

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / September 24, 2009

**CONDUCTOR OSMO VÄNSKÄ LEADS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN TWO WEEKS OF  
CONCERTS OCTOBER 22-31  
FEATURING PIANIST ANTTI SIIRALA AND VIOLINIST VADIM REPIN**

**Yundi Li Withdraws from October 22-24 Performances**

---

Conductor Osmo Vänskä will lead the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in two weeks of concerts October 22-31. These concerts feature two works by living composers, John Adams' *Slonimsky's Earbox* and the first SFS performances of Aulis Sallinen's Symphony No. 1. Pianist Yundi Li has withdrawn from his performances on October 22, 23 and 24 due to an illness in his family. Pianist Antti Siirala will replace Li and perform Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor in Davies Symphony Hall October 22-24 at 8:00 p.m. Concert repertoire also includes John Adams' *Slonimsky's Earbox* and Dvořák's Symphony No. 7 in D minor.

Vänskä leads the SFS and violinist Vadim Repin in Sibelius' Violin Concerto in D minor on Wednesday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m. and Friday, October 30 at 6:30 p.m. in Davies Symphony Hall, and Saturday, October 31 at 8:00 p.m. at the Flint Center in Cupertino. The program will also include Finnish composer Aulis Sallinen's Symphony No. 1, Beethoven's *Coriolan* Overture, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F major. These are the Orchestra's first performances of Sallinen's work. The Friday, October 30 concert is the first in the SFS's 2009-10 Friday 6.5 series, with an earlier start time (6:30 p.m.) and an opportunity to hear the conductor share unique perspectives on the composers and the music.

Finnish conductor [Osmo Vänskä](#) is Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra. He has recorded the complete Beethoven symphonies with the Orchestra for the Swedish BIS label, with each album in the five-disc project receiving superlative praise nationally and internationally, and the recording of the Ninth Symphony receiving a Grammy nomination. During the current season he launches several new recording initiatives with the Orchestra, including a five-year project to record all the Beethoven piano concertos with Yevgeny Sudbin; a two-year project of live, in-concert recordings of Tchaikovsky's piano concertos and Concert Fantasia with Stephen Hough; and a CD of Bruckner's Fourth (*Romantic*) Symphony. Osmo Vänskä last conducted the SFS in March 2007.

Born in 1971 in Novosibirsk, [Vadim Repin](#) began playing the violin at the age of five and after six months made his first public appearance. He studied in his hometown with Zakhar Bron. At the age of seven he gave his first performance with an orchestra, at eleven, his St. Petersburg recital debut. His international breakthrough came in 1989, when Repin became the youngest-ever winner of the world's most prestigious and demanding violin competition, the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. Repin last performed with the SFS in November 2004.

Born in Helsinki in 1979, Finnish pianist [Antti Siirala](#) made his orchestral debut at the age of seven and won the Juvenalia Chamber Music Competition at the age of thirteen. He is the first prize winner of three international piano competitions, including the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition in 2003. Siirala studied at the Sibelius Academy with Matti Raekallio and Ivari Ilja, and has also worked with Mitsuko Uchida and Murray Perahia. In concert,

Siirala has played under conductors such as Paavo Berglund, Thierry Fischer, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Osmo Vänskä, and he makes his San Francisco Symphony debut with these performances.

**WHERE & WHEN:**

Thursday, October 22 at 8:00 p.m.  
Friday, October 23 at 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Osmo Vänskä, conductor [\(click here for bio\)](#)  
Antti Siirala, piano [\(click here for bio\)](#)  
San Francisco Symphony

**PROGRAM:**  
John Adams / *Slonimsky's Earbox*  
Tchaikovsky / Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor,  
Opus 23  
Dvořák / Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Opus 70

**BROADCAST:** Portions of these concerts will be broadcast on CLASSICAL 102.1 KDFC at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.

**PRE-CONCERT TALK:** Alexandra Amati-Camperi gives the “Inside Music” talks one hour prior to the concerts. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open fifteen minutes prior.

**TICKETS:** \$15-\$135; available through SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 or online at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org).

---

**WHERE & WHEN:**

Wednesday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. –  
Open Rehearsal  
Wednesday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m.  
Friday, October 30 at 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, October 31 at 8:00 p.m.

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco  
  
Flint Center, DeAnza College Campus, Cupertino

Osmo Vänskä, conductor  
Vadim Repin, violin [\(click here for bio\)](#)  
San Francisco Symphony

**PROGRAM:**  
Aulis Sallinen / Symphony No. 1, Opus 24  
**(not performed on Friday, October 30)**  
Sibelius / Violin Concerto in D minor, Opus 47  
Beethoven / *Coriolan* Overture, Opus 62  
Beethoven / Symphony No. 8 in F major, Opus 93

**BROADCAST:** Portions of these concerts will be broadcast on CLASSICAL 102.1 KDFC at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10.

**PRE-CONCERT TALK:** Susan Key gives the “Inside Music” talks one hour prior to the concerts. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open fifteen minutes prior.

**TICKETS:** Open Rehearsal, \$35 reserved, \$20 general; Concerts \$15-\$135; available through SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 or online at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org).

---

*The concert of October 22 is made possible through the generosity of McKinsey & Company, Inc.*

*The concert of October 23 is made possible through the generosity of Otsuka.*

*Support for Antti Siirala's appearance is provided by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.*

*The concerts on October 28-31 are made possible through the generosity of the Mr. and Mrs. George Otto Sibelius Fund.*

*Support for Osmo Vänskä's appearance is provided by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Resident Conductors.*

- SFS -