



**SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY**

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR



Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

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

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** / April 20, 2016



(Images of the SFS Youth Orchestra and Donato Cabrera are available for download in the [SFSYO Press Kit](#))

## **DONATO CABRERA LEADS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA IN HIS FINAL CONCERT AS MUSIC DIRECTOR, MAY 15 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**Program features Bay Area composer Mason Bates's *Devil's Radio*, Mozart's *Sinfonia concertante* with SFS musicians Chen Zhao and Katie Kadarrauch as soloists, and Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra***

**SAN FRANCISCO, April 20** — The [San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra](#) (SFSYO) and Wattis Foundation Music Director [Donato Cabrera](#) perform their last concert of the 2015-16 season – and Cabrera's final concert as Music Director—on Sunday, May 15 at 2pm at Davies Symphony Hall. The SFSYO opens the program with *Devil's Radio* by Bay Area composer and longtime SF Symphony collaborator Mason Bates. SFS musicians Chen Zhao (violin) and Katie Kadarrauch (viola) serve as guest soloists in Mozart's *Sinfonia concertante* in E-flat major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra, and Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra* concludes the concert.

Following this season, Cabrera will step down as Wattis Foundation Music Director of the SFSYO to keep pace with the demands of his growing international career. Under his seven-year tutelage, the SFSYO has solidified their stature and reputation as “one of the world's best youth orchestras” (*Der Tagesspiegel*). The SFSYO and Cabrera's achievements together include a successful 2012 tour which won a 2011-12 ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming of American Music on Foreign Tours; from that tour, a critically acclaimed live recording from the Berlin Philharmonie of Mahler's *Symphony No. 1* was released on [SFS Media](#). Cabrera also led the Orchestra in its tenth international tour in summer 2015, performing celebrated concerts in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Milan's Sala Verdi, Prague's Smetana Hall, and again in Berlin's Philharmonie. In February 2016, the SFS announced the appointment of [Christian Reif](#) as the next Wattis Foundation Music Director of the SFSYO. He begins his tenure in the 2016-17 season.

The SFS and the SFSYO have championed Mason Bates's works for over a decade, evolving a partnership built on multi-year commissioning, performing, recording, and touring projects. *Mason Bates: Works for Orchestra*, an SFS recording of his three largest orchestral works, was released on SFS Media in March 2016 and is available at the [Symphony Store](#). The SFS recently commissioned *Auditorium* from Bates and performs its world premiere on concerts April 27-29. Bates writes about *Devil's Radio*: "Rumor is the Devil's radio' goes an evocative Southern phrase, and ever since hearing it, I've fantasized about a fanfare with equal parts darkness and groove."

Violinist Chen Zhao and violist Katie Kadarrauch, musicians of the San Francisco Symphony, perform as soloists in Mozart's Sinfonia concertante in E-flat major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra in the concert. Both are strongly connected to the Youth Orchestra—Zhao as a member of the SFSYO Coaching Team, and Kadarrauch as an SFSYO alumna. The piece is Mozart's only surviving work of this type and incorporates elements of both the symphony and concerto. Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, a five movement work composed in 1943, is one of his most well-known works and showcases each section of the orchestra.

[Donato Cabrera](#) has been the Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and the Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra since 2009. In his final season with the San Francisco Symphony, Cabrera conducted the San Francisco Symphony's eighth annual *Día de los Muertos* concert, a celebration of Latino music and culture with singer and actress Lila Downs, as well as SFS's acclaimed *Adventures in Music* and *Concerts for Kids* educational concerts throughout the season. In 2014, Cabrera was appointed Music Director of the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra, which this year expands its season under his leadership. He has been Music Director of the California Symphony since 2013. A champion of new music, Donato Cabrera was a co-founder of the New York based American Contemporary Music Ensemble. He made his Carnegie Hall debut leading the world premiere of Mark Grey's *Ātash Sorushan*. In 2002, Cabrera was a Herbert von Karajan Conducting Fellow at the Salzburg Festival. He has 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 has also been an assistant conductor for productions at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. From 2005-2008, he was Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Opera and in 2009, he made his debut with the San Francisco Ballet. Cabrera was the rehearsal and cover conductor for the Metropolitan Opera production and DVD release of *Doctor Atomic*, which won the 2012 Grammy® Award for Best Opera Recording. He holds degrees from the University of Nevada and the University of Illinois and has also pursued graduate studies in conducting at Indiana University and the Manhattan School of Music.

A native of the SF/Bay Area, violist **Katie Kadarrauch** has held the position of Assistant Principal Viola of the San Francisco Symphony since 2007. She was Principal Viola of the San Francisco Youth Orchestra and traveled on two separate European tours with the group from 1994-1998. Her education includes degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and The Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles, with principal teachers Kim Kashkashian and Paul Coletti. While pursuing graduate studies in LA, Kadarrauch also played with the Los Angeles Philharmonic as a substitute for three years and did extensive film score recording for movies such as *Get Smart*, *Spider-Man*, and *Avatar*.

An avid chamber musician, Kadarrauch was the violist of the former Janaki String Trio (formed in Los Angeles and managed by Concert Artists Guild in NYC), a group which toured the US and abroad extensively and recorded with the Naxos and Yarlung labels in Canada and Australia. She has also participated in the Taos, Yellow Barn, Great Lakes, and Marlboro Music Festivals, as well as the Musicians from Marlboro tours. She is a frequent performer on the SFS Sunday chamber concerts and Chamber Music Sundaes in Berkeley. Besides teaching privately, Kadarrauch served on the San Francisco Conservatory of Music viola faculty from 2008-2014 as the Orchestral Repertoire teacher. She is now a mother to a one-year-old boy and enjoys trips with her family when she has time. She plays on a Peter Rombouts viola circa 1720, on generous loan from the San Francisco Symphony.

**Chen Zhao** joined the San Francisco Symphony in 2000. A native of Shanghai, he is the son of painters Weiliang Zhao and Lina Nie. He showed an early interest in music, playing a makeshift violin (a chopstick and pencil box) until his parents gave him a 1/8 size violin on his fourth birthday. He studied with his uncle, who also composed music for him, since sheet music by foreign composers was not readily available in China at that time. Zhao gave his first public performance at the Shanghai Children's Palace at age six, and at ten, he entered the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In

1987, he moved to the US with his parents and became a scholarship student at Crossroads School for Art and Sciences in Santa Monica, studying with Heiichiro Ohyama. He went on to attend the Curtis Institute of Music, where he worked with Felix Galimir. He moved to San Francisco in 1996 to study with Camilla Wicks at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In 1999 he joined the New World Symphony in Miami.

Chen Zhao has toured throughout the US, Europe, and Asia, and performed at the Ravinia, La Jolla, San Juan Islands, Sun Valley, Round Top, Santa Fe, PMF, Evian, and Lucerne festivals, and the BBC Proms. He has also performed as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Curtis Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Chamber Orchestra, and Stanford Symphony Orchestra. He worked closely with film director Joan Chen on the soundtrack to her film *Xiu Xiu*. He has received prizes including the ARTS in Miami, and he was nominated for the White House Presidential Scholar Program. Also an avid chamber musician, Chen Zhao has performed with Martin Lovett, Miriam Fried, Paul Neubauer, Robert Chen, Gilbert Kalish, Jorja Fleezanis, Andre Emelianoff, and Geraldine Walther, and studied with members of the Amadeus, Guarneri, Vermeer, Juilliard, and Borodin quartets. Chen Zhao serves as a violin coach for the SFS Youth Orchestra, and is currently on faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and regularly coaches with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra.

### **About the SFSYO**

The [San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra](#) (SFSYO) is recognized internationally as one of the finest youth orchestras in the world. Founded by the [San Francisco Symphony](#) in 1981, the SFSYO's musicians are chosen from more than 300 applicants in annual auditions. The SFSYO's purpose is to provide an orchestral experience of pre-professional caliber, tuition-free, to talented young musicians from the greater Bay Area. The more than 100 diverse musicians, ranging in age from 12 to 21, represent communities from throughout the Bay Area. The SFSYO rehearses and performs at Davies Symphony Hall under the direction of Wattis Foundation Music Director Donato Cabrera. Jahja Ling served as the SFSYO's first Music Director, followed by David Milnes, Leif Bjaland, Alasdair Neale, Edwin Outwater and Benjamin Shwartz.

As part of the SFSYO's innovative training program, musicians from the San Francisco Symphony coach the young players each Saturday afternoon in sectional rehearsals, followed by full orchestra rehearsals with Cabrera. SFSYO members also have the opportunity to work with many of the world-renowned artists who perform with the SFS each week. SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, SFS Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt, Sir Simon Rattle, Kurt Masur, Valery Gergiev, Leonard Slatkin, Yo-Yo Ma, Isaac Stern, Yehudi Menuhin, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Midori, Joshua Bell, Gil Shaham, Sarah Chang, and many others have worked with the SFSYO. Of equal importance, the students are able to talk with these prominent musicians, asking questions about their lives, their professional and personal experiences, and about music. The SFSYO has completed ten international tours.

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

---

## **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

[Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 2pm](#)

**Donato Cabrera** conductor

**Chen Zhao** violin

**Katie Kadarrauch** viola

**San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra**

**Mason Bates**

*Devil's Radio*

**Mozart**

Sinfonia concertante in E-flat major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra

**Bartók**

Concerto for Orchestra

**Tickets:** \$54 reserved seating, \$15 general admission. Tickets are available at [www.sfsymphony.org](http://www.sfsymphony.org), (415) 864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, located on Grove Street between Franklin and Van Ness.

---

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



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

*This concert is supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission.*

*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-