



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

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(High resolution images of Michael Tilson Thomas, Stravinsky, Nicholas Phan, and Leonidas Kavakos are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: Stefan Cohen, Library of Congress, Henry Dombey, Marco Borggreve)

**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENT TWO-WEEK
STRAVINSKY FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 21–30 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

September 21–23 concerts feature Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, and *Perséphone* with tenor Nicholas Phan, the SF Symphony Chorus, SF Girls Chorus, Pacific Boychoir, and narrator Leslie Caron

September 27–30 concerts include Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, *Le Sacre du printemps*, and *Violin Concerto* performed by Leonidas Kavakos

Festival experience includes a lobby exhibit, *Inside Music* lectures, *Keeping Score* screenings, and special pre-concert music and dance performances presented by Art Haus

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—On September 21–30 at Davies Symphony Hall, Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) leads the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in a two-week Stravinsky Festival, celebrating the groundbreaking music of one of the most transformative composers of the 20th century and exploring the wide-reaching influence of Stravinsky's work in shaping the future of ballet and the way we experience art today. The Festival offers an opportunity to experience Michael Tilson Thomas' distinctive approach to the music of Stravinsky, an approach shaped by his personal relationship with the composer. MTT notes, "I am grateful to have known many composers, and to have had the experience of hearing them sing their music to me in their own voices. What Stravinsky was able to show me was a window into the mind that created the music. Through his conducting and through his voice, I was able to understand inflections and intentions that no amount of notation can express." Watch this short [video](#) of MTT discussing the upcoming Stravinsky Festival.

The Festival begins **September 21–23** with MTT conducting the SFS in **Stravinsky's** ballet *The Firebird* and his melodrama for voices, narrator, and orchestra, *Perséphone*, featuring tenor [Nicholas Phan](#), the [Pacific Boychoir](#), [San Francisco Girls Chorus](#), [San Francisco Symphony Chorus](#), and French actress and dancer [Leslie Caron](#) narrating. *The Firebird*—an instant success upon its 1910 premiere—was Stravinsky's breakthrough work and the first of three ballet scores he composed for Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, the revolutionary ballet company which quickly became identified with the cutting edge of the European arts scene following its launch in Paris in 1909. The other two scores, *Petrushka* and the radical *Le Sacre du printemps (The Rite of Spring)*, are showcased in concerts on **September 27–30**, which also include [Leonidas Kavakos](#) performing Stravinsky's **Violin Concerto**. The Violin Concerto was later adopted as a score for choreographer George Balanchine's 1941 ballet *Balustrade*, continuing Stravinsky's connection with the Ballet Russes even after Diaghilev's death.

In addition to hearing some of Stravinsky's most significant compositions performed by the San Francisco Symphony, the Festival offers a variety of additional learning opportunities for curious ticket-holders. The 1st Tier lobby will host an exhibit exploring the life and music of Stravinsky, particularly focusing on the music he composed for the Ballets Russes and the dramatic influence it had on future generations of artists; and drawing parallels between the modern-day city of San Francisco and early twentieth-century Paris as hotbeds of creative fusion and artistic innovation. Peter Grunberg will lead informative *Inside Music* pre-concert lectures one hour prior to the September 21–23 concerts, and the following week's concerts will be preceded by screenings of [Keeping Score – Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring](#), beginning an hour and half prior to each performance. The national *Keeping Score* PBS television series and multimedia project was launched by MTT and the SFS in 2006 to make classical music accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds. It has since been viewed by more than six million people in the U.S. alone, with episodes also being broadcast in countries around the world. In this episode of *Keeping Score*, MTT retraces Stravinsky's journey to the cultural crossroads of pre-war Paris and, with the help of the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony, takes viewers on a musical voyage from the salons of St. Petersburg to the villages where Stravinsky found inspiration in the earthy power of Russian folk music and dance.

September 27–30 concerts feature special pre-concert music and dance performances presented in partnership with [Art Haus](#), a Bay Area-based performance arts organization dedicated to bringing edgy performances of classical and contemporary works into unique spaces. Art Haus' debut performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* at Burning Man 2017 drew a crowd of an estimated 10,000 people, manifesting that year's event theme of "Radical Ritual" not only through the progressive and rebellious nature of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*—a work that caused a riot to break out during its first performance in 1913—but also in the actual feat of bringing a fully choreographed ballet & symphony orchestra to the Nevada desert for a one-time performance.

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

[Friday, September 21, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, September 22, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 2 pm](#)

STRAVINSKY FESTIVAL

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

[Nicholas Phan](#) tenor

[Leslie Caron](#) narrator

[San Francisco Girls Chorus](#), Valérie Sainte-Agathe director
[Pacific Boychoir](#), Andrew Brown director
San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director
San Francisco Symphony

STRAVINSKY *Perséphone*
STRAVINSKY *The Firebird* (complete)

Tickets: \$32–156

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, 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, October 2 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, September 28, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 2 pm](#)

STRAVINSKY FESTIVAL

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Leonidas Kavakos violin

San Francisco Symphony

STRAVINSKY *Petrushka* (1947 revision)
STRAVINSKY Violin Concerto
STRAVINSKY *Le Sacre du printemps* (*The Rite of Spring*) (1947 revision)

Tickets: \$15–166

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, 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 *Keeping Score* Screening: concerts will be preceded by a screening of [Keeping Score – Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring](#), beginning an hour and half prior to each performance. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, October 9 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.

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.

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September 21–23 concerts are made possible through the generosity of Franklin Templeton Investments and Fiduciary Trust International.

Nicholas Phan's appearance is supported by the Mrs. George J. Otto Memorial Vocalist Fund.

The concert on September 21 is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

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