



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

100 YEARS

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**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S
CENTENNIAL SEASON OPENS WITH A WEEK OF MUSICAL
AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS SEPTEMBER 7-9**

**Opening Night Gala on September 7 with Lang Lang and Itzhak Perlman to be
filmed for national broadcast on PBS' *Great Performances***

**SF Symphony hosts a free Birthday Bash celebration on September 8
in Civic Center Plaza with musical surprises and birthday treats**

Centennial exhibition at San Francisco Public Library opens on September 8

**All-San Francisco Concert on September 9 pays tribute to the Bay Area's
non-profit and social service organizations**

SAN FRANCISCO, May 18, 2011 – When the San Francisco Symphony was established in 1911, its founders sought to create a permanent orchestra for the city that would make music available to all its citizens, regardless of age, income or background. [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) (MTT) and the [San Francisco Symphony](#) (SFS) hold true to this vision 100 years later with the opening of their 2011-2012 Centennial Season, three days of civic and community celebrations September 7-9 that mark 100 years since the Orchestra's founding, as well as celebrate the American orchestra's role as a cultural, educational, and civic institution.

The Symphony's Opening Night Gala on Wednesday, September 7 at 8:00 p.m. features Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas leading the Orchestra and special guest soloists pianist [Lang Lang](#) and violinist [Itzhak Perlman](#). Proceeds from the Centennial Gala benefit the Orchestra's myriad artistic, community, and education programs, which provide music education to more than 75,000 Bay Area school children each year. On Thursday, September 8 at 11:30 a.m., MTT and the San Francisco Symphony invite the entire Bay Area community to celebrate the Centennial Season with a free outdoor Birthday Bash concert and festivities in Civic Center Plaza, featuring guest artist Lang Lang. Also on September 8, an exhibition titled *Music for a City, Music for the World: 100 Years with the San Francisco Symphony* opens at the San Francisco Public Library, showcasing historical objects and documents from the Symphony's first 100 years. On Friday, September 9 at 8:00 p.m., the annual All-San Francisco Concert—featuring SFS Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik as soloist—expresses the San Francisco Symphony's gratitude to more than 100 social service and non-profit organizations that serve San Francisco and the Bay Area.

OPENING NIGHT GALA: FANFARE FOR A NEW CENTURY

The Opening Night Gala concert program on Wednesday, September 7 includes Copland's *Billy the Kid* Ballet Suite, Lang Lang performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor with Itzhak Perlman, and Britten's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. The Opening Gala is chaired by two of the Orchestra's most impassioned supporters, Charlotte Mailliard Shultz, San Francisco's Chief of Protocol, and former SFS President Nancy Hellman Bechtle, with Honorary Chairs Ann and Gordon Getty. The Davies Symphony Hall concert will be filmed for national PBS broadcast on WNET/THIRTEEN's *Great Performances* series and will air later during the 2011-2012 season.

The Gala celebrations begin at 5:00 p.m. with a cocktail reception for all dinner package ticket holders in the lobby of the San Francisco Opera House, the Symphony's home from 1932 to 1980. The Patrons' Dinner, catered by McCall Associates and designed by Stanlee Gatti, begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Louise M. Davies Tent Pavilion. The Symphony Supper and Symphonix Dinner will be held in City Hall's Grand Rotunda and North Light Court, respectively, at 6:00 p.m. Both dinners are catered by McCall Associates and designed by Blueprint Studios.

All concert ticket holders are invited to the complimentary Champagne Promenade beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Davies Symphony Hall lobby. Following the Davies Symphony Hall Gala concert, all guests are invited to enjoy an after-party in the Davies Symphony Hall Tent Pavilion until 12:30 a.m. with live entertainment and dancing.

All Dinner levels are currently sold out, with a waitlist. Interested ticket purchasers should call the San Francisco Symphony Volunteer Council at (415) 503-5500.

Wells Fargo is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2011 Opening Night Gala.

FREE BIRTHDAY BASH

On Thursday, September 8, as a gift to its city, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony will host a free Birthday Bash celebration for all residents and visitors to enjoy. A special stage in front of City Hall will showcase the orchestra, which was founded by a group of San Francisco music-lovers, and continues its commitment to the community today. The concert and pre-concert activities are generously supported by The James Irvine Foundation.

At the 12:00 p.m. concert, Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the San Francisco Symphony and guest artist Lang Lang in a program that includes selections from the Opening Night Gala concert. The audience will be treated to additional musical and birthday surprises during the event.

Festivities will begin at 11:30 a.m. In addition to other activities, Classical KDFC's Rik Malone will host the pre- and post-concert festivities from the stage. As Sustainability Partner of the Birthday Bash, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) will contribute components of the party that highlight San Francisco's commitment to green living. A selection of San Francisco's iconic Off the Grid food trucks will be on hand for guests to purchase lunch. Neighboring arts organizations will have tents set up around Civic Center Plaza showcasing the vibrant arts community in the Civic Center area.

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY EXHIBITION

On September 8, a special exhibition celebrating the San Francisco Symphony's first 100 years opens at the San Francisco Public Library. *Music for a City, Music for the World: 100 Years with the San Francisco Symphony* runs from September 8, 2011 through January 9, 2012. Organized by SFS Archivist Joe Evans and on display in the Jewett Gallery at the Main Library, the exhibition tells the story of the Symphony and its role within and impact on its city, from its formative years following the 1906 earthquake to its present position as one of the country's most respected orchestras. The exhibition presents almost 200 historic objects and documents drawn from the Symphony's archival collections, including photos, concert posters, and programs, most exhibited for the first time.

Music for a City, Music for the World is based on SF Symphony Publications Editor Larry Rothe's book of the same title, to be published in the summer of 2011 by Chronicle Books. On Tuesday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m., the Library will host an opening event for the exhibition, featuring Larry Rothe and Joseph Evans leading a discussion on the Symphony's history, and a book signing with Rothe.

ALL-SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT

On Friday, September 9 at 8:00 p.m., MTT leads the San Francisco Symphony in a special Davies Symphony Hall concert for San Francisco social service and neighborhood organizations, as thanks for the work these groups do to enrich the lives of and serve the citizens of San Francisco. Volunteers and employees from such organizations as Huckleberry Youth Program, La Casa de las Madres, and Boys and Girls Club, among others, will enjoy a performance of Copland's *Billy the Kid* Ballet Suite, Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor with SFS Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik, and Britten's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*.

Organized through the Orchestra's Volunteer Council, the annual All-San Francisco Concert has been underwritten by Wells Fargo for over 30 years.

Tickets to this concert are not available for general purchase. Community groups that would like to be considered for tickets to this year's concert should email allsf@sfsymphony.org.

CENTENNIAL SEASON OVERVIEW

These opening week concerts and events kick off the [San Francisco Symphony's 2011-2012 Centennial season](#), an ambitious eleven-month calendar of concerts, programs, and events, expanded education programs, and Centennial media initiatives. The Orchestra's 100th season celebrates the American orchestra and its vibrant role in its community as an artistic leader and civic institution.

Music Director [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) (MTT) and the [Orchestra](#) will break new ground with a two-week *American Mavericks* Festival of music from the composers that defined 20th century American music. As part of the festival, the Orchestra performs three world premiere commissions, from modern masters John Adams and Meredith Monk and classical/electronica composer Mason Bates, both in San Francisco and on a national tour. Tilson Thomas will conduct the Orchestra in 18 weeks of concerts, and will lead the Orchestra in works from 1911, the first year of the San Francisco Symphony's history, including Debussy's complete music for the mystery play *Le martyre de Saint Sebastien*, incorporating video and multimedia. Tilson Thomas and the Orchestra also perform a semi-staged production of Bartók's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* (1911), Stravinsky's *Petrushka* (1911), and a week of semi-staged concerts of music from early San Francisco. Other major program highlights are *Project San Francisco* artist and composer residencies, with violinist Joshua Bell and composer Bates; performances of Thomas Adès and Tal Rosner's new SF Symphony co-commission *Polaris: Voyage for Orchestra*, also with video; and the U.S. premiere of a newly co-commissioned work from Sofia Gubaidulina. The Orchestra's 2011-12 Centennial season will also feature an unprecedented concert series of six of the most distinguished major American orchestras: Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and The Philadelphia Orchestra, performing two concerts each.

The Symphony plans expanded music education programs during its Centennial season and beyond, including instrument training support for San Francisco public middle and high schools and an amateur music-making program for adults. In addition, the SFS will produce a variety of media projects that explore the living heritage of the Orchestra, its music, and its role in the community, including a Centennial book, a documentary film, public archival exhibitions, and new online experiences.

OPENING NIGHT GALA GUEST ARTISTS

Born in Shenyang, China, [Lang Lang](#) began piano lessons at age three; two years later, he won the Shenyang Piano Competition and played his first public recital. At nine he entered Beijing's Central Music Conservatory. When he was fourteen he was a featured soloist in the China National Symphony's inaugural concert, and the following year he began studies with Gary Graffman at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. In 1999, at seventeen, Lang Lang substituted at the last minute for André Watts in the Ravinia Festival's Gala of the Century. His autobiography, *Journey of a Thousand Miles*, was published in 2008 in eight languages. He serves on the boards of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, the Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award Project, and the Weill Music Institute Advisory Committee, and he is a member of the Carnegie Hall Artistic Advisory Board. In 2004, Lang Lang was appointed a UNICEF International Goodwill Ambassador. Lang Lang records exclusively for Sony.

Violinist [Itzhak Perlman](#) was born in Israel in 1945 and completed his initial training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. He then moved to New York, where, in 1958, he achieved international fame after performing on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. He continued his studies at the Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay and won the Leventritt Competition in 1964. Since then, he has appeared with every major orchestra, and in recitals and festivals throughout the world. Itzhak Perlman has taught at the Perlman Music Program each summer since it was founded in 1993, and he currently holds the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Chair at the Juilliard School. He was awarded an honorary doctorate and a centennial medal on the occasion of Juilliard's 100th commencement ceremony in 2005, and he also holds honorary degrees from Harvard, Yale, Brandeis, Roosevelt, Yeshiva, and Hebrew universities. President Reagan honored him with a Medal of Liberty in 1986, and in 2000 President Clinton awarded him the National Medal of Arts.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY CENTENNIAL OPENING NIGHT GALA: *FANFARE FOR A NEW CENTURY*

[Wednesday, September 7, 2011](#)

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#), conductor
[Lang Lang](#), piano
[Itzhak Perlman](#), violin
[San Francisco Symphony](#)

PROGRAM:
Copland/*Billy the Kid* Ballet Suite
Liszt/Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major
Mendelssohn/Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64
Britten/*The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Opus 34

- 5:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception for Dinner patrons, San Francisco Opera House Lobby
- 6:00 p.m. Patrons' Dinner, Louise M. Davies Tent Pavilion
- 6:00 p.m. Symphony Supper, Grand Rotunda - City Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Symphonix Dinner, North Light Court - City Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Pre-concert Champagne Promenade for all concert guests, Davies Symphony Hall
- 8:00 p.m. Gala Concert, Davies Symphony Hall
- 10:00 p.m. After-Party for all concert guests, Louise M. Davies Tent Pavilion

TICKETS: Concert tickets, which include access to the pre-concert Champagne Promenade and After-Party, are priced at \$165 and \$295 per person. Concert tickets are available on a limited basis. Please contact the SFS Box Office at (415) 864-6000 or visit www.sfsymphony.org for more information. Special Gala dinner and concert packages are priced from \$395 per person. **All Dinner levels are currently sold out, with a waitlist. Interested ticket purchasers should call the San Francisco Symphony Volunteer Council at (415) 503-5500.**

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY BIRTHDAY BASH FREE CONCERT

[Thursday, September 8, 2011](#)

Civic Center Plaza – front of City Hall
Polk Street between Grove and McAllister Streets

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#), conductor
[Lang Lang](#), piano
[San Francisco Symphony](#)

11:30 a.m. Pre-Concert Festivities
12:00 p.m. Free Concert

This is a free outdoor concert. No tickets are required. ADA seating will be available.

Festivities will begin at 11:30 a.m. Along with other pre-concert activities, Classical KDFC's Rik Malone will host the pre- and post-concert festivities from the stage. Off the Grid food trucks will be on hand for guests to purchase lunch. The outdoor concert begins at 12:00 p.m. and includes selections from the Opening Night Gala concert. The audience will be treated to additional musical and birthday surprises during the event.

SFS CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION AT SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY *MUSIC FOR A CITY, MUSIC FOR THE WORLD: 100 YEARS WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY*

Thursday, September 8, 2011
through Monday, January 9, 2012

San Francisco Public Library - Jewett Gallery
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco

Free admission

Organized by SFS Archivist Joe Evans and on display in the Jewett Gallery at the Main Library, *Music for a City, Music for the World: 100 Years with the San Francisco Symphony* tells the story of the Symphony and its role within and impact on its city, from its formative years following the 1906 earthquake to its present position as one of the country's most respected orchestras. The exhibition presents almost 200 historic objects and documents drawn from the Symphony's archival collections, including photos, concert posters, and programs, most exhibited for the first time.

ALL-SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT

[Friday, September 9, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.](#)

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#), conductor
Alexander Barantschik, violin
TBA, pianist
[San Francisco Symphony](#)

PROGRAM:
Copland/*Billy the Kid* Ballet Suite
Liszt/Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major
Mendelssohn/Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64
Britten/*The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Opus 34

Tickets to this concert are not available for general purchase. Community groups that would like to be considered for tickets to this year's concert should email allsf@sfsymphony.org

EXHIBITION DISCUSSION AND BOOK SIGNING WITH LARRY ROTHE AND JOSEPH EVANS

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

San Francisco Public Library - Koret Auditorium
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco

The Library will host a special opening event for the exhibition, featuring SFS Publications Editor Larry Rothe and SFS Archivist Joseph Evans leading a discussion on the Symphony's history. Rothe will also sign copies of his SFS Centennial book, *Music for a City, Music for the World: 100 Years with the San Francisco Symphony*.



Wells Fargo is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2011 Opening Night Gala

Sybase is the Patrons' Dinner Sponsor of the 2011 Opening Night Gala

Tiffany & Co. is the Official Jeweler of the 2011 Opening Night Gala

Visa is the Preferred Card of the 2011 Opening Night Gala

The Birthday Bash is supported by The James Irvine Foundation

PG&E is Sustainability Partner for the Birthday Bash

The All-San Francisco Concert is underwritten by Wells Fargo