



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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([Click here](#) for a selection of downloadable high-resolution images, including photos of Michael Tilson Thomas, the San Francisco Symphony, Opening Night Gala guest artists and co-chairs, and event photography.)

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY KICKS OFF OPENING WEEK FESTIVITIES WITH OPENING NIGHT GALA ON SEPTEMBER 4, CELEBRATING MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS' 25TH AND FINAL SEASON AS MUSIC DIRECTOR

Proceeds from the Opening Night Gala benefit the San Francisco Symphony's myriad artistic, education, and community programs

Concert is preceded by a complimentary sparkling wine reception in Davies Symphony Hall and concludes with an indoor-outdoor After-Party, open to all ticketholders

OPENING WEEK CONTINUES WITH ALL SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT ON SEPTEMBER 5 AND TWO PERFORMANCES WITH METALLICA OPENING SAN FRANCISCO'S NEW CHASE CENTER, SEPTEMBER 6 and 8

SAN FRANCISCO—The [San Francisco Symphony](#) (SFS) and Music Director [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) (MTT) kick off their 25th season together with the [Opening Night Gala](#) on **Wednesday, September 4**. The Opening Night Gala honors Michael Tilson Thomas, celebrating the launch of his final season as Music Director of the SFS, and his husband Joshua Robison. The concert program includes Glinka's Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmila*, Britten's Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Purcell, and the majestic Finale from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9: Ode, "To Joy" with soprano Susanna Phillips, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano, tenor Jonathan Tetelman, bass-baritone Ryan McKinny, and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus under the direction of Ragnar Bohlin. Ryan McKinny joins the SF Symphony and Chorus in performances of Copland's "The Dodger" and "Golden Willow Tree" from Old American Songs, and the SFS Chorus is featured in Gordon Getty's *Shenandoah*. Guests can also expect multimedia elements, including lighting design by Luke

Kritzeck, and many surprises throughout the evening. The Gala concert will be broadcast live on Classical KDFC 90.3/89.9/104.9 FM and streamed online at kdfc.com.

[Click here to watch a video about the San Francisco Symphony's 2019 Opening Gala.](#)

Widely considered to be among the most artistically adventurous and innovative arts institutions in the United States, the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas have earned a global reputation for signature interpretations, boundary-pushing concert experiences, and award-winning recordings and media projects. The SFS presents more than 215 concerts and reaches an audience of nearly 500,000 annually in its home of Davies Symphony Hall, through its multifaceted education and community programs, and through national and international tours. Proceeds from the Opening Night Gala benefit the San Francisco Symphony's myriad artistic, education, and community programs.

Opening Night celebrations begin prior to the concert with a complimentary sparkling wine reception at 7pm in the Davies Symphony Hall lobby, free to all ticketholders. The evening's celebrations continue following the concert with an indoor-outdoor After-Party in the Tented Pavilion and on Grove Street, featuring two stages of live music entertainment by Conjunto Karabali, and others to be announced. A complimentary array of the city's best culinary delicacies and drinks will be served by popular San Francisco establishments, including Alexander's Steakhouse, CALA, Corridor Restaurant, Monsieur Benjamin, Judy's Breadsticks, Mr. Tipple's Recording Studio, Tratto SF, Anton SV Pâtisserie, It's It Ice Cream Company, Dobb's Ferry, Presidio Social Club, Le Soleil, and more. Wine for the After-Party is generously provided by Casillero del Diablo.

Each year, preceding the Opening Night Gala concert, the SF Symphony hosts four separate formal dinners, all beginning at 6pm, with cocktail receptions beginning at 5pm. The Patrons' Dinner takes place in the Tented Pavilion next to Davies Symphony Hall and is preceded by a 5pm cocktail reception in the Davies Hall lobby. The Wattis Room Dinner offers an elegant and intimate experience that shares the 5pm cocktail reception with the Patrons' Dinner. The Symphony Supper and Symphonix Dinner take place at City Hall and begin with a joint cocktail reception in the South Light Court at 5pm. The Symphony Supper takes place in City Hall's magnificent Rotunda at 6pm. The Symphonix Dinner Party, hosted by the Symphony's young professionals group, takes place in the North Light Court. Décor for the Tented Pavilion, City Hall, Grove Street, and Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall is provided by Blueprint Studios. Lighting design is provided by Got Light. All dinners are catered by McCalls Catering and Events.



The 2019 Opening Night Gala is co-chaired by Nicole Lacob and Rachael Bowman, with Michael Tilson Thomas and Joshua Robison serving as Honorary Chairs. Ann Paras is Wattis Room Dinner Chair, the Symphony Supper is co-chaired by Elizabeth Allin and Emilie Lynch, and Symphonix Dinner Chairs are Annie Buckman and Annie Dreshfield. Lauren Erickson and Brianna Haag co-chair the After-Party.

Opening Night Gala guest artists are underwritten by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem. Opening Gala is made possible through the generous support of Patrons' Dinner Sponsor Kaiser Permanente, Supporting Sponsor The Koret Foundation, and Signature Education Sponsor Neiman Marcus/The Heart of Neiman Marcus Foundation. Haute Living is the official Opening Night Gala Magazine Partner.

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MTT LEADS ANNUAL ALL SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT ON SEPTEMBER 5, IN RECOGNITION OF LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

2019–20 season Opening Week festivities continue with the [All San Francisco Concert](#) on **Thursday, September 5**, featuring Michael Tilson Thomas leading the SF Symphony in Glinka's Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmila*, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy Overture, and Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. In addition, violinists Alina Ming Kobiak and Hannah Tarley—both SFS Youth Orchestra alums—perform Saint-Saëns' Introduction and Rondo capriccioso and Ravel's *Tzigane*. The All San Francisco Concert is a special Davies Symphony Hall performance for San Francisco social service and neighborhood organizations, in recognition and gratitude for the work these groups do to

enrich the lives of and serve the citizens of San Francisco. Volunteers and employees from such organizations as La Casa de las Madres, First Exposures, the Justice & Diversity Center, and others are invited to attend. Organized through the SF Symphony's Volunteer Council and overseen by an advisory committee of local community leaders, the annual All San Francisco Concert has been underwritten by Wells Fargo for more than 30 years. The concert is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission. This year's All San Francisco Concert is co-chaired by Andrea Ceseña and Selina Weiss.

The All San Francisco Concert includes the presentation of the Ellen Magnin Newman Award to honor an outstanding local community-service organization. The award is named after Ellen Magnin Newman, SF Symphony board member and founder of the All San Francisco Concert. The Ellen Magnin Newman Award is presented each year to a community-based organization that strengthens the city's cultural fabric, serves the city's most vulnerable families and individuals, and creates a more just and equitable society for everyone who lives here. This year's recipient of the Ellen Magnin Newman Award is [Sunset Youth Services](#) (SYS), a youth-development nonprofit in San Francisco that fosters long-term stability and growth for at-risk youth and families through caring relationships and supportive services. In the context of a vibrant arts-oriented youth community, SYS offers justice services, employment, family support, and dynamic youth programming—including the Digital Arts & Technology program—where young people engage in songwriting, filmmaking, and audio engineering at on-site recording studios. Alongside professional local musicians, they harness the power of music to speak their truths, grow in stability, and live into a brighter future.

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METALLICA AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENT S&M2 IN INAUGURAL CONCERTS AT SAN FRANCISCO'S NEW CHASE CENTER, CONDUCTED BY EDWIN OUTWATER WITH SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY MTT, SEPTEMBER 6 and 8

S&M2 concerts mark 20th anniversary of Grammy Award-winning S&M San Francisco Symphony and Metallica collaboration performances and album

On **September 6 and 8**, the San Francisco Symphony joins forces with rock band Metallica in **S&M2**, celebrating the opening of San Francisco's Chase Center—the new home of the Golden State Warriors. Conducted by Edwin Outwater



with special appearance by Michael Tilson Thomas, the Chase Center inaugural event comes 20 years after the two groups first collaborated for a historic set of concerts billed as Symphony and Metallica (S&M). The original S&M concerts were performed by Metallica and the San Francisco Symphony, conducted by the late Michael Kamen in spring 1999 at the Berkeley Community Theatre. The two-disc S&M album was released later that year, selling over 10 million copies and winning a Best Rock Instrumental Performance Grammy Award for its version of "The Call of Ktulu." Filmed by director Wayne Isham, the concert film was also released on video and DVD. The S&M2 concert will feature the first live performances of these arrangements in 20 years, plus new songs and arrangements created by Bruce Coughlin.

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About Michael Tilson Thomas

Michael Tilson Thomas assumed his post as the San Francisco Symphony's 11th Music Director in 1995, consolidating a relationship with the Orchestra that began with his debut here in 1974. The 2019–20 season marks his 25th and final season as Music Director, celebrating the lasting and meaningful relationships MTT has built with the Orchestra and with their audiences across the Bay Area and the world. The wide-ranging programs and initiatives of MTT's final season at the helm of the San Francisco Symphony celebrate the spirit of this extraordinary partnership with an expansive exploration of the American Sound; a creative breadth of programming where new voices stand alongside iconic masterworks, reimagined; a broadening of the traditional concert experience through staged productions and events in experimental spaces, meaningful collaborations with the world's leading artists, and the championing of community and access to music education. To learn more about the 2019–20 season, read the [Season Announcement press release](#).

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

OPENING NIGHT GALA IN HONOR OF MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS and JOSHUA ROBISON

[Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#) conductor
[Susanna Phillips](#) soprano
[Jennifer Johnson Cano](#) mezzo-soprano
[Jonathan Tetelman](#) tenor
[Ryan McKinny](#) bass-baritone
[Luke Kritzeck](#) lighting design
San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director
San Francisco Symphony

GLINKA

Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmila*

COPLAND

"The Dodger" from Old American Songs

Gordon GETTY

Shenandoah

COPLAND

"Golden Willow Tree" from Old American Songs

BRITTEN

Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Purcell, Opus 34

BEETHOVEN

IV. Finale: Ode, "To Joy" from Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Opus 125

Dinner guests:

- 5pm Cocktail Reception for Patrons' Dinner and Wattis Room Dinner, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall Lobby
- 5pm Cocktail Reception for Symphony Supper and Symphonix Dinner Party, South Light Court – San Francisco City Hall

- 6pm Patrons' Dinner, Tented Pavilion
- 6pm Wattis Room Dinner, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
- 6pm Symphony Supper, Rotunda – San Francisco City Hall
- 6pm Symphonix Dinner Party, North Light Court – San Francisco City Hall

All ticket holders:

- 7pm Complimentary sparkling wine reception for all concert guests, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
- 8pm Gala Concert, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
- 10pm After-Party for all concert guests, Tented Pavilion and Grove Street

Formal dinner packages begin at \$495 and include a 5pm cocktail reception, 6pm dinner, the After-Party in the Tented Pavilion and on Grove Street, and premium seating for the concert. Dinner packages are available by contacting the Volunteer Council at (415) 503-5500 or online at www.sfsymphony.org/gala.

Concert tickets are \$278 and \$426 and include a complimentary pre-concert wine reception, as well as access to the After-Party in the Tented Pavilion. Limited number of tickets may be available and can be purchased by calling the box office at 415-864-6000, at www.sfsymphony.org/gala, or at the box office located on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street.

ALL SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT, CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

[Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#) conductor

[Alina Ming Kobialka](#) violin

[Hannah Tarley](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

GLINKA

Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmila*

SAINT-SAËNS

Introduction and Rondo capriccioso, Opus 28

TCHAIKOVSKY

Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture

RAVEL

Tzigane

BRITTEN

Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, Opus 24

Tickets: \$12 tickets are offered to community groups and social service organizations. Groups that would like to be considered for next year's concert should email allsf@sfsymphony.org.

S&M2: METALLICA with the SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY at CHASE CENTER, CONDUCTED BY EDWIN OUTWATER WITH SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

[Friday, September 6 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, September 8 at 8 pm](#)

Chase Center, San Francisco, CA

[Edwin Outwater](#) conductor

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#) conductor and special guest

[Metallica](#)

San Francisco Symphony

Tickets: A limited number of tickets for the September 6 performance may be available at chasecenter.com.

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#):



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

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Opening Night Gala is made possible through the generous support of Patrons' Dinner Sponsor Kaiser Permanente, Supporting Sponsor The Koret Foundation, and Signature Education Sponsor Neiman Marcus/The Heart of Neiman Marcus Foundation.

Opening Night Gala Event Designer is Blueprint Studios.

Opening Night Gala production partners are Got Light, Hensley Event Resources, McCalls Catering and Events, and Global Gourmet Catering.

Haute Living is the Official Opening Night Gala Magazine Partner.

The All San Francisco Concert and Ellen Magnin Newman Award are made possible through the generosity of Wells Fargo. The All San Francisco Concert is presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

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