



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENT
SYMPHONY RELIEF: A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE NORTH BAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017 AT
DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**Concert proceeds benefit victims of the Northern California wildfires through the North Bay Fire Relief Fund
and the Sonoma County Resilience Fund**

**Michael Tilson Thomas, San Francisco Symphony Musicians and Chorus, Guest Soloists, Stage Crew, Ushers,
and Staff donate their service to present a benefit concert featuring music by Copland and Tchaikovsky, and
Ode "To Joy," the Finale from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9**

SAN FRANCISCO, November 2, 2017— In response to the devastating Northern California wildfires last month, the San Francisco Symphony presents *Symphony Relief: A Benefit Concert for the North Bay* on November 19 at Davies Symphony Hall. Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT); the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) musicians; the SFS Chorus; members of the San Francisco Opera Chorus; guest soloists including bass Soloman Howard; as well as the SFS stage crew, ushers, and staff pledge their support for victims of the fires by donating their services for this concert. Proceeds benefit the Redwood Credit Union's North Bay Fire Relief Fund and the Sonoma County Resilience Fund. KDFC is the official media partner of the San Francisco Symphony for *Symphony Relief: A Benefit Concert for the North Bay*.

In early October 2017, a series of wildfires devastated portions of Napa, Lake, Sonoma, Mendocino, Butte, and Solano Counties in Northern California. The fires burned more than 100,000 acres of land, including an estimated 8,900 homes and structures, and represent the largest loss of life due to wildfires in the United States since 1918.

“The damage and impact of the recent North Bay Fires on our community is incomprehensible, and the need that now faces those affected is great,” stated San Francisco Symphony Executive Director Mark C. Hanson. “In the midst of devastating loss, music can remind us of the humanity we share, and can offer a place in which to reflect and come together. But music can only do so much. For that reason, all of us at the SFS are committed to raising critical funds through this concert in order to provide assistance to the many people in our region who are now facing the healing and rebuilding process.”

The concert program opens with two inspirational works by iconic American composer Aaron Copland—*Fanfare for the Common Man*, and music from the 1940 film *Our Town*. The concert also includes the finale from Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4, a cappella spirituals performed by bass Solomon Howard, and the uplifting finale from Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, culminating in his beloved Ode “To Joy.”

“During times of great suffering and loss, music can offer solace and bring people together to grieve and heal as a community,” stated SF Symphony violinist Melissa Kleinbart. “We hope to use the power of music as a call to action that will inspire music lovers throughout the Bay Area to join us in raising much needed funds for individuals and communities who have been adversely affected by this catastrophic event.”

Tickets are priced affordably at \$25 and \$50 and 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.

North Bay Fire Relief Fund

The North Bay Fire Relief Fund was established by the RCU Community Fund, in partnership with Redwood Credit Union, Senator Mike McGuire, and The Press Democrat, to assist those impacted by the wildfires that have ravaged the North San Francisco Bay Area. To date, the North Bay Fire Relief Fund has raised more than \$16 million, with 100% of donations going directly to victims of the fires. For more information, visit redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief.

Sonoma County Resilience Fund

A program of the Community Foundation Sonoma County, the Sonoma County Resilience Fund was created in October 2017 to address the mid to long-term needs of Sonoma County as it recovers and rebuilds from the devastating fires that have struck the community. As funders with 34 years of experience in grantmaking in Sonoma County, the Community Foundation will convene local nonprofit partners to work with people impacted by the fire, collaborate with a diverse range of leaders and agencies that support the community, and conduct a strong due diligence process to effectively support those who have the most need. For more information, visit sonomacf.org.

Calendar editors, please note:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

Sunday, November 19 at 7:30 pm

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Soloman Howard bass

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin, director

Members of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, Ian Robertson, director

COPLAND: *Fanfare for the Common Man*

COPLAND: Music from the film *Our Town*

TCHAIKOVSKY: IV. Finale: Allegro con fuoco from Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Opus 36

VARIOUS: Spirituals [a cappella]

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

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.

(High resolution images are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony’s [Online Photo Library](#))

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