



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



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(High resolution images of Maria João Pires, Herbert Blomstedt and Alexander Barantschik are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY CONDUCTOR LAUREATE HERBERT BLOMSTEDT LEADS THE ORCHESTRA IN TWO WEEKS OF CONCERTS FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 5 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

**Maria João Pires makes her SFS debut with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, February 25-27
Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik is soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 1 in B-flat major,
March 2-5**

SAN FRANCISCO, February 01 – San Francisco Symphony (SFS) Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt returns to the SFS to conduct two weeks of concerts February 25 – March 5 at Davies Symphony Hall. Blomstedt will lead the Orchestra February 25-27 in Bruckner's Symphony No. 3 in D minor and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor with pianist Maria João Pires making her SFS debut. The March 2-5 concerts feature three works by Mozart: Symphony No. 35 in D major, *Haffner*, Symphony No. 41 in C major, *Jupiter*, and his Violin Concerto No. 1 in B-flat major with SFS Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik as soloist. Blomstedt was SFS Music Director for ten years and is a frequent guest conductor, most recently in February of 2015 conducting the Brahms German Requiem and music by Sibelius and Mozart. He is a respected interpreter of Bruckner, and released a recording of his complete symphonies in 2012. Pires is a pianist of international stature, who performs for the first time with the San Francisco Symphony. Her DVD recording of the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3 was recently awarded a 2016 International Classical Music Award and she has

several audio recordings of the work as well.

[Herbert Blomstedt](#) was the SFS's tenth Music Director from 1985-1995 and is currently its Conductor Laureate. Under his leadership, the Orchestra won its first Grammy award—for a recording of Orff's *Carmina burana*—greatly expanded its international profile with numerous acclaimed performances on tour in Europe and at festivals including those of Edinburgh, Salzburg, Munich, and Lucerne, and launched the *Adventures in Music* program. He has held chief conductor positions with the Oslo Philharmonic, the Swedish and Danish Radio Orchestras, and the Dresden Staatskapelle. Until 2005, he was the Music Director of the Gewandhausorchester in Leipzig. He has been awarded the title of Honorary Conductor for the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Japan, the Danish National Symphony, the Swedish Radio Symphony, and the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra. Herbert Blomstedt's extensive discography includes more than 130 works with the Dresden Staatskapelle, including all the symphonies of Beethoven and Schubert, as well as the complete orchestral works of Carl Nielsen with the Danish Radio Symphony. His recordings with the SFS, which included complete cycles of the Nielsen and Sibelius symphonies, captured France's Grand Prix du Disque, Britain's *Gramophone* Award, and two Grammy awards; their recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 2 was named Best Recording of 1995 by the German Record Critics.

[Maria João Pires](#) was born in 1944 in Lisbon and gave her first public performance in 1948. Since 1970 she has dedicated herself to reflecting on the influence of art on life, community, and education, and in trying to develop new ways of implementing pedagogic theories within society. Pires joined the teaching faculty of the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in Belgium where she is also working with a group of highly gifted young pianists to initiate the 'Partitura Project'. The aim of this project is to create an altruistic dynamic between artists of different generations and to offer an alternative in a world too often focused on competitiveness. Her project 'Equinox' is a social program for young disadvantaged children between the ages of 6 and 14 years who are being helped through choral singing. In the 2015/16 season Pires performs with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie (on tour, conducted by Trevor Pinnock), Tonkünstlerorchester, Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, London Symphony Orchestra (on tour, conducted by Daniel Harding), Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. She continues chamber music performances with Antonio Meneses and Augustin Dumay. Recitals as part of the Partitura Project include performances throughout Europe, in Canada and Japan. Pires has a large and varied discography including, solo, chamber music and orchestral repertoire. Recent recordings include Beethoven Piano Concertos 3 and 4 with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Daniel Harding on Onyx. For her 70th birthday in summer 2014, Erato re-released many of her wonderful recordings from the 1970s and 1980s, and Deutsche Grammophon also released a box set of her complete solo recordings.

[Alexander Barantschik](#), occupant of the Naoum Blinder Chair, began his first season as Concertmaster of the San Francisco Symphony in September 2001. Former concertmaster of the London Symphony Orchestra (1989-2001) and Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra (1982-2001), he has also been an active soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe. He has collaborated in chamber music with André Previn and, on a number of occasions, Mstislav Rostropovich, with whom he participated in a series of concerts that also featured violinist Maxim Vengerov and violist Yuri Bashmet. As Leader of the LSO, Barantschik toured Europe, Japan, and the US, and served as concertmaster for acclaimed cycles of Mahler, Stravinsky, and Debussy with Michael Tilson Thomas, as well as major symphonic cycles with Rostropovich and Bernard Haitink. He was also concertmaster for Pierre Boulez's year-long, three-continent 75th Birthday Celebration. Born in Saint Petersburg in 1953, Barantschik attended the Saint Petersburg Conservatory and went on to perform with the major Russian orchestras, including the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic. After emigrating from Russia in 1979, he served as Concertmaster of Germany's Bamberg Symphony Orchestra. His awards include first prize in the International Violin Competition in Sion, Switzerland, and in the Russian National Violin Competition. Since joining the SFS, Barantschik has led the Orchestra in several programs and appeared as soloist in concertos and other works by J.S. Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Beethoven, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Walton, Piazzolla, and Schnittke, among others. Through an arrangement with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Barantschik has the exclusive use of the 1742 Guarnerius del Gesù violin once owned by virtuosos Ferdinand David and Jascha Heifetz.

Calendar editors, please note:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

[Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

[Friday, February 26, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

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

Herbert Blomstedt conductor
Maria João Pires piano
San Francisco Symphony

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Opus 37
BRUCKNER (ed. Novak) Symphony No. 3 in D minor

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Bruckner's Symphony No. 3, 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: Alexandra Amati-Camperi 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 8 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.

Tickets: \$15-\$175.

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

[Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, March 4, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

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

Herbert Blomstedt conductor
Alexander Barantschik violin
San Francisco Symphony

MOZART Symphony No. 35 in D major, K.385, *Haffner*
MOZART Violin Concerto No. 1 in B-flat major, K.205
MOZART Symphony No. 41 in C major, K.551, *Jupiter*

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Mozart's Symphony No. 41, *Jupiter*, 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, March 15 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-\$170.

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.

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Maria João Pires's appearance is supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists (Feb 25-27).

Support for these concerts is provided by the Margaret Koshland Sloss Tribute Fund (Mar 2-5).

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