

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.orgwww.sfsymphony.org/press**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / March 11, 2010**

(San Francisco Symphony Chorus Members; Ragnar Bohlin, Director, San Francisco Symphony Chorus; composer Fredrik Sixten)

**SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY CHORUS PERFORMS WORLD PREMIERE
OF SFS COMMISSIONED FREDRIK SIXTEN'S *LET THERE BE*
AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL SUNDAY, APRIL 11 AT 4:00 P.M.**

**Concert also features performances of Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*,
Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and a host of Swedish Choral Works**

WHAT:

The San Francisco Symphony Chorus, led by Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin, performs the world premiere of the SFS-commissioned *Let There Be* for choir and percussion by Swedish composer Fredrik Sixten on Sunday, April 11 at 4:00 p.m. in Davies Symphony Hall. In this concert the Chorus will also perform Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*, movements 1-6, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and a selection of works by other Swedish composers. Tickets for this special concert are \$20-\$30.

[Ragnar Bohlin](#) began his tenure as Chorus Director of the San Francisco Symphony in March 2007. He served as choirmaster of Stockholm's Maria Magdalena Church and holds a master's degree in organ and conducting and a postgraduate degree in conducting from the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. With Stockholm's KFUM Chamber Choir, the Maria Magdalena Motet Choir and the Maria Vocal Ensemble, Bohlin has toured internationally and won numerous prizes in international competitions. In February of this year he toured the U.S. as Guest Conductor of the Swedish Radio Choir to much critical acclaim. He has prepared choruses for some of the world's foremost conductors including Herbert Blomstedt, Valery Gergiev, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Alan Gilbert. In October 2007 Mr. Bohlin conducted the world premiere of a new requiem by Fredrik Sixten featuring choir, orchestra, and two soloists that

was broadcast on Swedish Public Radio. Bohlin and the Maria Magdalena Motet Choir's CD recording of Sixten's Saint Mark Passion, which they gave its world premiere, and another recording, *Mysterium*, featuring mainly a *cappella* music, were released in Sweden in 2008. In October 2008 he conducted a performance with trombonist/composer Christian Lindberg and the Swedish Radio Choir which was also recorded for release on CD. Bohlin has been awarded the prestigious Johannes Norrby Medal for expanding the frontiers of Swedish choral music making. This year the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus garnered three Grammy Awards for their recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8, including for Best Choral Performance under the direction of Ragnar Bohlin.

[Sven Fredrik Johannes Sixten](#) is a Swedish composer, cathedral organist and conductor. He was born in 1962 in Skövde, Sweden and earned his Bachelor of Arts in 1986 at the Royal College of Music, Stockholm. Sixten is recognized as one of Sweden's best-known composers of church music. He holds the position of cathedral organist of Härnösand's Cathedral. He was the conductor of Gothenburg's Boys Choir between 1997 and 2001. His music is represented on several CD recordings. Sixten has composed three oratorios including a Swedish St. Mark Passion for two choirs, chamber orchestra and soloists (2004), the first passion setting composed in the Swedish language. It has garnered considerable acclaim, and has been performed 40 times since its premiere, which was conducted by Ragnar Bohlin. Sixten's composition to be premiered by the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, *Let There Be* for choir and percussion, with lyrics written by the Swedish author and poet Maria Küchen, was commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony. Sixten has been recognized with many awards including the Stockholm Music Association: "Composer of the Year" 2010.

WHO: [Ragnar Bohlin](#), conductor
[San Francisco Symphony Chorus](#)
Members of the San Francisco Symphony

PROGRAM: [Fredrik Sixten](#) / *Let There Be* (SFS Commission, world premiere)
Norman / *Jordens oro viker*
Ingvar Lidholm / *...a riveder le stelle*
 Pamela Sebastian, soprano
Johanson / *Fancies II*
Lars Edlund / *Tvenne Folkvisor* (Two Folksongs)
 Ant han dansa med mej ("Ant is Dancing With Me")
 Femton finnar ("Fifteen Finns")
 Keith Perry, tenor
Rachmaninoff / *Vespers, Opus 37, movements 1-6*
 Dianne M. Terp, mezzo-soprano
 Kevin Gibbs, tenor
Bernstein / *Chichester Psalms*
 Zachary Weisberg, boy soprano
 Cindy Wyvill, soprano
 Heidi L. Waterman, mezzo-soprano
 Thomas Busse, tenor
 Michael Taylor, baritone

WHERE: Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$20-\$30; tickets are available at sfsymphony.org, by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

This concert is made possible through the generosity of The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.

-SFS-