

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCE 2009-10 SEASON

Orchestra's 98th Season Features Expanded Commissioning Activities and Ambitious Composer and Artist Residency Project as Part of SFS' Multi-Year Centennial Initiatives

**New *Project San Francisco* Artist and Composer Residencies Feature
Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Composer George Benjamin**

**Season Includes Six SFS Commissions by Peter Lieberson, Osvaldo Golijov, John Adams,
Rufus Wainwright, Victor Kissine, and Thomas Larcher**

**Orchestra to Perform Three World Premieres, One U.S. Premiere and 20 SFS Premieres;
Pianist Emanuel Ax Performs Three World Premieres with Yo-Yo Ma and Dawn Upshaw**

**Michael Tilson Thomas' Fifteenth Anniversary Season Opens September 9 in a Gala Concert with
Lang Lang and Concludes with Berlioz's Large Scale Choral Masterpiece *Roméo et Juliette***

**MTT Leads the Orchestra in a Three-Week Mahler Festival
With Concerts Recorded and Filmed for SFS Media and *Keeping Score***

***Keeping Score* Broadcasts Slated for Fall 2009 on PBS, with Episodes on Berlioz, Shostakovich and Ives**

SFS Media to Release Orchestra's Recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8, *Symphony of a Thousand*

**SFS and Musicians Ratify New Four-Year Contract Extending Beyond 2011-12 Centennial Season;
New Media Agreement Expands Orchestra's Ability to Reach New Audiences in Innovative Ways**

National Tour Includes Performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection* at Carnegie Hall

**Distinguished Roster of Artists and Conductors Includes the SFS Debuts of Vasily Petrenko, Rufus Wainwright,
Christine Schäfer, and David Fray, and the Return of Itzhak Perlman, Lang Lang, Marc-André Hamelin, Yefim
Bronfman, Yuja Wang, Christian Tetzlaff, Susan Graham, and Thomas Hampson**

**Great Performers Series and Special Concerts Feature Visits by the Los Angeles Philharmonic with Gustavo
Dudamel, Berlin Philharmonic with Sir Simon Rattle, Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig with
Riccardo Chailly, and the Mariinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, March 2, 2009 – [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) (MTT) today announced details of the [San Francisco Symphony's](#) (SFS) 2009-10 season, including the Orchestra's Centennial Initiatives—a multi-year expansion of its commissioning activities, an ambitious composer and artist residency project, and special programs, concerts and events designed to draw new audiences to orchestral music in Davies Symphony Hall and beyond, as the Orchestra prepares to mark its 100th season in 2011-12. The 2009-10 season marks the launch of *Project San Francisco*, an innovative composer and artist residency program with **Yo-Yo Ma** and composer **George Benjamin**, and also includes six world-premiere SFS commissions. Highlights of the SFS's 98th season also include a three-week Mahler Festival recorded and filmed for [SFS Media](#), a two-week U.S. tour, a new season of [Keeping Score](#) television episodes on PBS, and an eclectic 34-week season of engaging programming reaching audiences in new and creative ways. Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the Orchestra in eighteen weeks of concerts, in programs pairing works of the core classical repertoire with works new to or rarely heard by Davies Symphony Hall audiences.

Subscription series tickets for the San Francisco Symphony's 2009-10 season go on sale to renewing subscribers and the general public starting today, Monday, March 2, at 10 a.m. Ticket information is available through the San Francisco Symphony Web site at www.sfsymphony.org, through the SFS Ticket Services Office at 415-864-6000, and at the box office at Davies Symphony Hall.

“As we begin our fifteenth season together,” said Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, “I have the opportunity once again to reflect on the special chemistry that the Orchestra and I have the privilege of sharing with our audiences. It has been my great pleasure to work with the wonderful musicians of the SFS for many years, during which we've developed a personally nuanced approach to music, both the familiar and the new. The 2009-10 season is full of exciting commissions, works heard all too rarely, and well-loved music—all of which we are eager to share with our appreciative, adventurous, and enthusiastic audience, and with the great Bay Area community that supports us.”

“Our 2009-10 season offers a wealth of powerful musical experiences, reflecting the inspired partnership between the Orchestra and Michael Tilson Thomas,” said SFS President John D. Goldman. “It is an ambitious season, one that expands the Orchestra's repertoire and builds upon our long-standing relationships with some of the world's greatest artists. At the same time, we are reaching out to audiences everywhere through a new season of *Keeping Score* on television and online. As we head toward our centennial season in 2011-12, the San Francisco Symphony continues to be a pioneering center for the creation, performance, and dissemination of symphonic music. Our aim is to build powerful and lasting connections with listeners, locally and globally. Especially at times like these,

music offers the kind of reaffirmation the world so urgently seeks, and we are honored to be a force through the musical gifts we offer.”

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVES

The San Francisco Symphony’s multi-year Centennial Initiatives, building in momentum toward the Orchestra’s Centennial Season of 2011-12 and continuing into its second century, encompass artist and composer residencies, an expanded initiative to commission new repertoire, festivals, and other special concerts, events, and programming. The Centennial Initiatives aim to strengthen the SFS’ role as one of the country’s leading arts institutions and to attract new audiences to orchestral music, on stage, in the community, and beyond, through the Orchestra’s extensive recordings, television and radio broadcasts, web sites, and education and community activities. Providing for the basis of future growth through the Centennial Season, the San Francisco Symphony and the musicians have ratified a new four-year contract. The agreement will foster artistic excellence, enhance vital education programs, and engage audiences in new ways while maintaining the organization’s fiscal strength and maneuverability in difficult economic times. The collaborative process results in a new minimum scale, and provides mutually agreed upon changes in health care and defined pension benefits. SFS media agreements have been updated to ensure that the Orchestra continues to be on the leading edge among arts organizations, engaging a broader and more diverse audience for its music.

PROJECT SAN FRANCISCO, A NEW SFS COMPOSER AND ARTIST RESIDENCY

Project San Francisco, the SFS’ new multi-faceted composer and artist residency program and part of the Orchestra’s Centennial Initiatives, brings some of today’s most significant musicians and composers to San Francisco to collaborate with the SFS in concerts, chamber music, lectures, and education and community events. In the 2009-10 season, cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** and British composer **George Benjamin**, two artists with long ties to the San Francisco Symphony, join the SFS for its first *Project San Francisco* residencies. *Project San Francisco* expands the orchestral repertoire and deepens connections between SFS guest artists, the Orchestra and its community.

YO-YO MA: PROJECT SAN FRANCISCO

In January 2010, as part of *Project San Francisco*’s 2009-10 Artist-in-Residence program, **Yo-Yo Ma** joins MTT and the SFS for performances of Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto No. 2 and Brahms’ *Double Concerto*, with violinist Colin Jacobsen. Ma also performs a chamber music concert with members of the SFS and a recital with pianist **Emanuel Ax**, including an SFS co-commissioned world premiere from Peter Lieberon and music from Schumann and Chopin. Yo-Yo Ma will also participate with the SFS in *Project San Francisco*’s educational

activities for music students. The *Project San Francisco* Artist-in-Residence program is made possible by the generous support of Marcia and John Goldman. Complete details of the *Yo-Yo Ma: Project San Francisco* Residency will be announced at a later date.

These are Yo-Yo Ma's first subscription season concerts with the SFS since 1994. Yo-Yo Ma first performed with the San Francisco Symphony in 1970 under Seiji Ozawa in Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1. In 1983 he returned to the SFS for concerts of Dvořák's Cello Concerto with then-guest conductor MTT. He has graced the Davies Symphony Hall stage many times since and performed with all SFS Music Directors. Ma was guest soloist for the San Francisco Symphony's Opening Gala in the 2005-2006 season and in 2008 he performed with MTT and the Orchestra at Carnegie Hall's Opening Night celebration of Leonard Bernstein. The performance was nationally broadcast on Thirteen/WNET New York's *GREAT PERFORMANCES* television series and is now available on DVD from [SFS Media](#).

GEORGE BENJAMIN: *PROJECT SAN FRANCISCO*

In January 2010, *Project San Francisco* shines the spotlight for two weeks on the work of British composer **George Benjamin**. As Phyllis C. Wattis Composer-in-Residence, Benjamin will lead the SFS in the West Coast premiere of his new Piano Concerto, *Duet* with pianist **Nicholas Hodges**. Benjamin also leads the SFS in his earliest orchestral work, *Ringed by the Flat Horizon*; Ravel's *Rapsodie espagnole* and *Mother Goose Suite*; and *Oiseaux exotiques*, written by Benjamin's composing mentor, Messiaen. Conductor **David Robertson**, a longtime champion of Benjamin's music, leads the SFS in the composer's *Dance Figures*, a West Coast premiere, and *Jubilation*. In addition, Benjamin joins SFS musicians as pianist in a chamber music concert, and participates in pre-concert lectures and SFS educational programs. The Phyllis C. Wattis Composer-in-Residence Program began in the 2008-09 season with a successful and acclaimed two-week residency with esteemed Russian composer **Sofia Gubaidulina**.

George Benjamin first appeared with the SFS in 1992 as conductor, pianist, and Artistic Director of the Wet Ink Festival, the SFS' celebration of contemporary composers. Over the course of the festival the SFS performed his *At First Light* and the U.S. premieres of his works *Antara* and *Piano Sonata*. Benjamin also performed an improvised piano accompaniment to the silent films *Ben-Hur* and *The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari*. In 1999 he made his subscription series conducting debut with the SFS, leading his own works *Viola, Viola* (with former Principal Viola Geraldine Walther and current Acting Principal Viola Yun Jie Liu) and *Three Inventions*, and Ligeti's Piano Concerto featuring Pierre-Laurent Aimard. At other times the SFS has performed his *Palimpsest*, *Sudden Time* and *Three Studies for Solo Piano*.

“Having always regarded [the SFS] as a quite wonderful orchestra, I’ve been particularly struck in recent years by the development of a remarkable new glow and warmth in their sonority,” Benjamin said. “Their loyalty and interest in my work over the decades touches me more than I can say. In a program that I will conduct, performances of my oldest and newest orchestral works will be juxtaposed with music by my teacher, Messiaen, and also by an earlier composer particularly close to my heart, Ravel.”

SFS COMMISSIONS AND WORLD PREMIERES

As an integral part of the SFS’ Centennial Initiatives and the expansion of its music commissioning activities, the SFS in 2009-10 offers six world premiere performances of new works. In addition to MTT and the Orchestra’s world premiere of a new SFS-commissioned work by Victor Kissine, pianist **Emanuel Ax** performs the world premieres of three SFS co-commissions written specifically for him by three of music’s most esteemed composers, Peter Lieberson, Osvaldo Golijov, and John Adams. Former SFS Resident Conductor **Edwin Outwater** leads the Orchestra in the world premiere of the multi-genre composer and singer **Rufus Wainwright’s** *Five Shakespeare Sonnets*, an SFS commission, with Wainwright performing. **Christoph Eschenbach** returns to conduct the world premiere of a new SFS-commissioned work by Austrian composer Thomas Larcher.

The 2009-10 season features 20 works never before performed by the SFS, including the world premieres and six first SFS performances conducted by Tilson Thomas [see MTT’s 2009-10 Programs, below]. The Orchestra performs the U.S. premiere of composer **Detlev Glanert’s** new work *Shoreless River (Fluss ohne Ufer)* with **Semyon Bychkov** on the podium. **David Robertson** conducts the first SFS performances of Australian composer Brett Dean’s *Carlo*, and **Edwin Outwater** leads the Orchestra in Claude Vivier’s *Zipangu*. Conductor **Osmo Vänskä** joins the Orchestra to lead the first SFS performances of John Adams’ *Slonimsky’s Earbox* and fellow Finn Aulis Sallinen’s Symphony No. 1. **Christoph Eschenbach** conducts the first SFS performances of Zemlinsky’s *Lyric Symphony*.

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS’ 2009-10 PROGRAMS

The [San Francisco Symphony](#) and [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) open the 2009-10 season on Wednesday, September 9 at Davies Symphony Hall with a special Opening Gala concert featuring pianist Lang Lang performing Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 3. The festive gala program also includes three waltzes: Liszt’s *Mephisto Waltz No. 1*, Ravel’s *La Valse* and Richard Rodgers’ Waltz from *Carousel*.

Highlights of MTT's fifteenth season include:

- Beginning September 16, MTT leads the Orchestra in a three-week Mahler Festival, portions of which will be recorded for the SFS' Grammy Award-winning [Mahler recording cycle](#) and filmed for its [Keeping Score](#) television series on PBS. Soloists for the Mahler Festival include mezzo-soprano Susan Graham and baritone Thomas Hampson.
- MTT conducts the world premiere of a new SFS-commissioned work by Russian composer Victor Kissine, whose work he has championed at the SFS.
- MTT leads the Orchestra in six SFS first performances, including Schubert/Webern's German Dances; Webern's Symphony; Ives' *A Concord Symphony* (arranged by Henry Brant); Litolff's Scherzo from *Concerto Symphonique* No. 4; Stravinsky's *Threni* (on Lamentations of Jeremiah), with the SFS Chorus, and Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 9.
- MTT conducts performances of Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* and *The Rite of Spring*, Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette*, Berg's *Lulu* Suite, and the first SFS performances of Robin Holloway's *Clarissa Sequence* since 1998.
- MTT performs as pianist in three concert weeks this season, in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23, with pianist Yuja Wang in Poulenc's Sonata for Piano Four Hands, and during the Mahler Festival, in Mahler's Piano Quartet.
- Other major works of the standard repertoire MTT will conduct include Beethoven's Symphony No. 5; Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2, *Little Russian*; Bizet's Symphony in C major and Schumann's Symphony No. 3, *Rhenish*.

2009 MAHLER FESTIVAL

Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony open the 2009-10 season with a three-week September festival devoted to the music of Gustav Mahler. Mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** performs Mahler's Rückert Lieder, to be recorded live for SFS Media's Grammy-winning [Mahler recording cycle](#) in a concert that also features Mahler's Symphony No. 1. Baritone **Thomas Hampson** joins MTT and the SFS for *Mahler: Origins and Legacies*, a unique discovery concert that explores Mahler's early works and influences. Featured works include Mahler's Piano Quartet (with MTT on piano), selections from Symphonies 2, 3 and 7, Mahler's early songs for voice and piano, and the Scherzo from Austrian composer Hans Rott's Symphony in E major. Those works and the Orchestra's performances of Symphony No. 5 will be filmed for future use in the SFS' *Keeping Score* national PBS television series. Hampson also performs *Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)*, which will be recorded for later release on SFS Media. Scelsi's *Hymnos* will also be performed during the festival.

Coinciding with the Mahler Festival, the Orchestra will release its recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8, *Symphony of a Thousand* (recorded at Davies Symphony Hall in November 2008) and the Adagio from Mahler's unfinished Symphony No. 10 on SFS Media. [See The Mahler Recording Project, p. 10.] Additionally, in March 2010, MTT and the SFS will perform Mahler's Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*, with soloists soprano Laura Claycomb and mezzo-soprano Katarina Karnéus and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: EMANUEL AX

Pianist **Emanuel Ax**, a longtime musical collaborator with the SFS since his debut with the Orchestra in 1979, will be featured in three special concerts and a week of December concerts with MTT and the Orchestra. Ax will perform the world premieres of three SFS co-commissions by Peter Lieberon, Osvaldo Golijov and John Adams. All of the new works, written specifically for Ax, have been inspired in some way by the music of Schumann and Chopin, as 2010 marks the 200th birthday for both composers. In celebration, Ax also will be performing works by Chopin and Schumann during his three special concerts. In December with the Orchestra and MTT, Ax performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4. Ax will perform the Lieberon work with **Yo-Yo Ma** in January as part of Ma's *Project San Francisco* residency. In a March recital with soprano **Dawn Upshaw**, Ax premieres a new work from Osvaldo Golijov with songs of Chopin and Schumann. Ax performs the world premiere of a new John Adams SFS commission in an April solo recital, in addition to a selection of other works by Chopin and Schumann. The San Francisco Symphony co-commissioned the new works with the Barbican Centre, the Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Emanuel Ax most recently performed with the SFS in October 2008 under the baton of Peter Oundjian in the first SFS performances of Szymanowski's Symphony No. 4 for Piano and Orchestra and Richard Strauss' *Burleske* for Piano and Orchestra. MTT first conducted Ax with the SFS in the 1998 West Coast premiere of John Adams' *Century Rolls*, which the composer wrote specifically for Ax. Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma have made many recordings together, and in 1989 performed in recital at Davies Symphony Hall and again in a special concert in February 2000. Recent highlights for Ax include a season-long Perspectives series at Carnegie Hall and his appointment as Pianist in Residence at the Berlin Philharmonic, performing under Sir Simon Rattle in Berlin and New York. In Europe he joined the New York Philharmonic in Vienna and Warsaw and toured with the Budapest Festival Orchestra in Germany and Holland.

NATIONAL TOUR

The San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas will perform on a two-week, five-city national tour in March 2010, including its two annual concerts at New York's Carnegie Hall. Additional tour stops include Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and two college campuses, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. Tour repertoire features the SFS commission by Victor Kissine, which receives its world premiere in San Francisco in March 2010, and Mahler's Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection* with soprano **Laura Claycomb** and mezzo-soprano **Katarina Karnéus**. Claycomb and Karnéus are joined by the **Westminster Symphonic Choir** in New York and Philadelphia. Violinist **Christian Tetzlaff** joins the Orchestra for Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Additional tour repertoire includes Ravel's *Valses nobles et sentimentales* and Liszt's *Tasso: Lament and Triumph*.

2009-10 GUEST CONDUCTORS

The San Francisco Symphony welcomes several of today's most distinguished and accomplished conductors to its podium as guests with the Orchestra. Among them:

- **George Benjamin** [see George Benjamin: *Project San Francisco*, p. 4].
- **Vasily Petrenko**, Principal Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, appears with the SFS for the first time in April 2010. Petrenko was the Resident Conductor of the St. Petersburg State Opera and Ballet Theatre from 1994 to 1997 and Chief Conductor of the State Academy Orchestra of St. Petersburg from 2004-2007. This season he will lead the SFS in a performance of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8, and Simon Trpčeski joins him and the Orchestra in Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor.
- Violinist **Itzhak Perlman** will conduct and perform in Bach's Violin Concerto No. 2, Elgar's Introduction and Allegro and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, *Pathétique*, in October.
- **Charles Dutoit** returns to the SFS in February to lead the Orchestra and women of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in Holst's *The Planets*. SFS Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik is the featured soloist in Walton's Violin Concerto.
- Finnish conductor **Osmo Vänskä** is one of four guest conductors to be on the SFS podium for two weeks this season. In October he directs the Orchestra in its first performances of John Adams' *Slonimsky's Earbox*. Also on the program are Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Yundi Li and Dvořák's Symphony No. 7. In **Vänskä's** second week, he leads the Orchestra in the first SFS performances of Finnish composer Aulis Sallinen's Symphony No. 1, and **Vadim Repin** is the soloist in Sibelius' Violin Concerto.

- Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, **David Robertson** returns to the SFS podium for two separate weeks. In October, Robertson visits the SFS for a program that includes the Orchestra's first SFS performances of Brett Dean's *Carlo* and Yefim Bronfman performing Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2. In January, Robertson returns to conduct the first SFS performances of George Benjamin's *Jubilation* and *Dance Figures* during Benjamin's *Project San Francisco* composer residency. Robertson will also lead Debussy's Three Etudes (arranged by Jarell) and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3, *Scottish*.
- Conductor **Semyon Bychkov** returns to the SFS for two weeks in November. An all-Rachmaninoff program features the composer's Symphony No. 2 and *The Bells* with soloists Nuccia Focile (in her SFS debut), Frank Lopardo, Mikhail Petrenko and the SFS Chorus. Bychkov also leads the Orchestra in the U.S. premiere of *Shoreless River (Fluss ohne Ufer)*, a new work by **Detlev Glanert**; Sibelius' Symphony No. 5; and Schumann's Cello Concerto, with cellist Gautier Capuçon making his SFS debut.
- **Bernard Labadie** leads the SFS in April performances of Mozart's Symphonies No. 41, *Jupiter*, and No. 35, *Haffner*, with Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 featuring Marc-André Hamelin.
- In April and May, German conductor **Christoph Eschenbach** leads the SFS in two weeks of concerts. The first features Schumann's Symphony No. 4 and the first SFS performances of Zemlinsky's *Lyric Symphony*, with baritone Matthias Goerne and soprano Christine Schäfer, who makes her SFS debut. The following week, Eschenbach leads the Orchestra in the world premiere of an SFS commission by Thomas Larcher, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring the SFS debut of David Fray, and Brahms' Symphony No. 2.
- Former SFS Resident Conductor (2001-2006) **Edwin Outwater** will be on the podium in April 2010 for the world premiere of composer and singer Rufus Wainwright's *Five Shakespeare Sonnets*, an SFS commission. Wainwright makes his SFS debut performing in these concerts. Also on the program are the first SFS performances of rarely-performed Canadian composer Claude Vivier's *Zipangu*, Poulenc's Suite from *Les Biches*, and Gounod's Ballet Music from *Faust*.

2009-10 GUEST SOLOISTS

The San Francisco Symphony's 2009-10 season features 11 guest soloists making their SFS debuts, including pianists **David Fray** and **Nicholas Hodges**; violinist **Colin Jacobsen**; cellist **Gautier Capuçon**, sopranos **Malin Christensson**, **Nuccia Focile**, and **Christine Schäfer**, contralto **Marie-Nicole Lemieux**; tenor **Lothar Odinius**, bass **Anders Larsson**, and singer **Rufus Wainwright**.

The 23 guest artists returning to perform with the SFS during the 2009-10 season include: pianists **Emanuel Ax**, **Marc-André Hamelin**, **Yefim Bronfman**, **Lang Lang**, **Yundi Li**, **Garrick Ohlsson**, **Simon Trpčeski**, **Yuja Wang**, and **Ilya Yakushev**; violinists **James Ehnes**, **Itzhak Perlman**, **Vadim Repin**, and **Christian Tetzlaff**;

cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**; sopranos **Laura Claycomb** and **Erin Wall**; mezzo-sopranos **Sasha Cooke**; **Susan Graham**, and **Katarina Karnéus**; tenor **Frank Lopardo**; and baritones **Matthias Goerne**, **Thomas Hampson**, and **Mikhail Petrenko**.

2009-10 SFS CONDUCTORS AND MUSICIANS

SFS Conductor Laureate **Herbert Blomstedt** conducts the Orchestra for two weeks in February 2010, when he leads the Orchestra in Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*. SFS Principal Cello Michael Grebanier is the soloist with the SFS in Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1. Maestro Blomstedt will also conduct performances of Bruckner's Symphony No. 6 and Mozart's Symphony No. 36, *Linz*.

SFS Concertmaster **Alexander Barantschik** and SFS Chorus Director **Ragnar Bohlin** lead the Orchestra in a two-week Bach Celebration in November. Bohlin leads the SFS and SFS Chorus in Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* joined by soprano Malin Christensson, contralto Marie-Nicole Lemieux, tenor Lothar Odinius, and bass Anders Larsson. All the soloists are making their SFS debuts. **Barantschik** leads the Orchestra in Bach's Concerto Suite No. 1, Brandenburg Concerto Nos. 3, 4 and 5 and J.C. Bach's Sinfonia in B-flat major. In February 2010, Barantschik is soloist in Walton's Violin Concerto under the direction of conductor Charles Dutoit.

Many SFS musicians will also appear in the 2009-10 Chamber Music Series, with six Sunday matinee concerts in Davies Symphony Hall and four at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor.

THE MAHLER RECORDING PROJECT

The San Francisco Symphony's acclaimed [Mahler recording cycle](#), launched in 2001 on its own SFS Media label, will continue this season with the release in fall 2009 of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 and the Adagio from Symphony No. 10. With this recording, the SFS will have released all of Mahler's symphonies on disc. Mahler's Symphony No. 8, captured at performances in Davies Symphony Hall last November, features 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, plus the San Francisco Symphony Chorus under the direction of Ragnar Bohlin, the San Francisco Girls Chorus, and the Pacific Boychoir. The Adagio from Symphony No. 10 was recorded in April 2006.

Remaining CDs in the cycle will include Mahler's Rückert Lieder, with mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, paired with *Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)*, performed by Thomas Hampson and the Orchestra. Both works will be recorded live during the September 2009 Mahler Festival. The SFS Media Mahler cycle has won

four Grammy Awards and has sold over 100,000 CDs to date. All SFS Media recordings are available on hybrid SACD from the Symphony Store in Davies Symphony Hall and online at shopsfsymphony.org as well as other major retailers. The recordings can also be purchased as MP3s from iTunes, Emusic, Rhapsody and other digital outlets. SFS Media recordings are distributed by Harmonia Mundi in the U.S. and Avie internationally. The project is made possible through the generosity of the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation.

KEEPING SCORE

Keeping Score, the San Francisco Symphony's acclaimed national media project designed to make classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds, launches its second television season on PBS in fall 2009. *Keeping Score* Season Two explores Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, Ives' *Holidays* Symphony and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 with three one-hour documentaries and live concert programs designed for broadcast in the U.S. and internationally. In addition, the *Keeping Score* project includes an innovative educational website (www.keepingsscore.org) to explore and learn about orchestral music which will be updated with new content about the new composers this summer. *Keeping Score* also includes a national radio series, *The MTT Files*; DVDs on SFS Media; and an education program that provides professional development for K-12 teachers, enabling them to 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. The *Keeping Score* radio series has been broadcast on almost 100 stations nationally.

During the 2009-10 season, SFS Media will capture live concert performances of MTT leading the Orchestra as they perform the music of Gustav Mahler for future use in *Keeping Score*'s third season. Further details about *Keeping Score* programs and broadcast information will be announced at a later date and will be available at www.keepingsscore.org.

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY CHORUS

The San Francisco Symphony Chorus, in its third season under SFS Chorus Director **Ragnar Bohlin**, performs in seven SFS concert weeks and one spring chorus concert during the 2009-10 season. Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the Chorus in four subscription weeks, with repertoire including Schubert's Mass No. 2 in G major, Mahler's Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*; Stravinsky's *Threni* (on Lamentations of Jeremiah); Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*; and Berlioz's *Roméo and Juliette*. Guest conductor **Semyon Bychkov** leads the ensemble in Rachmaninoff's *The Bells*, and Ragnar Bohlin conducts the Chorus in Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. Bohlin will also conduct the spring chorus concert, with a *cappella* repertoire to be announced. Guest conductor **Charles Dutoit** also conducts the women of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in Holst's *The Planets*.

2009-10 GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES AND SPECIAL CONCERTS

The San Francisco Symphony's 2009-10 season offers a twelve-concert Great Performers Series and several special concerts with some of the world's most lauded and accomplished musicians, orchestras and conductors. The **Los Angeles Philharmonic** and its new Music Director **Gustavo Dudamel** visit in May to perform two concerts of works by Mahler, Bernstein, Tchaikovsky and John Adams. The **Berlin Philharmonic** and conductor **Simon Rattle** perform two concerts in November, featuring music by Brahms, Wagner and Schoenberg. In March, conductor **Myung-Whun Chung** leads the **Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France** in its first appearance in San Francisco; mezzo-soprano **Anne-Sophie von Otter** joins them in an all-Ravel program. In October, the SFS presents pianist **Murray Perahia** in recital. The **Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig** and conductor **Riccardo Chailly** perform two concerts in February, in programs featuring Beethoven, Chopin and Dvořák with pianist **Nelson Freire**. Conductor **Valery Gergiev** conducts the **Mariinsky Orchestra** and pianist **Denis Matsuev** in two concerts featuring works by Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky in March. In April, the **St. Louis Symphony Orchestra** and conductor **David Robertson** perform two concerts featuring John Adams' *Doctor Atomic* Symphony, plus music by Stravinsky, Mozart, Sibelius, and Christopher Rouse. Violinist **Gil Shaham** joins them as soloist on Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2.

In addition, the San Francisco Symphony presents several special concerts, including a Halloween night screening of F.W. Murnau's classic vampire film *Nosferatu* with organist **Dennis James** providing haunting accompaniment; a celebration of Mexican music and culture at the ***Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Family Concert*** in November; the 10th Anniversary **Chinese New Year Concert and Celebration** in February; an April screening of Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* with the San Francisco Symphony performing Chaplin's score; a special concert celebrating members of the San Francisco Symphony's Volunteer Council during National Volunteer Week in April; and the **Black & White Ball** returns to San Francisco's Civic Center in May.

2009-10 SOUTH BAY CLASSICAL SERIES

The San Francisco Symphony continues its performances for patrons in the South Bay during the 2009-10 season, with an eight-concert subscription series and a three-concert *Music for Families* series at the Flint Center in Cupertino. The acclaimed SFS Youth Orchestra will also perform its annual holiday concert *Peter and the Wolf* at the Flint Center in December. Michael Tilson Thomas and the SFS open the South Bay Classical Series on September 12 with a program of Liszt, Ravel, Rodgers, and Prokofiev. Other conductors featured in the series include **David Robertson**, **Osmo Vänskä**, **Charles Dutoit**, and **Bernard Labadie**. Pianists **Ilya Yakushev**, **Yefim Bronfman**, **Nicholas Hodges** and **Marc-André Hamelin**, violinists **Vadim Repin** and **James Ehnes**, SFS

concertmaster **Alexander Barantschik**, and soprano **Erin Wall** also appear. The SFS has performed at Cupertino's Flint Center since 1971.

NEW 2009-10 SUNDAY ORGAN SERIES

The San Francisco Symphony offers a new Sunday Organ Series during the 2009-10 season, featuring the mighty Ruffatti Organ in Davies Symphony Hall. The three-concert series features organists **Paul Jacobs** in January, **Iveta Apkalna** in her U.S. debut in March, and the SFS debut of **Cameron Carpenter** in May. The Ruffatti Organ is the largest concert-hall organ in North America and was handcrafted in Padua, Italy. This customized concert pipe organ boasts 8,264 pipes ranging in size from a ballpoint pen to over 32 feet tall, with a façade measuring 1600 square feet.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) performs three Sunday matinee concerts in Davies Symphony Hall during the 2009-10 season. Members of the SFSYO range between the ages of 12 and 20, and the Orchestra is internationally acclaimed as one of the world's finest ensembles of young musicians. In addition to concerts in November, March, and May, the Youth Orchestra will again perform its annual *Peter and the Wolf* holiday concerts both in Davies Symphony Hall and the Flint Center in Cupertino.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Praised by *The New York Times* as "a music education powerhouse" and by *The Wall Street Journal* as "the industry standard," the San Francisco Symphony's education programs offer a vital cultural resource in the Bay Area. Committed to serving its community in meaningful and lasting ways, the SFS reaches hundreds of thousands of people of all ages throughout Northern California with its educational and community programs, touching a broad economic and cultural cross-section of the population. The *Adventures in Music* program serves as a national model for music education in the schools. The SFS *Youth Orchestra* (see above) has achieved an international reputation for excellence. *Music for Families* features the San Francisco Symphony in a series of weekend matinee concerts, both at Davies Symphony Hall and the Flint Center in Cupertino, which are specially designed for children and their families to learn about music together. *Concerts for Kids* makes live orchestral music available to more than 35,000 children each year throughout Northern California. Other programs such as the *Opus Program* and the Web site SFSKids.com reach young instrumentalists, students of all ages, and adults, providing access to and engagement with music of the highest quality.

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

The San Francisco Symphony's 2009-10 Community Concert Series includes a number of free concerts for music lovers in neighborhoods around the Bay Area. In September, the Orchestra performs a free noontime concert at Justin Herman Plaza in San Francisco, and, in the summer of 2010, performs free concerts in Dolores Park and Stern Grove. The annual All-San Francisco concert for more than 100 community organizations returns in September, and the SFS presents its annual Community Deck the Hall Concert in December. Four weeks of San Francisco Arts Commission/San Francisco Symphony *Summer in the City* concerts in the summer of 2010 include the annual SFS Fourth of July celebration at Shoreline Amphitheatre.

TICKET INFORMATION

Subscription series tickets for the San Francisco Symphony's 2009-10 season go on sale to renewing subscribers and the general public starting today, Monday, March 2, at 10 a.m. Ticket information is available through the San Francisco Symphony Web site at www.sfsymphony.org, through the SFS Ticket Services Office at 415-864-6000, and at the box office at Davies Symphony Hall.

Subscribers have advance ordering privileges for the Opening Gala, special events, and for additional single tickets for concerts. Subscriber benefits also include ticket-price savings, guaranteed same seats, ticket-exchange privileges, seat upgrades, priority for single-ticket purchases, and *Symphony*, the SFS newsletter, mailed to subscribers' homes. Special subscription series, such as the four-concert *Music for Families* Series, start as low as \$60, with children's tickets at half-price. Six-concert student subscriptions start as low as \$90.

Further highlights of the season and a full list of programs can be found in the "Season at a Glance" and the 2009-10 Season Calendar documents that accompany this release. All programs are subject to change; additional concert, program, and artist information will be announced at a later date. For further press information, please contact the SFS Communications Department at (415) 503-5474, email publicrelations@sfsymphony.org, or visit the SFS Press Room online at www.sfspressroom.org.

Chevron is the Presenting Sponsor of the San Francisco Symphony's Great Performers Series.

Infiniti is the Official Vehicle of the San Francisco Symphony.

Louis M. Martini is the Official Wine of the San Francisco Symphony.

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Founded in 1911, the [San Francisco Symphony](#) (SFS) is widely considered to be among the country's most artistically adventurous and innovative arts institutions. Under Music Director [Michael Tilson Thomas](#), the SFS presents more than 220 concerts and presentations annually for an audience of nearly 600,000 in its home of Davies Symphony Hall, in other Bay Area venues, and through an active national and international touring program.

Tilson Thomas assumed his post as the SFS's eleventh Music Director in September 1995. Together, he and the San Francisco Symphony have formed a musical partnership hailed as one of the most inspiring and successful in the country. His fourteen seasons as Music Director have been praised by critics for outstanding musicianship, innovative programming, highlighting the works of American composers, and bringing new audiences to classical music.

In 1996, Tilson Thomas led the Orchestra on the first of their fourteen national tours together, and they have continued an ambitious yearly touring schedule that has taken them to Europe, Asia and throughout the United States. Recent touring highlights include a 2006 Asian tour that included the Orchestra's first appearances in mainland China, and a three-week 2007 European tour that featured two televised appearances at the BBC Proms in London and concerts at several other major European festivals. In September 2008, MTT and the Orchestra opened Carnegie Hall's 2008-09 season with a gala tribute to Leonard Bernstein that was filmed and broadcast nationally on PBS' *Great Performances*. The DVD of the performance, *A Celebration of Leonard Bernstein: Carnegie Hall Opening Night 2008*, was released in October 2008 on the Orchestra's own SFS Media label and is available nationally and internationally through online and retail outlets.

Since 2001, Tilson Thomas and the Orchestra have recorded all nine of Mahler's symphonies and the Adagio from the unfinished Tenth Symphony, and plan to record the composer's complete works for voices, chorus, and orchestra for SFS Media. The Orchestra's recording of *Das Lied von der Erde* with tenor Stuart Skelton and baritone Thomas Hampson was released in September 2008. In November 2008, MTT and the SFS recorded Mahler's sweeping Symphony No. 8, *Symphony of a Thousand*, for release in 2009. The San Francisco Symphony has also recorded scenes from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, a collection of Stravinsky ballets, a Gershwin collection, and *Charles Ives: An American Journey*, among others. In addition to eleven Grammy Awards, the SFS has won some of the world's most prestigious recording awards, including Japan's Record Academy Award and France's Grand Prix du Disque.

In fall 2006, Tilson Thomas and the SFS launched the national [*Keeping Score*](#) PBS television series and multimedia project. *Keeping Score* is the San Francisco Symphony's national program designed to make classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds. The project is anchored by a national PBS television series which debuted in 2006, and includes an innovative website to explore and learn about music; a national radio series, *The MTT Files*; documentary and live performance DVDs; and an education program for K-12 schools to further teaching through the arts by integrating classical music into core subjects. To date, nearly five million people have seen the *Keeping Score* television series, and the radio series has been broadcast on almost 100 stations nationally. The second series of *Keeping Score* television programs, with episodes on composers Hector Berlioz, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Charles Ives, is scheduled for broadcast on PBS in fall 2009.

The San Francisco Symphony provides the most extensive education and community programs offered by any American orchestra today. In 1988, the Symphony established *Adventures in Music* (AIM), a free, comprehensive music education program that introduces every first- through fifth-grade child in the San Francisco Unified School District to music from around the world. The SFS also offers opportunities to hear and learn about great music through its programs *Concerts for Kids*, *Music for Families*, the internationally-acclaimed SFS Youth Orchestra, an instrument training program for middle and high school students, and annual free community concerts around the Bay Area.

-SFS-

2009-10 SEASON MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

The San Francisco Symphony is grateful for the support of its generous partners:

Corporate Partners

Chevron (Centennial Partner)

Centennial Partners have committed major, multi-year funding in recognition of the Orchestra's upcoming 100th anniversary, which will be celebrated in the 2011-2012 season.

American Airlines

AT&T

Bank of America

City National Bank

Franklin Templeton Investments

Hartmann Studios

Infiniti (Official Vehicle)

Jones Day

KPMG LLP

Louis M. Martini Winery (Official Wine)

Macy's Foundation

McKesson

The Morrison & Foerster Foundation

and Individual Partners and Employees

of Morrison & Foerster LLP

PG&E Corporation

Wells Fargo

Public Funders

Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund

National Endowment for the Arts