



100 YEARS



New World Symphony

America's Orchestral Academy
Michael Tilson Thomas, Artistic Director

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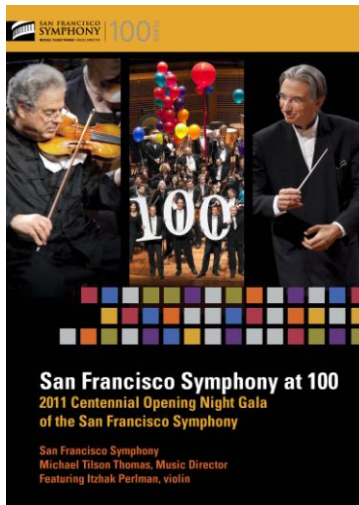
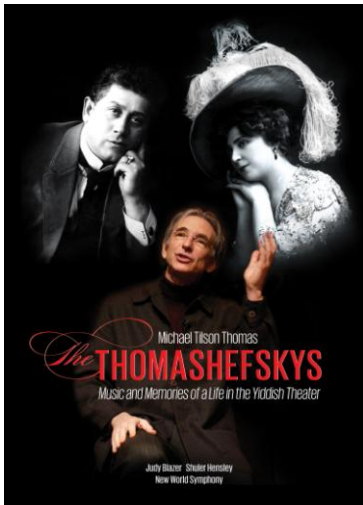
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**CONDUCTOR MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS FEATURED IN TWO
PBS GREAT PERFORMANCES BROADCASTS AIRING ON
KQED 9 PUBLIC TV ON MARCH 29 & 30**

***San Francisco Symphony at 100*, the Orchestra's Centennial Season Opening Gala concert featuring Michael Tilson Thomas, Itzhak Perlman and Lang Lang and hosted by Amy Tan to air on Friday, March 30 at 9PM**

***The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater* featuring Michael Tilson Thomas, Judy Blazer, Shuler Hensley and the New World Symphony, to air on Thursday, March 29 at 8PM**

***San Francisco Symphony at 100* to be released on DVD and Blu-ray April 1 and *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater* to be released on DVD April 24**

Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT), Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony and Artistic Director of the New World Symphony, will be featured in two new *Great Performances* presentations in March to be broadcast nationally on PBS and locally on KQED 9 Public TV. Both programs are productions of THIRTEEN for WNET.

In September, the San Francisco Symphony and MTT launched the Orchestra's milestone Centennial Season with a celebratory gala concert dubbed "Fanfare for a New Century" at Davies Symphony Hall. The gala concert will be presented as a two-hour special, ***San Francisco Symphony at 100***, by *Great Performances* on KQED TV and nationally on PBS Friday, March 30 at 9PM. On Sunday, April 1 at 1:00PM it will be re-broadcast immediately following the noon showing of an hour-long documentary about the San Francisco Symphony's first century. Both will be repeated on KQED Life on Monday, April 2 beginning at 7:00PM. The broadcast is hosted by Bay Area author Amy Tan and directed for television by Gary Halvorson and features MTT conducting the Orchestra and two of the leading artists of our time, violinist Itzhak Perlman performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor and pianist Lang Lang performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major. The concert opens with Aaron Copland's vivid portrayal of American prairie life, the *Billy the Kid Ballet Suite* and concludes with Britten's orchestral showpiece *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* of which the *San Francisco Chronicle* said: "...as Thomas led his colleagues, section by section and soloist by soloist... the listener could only marvel at the level of individual excellence and communal artistry on display." Capping off the concert is an encore of Bay Area composer John Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* featuring moving images of San Francisco projected throughout Davies Symphony Hall. (An audio recording of this performance of *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, a work commissioned by MTT in 1986, will also be available on an upcoming all-John Adams recording on the Orchestra's own SFS Media label along with their 2010 performance of Adams' *Harmonielehre*, a work SFS commissioned and premiered in 1985. The recording will be available on March 13, with a special pre-release on iTunes and in the San Francisco Symphony store in Davies Symphony Hall beginning on February 15, the composer's birthday.)

Woven into the concert footage, *San Francisco Symphony at 100* includes historical documentary features narrated by Amy Tan highlighting the Orchestra's early beginnings, its rich history of touring and its commitment to young people and innovations in media. Two days after the national broadcast, on April 1st, *San Francisco Symphony at 100* will also be released on DVD and Blu-ray with additional bonus historical features. (Note: the DVD and Blu-ray versions will not feature Lang Lang's concert performance.) A trailer for the *San Francisco Symphony at 100* broadcast is available on the San Francisco Symphony's YouTube channel at youtube.com/sfsymphony. Pre-orders for the DVDs and Blu-rays are currently being accepted at the Symphony's e-store at sfsymphony.org/store and will be shipped immediately following the April 1 release date.

On Thursday, March 29 *Great Performances* will present ***The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater*** at 8:00PM on KQED TV and nationally on

PBS. It will be repeated on KQED Life on Friday, March 30 at 7:00PM prior to *San Francisco Symphony at 100* and Monday, April 2 at 10:00PM immediately following *San Francisco Symphony at 100*. Recorded in April 2011 at the Frank Gehry-designed New World Center in Miami Beach, the performance of *The Thomashefskys* is written and hosted by Michael Tilson Thomas and stars Judy Blazer as Bessie Thomashefsky and Shuler Hensley as Boris Thomashefsky. It also features Ronit Widmann-Levy and Eugene Brancoveanu and the New World Symphony, and is directed for television by Gary Halvorson.

The Thomashefskys is a very personal project for MTT, celebrating the lives and theatrical and musical legacies of his grandparents, Yiddish theater pioneers Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky. Born out of a desire by MTT to preserve the music of the Yiddish theater, The Thomashefsky Project, founded in 1998, expanded from an archival role to these performances hosted and conducted by MTT and directed by Broadway veteran Patricia Birch. It features music reconstructed from the original Yiddish theater repertoire interwoven with projected images and stories from Bessie and Boris's lively memoirs. "My grandparents became mega-stars and found themselves smack in the public eye," says Tilson Thomas. "They were subject to adulation and relentless scrutiny. Legions of crazed fans were obsessed with every detail of their work and their lives." The stage version of *The Thomashefskys* has been performed to sold-out houses in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Miami, and at Tanglewood in Massachusetts. The *San Francisco Chronicle* said, "Thomas and his collaborators do what Yiddish artists always meant to do. They make you forget your troubles for an evening, plunge into another world and feel your own more fully in the end."

Following the national broadcast on PBS *Great Performances* on March 29, *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater* will be released on DVD by New Video (newvideo.com) on April 24 with extras including additional music performances, an interview with MTT about the Thomashefskys and a feature on the New World Symphony, America's Orchestra Academy. The New World Symphony was founded in 1987 by Michael Tilson Thomas and Ted Arison, and has launched the careers of over 800 musicians. Pre-orders for the DVD are currently being accepted at Amazon.com and at the San Francisco Symphony e-store at sfsymphony.org/store and will be shipped immediately following the April 24 release date. The program will also be available for digital download from iTunes, and for sale on the New World Symphony website at nws.edu/shop.

The two *Great Performances* broadcasts on March 29 and 30 will occur as MTT and the San Francisco Symphony are in New York City presenting four concerts at Carnegie Hall celebrating the pioneering spirit of maverick American composers, part of its centennial *American Mavericks* celebration March 8-30. Carnegie Hall is the final stop on a national tour

that includes Chicago and Ann Arbor, following a two-week *American Mavericks* festival including four world premieres in San Francisco, part of the Orchestra's comprehensive centennial season celebration.

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For review copies of the PBS broadcasts of *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater* and/or *San Francisco Symphony at 100*, and for high resolution photographs please contact Shuman Associates, shumanpr@shumanassociates.net, Phone (212) 315-1300.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

GREAT PERFORMANCES: SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY AT 100 AIRING ON KQED

Concert	Friday, March 30 at 9:00 PM	KQED 9
Documentary	Sunday, April 1 at 12:00 noon	KQED 9
Concert	Sunday, April 1 at 1:00 PM	KQED 9
Documentary	Monday, April 2 at 7:00 PM	KQED Life
Concert	Monday, April 2 at 8:00 PM	KQED Life

GREAT PERFORMANCES: THE THOMASHEFSKYS: MUSIC AND MEMORIES OF A LIFE IN THE YIDDISH THEATER AIRING ON KQED

Thursday, March 29 at 8:00 PM	KQED 9
Friday, March 30 at 7:00 PM	KQED Life
Monday, April 2 at 10:00 PM	KQED Life

DVD Catalog & Distribution Information

DVD & Blu-ray Title: *San Francisco Symphony at 100*
Composers: Aaron Copland (1900-1990), Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), Benjamin Britten (1913-1976), John Adams (1947-)
Artists: Michael Tilson Thomas, Conductor
Itzhak Perlman, violin
San Francisco Symphony
Recorded: Recorded live at Davies Symphony Hall at the San Francisco Symphony's Centennial Season Opening Gala on September 7, 2011.
Label: SFS Media
Catalog Numbers: DVD: SFS0052
Blu-ray: SFS0057
Release Date: April 1, 2012
Distribution: PBS (US, Canada and US territories)
Harmonia Mundi (North America excluding Canada)
SRI Canada (Canada)
Avie (International)
sfsymphony.org/store (Online)

DVD Title: *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater*
Artists: Michael Tilson Thomas, Conductor and Host
Judy Blazer, Shuler Hensley, Ronit Widmann-Levy, Eugene Brancoveanu
New World Symphony
Recorded: Recorded at New World Center, Miami Beach, Florida in April, 2011.
Label: Docurama Films, a division of New Video (www.newvideo.com)
Catalog Number: NNVG268540
ISBN: 1-4229-1853-X
UPC: 7-67685-26854—4
Release Date: April 24, 2012

Distribution: PBS (US, Canada and US territories)
New Video (Worldwide)
iTunes (Online)
New World Symphony web store (Online)
sfsymphony.org/store (Online)



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