

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** / October 8, 2009

**NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR DONATO CABRERA OPENS  
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA SEASON  
NOVEMBER 15 IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**Season Highlights Include Haydn's *Oxford* Symphony, Sibelius' Violin Concerto Featuring 2009 Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition Winner Kenneth Renshaw, Brahms' Symphony No. 1, John Adams' *The Chairman Dances*, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, And Linda Ronstadt Narrating The Annual *Peter and the Wolf* Holiday Concerts**

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**SAN FRANCISCO, October 8, 2009** – The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) opens its three-concert season at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15 in Davies Symphony Hall under the direction of its new Music Director, Donato Cabrera. The concert program features Christopher Rouse's *Infernal Machine*, Haydn's Symphony No. 92 in G Major, *Oxford*, and Elgar's *Enigma* Variations. The remaining two performances are scheduled for March 21 and May 16 with music by Gabriela Lena Frank, Sibelius, Brahms, John Adams, Vaughan Williams, and Tchaikovsky. Additional concerts include the annual holiday performances of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* featuring guest narrator Linda Ronstadt on December 12 at the Flint Center in Cupertino and on December 13 in Davies Symphony Hall.

The SFSYO celebrates the appointment of [Donato Cabrera](#) as Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, the seventh SFSYO music director since it was founded in 1981. Prior to his appointment, Cabrera was Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Opera from 2005-2008. In addition to his position with the SFSYO, Cabrera will serve as Assistant Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony (SFS). "I have long been an admirer of the San Francisco Symphony and its Youth Orchestra and I am incredibly excited to have the opportunity to work with the tremendous young musicians that make up the SFSYO," said Cabrera. "The San Francisco Symphony is recognized nationally as an institution that is devoted to nurturing and developing its musical community and I am thrilled to be joining this inspiring team." Donato Cabrera is dedicated to music education, and in the words of SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, "He is an insightful musician with an established career as a conductor but also has a passion for introducing young

people to music. I look forward to collaborating with him in developing new audiences in San Francisco and watching him lead the outstanding young musicians of the Youth Orchestra.”

### **NOVEMBER 15 CONCERT**

Music Director Donato Cabrera opens the SFSYO’s season at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15 in Davies Symphony Hall. The concert features Christopher Rouse’s *Infernal Machine*, Haydn’s Symphony No. 92 in G Major, *Oxford*, and Elgar’s *Enigma Variations*.

### **DECEMBER 12 & 13 / PETER AND THE WOLF**

Donato Cabrera leads the SFSYO and guest narrator Linda Ronstadt in the SFSYO’s annual performances of Prokofiev’s whimsical tale of *Peter and the Wolf*. The SFSYO will perform the program at the Flint Center in Cupertino at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, and at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in Davies Symphony Hall on Sunday, December 13. Festive music of the season and traditional sing-alongs complete this enjoyable afternoon for the whole family.

### **MARCH 21 CONCERT**

Donato Cabrera conducts the second concert of the Youth Orchestra’s 2009-10 subscription season on Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m. The concert program will feature Gabriela Lena Frank’s Latin American Dances for Orchestra, Sibelius’ Violin Concerto in D minor featuring 2009 SFSYO Concerto Competition winner Kenneth Renshaw, and Brahms’ Symphony No. 1 in C minor. Kenneth Renshaw, 15, is in his second season as Concertmaster of the SFSYO and is a sophomore at San Francisco’s School of the Arts.

### **MAY 16 CONCERT**

Donato Cabrera will lead the SFSYO in their final performance of the season on Sunday, May 16 at 2:00 p.m. The program will include John Adams’ *The Chairman Dances*, Vaughan Williams’ Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis, and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5 in E minor.

### **DONATO CABRERA**

Donato Cabrera, San Francisco Symphony Assistant Conductor and Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, joined the San Francisco Symphony in 2009. From 2005 to 2008, Cabrera was Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Opera, where he participated in the world premiere of John Adams’ *Doctor Atomic* and conducted performances of *Die Fledermaus*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tannhäuser*, and *The Magic Flute*, among others. He has also been an assistant and cover conductor for various projects at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the San Francisco Ballet.

Donato Cabrera has long been dedicated to music education and community engagement. For more than four seasons, he programmed and conducted Young People's Concerts for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and he frequently led the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, an organization that provides a musically enriching and nurturing atmosphere to inner-city youth in and around Newark, NJ. In addition, he has conducted the youth orchestra of the Juilliard School, as well as those of Cincinnati, Norwalk, and Ridgefield. Mr. Cabrera also works with young singers; he has worked with members of the young artist programs of the San Francisco Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the Portland Opera. In 2002 Cabrera was a Herbert von Karajan conducting fellow at the Salzburg Festival. He has also served as Assistant Conductor at the Ravinia, Spoleto (Italy), and Aspen Music festivals, and as Resident Conductor at the Music Academy of the West. Cabrera holds degrees from the University of Nevada and the University of Illinois, and has pursued graduate studies in conducting at Indiana University and the Manhattan School of Music.

### **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

Founded in 1981, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra is comprised of over 100 culturally diverse musicians, ranging in age from 12 to 21 and selected by annual auditions. Its purpose is to provide a tuition-free orchestral experience of pre-professional caliber to young musicians from the greater Bay Area. The SFSYO is recognized throughout the United States, Europe and Asia as one of the finest youth orchestras in the world. The ensemble has toured Asia and Europe, and most recently embarked on its eighth international tour with concerts throughout Germany and the Czech Republic in the summer of 2008. The tour included the SFSYO's debuts at the Berliner Philharmonie, Munich's Philharmonie im Gasteig and Prague's Smetana Hall, as well as three acclaimed music festivals throughout Germany with concerts in Rostock, Passau, and Ingolstadt. Previous tours have included concerts at Vienna's Musikverein, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Paris's Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Paris's Cité de la Musique, Prague's Dvořák Hall, St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater as part of the White Nights Festival, and at the Moscow Conservatory. The SFSYO has won first prize in Vienna's International Youth and Music Festival, has performed for Queen Elizabeth II of England, and has been featured on BBC Radio. Their discography includes several critically acclaimed live concert recordings: Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 recorded at Prague's Dvořák Hall in 1998; a disc of works by Bartók, Tchaikovsky, and Ravel, recorded at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw in 1995; Mahler's Symphony No. 5, recorded at Davies Symphony Hall in 1994; and special 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary compilation discs.

The SFSYO rehearses and performs in Davies Symphony Hall under the direction of Music Director Donato Cabrera. As part of the innovative rehearsal program, members of the San Francisco Symphony coach the players each Saturday afternoon in sectional rehearsals. SFSYO members also have the opportunity to meet and work with SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and many of the world-renowned artists visiting the SFS each season.

## TICKETS

Youth Orchestra tickets may be purchased individually or by series. Individual concert tickets for the November 15, March 21 and May 16 concerts are priced at \$12 for general seating and \$33 for reserved seating. Series concert packages (for the November 15, March 21, and May 16 concerts) are \$36 for general seating and \$90 for reserved seating. Tickets for the *Peter and the Wolf* concerts at the Flint Center in Cupertino on December 12 are priced from \$15-\$48 (children 17 and under half-price) and tickets for the two performances in Davies Symphony Hall on December 13 are priced from \$15-\$57 (children 17 and under half-price). Tickets for all concerts are available through SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000, or online through the SFS website at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org).

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*The Youth Orchestra receives generous support from the Phyllis C. Wattis Youth Orchestra Fund, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Surdna Foundation, the Alexander M. and June L. Maisin Foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund, The Robert and Helen Odell Fund, the McBean Family Foundation, the Julia Klumpke Trust, and the National Endowment for the Arts. We are also grateful to the many individual donors who help make this program possible.*

*The Music Director's chair of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra is generously supported by the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Endowment for the Youth Orchestra Conductor.*

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
DONATO CABRERA / WATTIS FOUNDATION MUSIC DIRECTOR  
2009-2010 SEASON**

**Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco**

Donato Cabrera, conductor  
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

**PROGRAM:**

Christopher Rouse / *Infernal Machine*  
Haydn / Symphony No. 92 in G Major, *Oxford*  
Elgar / *Enigma Variations*, Opus 36

TICKETS: \$12 general seating & \$33 reserved seating; available through SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000, or online through the SFS Web site at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org). This concert is recommended for ages 12 and older.

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**Saturday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.  
PETER AND THE WOLF HOLIDAY CONCERT**

**Flint Center  
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd  
Cupertino**

Donato Cabrera, conductor  
Linda Ronstadt, narrator  
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

**PROGRAM:**

Tchaikovsky / Russian Dance from *The Nutcracker*  
Prokofiev / Troika from *Lieutenant Kijé Suite*  
Tchaikovsky / March from *The Nutcracker*  
Tchaikovsky / Arabian Dance from *The Nutcracker*  
Tchaikovsky / Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy from *The Nutcracker*  
Johann Strauss, Sr. / *Radetzky March*  
Tchaikovsky / Waltz of the Flowers from *The Nutcracker*  
Prokofiev / *Peter and the Wolf*, Opus 67  
Traditional / Carol Sing-Along  
Pierpont (arr. Romero) / "Jingle Bells"  
Marks / "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer"  
Traditional / "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

TICKETS: \$15-\$48 (children 17 and under half-price); available through SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000, or online through the SFS website at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org).

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**Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.**  
**PETER AND THE WOLF HOLIDAY CONCERTS**

**Davies Symphony Hall**  
**201 Van Ness Avenue**  
**San Francisco**

Donato Cabrera, conductor  
Linda Ronstadt, narrator  
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

**PROGRAM:**

Tchaikovsky / Russian Dance from *The Nutcracker*  
Prokofiev / Troika from *Lieutenant Kijé* Suite  
Tchaikovsky / March from *The Nutcracker*  
Tchaikovsky / Arabian Dance from *The Nutcracker*  
Tchaikovsky / Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy from *The Nutcracker*  
Johann Strauss, Sr. / *Radetzky* March  
Tchaikovsky / Waltz of the Flowers from *The Nutcracker*  
Prokofiev / *Peter and the Wolf*, Opus 67  
Traditional / Carol Sing-Along  
Pierpont (arr. Romero) / “Jingle Bells”  
Marks / “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer”  
Traditional / “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

TICKETS: \$15-\$57 (children 17 and under half-price); available through SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000, or online through the SFS website at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org).

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**Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Davies Symphony Hall**  
**201 Van Ness Avenue**  
**San Francisco**

Donato Cabrera, conductor  
Kenneth Renshaw, violin  
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

**PROGRAM:**

Gabriela Lena Frank / Latin American Dances for Orchestra  
Sibelius / Violin Concerto in D minor, Opus 47  
Brahms / Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Opus 68

TICKETS: \$12 for general seating & \$33 for reserved seating; available through SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000, or online through the SFS website at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org). This concert is recommended for ages 12 and older.

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**Sunday, May 16 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco**

Donato Cabrera, conductor  
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

**PROGRAM:**

John Adams / *The Chairman Dances*  
Vaughan Williams / Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis  
Tchaikovsky / Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Opus 64

**TICKETS:** \$12 for general seating & \$33 for reserved seating; available through SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000, or online through the SFS website at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org). This concert is recommended for ages 12 and older.

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For further press information, contact Caitlin Hartney in the SFS Communications Department at (415) 503-5425.

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