



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / FEBRUARY 27, 2018



(High resolution images of Michael Tilson Thomas, Behzod Abduraimov, and Charles Wuorinen are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: Spencer Lowell, Nissor Abdourazakov, Nina Roberts)

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY GIVE WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCES OF *SUDDEN CHANGES* BY CHARLES WUORINEN, MARCH 15–17

Program also includes Copland's *Symphony No. 3* and Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with Behzod Abduraimov in his SFS debut

SAN FRANCISCO, CA— Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) conducts the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in concerts **March 15–17**, giving the world premiere performances of SFS-commissioned ***Sudden Changes*** by **Charles Wuorinen**, celebrating the composer's 80th birthday and his long-standing friendship with MTT. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, **Charles Wuorinen's** many honors include a 1986 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and the Pulitzer Prize in Music. Reflecting on his time as the San Francisco Symphony's Composer-in-Residence from 1985 to 1989, Wuorinen says, "Some of my most rewarding musical experiences came during the years I was the San Francisco Symphony's composer-in-residence, some 25 years ago, so it is a great joy again to be composing a new work for these wonderful musicians. And of course I have known and admired Michael Tilson Thomas for almost 50 years; renewing a collaboration we have had over these years is deeply gratifying." Charles Wuorinen composed *Sudden Changes* as a light-hearted overture, using fragments from his opera *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*.

The concerts also feature **Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3***, performed by Uzbek pianist **Behzod Abduraimov** in his SFS debut. Abduraimov has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, NHK Symphony and Leipzig Gewandhaus orchestras, and prestigious conductors including Valery Gergiev, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Manfred Honeck, Vasily Petrenko, James Gaffigan, Jakub Hrůša and Vladimir Jurowski. Following his spectacular debut at the BBC Proms with the Münchner Philharmoniker under Gergiev in July 2016, Abduraimov immediately returned in July

2017. This was followed by his debuts at the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and Rheingau Musik Festivals. An award-winning recording artist, Abduraimov released his first concerto disc in 2014 on Decca Classics, featuring Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No.3 and Tchaikovsky's Concerto No.1 with the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della Rai under Juraj Valčuha. His 2012 debut recital CD won both the Choc de Classica and the Diapason Découverte awards. Please visit Behzod Abduraimov's [website](#) for his full biography.

Copland's Third Symphony, completed in 1946 and described by the composer as an "end-of-war piece—intended to reflect the euphoric spirit of the country at the time," concludes the program. [Click here](#) to watch a clip of SFS trumpet Guy Piddington speaking about Copland's Symphony No. 3.

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 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, March 16, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

[Behzod Abduraimov](#) piano [SFS debut]

San Francisco Symphony

[Charles WUORINEN](#)

Sudden Changes [SFS Commission, World Premiere]

PROKOFIEV

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Opus 26

COPLAND

Symphony No. 3

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3, 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 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 27 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–\$155.

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



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

Behzod Abduraimov's appearance is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.

Sudden Changes was commissioned by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Works of Music.

The March 15 concert is presented in partnership with 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.

The San Francisco Symphony's Official Radio Partner is KDFC, The Bay Area's Radio Home for Classical Music and the Arts

- SFS -