



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



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(High resolution images of Thomas Hampson, Karina Gauvin, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kelley O'Connor, and Yefim Bronfman are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS LEADS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN THREE FINAL CONCERT WEEKS OF THE 2015-16 SEASON, JUNE 16–JULY 2 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

MTT highlights works by Stravinsky, and baritone Thomas Hampson is soloist in John Adams's *The Wound Dresser*, June 16–19

Yefim Bronfman performs the U.S. premiere of Jörg Widmann's *Trauermarsch* for Piano and Orchestra, a San Francisco Symphony co-commission, June 23–25

Kelley O'Connor and Karina Gauvin are soloists in Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*, June 29–July 2

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16 – Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) leads the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in the final three concert weeks of the 2015-16 season, June 16–July 2 at Davies Symphony Hall. On June 16–19, MTT highlights three works by Stravinsky—*Scènes de ballet*, *Variations (Aldous Huxley, In memoriam)*, and *Petrushka*—and baritone Thomas Hampson joins the Orchestra in John Adams's *The Wound Dresser*. The following week, June 23–25, pianist Yefim Bronfman returns to the SFS for the U.S. premiere of Jörg Widmann's *Trauermarsch* for Piano and Orchestra, a San Francisco Symphony co-commission. Other works on these concerts are C.P.E. Bach's *Symphony No. 1* in D major and Brahms's *Symphony No. 1* in C minor. The final concerts of the season on June 29–July 2 feature Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* in C minor, *Resurrection* with the SFS Chorus, soprano Karina Gauvin, and mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor.

Michael Tilson Thomas has long championed the music of Stravinsky, having worked with him in Los Angeles in the 1960s. Under Stravinsky's mentorship, MTT conducted much of the composer's music, including the *Huxley Variations*,

and learned from observing Stravinsky conduct and play his own works on the piano. Together with Ralph Grierson, MTT made the first recording of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* for four-hand piano. MTT says of his mentor, "The thing about all those early Stravinsky pieces is that dissonance was used not to suggest pain, suffering or aggression. Primitive people make music with whatever is at hand. Nothing is in tune with anything else but there is a joyous, and very often a sparkling, glittery quality to that sort of music. Stravinsky was trying to get that feeling with what was at hand, which was a traditional orchestra." [John Adams's](#) *The Wound Dresser* is written for chamber orchestra and baritone voice. It is based on excerpts of the poem by Walt Whitman which describes his own time caring for maimed Union soldiers during the American Civil War. [Thomas Hampson](#) is one of only a few interpreters called upon to perform the work. He last appeared with the SF Symphony in 2009, singing from Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer* and Rückert Songs.

[Yefim Bronfman](#) premiered clarinetist and composer [Jörg Widmann's](#) *Trauermarsch* for Piano and Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic on December 20, 2014. The "funeral march" was co-commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Toronto Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony; this is its first performance in the United States. The *Financial Times* said of the world premiere, "Widmann's task was to provide a contemporary context for a form that haunts Mahler, Wagner and Brahms, 'to transform the rhythm and make it my own,' as he said in a pre-concert discussion. The 22-minute work, unfolding in one continuous movement, freely integrates neo-Romantic material with modernist textures to create a dramatic stand-off in which the piano, after manipulating the orchestra in all directions, metaphorically sinks into its grave."

MTT and the San Francisco Symphony have been called "the most exciting Mahler combination anywhere right now" (*Los Angeles Times*). Premiered in 1895, Mahler's Symphony No. 2, aside from the Symphony No. 8, was the composer's most popular work during his lifetime. It is the largest symphony ever written in terms of instrumentation, length, and harmonic boldness—a realization of the composer's views on universal themes of life, death, and the afterlife. The SFS and [SFS Chorus](#) recorded [Symphony No. 2, Resurrection](#), and released it on the SFS Media label in 2004. They last performed the work in Davies Symphony Hall in May 2011 with [Karina Gauvin](#) before performing it on a European Tour later that month. Mezzo-soprano [Kelley O'Connor](#) first sang with the SFS in 2008 and has made several appearances since.

Calendar editors, please note:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

[Friday, June 17, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, June 19, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

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

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Thomas Hampson baritone
San Francisco Symphony

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| STRAVINSKY | <i>Scènes de ballet</i> |
| John ADAMS | <i>The Wound Dresser</i> |
| STRAVINSKY | <i>Variations (Aldous Huxley, In memoriam)</i> |
| STRAVINSKY | <i>Petrushka</i> [complete] |

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

Pre-Concert Talk: Scott Foglesong 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, June 28 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC

90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and 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-\$165.

Tickets are available at 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, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, June 24, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

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

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Yefim Bronfman piano
San Francisco Symphony

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| C.P.E BACH | Symphony No. 1 in D major, Wq183,1 (H663) |
| Jörg WIDMANN | <i>Trauermarsch</i> for Piano and Orchestra [SFS co-commission; US Premiere] |
| BRAHMS | Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Opus 68 |

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Brahms's Symphony No. 1, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be downloaded or streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the [iTunes store](#).

Pre-Concert Talk: Peter Grunberg 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, July 5 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and 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-\$165.

Tickets are available at 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, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, July 1, 2016 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

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

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Karina Gauvin soprano
Kelley O'Connor mezzo-soprano
San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director
San Francisco Symphony

MAHLER

Symphony No. 2 in C minor, *Resurrection*

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Mahler's Symphony No. 2, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be downloaded or streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](https://www.sfsymphony.org/podcasts) and from the [iTunes store](#).

Pre-Concert Talk: Laura Stanfield Prichard 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, July 12 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](https://www.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: \$38-\$182.

Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](https://www.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.

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

Thomas Hampson's appearance is supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.

These performances of Trauermarsch are supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Works of Music.

Yefim Bronfman's appearance is supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.

These performances are supported by the Wattis Special Performance Fund.

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