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(High resolution images of Michael Tilson Thomas, Gil Shaham, and the San Francisco Symphony are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: Stefan Cohen, Luke Ratray)

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS, THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, AND VIOLINIST GIL SHAHAM EMBARK ON TOUR OF CALIFORNIA, MARCH 27–29, 2018

Tour repertoire includes Mahler's Symphony No. 5 and Berg's Violin Concerto performed by Gil Shaham

Pre-tour performances in San Francisco take place March 22–25 at Davies Symphony Hall featuring tour repertoire, with the Berg Violin Concerto being recorded live for future release on SFS Media

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) and the San Francisco Symphony (SFS), joined by violinist Gil Shaham, embark on a tour of California with appearances at **Los Angeles' Walt Disney Hall on March 27, Santa Barbara's Granada Theatre on March 28, and the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa on March 29.** The concerts feature MTT conducting the Orchestra in Mahler's Symphony No. 5 and Gil Shaham performing Berg's Violin Concerto—the composer's most-frequently performed instrumental piece and the last work he completed. San Francisco audiences will have the opportunity to preview this music at Davies Symphony Hall in concerts on March 22–24, with the Berg Violin Concerto recorded live for future release on the SFS Media label.

About MTT and SFS Media's Berg recordings



SFS Media, the San Francisco Symphony's eight-time Grammy Award-winning in-house record label, celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2017, marking a decade and a half of innovations in recorded media. This significant milestone was highlighted by the release of SFS Media's first-ever digital-only album—Berg's *Three Pieces for Orchestra*—in June 2017, with the album available for streaming and download in stereo, 5.1 surround, Mastered for iTunes quality, and 24-bit/192kHz Studio Master. SFS Media will follow the digital-only release with a physical recording of Berg's works, which will include his *Three Pieces for Orchestra*, *Violin Concerto* (recorded at the March 22–25 concerts), and *Seven Early Songs* (to be recorded November 23–25, 2018 with soprano Susanna Phillips).

About MTT and SFS Media's Mahler Cycle

Michael Tilson Thomas and the SF Symphony have been hailed as some of the world's foremost Mahler interpreters. MTT and the SFS's self-produced Mahler recording cycle, launched in 2001, encompasses all of Mahler's symphonies and works for voice, chorus, and orchestra. The Orchestra's Mahler cycle on SFS Media has been recognized with seven Grammy Awards, including three Grammys for its recording of Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* and the *Adagio* from *Symphony No. 10*. MTT was honored with a Gramophone "Artist of the Year" award in 2005 for the project.



Complete box sets of the cycle are available on vinyl and SACD. MTT and the SFS's recording of Mahler's *Symphony No. 5* was released in 2006, the eighth recording of the cycle. At the time of its release, the *Chicago Tribune* wrote, "The orchestra's music director is nearing the end of his superb Mahler symphony cycle, and this latest installment, taped in concert last year, represents a high-water mark in the series. Tilson Thomas makes Mahler's convulsive shifts of mood feel organic, his evocations of rustic dance music irresistible, his long progression from funereal darkness to blinding light inevitable." MTT

and the SFS explore Mahler in an episode of their *Keeping Score* television series, an excerpt of which can be viewed [here](#).

About Michael Tilson Thomas

Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) first conducted the San Francisco Symphony in 1974 and has been Music Director since 1995. Now in his 23rd season as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony, MTT is currently the longest-tenured music director at any major American orchestra. A Los Angeles native, he studied at the University of Southern California, becoming Music Director of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra at nineteen and working with Stravinsky, Boulez, Stockhausen, and Copland at the famed Monday Evening Concerts. He was pianist and conductor for Piatigorsky and Heifetz master classes and, as a student of Friedelind Wagner, an assistant conductor at Bayreuth. In 1969, Tilson Thomas won the Koussevitzky Prize and was appointed Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony. He went on to become the BSO's Associate Conductor, then Principal Guest Conductor. He has also served as Director of the Ojai Festival, Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic, Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and co-Artistic Director of Japan's Pacific Music Festival. Formerly Principal Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, he now serves as Principal Guest Conductor. He currently serves as Artistic Director of the New World Symphony, which he founded in 1988. Michael Tilson Thomas is a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres of France, was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama in 2010, and was named the American Academy of Arts and Letters' 2016 award recipient for Distinguished Service to the Arts. Michael Tilson Thomas recently announced plans to conclude his distinguished tenure as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony in June 2020, at the conclusion of the 2019–2020 season, which will mark both his 75th birthday and his 25th year leading the Symphony in what is widely considered one of the most productive musical partnerships in the orchestral world.

About Gil Shaham

Gil Shaham is one of the foremost violinists of our time—his flawless technique combined with his inimitable warmth and generosity of spirit has solidified him as an American master. The Grammy Award-winner, also named

Musical America's "Instrumentalist of the Year," is sought after throughout the world for concerto appearances with leading orchestras and conductors, and regularly gives recitals and appears with ensembles on the world's great concert stages and at the most prestigious festivals. Highlights of recent years include the acclaimed recording and performances of J.S. Bach's complete sonatas and partitas for solo violin. In the coming seasons in addition to championing these solo works he will join his long time duo partner pianist, Akira Eguchi in recitals throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Appearances with orchestra regularly include the Berlin Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, and San Francisco Symphony as well as multi-year residencies with the Orchestras of Montreal, Stuttgart and Singapore. With orchestra, Shaham continues his exploration of "Violin Concertos of the 1930s," including the works of Barber, Bartok, Berg, Korngold, Prokofiev, among many others. For Gil Shaham's full biography, please visit his [website](#).

About the San Francisco Symphony

The San Francisco Symphony is widely considered to be among the most artistically adventurous and innovative arts institutions in the U.S. Under the artistic direction of Michael Tilson Thomas since 1995, the Orchestra is a leading presence among American orchestras at home and around the world, celebrated for its artistic excellence, creative performance concepts, active touring, award-winning recordings, and standard-setting education programs. The SFS presents more than 220 concerts and presentations annually for an audience of nearly 450,000 in its home of Davies Symphony Hall and through its active national and international touring. A cornerstone of the organization's mission, the San Francisco Symphony's education programs are the most extensive offered by any American orchestra today, providing free comprehensive music education to every first- through fifth-grade student in the San Francisco public schools, and serving more than 100,000 children, students, educators, and families annually. The SFS has won such recording awards as France's Grand Prix du Disque and Britain's *Gramophone* Award, as well as 15 Grammy Awards. In 2004, the SFS launched the multimedia *Keeping Score* on PBS-TV and the web. In 2014, the SFS inaugurated SoundBox, a new experimental performance venue and music series located backstage at Davies Symphony Hall. SFS radio broadcasts, the first in the nation to feature symphonic music when they began in 1926, today carry the Orchestra's concerts across the country. For more information, go to sfsymphony.org.

PRE-TOUR PERFORMANCES

[Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, March 23, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 2 pm](#)

Davies Symphony Hall / San Francisco, CA

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Gil Shaham violin

San Francisco Symphony

BERG

Violin Concerto [Recorded for future release on SFS Media]

MAHLER

Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor

Tickets: \$39–\$159.

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.

TOUR: LOS ANGELES, CA

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 8:00 pm

Walt Disney Concert Hall / Los Angeles, CA

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Gil Shaham violin
San Francisco Symphony

BERG Violin Concerto
MAHLER Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor

TOUR: SANTA BARBARA, CA

Presented by the Community Arts Music Association of Santa Barbara

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 8:00 pm
The Granada Theatre / Santa Barbara, CA

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Gil Shaham violin
San Francisco Symphony

BERG Violin Concerto
MAHLER Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor

TOUR: COSTA MESA, CA

Presented by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County

Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 8:00 pm
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall / Costa Mesa, CA

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Gil Shaham violin
San Francisco Symphony

BERG Violin Concerto
MAHLER Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor

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