



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

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(High resolution images of Rudolf Buchbinder, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Yuja Wang are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENT TWO WEEKS
OF CONCERTS FEATURING PIANISTS RUDOLF BUCHBINDER AND YUJA WANG,
OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 4 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**October 27–30 concerts include Brahms's *Symphony No. 2*, Allegri's *Miserere*,
and Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20* with Rudolf Buchbinder**

**November 2–4 concerts feature Yuja Wang performing Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2*,
Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7*, and Michael Tilson Thomas's *Agnegram***

SAN FRANCISCO, October 6 – Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) conducts the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in two weeks of concerts, presenting Brahms's *Symphony No. 2*, Allegri's *Miserere*, and Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20* with acclaimed pianist Rudolf Buchbinder October 27–30; and November 2–4 concerts feature Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7*, Yuja Wang performing Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, and MTT's own *Agnegram*.

Austrian pianist Rudolf Buchbinder, a 1966 winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, celebrates his 70th birthday season this year with an array of high-profile performances and tours. These are Mr. Buchbinder's first performances with the San Francisco Symphony in over 30 years; his last performances with the SF Symphony were in 1985 under Music Director Herbert Blomstedt. A frequent guest artist with orchestras throughout Europe, and current Artist in Residence of the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Buchbinder's most recent recording is a 9-disc box set of all of Mozart's piano concertos; in these performances, he performs the composer's *Concerto No. 20*.

Gregorio Allegri was a priest, singer and composer in Italy during the late 14th and early 15th century. Appointed by Pope Urban VIII to the choir of the Sistine Chapel in 1629, Allegri composed his *Miserere*—a setting of the biblical text Psalm 51 for two choirs—for use in Vatican church services. The *Miserere* may have spent its entire existence performed exclusively in private services if it hadn't been for the visit by a 14-year-old Mozart to Rome with his father in 1770. Following a church service he attended in the Vatican's St. Peter's Basilica, Mozart transcribed the entire work perfectly from memory—thus creating an unauthorized copy that was soon published and began immediately to spread in popularity. Performing *Miserere* are the Pacific Boychoir, directed by Kevin Fox, along with the Men of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, directed by Ragnar Bohlin. The Pacific Boychoir is a frequent guest with MTT and the San Francisco Symphony, perhaps most notably for their performance on the Grammy Award-winning SFS Media recordings on Mahler's Symphony No. 3 and Symphony No. 8.

The following week, November 2-4, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony perform one of the several programs they will take on tour throughout Asia in November—Bruckner's Symphony No. 7, Michael Tilson Thomas's *Agnegram*, Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 with Yuja Wang. *Agnegram* was written as a birthday gift from MTT and the San Francisco Symphony to longtime SFS supporter Agnes Albert on the occasion of her 90th birthday. The musical theme of the work is created by turning the letters of Albert's name into musical notes, a practice with a rich history and employed by composers ranging from Bach and Haydn to Schumann and Holst. *Agnegram* received its premiere in 1998, and while these performances mark the third time it has been performed by the SFS, Michael Tilson Thomas has made substantial revisions to the work since its last performance in February 2008.

A frequent collaborator with Michael Tilson Thomas, pianist Yuja Wang returns to the San Francisco Symphony to perform Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2. Of Yuja Wang, MTT commented, "Making music with Yuja is a terrific ensemble experience. I have made music with her since she was 16 and it has been a joy to watch her evolve into a dynamic, probing and serious artist. Her dazzling technique is matched by her profound understanding of the music and her ability to communicate with audiences world wide." Wang has appeared in concert with the San Francisco Symphony every season since her debut in 2006. A native of Beijing, she will accompany the San Francisco Symphony on its upcoming tour of Asia, with performances in South Korea, Taiwan, China, and Japan.

About the Artists – October 27-30

For more than 50 years, [Rudolf Buchbinder](#) has appeared in concert around the world with renowned orchestras and conductors. Around his 70th birthday in December 2016, he will be celebrated in such prestigious venues as New York's Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Musikverein in Vienna and the Berliner Philharmonie. The highlights of his anniversary season include tours with the Vienna Philharmonic under the batons of Zubin Mehta and Franz Welser-Möst and with the Staatskapelle Dresden, as well as concerts with the Berliner Philharmoniker led by Christian Thielemann. By invitation of Mariss Jansons, Rudolf Buchbinder is Artist in Residence with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks. Buchbinder's most recent CD release is a recording of Mozart piano concertos with Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, directed by Buchbinder from the piano. The autumn of 2016 sees the release on DVD and CD of a live recording of Brahms's two piano concertos with the Vienna Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta. Buchbinder's readings are based on meticulous study of source material. An avid collector of historic scores, he owns 39 complete editions of Ludwig van Beethoven's piano sonatas. Furthermore, his library contains an extensive collection of first prints, original editions, and copies of Brahms's two original piano concerto scores. Rudolf Buchbinder has been the artistic director of the Grafenegg festival since 2007. Under his leadership, it developed into one of Europe's foremost festivals for orchestral music within very short time.

[Pacific Boychoir Academy](#) (PBA) is a Grammy Award-winning, independent choir school for boys in grades four through eight, with seven after-school choirs for boys in pre-kindergarten through high school. Founded in Oakland, California in 1998 by Artistic Director Kevin Fox, PBA serves over 170 choristers a season, has released seven independent albums, tours domestically and internationally each year, and has garnered three Grammy Awards with the San Francisco Symphony. The only North American boychoir school outside of the East Coast, PBA offers unique and rigorous choral and academic programs, producing confident, engaged young men and artists. PBA has appeared frequently with the San Francisco Symphony, performing under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas, Kurt Masur, Robert Spano, David Robertson, James Conlon, Charles Dutoit, Herbert Blomstedt, Donato Cabrera, Don Davis, and Vance George. Along with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, PBA recorded Mahler's Third Symphony with the SFS, which was awarded the Grammy for Best Classical Album in February 2004. In January 2010, the SFS's recording of Mahler's Eighth Symphony,

featuring the SF Symphony Chorus, the San Francisco Girls Chorus, and PBA was awarded Grammys for Best Choral Performance and Best Classical Album. PBA has also performed with esteemed artists such as Kronos Quartet, Omaha Symphony, Oakland-East Bay Symphony, Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, San Francisco Opera, Youth Orchestra of the Americas, National Symphony Orchestra of Brazil, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Magik Magik Orchestra, Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra, Lithuanian State Orchestra, Ian Bostridge, Tom Krell Midtown Social, John Vanderslice, University of Michigan and Harvard Men's Glee Clubs, Yale Whiffenpoofs, Vienna Boys Choir, Drakensberg Boys Choir, and the choirs and orchestras of University of California, both at Berkeley and Davis.

The San Francisco Symphony Chorus, led by Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin since 2007, is one of America's most distinguished choruses. The Chorus celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013-14, and each season performs more than 26 concerts. Comprised of 32 professional and 120 volunteer members, the Chorus recently recorded Beethoven's Mass in C major with SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and the Orchestra for SFS Media. Prior to that, members of the Chorus were featured on the Symphony's recording of Bernstein's score for *West Side Story*, which was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. Recordings featuring the SFS Chorus have won a total of eight Grammy awards, including three for Best Choral Performance. This season, the Chorus performs at Davies Symphony Hall with the Orchestra in Verdi's *Te Deum*; Allegri's *Miserere*; a semi-staged version of Mahler's *Das klagende Lied*; Beethoven's Symphony No. 9; John Adams's *The Gospel According to the Other Mary*; and Berlioz's Requiem and *Roméo et Juliette*. The Chorus also performs its own concert in 2017, singing Orff's *Carmina burana* and David Conte's *Invocation and Dance*.

About the Artists – November 2-4

Pianist [Yuja Wang](#) is one of today's leading classical artists, whose awe-inspiring technique is matched only by her eloquence as a musician. Since her breakthrough debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 2007 while still a student at the Curtis Institute of Music, she has established herself as an international sensation and a fixture among the world's leading orchestras—including those of New York, London, Amsterdam, and Berlin—regularly joining them on tours of the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Championed early on by preeminent maestros including Gustavo Dudamel, Michael Tilson Thomas, and the late Claudio Abbado, she is one of today's most sought after soloists, as well as a fiercely dedicated chamber musician, recitalist, and Grammy-nominated recording artist. An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist since 2009, Wang has released three solo albums and two concerto recordings to date, garnering two Grammy nominations. Intriguing the public both with her artistry and with her sense of style, Yuja Wang has been the subject of television documentaries and graced the pages of magazines ranging from arts and culture to fashion. Born in Beijing in 1987, Yuja began piano lessons at the age of six and completed studies at Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music, Calgary's Mount Royal College Conservatory, and Philadelphia's Curtis Institute. She is a Rolex ambassador and a Steinway Artist. Yuja Wang has appeared with the SFS every season since her debut in 2006.

Calendar editors, please note:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, October 28, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 2 pm](#)

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

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Rudolf Buchbinder piano
Pacific Boychoir, Kevin Fox director
Men of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director
San Francisco Symphony

ALLEGRI
MOZART

Miserere
Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466

BRAHMS

Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 73

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Brahms's Symphony No. 2, 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: Laura Stanfield Prichard 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.

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: \$35-\$139.

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, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

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

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

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

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

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Yuja Wang piano
San Francisco Symphony

Michael Tilson THOMAS	<i>Agnegram</i>
CHOPIN	Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21
BRUCKNER	Symphony No. 7 in E major

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Bruckner's Symphony No. 7, 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: Laura Stanfield Prichard 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, November 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-\$169.

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

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November 2-4 concerts are made possible through the generosity of Jones Day.

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