

Contact:
Public Relations
San Francisco Symphony
(415) 503-5474
publicrelations@sfsymphony.org
sfsymphony.org/press
community.sfsymphony.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE /May 5, 2009



**SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY APPOINTS DONATO CABRERA
AS ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
AND WATTIS FOUNDATION MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

San Francisco, May 5, 2009 – The [San Francisco Symphony](http://www.sfsymphony.org) (SFS) today announced the appointment of [Donato Cabrera](#) as Assistant Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and Wattis Foundation Music Director of the [San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra](#) (SFSYO) beginning in September 2009. Mr. Cabrera is currently an Assistant Conductor for the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and San Francisco Ballet. Cabrera made his San Francisco Symphony debut in April 2009 when he conducted the Orchestra with 24 hours notice, in a program of Mozart’s Symphony No. 38 and Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Ravel’s orchestration of Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Cabrera has worked with the young musicians of the SFSYO in rehearsal and as a judge in the Orchestra’s Concerto Competition.

In his SFS positions, Mr. Cabrera will take the helm of the internationally acclaimed SFSYO and serve as Assistant Conductor of the SFS, working closely with Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and leading the Orchestra in April 2010 subscription concerts featuring Charlie Chaplin’s *The Gold Rush*. He will also conduct the San Francisco Symphony in selected *Concerts for Kids*, *Adventures in Music* and *Music for Families* concerts, which annually draw more than 60,000 young people and their families from throughout the Bay Area to Davies Symphony Hall.

“I have long been an admirer of the San Francisco Symphony and its Youth Orchestra and I am incredibly excited to have the opportunity to work with Michael Tilson Thomas, the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony, and the tremendous young musicians that make up the SFSYO,” said Donato Cabrera. “The San Francisco Symphony is recognized nationally as an institution that is devoted to nurturing and developing its musical community and I am thrilled to be joining this inspiring team.”

“Donato Cabrera is an insightful musician with an established career as a conductor but also has a passion for introducing young people to music,” said SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas. “I look forward to collaborating with him in developing new audiences in San Francisco and watching him lead the outstanding young musicians of the Youth Orchestra.”

Mr. Cabrera is currently an Assistant Conductor for the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and San Francisco Ballet. From 2005 to 2008, Cabrera was Associate Conductor of San Francisco Opera, where he participated in the world premiere of John Adams’s *Doctor Atomic* and conducted performances of *Die Fledermaus*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tannhäuser*, and *The Magic Flute*. While at San Francisco Opera, he was also assistant conductor for *The Rake’s Progress*, *La Rondine*, *La Forza del destino*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Das Rheingold*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, and *Tristan und Isolde*. In March 2009, Cabrera was asked to be one of eight participants in the biennial 2009 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, leading the Nashville Symphony over two days in a variety of works. In March 2008, Mr. Cabrera made his debut with Berkeley Opera, conducting *L’Elisir d’amore*. He made his South American debut last summer conducting *Madama Butterfly* with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Concepción in Chile; the success of those performances led to an invitation to conduct the ensemble’s 2009 season operatic production as well as symphonic and choral concerts. A champion of new music, Mr. Cabrera was Music Director and co-founder of the American Contemporary Music Ensemble; he has conducted ACME in works by John Adams, Jacob Druckman, Donald Martino, Frederic Rzewski, and Elliott Carter. He is dedicated to music education and has worked with members of the young artist programs of the San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Portland Opera. He was also a frequent conductor of Young People’s Concerts with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. In 2002, Mr. Cabrera was a Herbert von Karajan conducting fellow at the Salzburg Festival. He has also served as Assistant Conductor at the Ravinia, Spoleto (Italy), and Aspen Music Festivals, and as Resident Conductor at the Music Academy of the West. Cabrera holds degrees from the University of Nevada and the University of Illinois. He has pursued graduate studies in conducting at Indiana University and the Manhattan School of Music.

For more information, please contact the SFS Communications Department at (415) 503-5474 or publicrelations@sfsymphony.org.