Contact:
Public Relations
San Francisco Symphony
(415) 503-5474
publicrelations@sfsymphony.org
sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / October 26, 2015

(High resolution image of Leif Ove Andsnes is available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's Online Photo Library)

LEIF OVE ANDSNES PERFORMS A SOLO PIANO RECITAL FEATURING SHORT WORKS BY SIBELIUS, BEETHOVEN, DEBUSSY, AND CHOPIN, NOVEMBER 18 IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

SAN FRANCISCO, October 26 – Leif Ove Andsnes performs a solo piano recital featuring short works by Sibelius, Beethoven, Debussy, and Chopin on Wednesday, November 18 in Davies Symphony Hall. This is Andsnes's only West Coast performance of his new program, distinguished by its grouping of smaller works by diverse composers. The recital repertoire is a marked contrast to his recent "Beethoven Journey"; a four-season project exploring Beethoven's music for piano and orchestra which included more than 230 live performances in 27 countries with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, and an award-winning box set of three recordings.

"After *The Beethoven Journey*, doing big pieces all the time, it was appealing to think of doing a program consisting of shorter pieces, though still making sense of them by grouping selections together," says Andsnes. "I am on a mission right now to focus attention on the piano music of Sibelius…The music conjures up Nordic images, though it's hard to explain why. They have a deep feeling for nature, and even if most pieces are intimate they give the feeling of vast landscapes. Having started the programs with Sibelius, whose works are so rich in orchestral colors, the second half is decidedly more pianistic in nature…The program turns very classical with one of the middle period sonatas of Beethoven – Opus 31, No. 3. This is such a rich piece – a good humored, funny and highly energetic piece. It's often nicknamed "The Hunt," because of the fun last movement, which gives you the feeling of being on horseback. The Debussy set reveals two very different sides of this composer. The first work shows his ability to evoke nature and places, in this case an evening in Granada.

Then I will play three of his Études, which were his last works for solo piano and not amongst his best-known pieces. Finally, we turn to Chopin. [The ballades] rank amongst the greatest piano music there is." Read more.

Andsnes first performed with the San Francisco Symphony in 1994 and has been a frequent guest, both as soloist and recitalist. He toured Europe with Michael Tilson Thomas and the Orchestra in 2004 and the East Coast in 2005. He most recently performed Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, op 15 at Davies Symphony Hall in 2014. The recital is co-presented by San Francisco Performances.

Leif Ove Andsnes was born in Karmøy, Norway in 1970. The *New York Times* has called him "a pianist of magisterial elegance, power, and insight." and the *Wall Street Journal* named him "one of the most gifted musicians of his generation." Andsnes gives recitals and plays concertos in the world's leading concert halls and with its foremost orchestras, besides being an active recording artist. An avid chamber musician, he served as co-artistic director of Norway's Risor Festival of Chamber Music for nearly two decades, and was music director of California's 2012 Ojai Music Festival. He was inducted into the Gramophone Hall of Fame in July 2013. Andsnes now records exclusively for Sony Classical. His previous discography comprises more than 30 discs for EMI Classics – solo, chamber, and concerto releases spanning repertoire from the time of Bach to the present day. He has been nominated for eight Grammys and awarded many international prizes, including six Gramophone Awards. His recordings of the music of his compatriot Edvard Grieg have been especially celebrated: the *New York Times* named Andsnes's 2004 recording of Grieg's Piano Concerto with Mariss Jansons and the Berlin Philharmonic a "Best CD of the Year," the *Penguin Guide* awarded it a coveted "Rosette," and both that album and his disc of Grieg's Lyric Pieces won *Gramophone* Awards. Andsnes premiered and recorded Marc-André Dalbavie's Piano Concerto and Bent Sorensen's *The Shadows of Silence*, both of which were written for him. He currently lives in Bergen with his wife and three children.

Calendar editors, please note:

LEIF OVE ANDSNES in RECITAL

➢ *Great Performers Series (co-presentation with SF Performances)*

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 8 pm

Leif Ove Andsnes piano

SIBELIUS	*Kyllikki – Three Pieces* , Opus 41
	The Birch Tree, Opus. 75, no.4
	The Spruce, Opus 75, no.5
	The Forest Lake, Opus 114, no.3
	Song in the Forest, Opus 114, no.5
	Spring Vision, Opus 114, no.5
BEETHOVEN	Piano Sonata No. 18 in E-flat major, Opus 31, no. 3
DEBUSSY	*La Soirée dans Grenade* from *Estampes*
	Étude 11 *pour les arpeges composes*
	Étude 6 *pour les huit doigts*
	Étude 5 *pour les octaves*
CHOPIN	Étude No. 2 in A flat major from *Trois nouvelles études*
	Impromptu No. 1 in A flat major, Opus 29
	Nocturne in F major, Opus 15, no.1
	Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Opus 52

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.

Tickets: $15-$99
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.

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

The San Francisco Symphony receives support from over 10,000 individual donors and 150 partner institutions.

The Great Performers Series is made possible through the generosity of Chevron.

Emirates is the Official Airline of the San Francisco Symphony.

San Francisco Chronicle / SFGate.com is the Official Media Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

- SFS -