write music that went against the trend, to survive and not be broken."

[Gautier Capuçon](#), 28, won the French *Victoires de la Musique* as "New Talent of the Year" in 2001, and has since established himself as one of the leading cellists of his generation. Born in Chambéry, France, Capuçon began cello studies at age 5. His musical experiences progressed greatly while playing in the European Community Youth Orchestra and the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, and with conductors Bernard Haitink, Kent Nagano, Pierre Boulez, Daniele Gatti, Seiji Ozawa and Claudio Abbado. In 2006, he made critically acclaimed debuts with The Philadelphia Orchestra under Charles Dutoit and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under Hans Graf. The 2007-2008 season included his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra under Leonard Slatkin, a return engagement with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and a debut trio tour with his brother, Renaud Capuçon.

