



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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JAMES GAFFIGAN CONDUCTS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MAY 9–11 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Gaffigan steps in for Michael Tilson Thomas, who has withdrawn due to illness

Program includes works by Debussy, Saint-Saëns, Sarah Kirkland Snider, and Ligeti's Piano Concerto featuring pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Conductor James Gaffigan will conduct the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in performances May 9–11, stepping in for Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT). Following his performances this week with the New World Symphony at Carnegie Hall, MTT became ill and has been advised by his doctor to refrain from conducting for the next week. He very much looks forward to returning to the podium for upcoming SFS performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 7 on May 16–18.

Returning to the podium following a dynamic series of concerts with the San Francisco Symphony last week, James Gaffigan will lead the SFS in a program featuring Saint-Saëns' "Bacchanale" from *Samson and Dalila* and the west coast premiere of Sarah Kirkland Snider's *Something for the Dark*. Remaining on the program are Debussy's *La Mer* and Ligeti's Piano Concerto featuring piano virtuoso Pierre-Laurent Aimard. Please note that the SFS Chorus will no longer participate as a part of the program due to the change in repertoire.

Currently the Chief Conductor of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, James Gaffigan has a long history with the SFS, having served as the Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony from 2006 to 2009—a position specially created for him by Michael Tilson Thomas.

Calendar editors, please note:

All concerts take place at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

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.

Pre-Order Food and Drinks: Concertgoers may pre-order food and beverages by calling 415-252-1937 or emailing Global Gourmet Catering staff at davieshallpreorder@ggcatering.com before the performance to place an order.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, JAMES GAFFIGAN CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 8 pm](#)
[Friday, May 10, 2019 at 8 pm](#)
[Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[James Gaffigan](#) conductor
[Pierre-Laurent Aimard](#) piano
San Francisco Symphony

SAINT-SAËNS

“Bacchanale” from *Samson et Dalila*

LIGETI

Piano Concerto

Sarah KIRKLAND SNIDER

Something for the Dark [West Coast Premiere, First SFS Performances]

DEBUSSY

La Mer

Tickets: \$35–170

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

Pre-Concert Talk: Peter Grunberg will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to the Open Rehearsal on February 7. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

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