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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / JANUARY 22, 2014



Photos of Lan Shui, Alina Ming Kobialka, David Fung and the SFS's Lunar New Year festivities can be viewed and downloaded [here](#)

**THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENTS ITS
ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CONCERT & CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**Singapore Symphony Orchestra Director Lan Shui leads the SFS in a program
of works of both Eastern and Western musical styles**

Concert features violinist Alina Ming Kobialka and pianist David Fung

**Festival Reception with lion dancers, arts and crafts, and refreshments
precedes concert**

Elegant Imperial Dinner held after concert in City Hall Rotunda

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, January 22, 2014 – The [San Francisco Symphony](#) (SFS) rings in the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Horse on Saturday, February 8 at its [14th Annual Lunar New Year Concert and Celebration](#) in Davies Symphony Hall. The celebrations begin with a Festival Reception at 3:00pm, followed by the 4:00pm Orchestra concert featuring conductor Lan Shui, violinist and San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) alumna Alina Ming Kobialka and pianist David Fung in a program featuring music of both Eastern and Western traditions. The day concludes with the Lunar New Year Imperial Dinner in the Grand Rotunda of City Hall.

The pre-concert festivities in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies provide family-friendly entertainment and activities, including children's arts and crafts, lion dancing and Chinese calligraphy, as well as complimentary food, desserts and tea bars.

The 4:00pm concert, led by Singapore Symphony Orchestra Music Director Lan Shui in his SFS debut, celebrates the Lunar New Year and San Francisco's unique cultural fabric by featuring a combination of traditional Asian music alongside orchestral works influenced by both Eastern and Western musical traditions. After the program opens with the popular Chinese Dragon Dance, the SFS performs traditional Asian works such as *Colorful Clouds Chasing Moon* and *Good News from Beijing Reaches Border Villages*, as well as Li Huanzhi's *Spring Festival Overture* and Johann Strauss Jr.'s *Voices of Spring Waltz*. Violinist and former SFSYO concertmaster Alina Ming Kobialka joins the orchestra in the

traditional work *Ambush on All Sides*, arranged for violin and orchestra, as well as in Waxman's *Carmen Fantasy*. Pianist David Fung also makes his SFS debut in Qigang Chen's piano concerto *Er Huang*.

The elegant Lunar New Year Imperial Dinner, inspired by the rich visual pageantry of traditional New Year celebrations, is at 6:00pm in City Hall's Grand Rotunda. Tickets for the Imperial Dinner are sold separately. The Lunar New Year Celebration is chaired by Mindy Sun and is made possible by the generous support of Presenting Sponsor Tourbillon. The Imperial Dinner is catered by McCalls and is designed by Blueprint Studios.

About the Artists

[Lan Shui](#) has been both Music Director of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra since 1997, and Artistic Advisor of the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra since January 2010. Under Shui's direction, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra has become a world-class ensemble with an exclusive recording contract with the BIS label. Shui has led the orchestra on several acclaimed tours to Germany, Switzerland, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, France, Spain and the USA, and is passionate about commissioning, premiering and recording works by Asian composers.

Since 1998, Lan Shui has recorded over 16 CDs for BIS, including the first complete cycle of symphonies by Tcherepnin with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. *International Music Web* chose Shui's and the Singapore Symphony's album *Seascapes* as one of the best releases of 2007, and his album *Movement* with the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra was nominated for a Grammy Award. He received an additional Grammy nomination in 2011 for *Chinese Recorder Concertos – East Meets West*. In addition to his debut with the San Francisco Symphony, Shui's guest engagements this season include the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire and Iceland Symphony Orchestra.

Within a year of commencing her violin studies, violinist **Alina Ming Kobialka** was awarded first prize at age six in the Chinese Music Teachers Association of Northern California Competition. She made her first solo appearance with an orchestra at the age of ten and she has since toured and performed with a number of ensembles. At the age of thirteen, Kobialka won the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra's Concerto Competition and performed the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the orchestra. The following summer, she toured with the SFSYO as concertmaster throughout Europe, performing at some of the continent's leading festivals and halls, including the Berlin Philharmonie. A year later, she made her solo debut with the San Francisco Symphony at its Centennial Season Reunion Concert, and she was featured live on NPR's *From the Top*. She took the grand prize at the 2012 Mondavi Center National Young Artists Competition. Alina Ming Kobialka's recent performances include her Mondavi Center debut with the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra and her second solo appearance with Symphony Parnassus. She begins 2014 making her debut with the Las Vegas Philharmonic and the Camellia Symphony.

Described as "stylish and articulate" by *The New York Times*, pianist [David Fung](#) is widely recognized for playing that is elegant and refined, yet deeply poetic and intensely expressive. In recent seasons, Fung has appeared as guest soloist with all the major orchestras in his native Australia, including the Melbourne Symphony, Queensland Symphony and Sydney Symphony Orchestras, and internationally with orchestras such as the Israel Camerata Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, National Orchestra of Belgium, Royal Chamber Orchestra of Wallonia, San Diego Symphony Orchestra and Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra. This is his debut with the San Francisco Symphony.

David Fung garnered international attention as a laureate of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition in Brussels and the Arthur Rubinstein Piano International Masters Competition in Tel Aviv, where he was distinguished by prizes for Best Mozart Concerto and Best Performance of Chamber Music. Fung was the Grand Prize winner of Australia's most important music prize, the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year Award. He was the first pianist to graduate from the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles, and is the Artistic Director of the Bari International Music Festival in Bari, Italy. David Fung is an official Steinway Artist.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

San Francisco Symphony 14th Annual Lunar New Year Concert & Celebration

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA

Saturday, February 8, 2014

3:00pm – Festival Reception

4:00pm – Lunar New Year Concert

6:00pm – Imperial Dinner (**at City Hall; tickets sold separately**)

Lan Shui conductor
Alina Ming Kobialka violin
David Fung piano
San Francisco Symphony

Traditional Chinese Dragon Dance
Li Huanzhi *Spring Festival Overture*
Johann Strauss Jr. *Voices of Spring Waltz*, Opus 410
Traditional *Ambush on All Sides* (arranged for solo violin and orchestra)
Waxman *Carmen Fantasy* for violin and orchestra
Qigang Chen *Er Huang*, concerto for piano and orchestra
Traditional (arr. Yum Kwong) *Colorful Clouds Chasing Moon*
Traditional *Good News from Beijing Reaches Border Villages*

The [San Francisco Symphony](#) rings in the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Horse on Saturday, February 8 at its [14th Annual Lunar New Year Concert and Celebration](#) in Davies Symphony Hall. The celebrations begin with a Festival Reception for all ticketholders at 3:00pm. The pre-concert festivities in the Davies Symphony Hall lobbies provide family-friendly entertainment and activities, including children's arts and crafts, lion dancing and Chinese calligraphy, as well as complimentary food, desserts and tea bars. The 4:00pm concert celebrates the Lunar New Year and San Francisco's unique cultural fabric by featuring a combination of traditional Asian music alongside orchestral works influenced by both Eastern and Western musical traditions. The elegant Lunar New Year Imperial Dinner, inspired by the rich visual pageantry of traditional New Year celebrations, is at 6:00pm in City Hall's Grand Rotunda. Tickets for the Imperial Dinner are sold separately.

TICKETS: Tickets for the Lunar New Year concert and the pre-concert Festival Reception are \$30-\$74 and are available through [sfsymphony.org](#), by phone at (415) 864-6000, or at the [Davies Symphony Hall Box Office](#) on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street. Individual tickets for the post-concert Imperial Dinner at San Francisco's City Hall are \$350-\$1000 and are available at [sfsymphony.org/chinesenewyear](#) or by calling the SFS Volunteer Council at (415) 503-5500.

BOOK SIGNING: Oliver Chin, author of *Year of the Horse*, will sign books in the Symphony Store immediately following the performance.

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The 2014 Chinese New Year Celebration is made possible through the generosity of Presenting Sponsors Breguet and Tourbillon Boutique.

Additional support is provided by the San Francisco Arts Commission.

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Festival Reception cuisine is generously provided by Panda Express.

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