



SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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(High resolution images are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: Spencer Lowell, Kristen Loken.)

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY EMBARK ON FINAL NATIONAL TOUR TOGETHER WITH PERFORMANCES IN EIGHT CITIES, MARCH 19–29, 2019

March 19–26 concerts feature violinist Christian Tetzlaff, and violinist Alexander Kerr is soloist in concerts March 27–29

Tour includes performances in Seattle, WA; Kansas City, MO; Washington, D.C.; Boston, MA; Chicago IL; Champaign, IL; Lincoln, NE; Ames, IA

Pre-tour performances take place at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, March 14–17

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Music Director **Michael Tilson Thomas** (MTT) and the **San Francisco Symphony** (SFS) embark on their final National Tour together before MTT concludes his distinguished 25-year tenure as Music Director at the end of the 2019–20 season, presenting concerts in eight cities across the United States, **March 19–29**. Violinist [Christian Tetzlaff](#) joins the SFS for performances of **Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3** at Benaroya Hall in Seattle, Washington (March 19); Hertzberg Hall in Kansas City, Missouri (March 21); and Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. (March 23); and performs **Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto** at Symphony Hall in Boston, Massachusetts (March 24) and Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Illinois (March 26). Concerts at the Krannert Center in Champaign, Illinois (March 27), Lied Center in Lincoln, Nebraska (March 28), and Iowa State Center in Ames, Iowa

(March 29) feature violinist [Alexander Kerr](#) performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Tour repertoire also includes **Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3*, *Eroica*, and Michael Tilson Thomas's *Agnegram***, written in 1998 to celebrate the 90th birthday of the San Francisco Symphony's extraordinary patron and friend Agnes Albert.

Throughout more than two decades, Michael Tilson Thomas' leadership of the San Francisco Symphony has been recognized worldwide for building an orchestra that consistently displays artistry of the highest level in its home of Davies Symphony Hall, on over two dozen national and international tours, and through media and recording projects. He has championed the creation and performance of new music through relationships with today's important musical voices, explored the adventurous and iconic American sound, and enhanced the orchestral concert experience through innovative staging and immersive settings. MTT has led the Symphony in growing new audiences by making orchestral music accessible to all through extensive, award-winning media projects including audio and video recordings, national radio and television broadcasts, and streaming and web content. Under his leadership, the Orchestra has built a leading commitment to music education and community activities, expanding its involvement with San Francisco's public school children, fostering many of the finest young musicians, and embracing creative ways to engage with the Bay Area's diverse population. Following the 2019–20 season, Michael Tilson Thomas will assume the title of San Francisco Symphony's first-ever Music Director Laureate. Esa-Pekka Salonen will begin his tenure as the Orchestra's 12th Music Director in September 2020.

Pre-tour performances take place **March 14–17** at San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall and include Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*, and Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 3* featuring Christian Tetzlaff.

About Michael Tilson Thomas

Michael Tilson Thomas first conducted the San Francisco Symphony in 1974 and has been Music Director since 1995. Now in his 24th season as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony, MTT is currently the longest-tenured music director at any major American orchestra. He 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 will 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 San Francisco Symphony in what is widely considered one of the most productive musical partnerships in the orchestral world.

Also recognized for his work as a composer, MTT has given world premieres of many of his works with the San Francisco Symphony. These include the world premiere of *Agnegram* in 1998; the first orchestral version of *Three Songs to Poems by Walt Whitman* in 1999; and two premieres in 2002—contrabassoon concerto *Urban Legend* with SFS contrabassoonist Steven Braunstein and MTT's song cycle *Poems of Emily Dickinson* with soloist Renée Fleming. In 2017, MTT led the SFS in the West Coast premiere of his tumultuous setting of Carl Sandburg's poem, *Four Preludes on Playthings of the Wind*, featuring mezzo-soprano Measha Brueggergosman. Tilson Thomas' published compositions also include *Five Songs*, for voice and piano, including "We Two Boys Together Clinging," recorded by baritone Thomas Hampson and pianist Craig Rutenberg for EMI; *Street Song*, written for the Empire Brass Quintet and also available in a version for symphonic brass; and *Island Music*, a work dedicated to the memory of Lou Harrison. In the 2018–19 season, the San Francisco Symphony gives performances of MTT's *From the Diary of Anne Frank* on November 15–18 and *Street Song* for Symphonic Brass on June 20–22, both of which will be recorded for future release on SFS Media.

About Christian Tetzlaff

An artist known for his musical integrity, technical assurance, and intelligent, compelling interpretations, Christian Tetzlaff has for many years been internationally recognized as one of the most sought-after violinists and exciting musicians on the classical music scene. Christian Tetzlaff has received numerous awards for his many recordings, including the "Diapason d'or" in July 2018, the Midem Classical Award in 2017, and the "Preis Der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik" in 2015. Most recently, his recording of the Bartok Violin Concertos with the Helsinki

Philharmonic and Hannu Lintu was chosen as the Gramophone Concerto Recording of the Year. He currently performs on a violin modeled after a Guarneri del Gesù made by the German violin maker, Peter Greiner. Click [here](#) for Christian Tetzlaff's full biography.

About Alexander Kerr

Alexander Kerr's expressive and charismatic style has made him one of the most accomplished and versatile violinists on the international music scene today. In 1996 at the age of 26, Kerr was appointed to the prestigious position of Concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. After nine successful years at that post, he left in June 2006 to assume the endowed Linda and Jack Gill Chair in Music as Professor of Violin at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. In addition to his teaching responsibilities in Bloomington, he maintains a busy concert schedule appearing with orchestras and in recital and chamber music performances throughout the U.S., Asia, and Europe. Click [here](#) for Alexander Kerr's full biography.

About SFS Media

[SFS Media](#) is the San Francisco Symphony's eight-time Grammy Award-winning in-house label, launched in 2001. SFS Media releases reflect MTT and the SFS's artistic vision of showcasing music by American composers as well as core classical masterworks and embody the broad range of programming that has been a hallmark of the MTT/SFS partnership. Recorded live in concert and engineered at Davies Symphony Hall, the audio recordings are released on hybrid SACD and in high-resolution digital formats. The SFS Media catalog includes recordings of Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 2, 5, 7, and 9; as well as [Keeping Score: Beethoven's Eroica](#), one of eight composer documentaries produced by Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony as a part of the national *Keeping Score* PBS television series and multimedia project.



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. In December 2018, the San Francisco Symphony announced Esa-Pekka Salonen as its Music Director Designate. Salonen will begin his appointment as the SFS's 12th Music Director in September 2020, at which time Michael Tilson Thomas will become the Orchestra's first Music Director Laureate, following his remarkable 25-year tenure as Music Director.

The San Francisco Symphony 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 75,000 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.

CALENDAR EDITORS:

PRE-TOUR PERFORMANCES / SAN FRANCISCO, DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

[Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, March 15, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 2 pm](#)

Davies Symphony Hall
San Francisco, California

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Christian Tetzlaff violin
San Francisco Symphony

RAVEL

Le Tombeau de Couperin

MOZART

Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K.216

SIBELIUS

Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 43

Tickets: \$20–\$165. 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.

2019 NATIONAL TOUR

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

[Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm](#)

Benaroya Hall
Seattle, Washington

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Christian Tetzlaff violin
San Francisco Symphony

Michael TILSON THOMAS

Agnegram

MOZART

Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K.216

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Opus 55, *Eroica*

Tickets: \$82–\$165. Tickets are available online at <https://www.seattlesymphony.org/>.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

[Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:30 pm](#)

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
Hertzberg Hall
Kansas City, Missouri

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Christian Tetzlaff violin
San Francisco Symphony

RAVEL

Le Tombeau de Couperin

MOZART

Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K.216

SIBELIUS

Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 43

Tickets: \$25–\$85. Tickets are available online at www.hjseries.org.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

[Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

Kennedy Center
Washington, D.C.

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Christian Tetzlaff violin
San Francisco Symphony

Michael TILSON THOMAS

Agnegram

MOZART

Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K.216

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Opus 55, *Eroica*

Tickets: \$55–\$150. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 516-299-3100, or online at www.kennedy-center.org.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

[Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 5 pm](#)

Symphony Hall
Boston, Massachusetts

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Christian Tetzlaff violin
San Francisco Symphony

Michael TILSON THOMAS
Agnegram

MENDELSSOHN
Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64

BEETHOVEN
Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Opus 55, *Eroica*

Tickets: \$77–\$130. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 888-266-1200, or online at bso.org.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

[Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 7:30 pm](#)

Orchestra Hall
Chicago, Illinois

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Christian Tetzlaff violin
San Francisco Symphony

Michael TILSON THOMAS
Agnegram

MENDELSSOHN
Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64

BEETHOVEN
Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Opus 55, *Eroica*

Tickets: \$32–\$158. Tickets are available online at <https://cso.org>.

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

[Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 7:30 pm](#)

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
Foellinger Great Hall
Champaign, Illinois

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Alexander Kerr violin
San Francisco Symphony

Michael TILSON THOMAS
Agnegram

MENDELSSOHN

Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Opus 55, *Eroica*

Tickets: \$10–\$58. Tickets are available online at <https://krannertcenter.com/>.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Lied Center for Performing Arts
Lincoln, Nebraska

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Alexander Kerr violin
San Francisco Symphony

RAVEL

Le Tombeau de Couperin

MENDELSSOHN

Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64

SIBELIUS

Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 43

Tickets: \$14.50–\$89. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 402-472-4747, or online at liedcenter.org.

AMES, IOWA

Friday, March 29, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Iowa State Center
Stephens Auditorium
Ames, Iowa

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Alexander Kerr violin
San Francisco Symphony

RAVEL

Le Tombeau de Couperin

MENDELSSOHN

Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64

SIBELIUS

Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 43

Tickets: \$35–\$105. Tickets are available at Stephens Auditorium's box office, online at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or by calling 800-745-3000.

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

March 14–17 concerts are generously sponsored by Andy and Teri Goodman.

Additional support for March 14–17 concerts is provided by Charles and Nancy Geschke.

Support for Christian Tetzlaff's appearance is provided by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.

Sibelius's Symphony No. 2 is generously supported by the Mr. and Mrs. George Otto Sibelius Fund.

San Francisco Symphony tours are supported by the Frannie and Mort Fleishhacker Endowed Touring Fund, the Halfmann-Yee Fund for Touring, the Fay and Ada Tom Family Fund for Touring, and the Brayton Wilbur, Jr. Endowed Fund for Touring.

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