



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

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(High resolution images of Isabel Leonard, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Pinchas Zukerman, Michael Tilson Thomas, Philip Skinner, Amitai Pati, and Viviane Hagner are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: Becca Fay, Decca Kasskara, Cheryl Mazak, Spencer Lowell, Valentina Sadiul, SF Opera, Tim Koelln)

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS LEADS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN FOUR CONCERT PROGRAMS IN NOVEMBER

Season-long Bernstein Centennial celebration continues with Bernstein's *Age of Anxiety*, Symphony No. 2 with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet on November 2, 3, and 5; concerts also feature Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben*

MTT leads performances of Ives' Symphony No. 3 November 10–12 and Symphony No. 4 November 16–18; both to be recorded live for future release on SFS Media

November 10–12 concerts also include Ives' *Psalm 90*, Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, and the first SFS performances of Dvořák's *The American Flag* featuring bass-baritone Philip Skinner and tenor Amitai Pati in his SFS debut

November 10–12 concerts feature launch of new pre-concert Prelude Series of informal discussions

Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard replaces Susanna Phillips in concerts November 24–26, which include Mahler's Symphony No. 4, Mozart's *Exsultate, jubilate, K.165(158a)*, and the first SFS Performances of Mozart's *German Dances, K.509*

November 16–18 concerts also feature Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* performed by Pinchas Zukerman (Nov 16 & 17) and Viviane Hagner in her SFS debut (Nov 18)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) leads the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in four dynamic concert programs in November. Concerts on **November 2, 3, and 5** continue the SFS's season-long celebration of **Bernstein's** birth centennial with performances of his **Symphony No. 2, *The Age of Anxiety***—a musical representation of W.H. Auden's narrative poem of the same name—featuring pianist [Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#). Thibaudet is considered one

of the premiere interpreters of the solo part for Bernstein's Symphony No. 2, performing it extensively throughout the 2017–18 season with notable orchestras in the U.S. and abroad. **Strauss'** heroic tone poem *Ein Heldenleben* concludes the program. One hour prior to each concert on November 2, 3, and 5, MTT will give an illuminating pre-concert talk on Leonard Bernstein, moderated by Peter Grunberg. This talk is free to all ticketholders.

The **November 10–12** concerts are the first of two back-to-back weeks featuring the music of American composer Charles Ives. In these concerts, MTT conducts an American-themed program, featuring **Ives'** Pulitzer Prize-winning **Symphony No. 3, *The Camp Meeting***, to be recorded live for a future SFS Media release. MTT, who has long been a renowned interpreter of Ives' work, states: "At its core, the music of Charles Ives is an expression of the heart and soul of America. The complexity of Ives's rhythmic and harmonic ideas was very much ahead of his time, and, even as he was often labeled eccentric by his peers, he created a uniquely American sound. My aim with these programs is to reveal the true essence of Ives's music in order to allow the audience to see America through his eyes." In his Symphony No. 3 Ives depicts scenes and emotions from the "camp meetings" of the 1800s in which thousands of believers would assemble with tents and supplies to engage in a marathon of preaching, praying, and singing hymns. These "camp meetings" were at the heart of the religious revival that swept America during the 19th century and their songs, moods, and sermons greatly influenced the world of the young Charles Ives. The concert also includes **Ives' Psalm 90**, which many consider to be the apex of his choral music, featuring the [San Francisco Symphony Chorus](#) under the direction of [Ragnar Bohlin](#). Other works on the program were both shaped by travel—**Gershwin's *An American in Paris***, inspired by his visit to Paris in 1928; and the first SFS performances of **Dvořák's rarely performed *The American Flag***, inspired by the Czech composer's journey to the United States in 1892–95, and featuring bass-baritone [Philip Skinner](#) and tenor [Amitai Pati](#) in his SFS debut. Amitai Pati was a participant in the 2016 Merola Opera Program and is currently a first-year Adler Fellow at San Francisco Opera, where he most recently appeared as Gastone in *La Traviata*. Philip Skinner, also a graduate of the Merola Opera Program and former Adler Fellow, made his SF Opera debut in 1985 and first appeared with the SF Symphony in 1989.

On November 10–12, the SFS launches its **Prelude Series**—a pre-concert discussion led by a knowledgeable guest speaker in a casual, intimate lounge setting on the First Tier Lobby of Davies Symphony Hall, 45 minutes before each performance. The series presents an engaging way to enhance patrons' classical music experience at Davies Hall and will be offered for a select number of concerts each month. This first Prelude Series will be led by **Steven Winn**, an award-winning writer and veteran theater and culture critic of the San Francisco Chronicle.

The following week, **November 16–18**, MTT leads the orchestra in performances of **Ives' Symphony No. 4**, with **Christian Reif** as second conductor and pianist **Peter Dugan** as soloist. These performances will also be recorded for future release on SFS Media. Although it didn't receive its first complete performance until 1965, over a decade after the composer's death, Ives' intricate and rhythmically complex Symphony No. 4 is considered to be one of his greatest masterpieces. The complexity MTT refers to in the above quote can be seen in the simultaneous use of several meters throughout the work, as well unique orchestration as in the fourth movement, where the last two stands of second violins comprise a "distant choir." In the 1965 premiere of Ives' Symphony No. 4 two assistant conductors were enlisted to help with the performance. Christian Reif will serve as assistant conductor in these concerts, working with MTT to guide the audience through the organized chaos of Ives' Fourth Symphony. The second half of the program features **Beethoven's virtuosic Violin Concerto**, performed by [Pinchas Zukerman](#) on November 16 and 17 and [Viviane Hagner](#) in her SFS debut on November 18.

The **November 24–26** concerts feature MTT conducting the SFS and mezzo-soprano [Isabel Leonard](#) as soloist in **Mahler's Symphony No. 4** and **Mozart's *Exsultate, jubilate, K. 165(158a)***—the latter replaces previously announced Berg's Seven Early Songs. Leonard will take the place of soprano Susanna Phillips, who was originally scheduled for these performances, but has had to withdraw as she is not able to travel due to her pregnancy. Isabel Leonard made her SFS debut in October 2013 and most recently appeared with the SFS as part of the Bernstein Celebration concerts in September 2017. MTT is considered one of the world's leading interpreters of Mahler's music and his recordings of Mahler's symphonies with the SFS have won seven Grammy Awards. According to *Los Angeles Times*, "Michael Tilson Thomas and the SF Symphony are the most exciting Mahler combination anywhere." Concluding this dynamic program are the first SFS performances of **Mozart's delightful German Dances, K.509**.

Calendar editors, please note:

Concerts take place in Davies Symphony Hall, located at 201 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102.

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, November 2, 2017 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, November 3, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

[Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#) piano

San Francisco Symphony

BERNSTEIN

The Age of Anxiety, Symphony No. 2

R. STRAUSS

Ein Heldenleben, Opus 40

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Bernstein's *The Age of Anxiety*, Symphony No. 2 and Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* 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.

CD Signing: Jean-Yves Thibaudet will sign CDs in the Symphony Store immediately following the evening performances.

Pre-Concert Talk: Michael Tilson Thomas will give an illuminating talk on Leonard Bernstein and R. Strauss. Beginning one hour prior to the concert, this talk is free to ticketholders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, November 14 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY & CHORUS, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Friday, November 10, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

[Amitai Pati](#) tenor

[Philip Skinner](#) bass-baritone

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director

San Francisco Symphony

IVES

Psalm 90

DVOŘÁK

The American Flag, Opus 102 [First SFS Performances]

Amitai Pati tenor

Philip Skinner bass-baritone

IVES

Symphony No. 3, *The Camp Meeting* [Recorded live for future release on SFS Media]

GERSHWIN

An American in Paris

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Ives' Symphony No. 3, *The Camp Meeting*, 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.

Prelude Series: Steven Winn will lead an engaging discussion 45 minutes before each performance on the First Tier Lobby of Davies Symphony Hall. Free to all concert ticket holders.

Pre-Concert Talk: James Keller 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 21 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: \$35–159

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS and CHRISTIAN REIF CONDUCTING

[Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

[Friday, November 17, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Christian Reif conductor (Ives Symphony No. 4 only)

[Pinchas Zukerman](#) violin (Nov 16 & 17)

[Viviane Hagner](#) violin (Nov 18)

Peter Dugan piano

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director

San Francisco Symphony

IVES Symphony No. 4 [To be recorded live for future release on SFS Media]

Christian Reif second conductor

Peter Dugan piano

BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto in D major, Opus 61

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Ives' Symphony No. 4, 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.

CD Signing: Jean-Yves Thibaudet will sign CDs in the Symphony Store immediately following the evening performances.

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.

Tickets: \$35–159

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Friday, November 24, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, November 25, 2017 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 2 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

[Isabel Leonard](#) soprano

San Francisco Symphony

MOZART German Dances, K.509 [First SFS Performances]

MOZART *Exsultate, jubilate*, K.165(158a)

Isabel Leonard soprano

MAHLER Symphony No. 4 in G major

Isabel Leonard soprano

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Mahler's Symphony No. 4, 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: Scott Foglesong 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, December 5 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: \$35–159

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