



# SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

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(High resolution images of artists can be viewed and downloaded [here](#). Photo credit from L to R: Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Chris Wahlberg, B. Ealovega)

## **YAN PASCAL TORTELIER LEADS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY APRIL 19–21, CELEBRATES RAVEL'S 1928 VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO**

**Program includes works by Ravel and Debussy, including *Shéhérazade* with Susan Graham and Tortelier's own concert arrangement of *Daphnis et Chloé***

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—Conductor **Yan Pascal Tortelier** leads the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in concerts featuring music by Debussy and Ravel on April 19–21, replacing Charles Dutoit. An esteemed interpreter of French music, Tortelier conducts the SFS in great works from late 19th and early 20th-century France: Ravel's song cycle *Shéhérazade* with mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham**, Tortelier's own concert arrangement of Ravel's ballet *Daphnis et Chloé*, and Debussy's *Danse* and *Sarabande* from *Pour Le Piano*, both arranged for orchestra by Ravel. Tortelier has appeared regularly with the San Francisco Symphony since his debut in 1998, and his most recent appearance with the Symphony—another all-French program in 2015—was a critical success. Tortelier and Graham reunite in Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, a song cycle inspired by the exoticism of the *Arabian Nights* and set to the poetry of Tristan Klingsor, which Tortelier and Graham recorded together in 2005 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under the Warner Classics label.

With these concerts, San Francisco Symphony celebrates the 90th anniversary of Maurice Ravel's 1928 conducting tour and only visit to the United States, during which *Shéhérazade* received its San Francisco premiere by the Symphony. A special exhibit on display in the First Tier Lobby of Davies Symphony Hall April 4–May 13 will incorporate pictures, words, art, and video to commemorate the life and music of Ravel, and the significance of his historic tour. All five orchestras conducted by Ravel on his journey, including those in New York, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, and San Francisco, are participating in the tour re-creation this season.

Conductor **Yan Pascal Tortelier** currently serves in his second season as Chief Conductor of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, following positions as Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Ulster Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic. Tortelier's recording catalogue, a product of his longstanding relationship with Chandos Records, is marked by his award-winning cycles of the orchestral music of Debussy and Ravel (featuring his own orchestration of Ravel's Piano Trio), with both Ulster Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic. From 1974 to 1983, Tortelier was Associate

Conductor of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse. Further positions since then have included Principal Guest Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (2005-2008), and Principal Conductor of the Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra from 2009-2011. Following his outstanding work as Chief Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic between 1992 and 2003, including annual appearances at the BBC Proms and a very successful tour of the US to celebrate the orchestra's 60th anniversary season, he was given the title of Conductor Emeritus and continues to work with the orchestra regularly. He also holds the position of Principal Guest Conductor at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** returns to San Francisco Symphony after performing in the 2016–17 season Opening Night Gala. Graham is hailed as one of the foremost exponents of French vocal music, and was awarded the prestigious “Chevalier de la Legion d’Honneur” both for her popularity as a performer in France and in honor of her commitment to French music. Graham—hailed as “an artist to treasure” by the *New York Times*—rose to the highest echelon of international performers within just a few years of her professional debut, mastering an astonishing range of repertoire and genres along the way. Her operatic roles span four centuries, from Monteverdi’s *Poppea* to Sister Helen Prejean in Jake Heggie’s *Dead Man Walking*, which was written especially for her. She won a Grammy Award for her collection of Ives songs, and her recital repertoire is so broad that 14 composers from Purcell to Sondheim are represented on her most recent Onyx album, *Virgins, Vixens & Viragos*.

**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](http://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.

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## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

[Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, April 20, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

**Yan Pascal Tortelier** conductor  
**Susan Graham** mezzo-soprano  
**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>DEBUSSY (orch. Ravel)</b>	Sarabande from <i>Pour le Piano</i>
<b>DEBUSSY (orch. Ravel)</b>	<i>Danse</i>
<b>RAVEL</b>	<i>Shéhérazade</i>
<b>RAVEL (concert version arr. Tortelier)</b>	<i>Daphnis et Chloé</i>

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about *Daphnis et Chloé* hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](http://sfsymphony.org/podcasts) and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from [soundcloud.com/sfsymphony](http://soundcloud.com/sfsymphony).

**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, May 1, 2018 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

**Tickets:** \$39-\$159.

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*Susan Graham's appearance is supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.*

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