



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 25, 2018

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S ADVENTURES IN MUSIC PROGRAM

[Click here to view photos and footage of AIM's 30th anniversary event.](#)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Yesterday, San Francisco Symphony President Sakurako Fisher, San Francisco Symphony Executive Director Mark Hanson, San Francisco Mayor Mark Farrell, San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Vincent Matthews, and an enthusiastic group of friends and leaders from City Hall and the Unified School District; parents, teachers, and supporters of the Symphony; Symphony Board members; and members of the media joined together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the San Francisco Symphony's Adventures in Music (AIM) program. Presented in partnership with the SF Unified School District, AIM is the longest running and most comprehensive program of its kind in the country, providing free music education to every 1–5 grade student in every public elementary school in San Francisco.

The gathering at Sanchez Elementary School began with remarks by Sakurako Fisher, highlighting the remarkable partnership between the San Francisco Symphony and the SFUSD that led to the creation of Adventures in Music (AIM) in 1988. She then presented letters of congratulations sent to the Symphony by Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. Fisher concluded by stating, "Every time I see the AIM program in action, my hope in mankind is renewed and my commitment to art and music and culture in San Francisco is reignited. Nothing compares to seeing young minds expanding and growing."



[L to R: SFUSD Superintendent Dr. Vincent Matthews, SFUSD Board of Education President Hydra Mendoza-McDonnell,

San Francisco Mayor Mark Farrell, San Francisco Symphony President Sakurako Fisher, San Francisco Symphony Executive Director Mark Hanson. AIM Teaching Ensemble Caribbean Express with students from Sanchez Elementary School. Photos by Stefan Cohen.]

Mayor Farrell continued, presenting the Symphony with a City proclamation, naming April 24, 2018 “Adventures in Music Day” in the City and County of San Francisco. He remarked, “What is so valuable to me is that the Symphony really embraces the idea of inclusiveness, of making sure they educate everybody in the city of San Francisco. Students are not only able to have artists come here to their schools, which is amazing, but also to be able to go to the Symphony itself to hear and witness performances—that is enlightening. And the fact that this has happened now for 30 years in the city of San Francisco is just an amazing feat that I think we all need to celebrate. This is what it’s all about in San Francisco.”

Superintendent Matthews closed by highlighting the significance of AIM’s establishment in 1988, and sharing his own experience with the program, both as a public school teacher and as a principal. He shared, “There are two pieces that really stand out to me about the program: its equity and consistency. This program is one of the only arts programs that every single elementary student in our district has access to, and that is critical. The Symphony has been empowering our school district teachers for 30 years, and this is worth celebrating.”

The program concluded after 3rd and 4th grade students from Sanchez Elementary filed into the school’s cafetorium to enjoy a lively educational performance, presented by AIM teaching ensemble Caribbean Express. Students and guests engaged in a fast-paced and interactive exploration of island music—from Reggae to Calypso to Merengue—by the ensemble comprising steel pans, conga, bongos, claves, cowbell, drum kit, and electric bass.

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



Adventures in Music receives generous support from the William and Sakurako Fisher Fund for Adventures in Music, the Athena T. Blackburn Fund, the Jerome and Thao Dodson Music Education Fund, and the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund for Adventures in Music. Additional endowment support is provided by Mr. & Mrs. Donald G. Fisher, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, the Walther Foundation, Margaret Liu Collins and Edward B. Collins, Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Fisher, Mr. & Mrs. Peter A. Darbee, Lois M. De Domenico, and Mr. & Mrs. John J. Fisher. Institutional support is provided by the Wells Fargo Foundation, The Frances K. and Charles D. Field Foundation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, The Morrison & Foerster Foundation and Individual Partners and Employees of Morrison & Foerster LLP, Bank of America, Macy’s, The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation, the Gap Foundation, Prologis, Union Bank Foundation, and the Harold L. Wyman Foundation. AIM is supported in part by the William K. Bowes Foundation; the California Arts Council, a state agency; the National Endowment for the Arts; The Bernard Osher Foundation; The Walther Foundation; and the corporate partners of the Music Education Alliance. We are also grateful to the many individual donors who help make this program possible each year.