



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

SPRING 2008

keynotes

financial, estate, and gift planning ideas for
friends and supporters of the san francisco symphony

From Gabrieli to Ligeti: 08-09 Season Spans Four Centuries of Classical Music

Patron bequests help support new initiatives, premieres, commissioned works, composer residency

The Symphony and MTT will perform the U.S. premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's Violin Concerto No. 2, *in tempus praesens*, featuring Anne-Sophie Mutter (*below*)



For decades, patron bequests and other planned gifts to the Symphony have contributed significantly to artistic programming. The coming season is no exception. The endowment and planned gifts by members of our Pierre Monteux Society will help bring to Symphony audiences the commissioned works of Mason Bates and Sofia Gubaidulina, the Phyllis C. Wattis Composer Residency, and numerous premieres and compositions not heard before by our audience members.

According to Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, the 2008-2009 season "will deepen our commitment to the core repertoire of classical music but will also begin to explore a wider span of repertoire including music of the early baroque."

To keep classical music alive, "the art form has to be replenished with new breeds and species," says Gregg Gleasner, the Symphony's Director of Artistic Planning. "Introducing new works ensures that the repertoire is constantly expanding, providing new ways of hearing music for audiences over many generations. In its 2008-2009 season, the Symphony is presenting twenty-three works not heard by San Francisco audiences."

see Gabrieli to Ligeti continued inside ►



Affordable ticket pricing, visionary planning, and artistic and educational programming find solid footing with the endowment's ongoing financial support. Over 16 percent of the Symphony's operating expenses are paid from the endowment. Gifts from patrons' estates added to the Symphony's endowment play a vital role.

► *continued from front page*

Gabrieli to Ligeti

Many works heard this coming season will challenge audiences and the musicians. Gleasner points out that, "composers write for their times, not to sound like their predecessors. They write to make a difference in the world — otherwise, why compose?" In listening to any piece of music, but especially music not heard before, Gleasner suggests that audience members attend the pre-concert talk, read the program book, or listen to works by the composer beforehand. Gleasner adds: "In the Hall, watch the musicians' faces and body language. That can tell you a lot about the forces at play in the music. Explore the notion as you listen to the piece — what makes this piece of music interesting?"

Fortunately, with the support of patrons who have made planned gifts to the Symphony, we can ensure that this vital art form has a healthy and robust life for audiences today and in the future — including works that are being written today.

While the Symphony will always pay homage to "the classics," new and emerging classics are also pursued. Performances of new works give listeners the experience of hearing something no one else has heard and ultimately, gives audiences the opportunity to expand their musical consciousness. ♦

"The ultimate joy of commissioning a work is hearing something that has never been heard before. It is like traveling to an exhilarating new place."

Peggy Dorfman

Peggy Dorfman: A Life Committed to Contemporary Classical Music

Growing up on the open plains of Saskatchewan has made Peggy Dorfman open-minded about most things, including music. Through a lifetime of gifts to the Ralph I. Dorfman Commissioning Fund, Peggy and her late husband have commissioned more than twenty-four important compositions over the last thirty-eight years.

Peggy becomes animated when discussing her continued involvement in commissioning new works: "It is exciting to be part of new pieces, to meet the composers, and to bring these compositions to Bay Area audiences. The ultimate joy of commissioning a work is hearing something that has never been heard before. It is like traveling to an exhilarating new place." MTT's and the Symphony's commitment to the full spectrum of classical music — past, present, and future — is underscored by Peggy's observation that, "the way the Symphony integrates contemporary and traditional on the same program helps patrons avoid getting overwhelmed with the new."

Peggy explains that when discussing options for selecting commissioned pieces with the Symphony's artistic staff, "I listen for structure in the pieces. I prefer that they have a discernable melody or rhythm. It's ultimately an intuitive reaction to the work that sways me."

She has used that same discernment in deciding to include a bequest in her will that will be directed to the Dorfman Commissioning Fund. "I was motivated by the desire to continue Ralph's name and to help future audiences appreciate this evolving art form. Adding to the Fund means there will be support for these works for many, many years." ♦



Mark Volkert, the Symphony's Assistant Concertmaster, performs for residents of The San Francisco Towers retirement community. Hosted by the Pierre Monteux Society, this and similar programs address patrons' desire to stay connected with the Orchestra, which has brought such joy to all of their lives.



Dr. John Meyer chats with new Pierre Monteux Society members Mrs. Robert Soper and Brenda Byers Osborne, during the March 2008 Monteux Rendezvous. Dr. Meyer graciously hosts the annual event in his music room overlooking the San Francisco Bay. "Great organizations like the San Francisco Symphony build themselves slowly. Today, we benefit from individuals who have supported the Symphony over many decades. Will future generations be equally thankful to us today? I hope so, and that is why I am proud to be a member of the Monteux Society—so that the excitement of Symphony performances and programs, so important to me, will continue for many more decades." *Dr. John Meyer*

The Pierre Monteux Society

The Pierre Monteux Society recognizes and honors those who remember the San Francisco Symphony in their estate plans through a bequest, life income plan, or other type of planned gift. Society members create a legacy of their love of inspiring music and meaningful programs by helping strengthen the financial future of the Symphony for generations to come. There is no cost for Society membership. Those who make a charitable bequest maintain control of their assets, ensure full financial security for their loved ones, and may receive beneficial tax savings.

The San Francisco Symphony expresses its deep gratitude to its devoted and visionary planned giving patrons by recognizing Society members in its publications such as *Playbill*, the Symphony's program book distributed at concerts to hundreds of thousands of people each year. When our patrons step forward, others are encouraged to do the same, though donors may choose to remain anonymous.

New members receive a thank-you gift and a certificate of membership. Society members enjoy the many benefits of belonging, including an annual luncheon and other special activities throughout the season that offer patrons the chance to participate more fully in the life of the San Francisco Symphony.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Pierre Monteux Society, please contact Stephen D. Steiner, Director, Gift Planning, at (415) 503-5445 or email Stephen at sssteiner@sfsymphony.org. Leave a legacy with the San Francisco Symphony and enjoy benefits for many seasons to come. ♦



Ramona Wascher discusses bicycle venturing and the new season with the Symphony's Jim Hsu. "Listening to the familiar composers is like staying in your old neighborhood. But appreciating new composers is like riding into new territory." Ramona Wascher

Ramona Wascher: Music Adventurer

Does it take a certain kind of Symphony patron to appreciate contemporary classical music? The answer may be found in talking to long-time Symphony concert-goer Ramona Wascher. Forty-five years ago, Ramona rolled into town from Portland, Oregon, on her three-speed Raleigh bicycle. She was soon off to Mexico and Central America on that same bike. Returning to the City, Ramona became increasingly attracted to the Symphony, and she gradually migrated into the new music repertoire. Ramona explains: "Listening to the familiar composers is like staying in your old neighborhood. But appreciating new composers is like riding into new territory."

Ramona advises to "go into the Hall with some background about the new piece. Attend the pre-concert talk and read the program book beforehand. Develop some context." Ramona adds: "This music really comes through when you give it a chance."

It is these kinds of enriching musical experiences that motivated Ramona to join the Pierre Monteux Society — to express her appreciation for the many years and innumerable concerts that brought her such pleasure. Including a bequest to the Symphony in her estate plans achieves many goals: she controls her assets during her life, provides for her loved ones, and gives back. "I have nieces and nephews. By remembering them first and then giving something to the Symphony, I know my loved ones will be given first priority, and only after that will my charitable bequests be satisfied."

It may take a unique person like Ramona Wascher to rack up thousands of miles on her three-speed Raleigh, but with a little preparation, anyone can venture into new musical territories and learn to appreciate this ever-expanding art form. ♦

New Society Members and New Planned Gifts

The Symphony is grateful for the meaningful commitments of these patrons who have included the San Francisco Symphony in their estate plans.

Helen Anderton*

Sally A. Arney

James R. Burch

Joseph A. Crivello

Arthur & Ardeth Dreshfield

Robert A. Goldman

Mrs. William Grohne

Claude & Nina Gruen

Charles E. Halfmann

Sharon L. Litsky

Patricia A. McGuigan

June M. Ransom*

Richard D. & Jean W. Ringe

Christine Selle

Ramona Wascher

Anonymous (14)

* Deceased

Estate Contributions Create Patron Legacies

Recent charitable contributions from the estates of the following Symphony patrons will be added to the endowment and used to support the Symphony's many programs for future generations.

Helen Anderton

Bernice D. Canata

Nancy L. Henry

Dr. Alfred C. Hexter

Harline Ward Hurst

Janet V. Lee

Alicia H. McEvoy

Jay D. McEvoy

Virginia S. Nordquist

Mrs. Marion Otwell

Frederic H. Pickrell

June M. Ransom

K. Hart Smith

Phyllis C. Wattis

In the next issue... Did you participate in the Symphony's Student Forum while in college? *Keynotes* would like to feature this program and its impact on attracting young adults to the Symphony. Please contact Stephen Steiner at (415)503-5445 or email ssteiner@sfsymphony.org to relate your experiences with this highly successful program.

Advisors' Corner: Charitable Bequests

Paul H. Roskoph is an estate planning attorney in Palo Alto and a member of the Symphony's Gift Planning Committee. Peter E. Lippett practices law in San Francisco, specializing in trusts and estates. Collectively, they have over seventy years of experience in law practice. Both gentlemen are devoted Symphony patrons and members of the Pierre Monteux Society.

1. What are some smart approaches for making charitable bequests?

PHR The intelligent and efficient way to give is to designate a charity or charities as direct beneficiaries of a retirement plan. This will avoid both estate and income taxes.

PEL Also, the use of disclaimers, where a beneficiary can renounce his/her interest for another person or organization, can be an effective way to provide for charity. For disclaimed property to reach a charity and qualify for the estate tax charitable deduction, the estate plan must specify the charitable beneficiary or include some mechanism to choose one.

2. Can clients provide for a charity in their estate plans while ensuring that there are enough assets for loved ones?

PHR It is relatively simple to provide a percentage formula for the family and charity. It is also easy to ensure that the first dollars of value pass to loved ones and the balance, if any, is shared on a desired proportional basis among charities.

PEL Life insurance can be a very effective tool to replace the amount lost to family members due to a charitable bequest, or to make the gift itself. Additionally, I am seeing greater use of charitable trusts and/or charitable bequests for clients who see disadvantages in leaving too large an inheritance to loved ones.

3. What advice do you give your clients when it comes to charitable bequest planning?

PHR If clients include a charity as a contingent beneficiary, they may wish to consider giving a small percentage of the estate to the charity as a direct beneficiary. A one- to three-percent gift to charity makes little difference to the individual beneficiaries, but is very much appreciated by the charitable organization.

PEL Clients should discuss the advantages of gifts made during their lifetimes in addition to bequests from their estates. Such gifts can supply extra tax advantages, and some can also provide lifetime income for the client or a loved one. Remember that no gift is too small from a charity's perspective; it's a myth that charities are only interested in massive gifts.

The above article should not be considered tax advice. Readers are encouraged to consult their own trust and tax advisors about specific estate and charitable planning strategies.



Stephen Steiner, Gift Planning Director, converses with gift planning donor Avis Aasen-Hull at the Pierre Monteux Society Annual Celebration on November 11, 2007. Stephen can be reached at (415) 503-5445 or ssteiner@sfsymphony.org.



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MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Keynotes is published exclusively for friends and supporters of the San Francisco Symphony. Its purpose is to point out developments that may be helpful in your financial, estate, and charitable planning. Information in *Keynotes* is based on current federal tax laws, regulations, and recent court decisions. Please consult your attorney or legal adviser as to the applicability of any item to your situation.



Yes, I am interested
in exploring a planned gift with
the **San Francisco Symphony.**



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Please contact me for a confidential discussion.

Best time to call: Morning Afternoon Evening

My phone number is: () ()

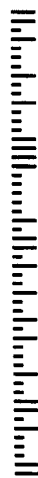
Email

(For new donors): The Symphony is in my estate plans. Please send me information about joining the Pierre Montoux Society.

Patron Name

Patron Number (optional)

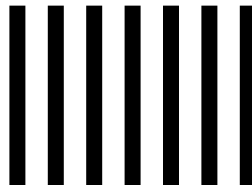
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