



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**
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KELSEY GRAMMER REPLACES PATRICK STEWART IN THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S 2015 OPENING GALA CONCERT, SEPTEMBER 24 IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

SAN FRANCISCO, September 11, 2015 – Five-time Emmy Award winner Kelsey Grammer replaces Patrick Stewart as a featured guest artist for the [San Francisco Symphony's 2015 Opening Gala on Thursday, September 24](#). Stewart has had to withdraw from the performance due to an unforeseen change in his filming schedule.

In addition to Grammer, baritone Nathan Gunn and soprano Alexandra Silber join Michael Tilson Thomas and the orchestra for a festive evening that pays homage to classic Broadway musicals. Nathan Gunn and Alexandra Silber perform works from *Carousel* and *South Pacific*, and Grammer and Silber perform the roles of Professor Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle in selections from *My Fair Lady*. The Gala concert opens with MTT conducting the SF Symphony in Respighi's *Roman Festivals*.

Kelsey Grammer has previously performed the role of Professor Higgins in a [concert version of *My Fair Lady*](#) with the New York Philharmonic. Charles Isherwood of *The New York Times* said of Grammer's performance, "Mr. Grammer's graceful and witty performance really should not have been a surprise. Clearly relishing Higgins's gift for colorful invective, Mr. Grammer...never lost his way in the tricky terrain of the songs." In 2010, Kelsey Grammer made his Broadway musical debut in a revival of *La Cage aux Folles*; he was subsequently nominated for a Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical. He most recently starred on Broadway in *Finding Neverland*.

Opening Gala celebrations begin prior the concert with a complimentary wine reception at 7pm in the Davies Symphony Hall lobby, free to all ticketholders. Following the Gala concert, all guests are invited to keep the festivities going at a lively after-party in the Tent Pavilion, which includes entertainment from [DJLI](#), [Foreverland](#), and [The Sam Chase](#), and complimentary drinks and food from an array of local San Francisco establishments, such as Alta, Cadence, The Beer Hall, Sutro's at the Cliff House, Mr. Tipple's Recording Studio, and more.

Proceeds from the Opening Gala benefit the Orchestra's myriad community and education programs, which provide music education to more than 75,000 Bay Area school children each year.

Patrons with any questions may contact the San Francisco Symphony Box Office at 415-864-6000.

Kelsey Grammer has excelled at the highest level in theater, television, and film as an actor, producer, and director. He has won five Emmy Awards, three Golden Globes, and a SAG Award and has received an unparalleled 16 Emmy nominations, eight Golden Globe nominations, 16 SAG nominations, and one Tony nomination. An initial role as Dr. Frasier Crane on "Cheers" developed into the cornerstone of the Juilliard-trained actor's career. Grammer played the celebrated character in three different television series ("Cheers," "Wings" and "Frasier") over a span of 20 years, tying the record for longest-running television character.

In 2012 Grammer was honored with his most recent Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Drama Series for his portrayal of Mayor Tom Kane in the Starz drama "Boss," in which he starred and was executive producer. Grammer starred in *La Cage aux Folles* on Broadway in 2010, for which he earned him a Tony nomination for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical. In 2015 Grammer returned to the Broadway stage to star in *Finding Neverland*, produced by Harvey Weinstein and directed by Diane Paulus. He will reprise the role again in 2016. He will next be seen in Brian Klugsman's romantic drama *Baby, Baby, Baby*. In 2016 he will be heard in the adventurous and comedic animated film *Bunyan and Babe*. On television, Grammer was most recently seen in The National Geographic Channel's historical drama miniseries "Killing Jesus." Other recent television includes FX Network's comedic series "Partners."

In 2014, Grammer appeared in five films: Paramount's fourth installment of the *Transformers* film series, *Transformers: Age of Extinction*, Twentieth Century Fox's *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, Lionsgate's *The Expendables 3*, Screen Gems's *Think Like a Man Too*, and Millennium Entertainment's *Reach Me*. In spring 2014, he was also heard lending his voice as the Tin Man in *Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return*, which was nominated for Best Feature at the 2013 Annecy International Animated Film Festival, prior to its 2014 release.

Calendar editors, please note:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY 2015 OPENING GALA

[Thursday, September 24](#)

Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Kelsey Grammer vocalist

Nathan Gunn vocalist

Alexandra Silber vocalist

San Francisco Symphony

7:00pm: Pre-concert wine reception, Davies Symphony Hall lobbies

8:00pm: Gala Concert

Respighi

Roman Festivals

Rodgers & Hammerstein

Selections from *Carousel* and *South Pacific*

Lerner & Loewe

Selections from *My Fair Lady*

10:00pm: Indoor/outdoor after-party in Tent Pavilion and on Grove Street, featuring entertainment from [DJLI](#) and [Foreverland](#), and complimentary drinks and food from an array of San Francisco establishments, such as Alta, Cadence, The Beer Hall, Sutro's at the Cliff House, Mr. Tipple's Recording Studio, and more.

Formal dinner packages begin at \$425 and include a 5pm cocktail reception, 6pm dinner, the after-party in the Tent 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 \$170 and \$300 and include a complimentary pre-concert wine reception, as well as access to the after-party in the Tent Pavilion. These tickets 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.

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