

**REVISED: August 10, 2009 (All changes in red.)**



(pictured from left to right: Michael Tilson Thomas, Susan Graham, Thomas Hampson.)

**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENT  
A THREE-WEEK FESTIVAL CELEBRATING  
THE MUSIC OF GUSTAV MAHLER  
SEPTEMBER 16-OCTOBER 3 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**Festival Artists Include Mezzo-soprano Susan Graham and Baritone Thomas Hampson  
Festival Tickets On Sale Friday, July 17 at 10:00 a.m.**

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**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Revised August 10, 2009)** - Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) and the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) celebrate the music of Gustav Mahler in a three-week festival September 16 – October 3 at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco following the release of the final symphony in their Mahler recording project, Symphony No. 8 and the Adagio from No. 10, on August 25. Highlights of the festival include Mahler's Rückert Lieder with mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, Mahler's Symphonies No. 1 and 5, *Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)* with baritone Thomas Hampson as part of MTT's signature exploration into the composer's evolution in a special program titled *Origins and Legacies* being filmed for the Orchestra's [Keeping Score](#) television series. Audio recordings of Susan Graham and Thomas Hampson's performances will be captured for the SFS's Grammy-Award winning [Mahler recording cycle](#). Tickets for the Mahler Festival **went on** sale to the general public Friday, July 17 at 10:00 am.

Michael Tilson Thomas has distinguished himself as one of the world's foremost Mahler interpreters through his and the Orchestra's award-winning recordings and signature performances. In 1974, at the age of 29, MTT made his SFS debut conducting Mahler's Symphony No. 9. In 1995, his valedictory year as Music Director of the London Symphony Orchestra, he led the orchestra in a complete cycle of Mahler's symphonies. In June 1998, he led the SFS and SFS Chorus in a 10-concert *Mahler Celebration*. Now entering his fifteenth season as Music Director, he and the SFS have formed an orchestral partnership acclaimed for their expertise in the music of Mahler as well as for innovation and artistic excellence.

For the *Origins and Legacies* concerts to be held September 23-26, MTT will delve into Mahler's lesser-known music. MTT and the Orchestra will perform *Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)* with baritone Thomas Hampson each night, **but otherwise each program is different. Among the works scheduled are the Adagietto from Mahler's Symphony No. 5, the Scherzo from Symphony No. 7, the third movement from Symphony No. 3, the third movement from Symphony No. 9, and Symphony No. 1. Hampson will also perform Mahler's *Ablösung im Sommer* and a Rückert Medley, with excerpts from "Liebst du um Schönheit," "Um Mitternacht," and "Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen."** In the third week of the festival the Orchestra will perform the SFS's first performances of Giacinto Scelsi's rarely heard *Hymnos*. **Complete Mahler Festival program details are in the calendar that follows this press release.**

This festival shows off the many years of dedication MTT and the SFS's have given to the music of Mahler and offers new insights and experiences to seasoned fans and newcomers alike.

## FESTIVAL SOLOISTS

### [Susan Graham, mezzo-soprano](#)

Grammy® Award-winning vocalist [Susan Graham](#) is one of the world's foremost opera and recital stars, a compelling and versatile singing actress. In 1998 she performed Mahler's Rückert Lieder with MTT and the SFS and most recently appeared with the SFS in performances of Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été* during February 2007. Ms. Graham recorded Mahler's "Liebst du um Schönheit" from Rückert Lieder in recital with pianist Malcolm Martineau for her 2003 recording *At Carnegie Hall*.

### [Thomas Hampson, baritone](#)

Baritone [Thomas Hampson](#) has performed with MTT and the SFS many times since his debut with the orchestra in 1996. In 1997 he performed Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the SFS at Davies Symphony Hall and again in 2002 at Davies Symphony Hall and on tour in Carnegie Hall. In September 2007, he, tenor Stuart Skelton, MTT and the SFS performed and recorded *Das Lied von der Erde* for an SFS Media release in September 2008. Mr. Hampson most recently appeared with MTT and the SFS as part of Leonard Bernstein's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration during the opening week of Carnegie Hall's 2008-09 season. This performance aired on PBS's *Great Performances* and [is now available on DVD](#).

## MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 8 RECORDING TO BE RELEASED THIS AUGUST

The recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 in E flat major, *Symphony of a Thousand*, to be released on hybrid SACD this August 25, features performances by sopranos Erin Wall, Elza van den Heever, and Laura Claycomb; mezzo-sopranos Katarina Karnéus and Yvonne Naef; tenor Anthony Dean Griffey; baritone Quinn Kelsey; and bass-baritone James Morris. The San Francisco Symphony Chorus under the direction of Ragnar Bohlin contributes to the recording as well as the San Francisco Girls Chorus and the Pacific Boychoir. The Adagio from Symphony No. 10 opens this two-disc set available as an exclusive pre-release download from the Apple iTunes Music Store worldwide beginning August 11. iTunes purchases of the album in North America will include a bonus video, "A Universe of Sound: Recording Mahler's Symphony No. 8," with behind the scenes footage and insights.

Since the San Francisco Symphony's Mahler recording project began in 2001, the SFS has recorded all of the Mahler symphonies, the Adagio from the unfinished Tenth Symphony, *Kindertotenlieder* and *Das Lied von der Erde*, and released a remastered recording of *Das klagende Lied*. Additional works still to be released before the Orchestra's centennial in 2011-12 include Mahler's Rückert Lieder, *Songs Of A Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)* and *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*.

The SFS' Mahler recording series has sold over 100,000 CDs to date and has been recognized with four Grammy Awards: All of the SFS's new Mahler recordings on SFS Media have entered the top ten of the *Billboard* Classical Chart.

## KEEPING SCORE

Keeping Score Season 3, expected to air in 2011-12 during the San Francisco Symphony's centenary season, will feature multiple episodes on Gustav Mahler. The programs are currently in production and performances will be captured during the festival. [Keeping Score](#) is the San Francisco Symphony's national project to make classical music more accessible and meaningful to people of all ages and musical backgrounds, and a key component of its almost century-long history of music education. The programs work in tandem with an interactive website, [www.keeping-score.org](http://www.keeping-score.org), a national radio series, and a national model education program for K-12 teachers that helps them integrate classical music into core subjects. To date, nearly five million people in the U.S. have seen the *Keeping Score* television series, with international broadcasts across Europe and Asia. *Keeping Score* Season 2 premieres on PBS Television this October 15 at 10 p.m. (check local listings).

## MAHLER FESTIVAL TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the Mahler Festival are priced from \$35 to \$135 and went on sale to the general public Friday, July 17 at 10:00 a.m. **To celebrate Michael Tilson Thomas's fifteenth season with the San Francisco Symphony, for selected concerts, center terrace seats at Davies Symphony Hall will be priced at \$15. These go on sale August 24.** Ticket information is available through the San Francisco Symphony Web site at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org), through the SFS Ticket Services Office at 415-864-6000, and at the box office at Davies Symphony Hall.

*The concert weeks of September 16-20 and 23-26 are made possible through the generosity of Franklin Templeton Investments.*

**MAHLER FESTIVAL**  
**WITH MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**  
**SEPTEMBER 16 – OCTOBER 3, 2009 IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**MTT CONDUCTS MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 1**

Wednesday, September 16 at 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday, September 17 at 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, September 19 at 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor  
Susan Graham, mezzo-soprano  
San Francisco Symphony

PROGRAM:  
Mahler / Rückert Lieder  
Mahler / Symphony No. 1 in D major

PRE-CONCERT TALKS: **Laura Stanfield Prichard** gives "Inside Music," an informative talk free to all concert ticket holders, begins one hour prior to each concert. Doors open 15 minutes before

RECORDING: Performances of Mahler's Rückert Lieder will be recorded for future release on SFS Media.

TICKETS: **\$15**-\$135. Tickets priced at \$35-\$135 available now through [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org), SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 and the Davies Symphony Hall box office. **A limited number of \$15 tickets go on sale 8/24.**

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**MTT CONDUCTS MAHLER: *ORIGINS AND LEGACIES***

Wednesday, September 23 at 8:00 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor and piano  
Thomas Hampson, baritone  
San Francisco Symphony

PROGRAM:  
**Mahler/*Ablösung im Sommer***  
**Mahler/Third Movement from Symphony No. 3 in D minor**  
Mahler/ *Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)*  
**Mahler/Scherzo from Symphony No. 7 in E minor**  
**Mahler /Third Movement from Symphony No. 9 in D major (Rondo burleske)**

PRE-CONCERT TALKS: **Peter Grunberg** gives "Inside Music," an informative talk free to all concert ticket holders, begins one hour prior to each concert. Doors open 15 minutes before.

RECORDING: Performances of Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer* will be recorded for future release on SFS Media. Concerts held September **23-26** will be filmed for [Keeping Score](#) Season 3.

TICKETS: **\$15**-\$135. Tickets priced at \$35-\$135 available now through [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org), SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 and the Davies Symphony Hall box office. **A limited number of \$15 tickets go on sale 8/24.**

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## MTT CONDUCTS MAHLER: *ORIGINS AND LEGACIES*

Thursday, September 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor  
Thomas Hampson, baritone  
San Francisco Symphony

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

PROGRAM:

**Mahler/*Ablösung im Sommer***

**Mahler/Third Movement from Symphony No. 3 in D minor**

Mahler/*Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)*

**Mahler/Scherzo from Symphony No. 7 in E minor**

**Mahler /Third Movement from Symphony No. 9 in D major (Rondo burleske)**

**Mahler / Finale – Excerpts from Symphony No. 9 and No. 10**

PRE-CONCERT TALKS: **Peter Grunberg gives** “Inside Music,” an informative talk free to all concert ticket holders, begins one hour prior to each concert. Doors open 15 minutes before.

RECORDING: Performances of Mahler’s *Songs of a Wayfarer* will be recorded for future release on SFS Media. Concerts held September **23-26** will be filmed for [Keeping Score](#) Season 3.

TICKETS: **\$15**-\$135. Tickets priced at \$35-\$135 available now through [sfsymphony.org](#), SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 and the Davies Symphony Hall box office. **A limited number of \$15 tickets go on sale 8/24.**

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## MTT CONDUCTS MAHLER: *ORIGINS AND LEGACIES & SYMPHONY NO. 1*

Friday, September 25 at 8:00 p.m.

Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor  
Thomas Hampson, baritone  
San Francisco Symphony

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

PROGRAM:

**Mahler/Rückert Medley: Excerpts from “*Liebst du um Schönheit,*” “*Um Mitternacht,*” “*Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen*”**

**Mahler/*Adagietto* from Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor**

Mahler/*Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)*

**Mahler/Symphony No. 1 in D major**

PRE-CONCERT TALKS: **Peter Grunberg gives** “Inside Music,” an informative talk free to all concert ticket holders, begins one hour prior to each concert. Doors open 15 minutes before.

RECORDING: Performances of Mahler’s *Songs of a Wayfarer* will be recorded for future release on SFS Media. Concerts held September **23-26** will be filmed for [Keeping Score](#) Season 3.

TICKETS: **\$15**-\$135. Tickets priced at \$35-\$135 available now through [sfsymphony.org](#), SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 and the Davies Symphony Hall box office. **A limited number of \$15 tickets go on sale 8/24.**

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## MTT CONDUCTS MAHLER: *ORIGINS AND LEGACIES*

Saturday, September 26 at 8:00 p.m.  
MAHLER FESTIVAL:  
*ORIGINS AND LEGACIES*

Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor  
Thomas Hampson, baritone  
San Francisco Symphony

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

PROGRAM:

**Mahler/Rückert Medley: Excerpts from “*Liebst du um Schönheit*,” “*Um Mitternacht*,” “*Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen*”**

**Mahler/*Adagietto* from Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor**

*Mahler/ Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)*

**Mahler/Scherzo from Symphony No. 7 in E minor**

**Mahler /Third Movement from Symphony No. 9 in D major (Rondo burleske)**

**Mahler / Finale – Excerpts from Symphony No. 9 and No. 10**

PRE-CONCERT TALKS: **Peter Grunberg gives** “Inside Music,” an informative talk free to all concert ticket holders, begins one hour prior to each concert. Doors open 15 minutes before.

RECORDING: Performances of Mahler’s *Songs of a Wayfarer* will be recorded for future release on SFS Media. Concerts held September **23-26** will be filmed for [Keeping Score](#) Season 3.

TICKETS: **\$15**-\$135. Tickets priced at \$35-\$135 available now through [sfsymphony.org](#), SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 and the Davies Symphony Hall box office. **A limited number of \$15 tickets go on sale 8/24.**

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## MTT CONDUCTS MAHLER’S SYMPHONY NO. 5

Wednesday, September 30 at 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday, October 1 at 8:00 p.m.  
Friday, October 2 at 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 3 at 8:00 p.m.

Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor  
San Francisco Symphony

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

PROGRAM:

Scelsi / *Hymnos*

Mahler / Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor

PRE-CONCERT TALKS: “Inside Music,” an informative talk free to all concert ticket holders, begins one hour prior to each concert. Doors open 15 minutes before.

RECORDING: Performances of Mahler’s *Songs of a Wayfarer* will be recorded for future release on SFS Media. Concerts held September **23-26** will be filmed for [Keeping Score](#) Season 3.

TICKETS: **\$15**-\$135. Tickets priced at \$35-\$135 available now through [sfsymphony.org](#), SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 and the Davies Symphony Hall box office. **A limited number of \$15 tickets go on sale 8/24.**

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