

Contact:  
Public Relations  
San Francisco Symphony  
(415) 503-5474  
[publicrelations@sfsymphony.org](mailto:publicrelations@sfsymphony.org)  
[www.sfspressroom.org](http://www.sfspressroom.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / UPDATED March 16, 2010**



**DUNCAN SHEIK TO PERFORM SONGS FROM *WHISPER HOUSE* WITH  
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY APRIL 7-10, 2010 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**SFS to also perform Poulenc's Suite from *Les Biches*, Gounod's Ballet Music from *Faust*, and  
Claude Vivier's *Zipangu* in these concerts**

---

**WHAT:** Grammy- and two-time Tony Award-winning singer and composer [Duncan Sheik](#) (*Spring Awakening*) will perform the world premiere of the orchestral arrangement of a suite of songs from his latest work, [Whisper House](#), with the San Francisco Symphony April 7-10, 2010 at Davies Symphony Hall. The San Francisco Symphony has commissioned new orchestrations of the songs from *Whisper House*, arranged by Simon Hale, which Sheik will sing with the Orchestra. The songs, written by Sheik and Kyle Jarrow, are from the musical *Whisper House*, Sheik's follow-up to his score for the Tony-winning, Broadway musical *Spring Awakening*. Guest musicians Gerry Leonard on guitar and Holly Brook on piano and vocals join Sheik.

Sheik's performance with the Orchestra is part of a program that includes other music for the stage: Poulenc's Suite from *Les Biches*, premiered by the Ballets Russes, and Gounod's Ballet Music from his opera *Faust*. The Orchestra also performs a rarely heard work by the late Canadian composer Claude Vivier, *Zipangu*. Former SFS Resident Conductor Edwin Outwater leads the Orchestra.

*Whisper House* is the story of an 11-year-old boy, Christopher, who lives with his aunt in a haunted New England lighthouse following the death of his father. The ghosts, who sing all the songs on *Whisper House*, embody the boy's subconscious thoughts and fears. The stage production of

*Whisper House* had its world premiere at The Old Globe in San Diego in January 2010. The *Los Angeles Times* called the work “a hybrid alt-rock concert-psychological ghost story” and “an occult charmer.” The score was released on CD by Sony in January 2009.

**Duncan Sheik’s** music is perhaps most familiar to Bay Area audiences through the hugely successful run of *Spring Awakening* at the Curran Theater in 2008. The musical was a hit, off- and on Broadway, and is currently touring internationally. Sheik won two 2007 Tony Awards, as composer and arranger, and a 2008 Grammy Award for *Spring Awakening’s* Best Original Score. *Spring Awakening* won eight Tony Awards and was named Best Musical of 2007. It was also recognized with awards from the Dramatist Guild, Drama League, the Outer Critics Circle, and with the Lucille Lortel Award.

In addition to *Whisper House*, Sheik and co-writer Steven Sater, with whom he wrote his 2001 album *Phantom Moon*, are developing two other new musical theatre projects: *Nero (Another Golden Rome)*, a retelling of the decadent Roman emperor’s life that was mounted as part of the Magic Theatre’s Hot House series in 2006, and an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Nightingale*, which will premiere in 2010. Sheik also composed the original score for the Marc Meyers film *Harvest* (2009) and has written extensively for film, including composing the original scores for *Little Spirit: Christmas in New York* (2008); *The Cake Eaters* (2007), and *Through the Fire* (2005). Most recently, his songs have been featured in the film soundtracks to *Transamerica* and *Then She Found Me* and in two TV episodes of *90210*. He [recently announced](#) he will write the score to the new musical *American Psycho*.

A native of Montclair, New Jersey, Sheik’s 1996 self-titled debut album included “Barely Breathing,” which spent 55 weeks on Billboard’s Hot 100.

- To see a video of Sheik and lyricist/story author Kyle Jarrow discussing *Whisper House*, visit the *Whisper House* website and click on the beam of the [lighthouse](#).
- To hear Sheik’s interview discussing *Whisper House* on NPR, click [here](#).
- See a [video of Sheik’s song “Earthbound Starlight”](#) from *Whisper House*.
- Duncan Sheik’s [Facebook page](#)
- [Duncan Sheik on mySpace](#)
- [Duncan Sheik’s website](#)

Duncan Sheik and Edwin Outwater will participate Thursday, April 8 in the SFS’s *Off the Podium* series, an informal post-concert question and answer session.

Rufus Wainwright, previously scheduled to perform with the Symphony April 7-10, has postponed his appearances until November 2010 due to a scheduling conflict. His *Five Shakespeare Sonnets*, commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony, will be given its world premiere at the November 2010 concerts.

**WHO:** Edwin Outwater, conductor  
[Duncan Sheik](#), vocalist  
featuring guest musicians Gerry Leonard – guitar and Holly Brook – piano & vocals  
San Francisco Symphony

**PROGRAM:** Gounod / Ballet Music from *Faust*  
Duncan Sheik (arr. Simon Hale) / Song Suite from *Whisper House*  
Claude Vivier / *Zipangu*  
Poulenc / Suite from *Les Biches*

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 7, Thursday, April 8, and Saturday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**PRE-CONCERT TALK:** Conductor Edwin Outwater gives “Inside Music” talks one hour prior to concerts on April 7, 8 and 10. Performer Duncan Sheik will join him in conversation on April 8 & 10. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**POST-CONCERT Q&A:** The SFS invites audience members to participate in *Off the Podium*, an informal post-concert question and answer session with Duncan Sheik and Edwin Outwater immediately following the concert on Thursday, April 8.

**BROADCAST:** Portions of these concerts will be broadcast on Classical 102.1 KDFC at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20.

**TICKETS:** \$15-\$135, tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](http://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.

- SFS -