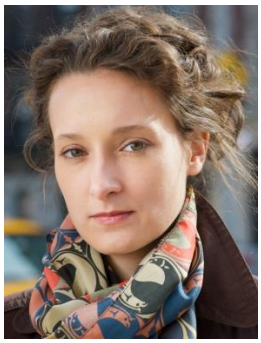
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / August 15, 2013



(High resolution images of Michael Tilson Thomas, Yefim Bronfman and Zosha Di Castri are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's Online Photo Library)

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN WEST COAST PREMIERE OF ZOSHA DI CASTRI'S *LINEAGE*, THE FIRST *NEW VOICES* COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 11 & 14 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL & SEPTEMBER 12 AT GREEN MUSIC CENTER, SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Yefim Bronfman performs Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1

SAN FRANCISCO, August 15, 2013 – Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) will conduct the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in the West Coast premiere of Zosha Di Castri's *New Voices* commission *Lineage* and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3 September 11 and 14 at Davies Symphony Hall and September 12 in Weill Hall at the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University. Yefim Bronfman joins the Orchestra for performances of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 at these concerts.

New Voices is a new creative partnership between MTT, the San Francisco Symphony, the New World Symphony, and music publisher Boosey & Hawkes that commissions an emerging composer annually and offers them further development of these new works at the New World Symphony as well as guidance in publishing from Boosey & Hawkes. *New Voices* commissions are premiered by Michael Tilson Thomas with the New World Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony. The *New Voices* project began in May 2012 and Zosha Di Castri is the inaugural recipient. Her work *Lineage* had its world premiere at the New World Symphony in Miami Beach on April 20, 2013.

Zosha Di Castri is a Canadian composer and pianist. She is currently finishing her doctoral studies in composition at Columbia University, where she also teaches composition, electronic music, and music history. Her work has been performed in Canada, the US, and Europe by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Internationale Ensemble Modern Akademie, L'Orchestre de la Francophonie, the NEM, JACK Quartet, L'Orchestre national de Lorraine, members of the L.A. Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Talea Ensemble. Di Castri has participated in residencies at the Banff Center, Domaine Forget, the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne's Forum, and the National Arts Centre's summer program. She was named a laureate of the 3rd International Composer's Competition for the Hamburger Klangwerktage Festival, won two SOCAN Foundation awards for her chamber music in 2011, and in 2012, tied for the John Weinzweig Grand Prize for her first orchestra piece *Alba,* commissioned by John Adams and Deborah O'Grady and premiered at the

Cabrillo Festival in 2011. Recently, her work *Cortège* garnered her the Jules Léger Prize for New Chamber Music. Di Castri's work includes interdisciplinary collaborations in the realms of electronic music, sound installation, video, performance art, and contemporary dance. Her latest mixed-media works include *Akkord I* for flute, piano, electronics, and large sculpture, and a collaboration with choreographer Thomas Hauert of the ZOO Contemporary Dance Company on a new piece for electronics and dance at Ircam in Paris. She is also creating a new evening-length work for ICE in collaboration with David Adamcyk for ICElab 2014.

Di Castri described her inspiration for *Lineage* on video explaining, "In *Lineage*, I was interested in exploring the idea of what is passed down. As a kid, I loved listening to my grandparents tell stories about "the old country" or of life in the village or on the farm. These tales were at once so real through their repetition, and yet at the same time were so foreign and removed from my own personal experience. Thinking of this, I hoped to create a piece in which certain elements are kept constant while others are continually altered, adopted, or are added on, creating an ever-evolving narrative." DiCastri's eleven-minute *Lineage* is her second work for orchestra. Later this season the SFS percussion section will perform the West Coast premiere of her second *New Voices* commission, *Manif*, a chamber work for percussion quartet.

Pianist **Yefim Bronfman**, affectionately known as Fima, has been a frequent guest of the San Francisco Symphony since 1984. He last performed with MTT and the Orchestra at Davies Symphony Hall and the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University in December 2012 in concerts of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5. Among his recent recordings is one of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 with Mariss Jansons and the Bayerischer Rundfunk (2007) on Sony. He performed Magnus Lindberg's Piano Concerto No. 2, commissioned for him, with Alan Gilbert and the New York Philharmonic and released on the Da Capo label. This year *The Wall Street Journal* praised Bronfman as "a fearless pianist for whom no score is too demanding," and added, "…a more poetic touch has lately complemented his brawny prowess." He talks about Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in this video.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

Wednesday, September 11 at 8 pm
Thursday, September 12 at 8 pm (Weill Hall, Green Music Center – Sonoma State University)
Saturday, September 14 at 8 pm

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Yefim Bronfman piano
San Francisco Symphony

Zosha Di Castri *Lineage* (*New Voices* Commission; West Coast premiere)
Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Opus 23
Prokofiev Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Opus 44

PRE-CONCERT TALK:
Peter Grunberg will be joined by composer Zosha Di Castri for an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

AUDIO PROGRAM NOTES
A free audio "Program Notes" podcast about Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3, hosted by KDFC's Rik Malone, will be available from sfsymphony.org/podcasts and from the iTunes store.

CD SIGNINGS:
Following each of the concerts Yefim Bronfman will sign copies of his CDs at the Symphony Store in the Davies Symphony Hall lobby and at the Symphony Store table in the Green Music Center lobby.

BROADCAST / ARCHIVED STREAM:
These concerts will be broadcast on Tuesday, September 24 at 8 pm on Classical 89.9/90.3/92.5/104.9 KDFC and KDFC.com. The concert broadcast will available to stream on demand from KDFC.com for 21 days after each airing.

TICKETS:
Tickets are $15-156 at Davies Symphony Hall and $20-156 at the Green Music Center 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. Tickets for the Green Music Center concert at Sonoma State University are also available at gmc.sonoma.edu, or by phone from the Sonoma State University Box Office at 866-955-6040.

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony through social media:

These concerts are made possible through the generosity of Franklin Templeton Investments.

Yefim Bronfman's appearance is supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for Guest Artists.

These performances of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 are made possible by the Athena T. Blackburn Endowed Fund for Russian Music.

Emirates is the Official Airline of the San Francisco Symphony.

William Hill® Estate Winery is the Official Wine of the San Francisco Symphony.

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

- SFS -