



**SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY**  
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR



Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

[publicrelations@sfsymphony.org](mailto:publicrelations@sfsymphony.org)

[sfsymphony.org/press](http://sfsymphony.org/press)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / FEBRUARY 18, 2016**



(High resolution images of Jonathan Vinocour, Charles Dutoit, and Nikolai Lugansky, are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

## **CHARLES DUTOIT RETURNS TO LEAD THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN TWO WEEKS OF CONCERTS, MARCH 10-19 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**Pianist Nikolai Lugansky performs Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, March 10-13 and SFS Principal Viola Jonathan Vinocour is soloist in Berlioz's *Harold in Italy*, March 17-19**

**SAN FRANCISCO, February 18** – Guest conductor Charles Dutoit returns to lead two weeks of concerts with the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) at Davies Symphony Hall, March 10-19. Pianist Nikolai Lugansky joins Dutoit and the Orchestra as soloist March 10-13 performing Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, and SFS Principal Viola Jonathan Vinocour is soloist in Berlioz's *Harold in Italy* in concerts March 17-19. Other works on the concerts March 10-13 include Ravel's complete *Ma Mère l'Oye* (Mother Goose); Faure's *Pelléas et Mélisande* Suite; and Stravinsky's *The Firebird* Suite (1919). Concerts March 17-19 include *Waverley* Overture, Opus 1 by Berlioz, and Symphony No. 104 in D major, "London" by Haydn.

Pianist Nikolai Lugansky made his debut with the SFS in 1997 as a Shenson Young Artist, subsequently performing with the Orchestra in 1998 and 2008 and with the visiting St. Petersburg Philharmonic in 2011 with Yuri Temirkanov conducting. Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini is a set of 24 variations on the 24<sup>th</sup> and last of Niccolò Paganini's *Caprices* for solo violin. Lugansky released a recording of the work with City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in 2004 on the Warner Classics label.

Viola soloist Jonathan Vinocour has been the SFS Principal Viola since 2009 and regularly appears on the Symphony's chamber music series. He last performed as soloist in *Harold in Italy* in 2010 with Michael Tilson Thomas conducting.

Niccolò Paganini initially encouraged Berlioz to compose *Harold in Italy*, looking for a new work to perform on his newly acquired Stradivarius viola. Ultimately, their musical visions for the piece diverged, but Berlioz's resulting work is a beautiful and poetic rendition, inspired by Lord Byron's poem *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*.

#### About the Artists

[Charles Dutoit](#) is one of today's most established conductors, having performed with all the major orchestras on most stages of the five continents. Presently Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, he recently celebrated his 30-year artistic collaboration with the Philadelphia Orchestra, who in turn, bestowed upon him the title of Conductor Laureate. He collaborates every season with the orchestras of Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles and is also a regular guest on the stages in London, Berlin, Paris, Munich, Moscow, Sydney, Beijing, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, among others. Dutoit was Artistic Director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra for 25 years; Music Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra for 10 years; and was the Artistic Director of their summer residency at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center for 21 years. In 2009, he became Music Director of the Verbier Festival Orchestra. His more than 200 recordings for Decca, Deutsche Grammophone, EMI, Philips, and Erato have garnered multiple awards and distinctions including two Grammys.

[Nikolai Lugansky](#) was born in Moscow, Russia and played the piano from the age of five, winning prizes from the age of ten. Concerto highlights for the 2015-16 season include his debut with Berliner Philharmoniker and return engagements with the Philharmonia, Czech Philharmonic and Budapest Festival orchestras, Münchner Philharmoniker, and the Boston and NHK symphony orchestras. Tours this season include Brahms trios with Leonidas Kavakos and Gautier Capuçon, as well as a European tour with St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra and Yuri Temirkanov to include a BBC Prom. In 2016 he undertakes a cycle of all of Prokofiev's piano concertos with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra to celebrate the 125th anniversary of both the orchestra and birth of the composer. Upcoming recital performances include the Alte Oper Frankfurt, London's Wigmore Hall (with Alexander Kniazev), the Konzerthaus Berlin, Paris's Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Wiener Konzerthaus, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire and the Great Hall of the St. Petersburg Philharmonia. Lugansky regularly appears at some of the world's most distinguished festivals, including La Roque d'Anthéron, and Verbier, Rheingau, and Edinburgh. An award winning recording artist, Lugansky's most recent disc featuring Chopin's two Piano Concertos was released in summer 2014, and a new solo recital disc with Schubert's Piano Sonata in C minor D. 958 and Impromptus D.935 is scheduled for release later this year. Lugansky was given the honour 'People's Artist of Russia' in April 2013. He teaches at the Moscow Conservatory.

[Jonathan Vinocour](#) joined the San Francisco Symphony as Principal Viola in 2009, having previously served as principal viola of the Saint Louis Symphony and guest principal viola of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. A native of Rochester, NY, Vinocour graduated from Princeton University with a degree in chemistry. He completed his master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Kim Kashkashian. With the SFS, Vinocour has appeared as soloist in Britten's Double Concerto (with Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik), Berlioz's *Harold in Italy*, and Morton Feldman's *Rothko Chapel*. His first solo album, featuring works of Britten and Shostakovich, was recorded with the support of the Holland America Music Society. Vinocour is a regular participant at the Marlboro Music Festival and has toured extensively with Musicians from Marlboro. He enjoys a busy chamber music schedule during summer seasons, participating in festivals such as Seattle Chamber Music, Aspen Music Festival, Bay Chamber Concerts, Music in the Vineyards, and the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, among others. He is a founding member of ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra), based in New York. Vinocour is a regular coach at the New World Symphony in Miami, was on the faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and School, and is currently on faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He plays a 1784 Lorenzo Storioni viola, on loan from the San Francisco Symphony.

***Calendar editors, please note:***

---

## **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, CHARLES DUTOIT CONDUCTING**

[Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, March 11, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

Davies Symphony Hall  
201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA

**Charles Dutoit** conductor  
**Nikolai Lugansky** piano  
**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>RAVEL</b>	<i>Ma Mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)</i> [complete]
<b>RACHMANINOFF</b>	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Opus 43
<b>FAURÉ</b>	<i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i> Suite
<b>STRAVINSKY</b>	<i>The Firebird</i> Suite (1919 version)

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about Stravinsky's *The Firebird* Suite (1919 version), hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be downloaded or streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](http://sfsymphony.org/podcasts) and from the [iTunes store](#).

**Pre-Concert Talk:** John Palmer will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, March 29 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

**Pre-Order Food and Drinks:** Concertgoers may pre-order drinks and snacks [here](#) by 11am the day of a performance to arrange to have them ready at Davies Symphony Hall either before the concert or at intermission.

**Tickets:** \$15-\$185.

Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org), by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, CHARLES DUTOIT CONDUCTING

[Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, March 18, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

**Charles Dutoit** conductor  
**Jonathan Vinocour** viola  
**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>BERLIOZ</b>	<i>Waverley</i> Overture, Opus 1
<b>HAYDN</b>	Symphony No. 104 in D major, "London"
<b>BERLIOZ</b>	<i>Harold in Italy</i> , Opus 16

**Pre-Concert Talk:** James Keller will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, April 5 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

**Pre-Order Food and Drinks:** Concertgoers may pre-order drinks and snacks [here](#) by 11am the day of a performance to arrange to have them ready at Davies Symphony Hall either before the concert or at intermission.

**Tickets:** \$15-\$185.

Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org), by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, on

Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco.

---

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Tumblr](#), and [Instagram](#):



*These performances of Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Opus 43 are supported by the Athena T. Blackburn Endowed Fund for Russian Music.*

*Charles Dutoit's appearance is supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.*

*The San Francisco Symphony receives support from over 10,000 individual donors and 150 partner institutions.*

*Emirates is the Official Airline of the San Francisco Symphony.*

*San Francisco Chronicle / SFGate.com is the Official Media Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.*

- SFS -