



**SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY**

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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(High resolution images of Michael Tilson Thomas and Yo-Yo Ma are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: Spencer Lowell, Moanalani Jeffrey Photography, Jason Bell)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY OPEN 2017–18 SEASON WITH OPENING NIGHT GALA ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**Cellist Yo-Yo Ma performs Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 and Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme**

**Concert is preceded by a complimentary wine reception in Davies Symphony Hall and concludes with an indoor-outdoor After-Party open to all ticketholders**

**Proceeds from the Opening Night Gala benefit the San Francisco Symphony's myriad artistic, education, and community programs**

**SAN FRANCISCO, JULY 27, 2017**—Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) launches the San Francisco Symphony's (SFS) 2017–18 season with the **Opening Night Gala** on Thursday, September 14, joined by superstar cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**. The concert opens with **Bernstein's Overture to *Candide***, commencing a season-long celebration of the composer's centenary. Yo-Yo Ma performs two of the most beloved works from the cello repertoire—**Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme** and the **Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No. 1**. **Ravel's *Boléro*** wraps up the evening's concert program.

The Gala concert will be broadcast live on Classical KDFC 90.3/89.9/104.9 FM and streamed online at [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com). Proceeds from the Opening Night Gala benefit the San Francisco Symphony's myriad artistic, education, and community programs.

Opening Night celebrations begin prior to the concert with a complimentary wine reception at 7pm in the Davies Symphony Hall lobby, free to all ticketholders. The evening's celebrations continue following the concert, with an indoor-outdoor After-Party in the Tented Pavilion and on Grove Street, featuring two stages of live music entertainment, including a set by DJL!. A complimentary array of the city's best culinary delicacies and drinks will be served by popular San Francisco establishments, including Top of the Mark, The Dorian, Palm House, Le Soleil, Maybeck's, Alta, Sutro's at the Cliff House, Salt & Straw, Slice House, and more.

Each year prior to the start of the concert, the SF Symphony hosts four separate formal dinners, all beginning at 6pm, with cocktail receptions beginning at 5pm. The Patrons' Dinner takes place in the Tented Pavilion next to Davies Symphony Hall and is preceded by a 5pm cocktail reception in the Davies Hall lobby. The Wattis Room Dinner offers an elegant and intimate experience that shares the 5pm cocktail reception with the Patrons' Dinner. The Symphony Supper and Symphonix Dinner Party take place at City Hall and begin with a joint cocktail reception in the South Light Court at 5pm. The Symphony Supper takes place in City Hall's magnificent Rotunda at 6pm. The Symphonix Dinner Party, hosted by the Symphony's young philanthropists group, takes place in the North Light Court. Décor and lighting



Photo by Moanalani Jeffrey Photography

design for the Tented Pavilion, City Hall, Grove Street, and Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall are provided by Blueprint Studios and GotLight. All dinners are catered by McCalls Catering and Events. Wine for Opening Night Gala is generously provided by [Pine Ridge Vineyards](#) (Napa, CA) and [Seghesio Family Vineyards](#) (Healdsburg, CA).

A limited number of tickets are still available for The Patrons' Dinner and The Symphony Supper. Please call the SFS Volunteer Council at 415-503-5500 for more details.

The 2017 Opening Night Gala is chaired by Priscilla B. Geeslin, with Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem serving as Honorary Chairs. Ann Paras and Joelle Benioff are Wattis Room Dinner Co-Chairs, the Symphony Supper is co-chaired by Heidi Bjornson-Pennell and Dr. Manjula Noone. Logan & Elizabeth Allin and Nicholas & Meredith Tan co-chair the Symphonix Dinner Party, and the After-Party is co-chaired by Annie Dreshfield, Cate McDonough, and Sharon Seto.

Opening Night Gala is made possible through the generous support of Patrons' Dinner Sponsor Kaiser Permanente and Signature Education Sponsor Neiman Marcus. Opening Night Gala guest artists generously underwritten by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem.

### **MTT LEADS ANNUAL ALL SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT ON SEPTEMBER 15 IN RECOGNITION OF LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

The Symphony's annual All San Francisco Concert will take place the following day on Friday, September 15, with Michael Tilson Thomas leading the SF Symphony in **Bernstein's Overture to *Candide*** and **Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story***, as well as **Ravel's *Boléro*** and **Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2** with pianist [George Li](#).

The All San Francisco Concert is a special Davies Symphony Hall performance for San Francisco social service and neighborhood organizations, in recognition and gratitude for the work these groups do to enrich the lives of and serve the citizens of San Francisco. Volunteers and employees from such organizations as La Casa de las Madres, Women's Audio Mission, First Exposures, the Justice & Diversity Center, and others are invited to this concert. Organized through the SF Symphony's Volunteer Council, the annual All San Francisco Concert has been underwritten by Wells Fargo for more

than 30 years. The All San Francisco Concert is not available for general purchase, and all invitations have been awarded for this year. Community groups that would like to be considered for next year's concert should email [volunteercouncil@sfsymphony.org](mailto:volunteercouncil@sfsymphony.org).

The All San Francisco Concert includes the presentation of the Ellen Magnin Newman Award to honor an outstanding local community-service organization. The award is named after Ellen Magnin Newman, SF Symphony board member and founder of the All San Francisco Concert. The Ellen Magnin Newman Award is presented each year to a community-based organization that strengthens the city's cultural fabric, serves the city's most vulnerable families and individuals, and creates a more just and equitable society for everyone who lives here. The winner of the Ellen Magnin Newman Award will be announced in August.

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

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## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY 2017 OPENING NIGHT GALA

[Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor

[Yo-Yo Ma](#) cello

[Luke Kriteck](#) lighting designer

**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>BERNSTEIN</b>	Overture from <i>Candide</i>
<b>SAINT-SAËNS</b>	Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Opus 33
<b>TCHAIKOVSKY</b>	Variations on a Rococo Theme
<b>RAVEL</b>	<i>Boléro</i>

Dinner guests:

- 5pm Cocktail Reception for Patrons' Dinner and Wattis Room Dinner, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall Lobby
- 5pm Cocktail Reception for Symphony Supper and Symphonix Dinner Party, South Light Court – San Francisco City Hall
  
- 6pm Patrons' Dinner, Tented Pavilion
- 6pm Wattis Room Dinner, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
- 6pm Symphony Supper, Rotunda – San Francisco City Hall
- 6pm Symphonix Dinner Party, North Light Court – San Francisco City Hall

All ticket holders:

- 7pm Complimentary wine reception for all concert guests, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
- 8pm Gala Concert, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
- 10pm After-Party for all concert guests, Tented Pavilion and Grove Street

Formal dinner packages begin at \$425 and include a 5pm cocktail reception, 6pm dinner, the After-Party in the Tented Pavilion and on Grove Street, and premium seating for the concert. Dinner packages are available by contacting the Volunteer Council at (415) 503-5500 or online at [www.sfsymphony.org/gala](http://www.sfsymphony.org/gala).

Concert tickets are \$190 and \$300 and include a complimentary pre-concert wine reception, as well as access to the After-Party in the Tented Pavilion. Limited number of tickets may be available and can be purchased by calling the box office at 415-864-6000, at [www.sfsymphony.org/gala](http://www.sfsymphony.org/gala), or at the box office located on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street.

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## ALL SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT WITH MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

Friday, September 15, 2017 at 8pm

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor

[George Li](#) piano

**San Francisco Symphony**

**BERNSTEIN**

Overture from *Candide*

**RACHMANINOFF**

Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Opus 18

**BERNSTEIN**

Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

**RAVEL**

*Boléro*

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*Opening Night Gala production partners are Blueprint Studios, Got Light, Hensley Event Resources, McCalls Catering and Events, and Patina Catering.*

*Wine for Opening Night Gala is generously provided by [Pine Ridge Vineyards](#) (Napa, CA) and [Seghesio Family Vineyards](#) (Healdsburg, CA).*

*The 2017 All San Francisco Concert is made possible through the generosity of Wells Fargo.*

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