



**SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY**

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(High resolution images of Michael Tilson Thomas, Michael Fabiano, Eugene Izotov, and Yuja Wang are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#))

**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENT TWO WEEKS
OF CONCERTS FEATURING ITALIAN AND RUSSIAN MASTERWORKS, SEPTEMBER 22-
OCTOBER 1 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

September 22-24 concerts include Verdi's *Te Deum*, Principal Oboe Eugene Izotov as soloist and leader in Marcello's Oboe Concerto, tenor Michael Fabiano in Italian arias, and Berio's Sinfonia for Eighth Solo Voices and Orchestra featuring The Swingle Singers

September 28-October 1 concerts feature the SFS-commissioned world premiere of Bright Sheng's *Dream of the Red Chamber Overture*, Stravinsky's *Le Chant du rossignol* and *The Firebird Suite*, and Yuja Wang performing Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 with SFS Principal Trumpet Mark Inouye

SAN FRANCISCO, September 13 – Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) conducts the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in an all-Italian program September 22-24, featuring Verdi's *Te Deum* with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, SFS Principal Oboe Eugene Izotov as both leader and soloist in Marcello's Oboe Concerto in C minor, tenor Michael Fabiano performing an array of Italian arias by Verdi and Donizetti, and The Swingle Singers in Berio's Sinfonia for Eight Solo Voices and Orchestra.

Although this will be a first SF Symphony performance of Alessandro Marcello's Oboe Concerto in C minor, it is one of the most frequently performed oboe concertos and arguably Marcello's most famous work. It was written in the early 18th century and published in Amsterdam in 1716. Several printed and manuscript versions exist of Marcello's Oboe Concerto. Luciano Berio's Sinfonia for Eight Solo Voices and Orchestra was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic for its 125th anniversary and premiered on October 10, 1968 in a concert featuring The Swingle Singers, with Berio conducting. Berio later added a fifth movement and the full five-movement work was first performed by the Southwest German Radio Symphony Orchestra at the 1969 Donaueschingen Festival. The San Francisco Symphony has only performed Berio's Sinfonia once before in 1979, with Edo de Waart conducting.

Tenor Michael Fabiano sings a selection of Italian arias—all composed between 1832-1857—including Donizetti's "*Una furtiva lagrima*" from *L'elisir d'amore* and Verdi's "*Sento avvampar nell'anima*" from *Simon Boccanegra*, "*Il poveretto*" from *Eight Romanze* (arranged for voice and orchestra by Berio) and "*Tutto pareva sorridere... Sì, di corsari il fulmine*" from *Il corsaro*. Verdi's *Te Deum* is part of a collection of choral works, *Quattro pezzi sacri* (*Four Sacred Pieces*) that were composed during the last decades of the composer's life. Written in 1985-86, *Te Deum* has not been performed by the San Francisco Symphony since Michael Tilson Thomas led the work in December 1999.

On September 28-October 1, following the week of Italian works, MTT and the SFS perform the SFS-commissioned world premiere of Bright Sheng's *Dream of the Red Chamber* Overture, Stravinsky's *Le Chant du rossignol* and *The Firebird* Suite (1919 version), and Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor with guest pianist Yuja Wang and Principal Trumpet Mark Inouye. Bright Sheng's full-length Opera *Dream of the Red Chamber* received its world premiere at the San Francisco Opera on September 10. The opera is based off of one of China's classic novels, which recounts the love triangle between a young nobleman and two different women: one a beautiful heiress, and the other his spiritual soul-mate. *Dream of the Red Chamber* Overture is commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony and is a separate composition from Sheng's new opera. The September 28-October 1 concerts feature music that will be performed during the SFS tour of Asia November 9-22. *Dream of the Red Chamber* Overture will be performed November 9 in Seoul, South Korea; November 15 in Shanghai, China; November 18 in Beijing, China; and November 21 in Tokyo, Japan. Also on the Asia tour, pianist Yuja Wang and Principal Trumpet Mark Inouye will take center stage in the SF Symphony's performance of Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 in Seoul, South Korea on November 9; Shanghai, China on November 17; Beijing, China on November 18; and Tokyo, Japan on November 21.

About the Artists – September 22-24

[Eugene Izotov](#) joined the San Francisco Symphony as Principal Oboe, holding the Edo de Waart Chair, in the 2015-16 season. He previously served as principal oboe of the Chicago Symphony, Metropolitan Opera, Kansas City Symphony, associate principal oboe of the San Francisco Symphony, and as guest principal oboe with the Boston Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic. Mr. Izotov is the first Russian-born musician in history to hold a principal wind position in any major American symphony orchestra. His numerous awards include top prizes at solo competitions in Saint Petersburg (1991), Moscow (1990), New York (1995), and at the Fernand Gillet International Competition (2001). Mr. Izotov has appeared more than fifty times as soloist with the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, MET Chamber Ensemble, and has collaborated with Bernard Haitink, James Levine, Nicholas McGegan, Edo De Waart, Ludovic Morlot, and Riccardo Muti. He was a featured soloist with the Chicago Symphony and John Williams on the Oscar-nominated recording for the film *Lincoln*. Mr. Izotov teaches at the San Francisco Conservatory and has previously served on the faculty of the Juilliard School and DePaul University. He served as the oboe mentor for the 2011 YouTube Symphony Orchestra during its residency at the Sydney Opera House, which included a live internet simulcast to more than 30 million viewers worldwide.

For more than fifty years [The Swingles Singers](#) have pushed the boundaries of vocal music. The seven young singers that make up today's London-based group are driven by the same innovative spirit that has defined the five-time Grammy winners since they first made waves in the 1960s. In 1963, American-born Ward Swingle first assembled a group of Parisian session singers to sing Bach's keyboard music. The resulting album, *Jazz Sebastian Bach*, launched the Swingle Singers to fame. Since then their repertoire has grown to include a huge variety of music, as well as new original songs. They have released more than 50 recordings, winning five Grammy awards and appearing on numerous film and TV soundtracks, including *Sex and the City* and *Glee*. The group's versatility has led to collaborations with artists as diverse as the Modern Jazz Quartet, Jamie Cullum and Labrinth. Luciano Berio was one of the first composers to explore the sound of the Swingles's amplified voices in an orchestral setting, and the group continues to perform his groundbreaking *Sinfonia* around the world, including recent performances at the Royal Festival Hall and La Scala. In addition to a busy touring schedule that regularly takes them to North and South America, Europe, and Asia, The Swingles present their own London A Cappella Festival at Kings Place each January in partnership with Ikon Art Management. The festival is the first of its kind in the capital, welcoming the finest vocal talent from around the world. In 2015, the Swingles released two new albums titled *Deep End* and *Yule Songs vol.II*.

[Michael Fabiano](#) is considered one of the greatest tenors in the world today. He is the recipient of the 2014 Beverly Sills Artist Award, as well as the 2014 Richard Tucker Award, and is the first singer to win both awards in the same year. Mr. Fabiano has performed at many of the world's leading opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco

Opera, Teatro Real, Opéra National de Paris, Dutch National Opera, La Scala, Asociación Bilbaina de Amigos de la Ópera, Dresden Semperoper, Deutsche Opera Berlin, English National Opera, and the Teatro San Carlo. In addition, he has graced concert stages with some of the world's most acclaimed orchestras, such as The Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, and the Vienna Symphony. Mr. Fabiano is the recipient of Australia's prestigious Helpmann Award in the "Best Male Performance in an Opera" category for his portrayal of the title role in Gounod's *Faust* with Opera Australia. He is a member of the Metropolitan Opera Guild Artists' Council. Mr. Fabiano is also a Brand Ambassador for Jeffrey Rudes, luxury Italian clothing. Michael Fabiano made his SFS debut during the Beethoven Festival in 2013.

About the Artists – September 28-October 1

Bright Sheng is respected as one of the foremost composers of our time, whose stage, orchestral, chamber and vocal works are performed regularly throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Sheng's music is noted for its lyrical and limpid melodies, a Shostakovich sense of breath in music phrases, a Bartokian sense of rhythmic propulsion, and dramatic and theatrical gestures. Many of Sheng's works have strong Chinese and Asian influences, a result of his diligent study of Asian musical cultures for over three decades. He was awarded a "Genius Grant" in 2001 and was proclaimed by the MacArthur Foundation as "an innovative composer who merges diverse musical customs in works that transcend conventional aesthetic boundaries."

Pianist **Yuja Wang** is one of today's leading classical artists, whose awe-inspiring technique is matched only by her eloquence as a musician. Since her breakthrough debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 2007 while still a student at the Curtis Institute of Music, she has established herself as an international sensation and a fixture among the world's leading orchestras—including those of New York, London, Amsterdam, and Berlin—regularly joining them on tours of the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Championed early on by preeminent maestros including Gustavo Dudamel, Michael Tilson Thomas, and the late Claudio Abbado, she is one of today's most sought after soloists, as well as a fiercely dedicated chamber musician, recitalist, and Grammy-nominated recording artist. An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist since 2009, Yuja has released three solo albums and two concerto recordings to date, garnering two Grammy nominations. Intriguing the public both with her artistry and with her sense of style, Yuja has been the subject of television documentaries and graced the pages of magazines ranging from arts and culture to fashion. Born in Beijing in 1987, Yuja began piano lessons at the age of six and completed studies at Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music, Calgary's Mount Royal College Conservatory, and Philadelphia's Curtis Institute. She is a Rolex ambassador and a Steinway Artist. Yuja has appeared with the SFS every season since her debut in 2006. She performed Shostakovich's sardonic Piano Concerto No. 1 once before at Davies Symphony Hall in March, 2015 with the London Symphony Orchestra and Michael Tilson Thomas conducting.

Calendar editors, please note:

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Thursday, September 22 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, September 23 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, September 24 at 8 pm](#)

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

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Michael Fabiano tenor

The Swingles vocal ensemble

Eugene Izotov oboe

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ragnar Bohlin director

San Francisco Symphony

MARCELLO

Oboe Concerto in C minor [first SFS performance]

BERIO

Sinfonia for Eight Solo Voices and Orchestra

VERDI

"*Sento avvampar nell'anima*" from *Simon Boccanegra*

DONIZETTI

"*Una furtiva lagrima*" from *L'elisir d'amore*

VERDI (arr. Berio) *“Il poveretto”* from *Eight Romanze*
VERDI *“Tutto pareva sorridere... Sì, di corsari il fulmine”* from *Il corsaro*
VERDI *Te Deum* from *Quattro pezzi sacri (Four Sacred Pieces)*

Pre-Concert Talk: Alexandra Amati-Camperi will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

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: \$30-\$162.

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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING

[Wednesday, September 28, at 8 pm](#)

[Thursday, September 29, at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, September 30, at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, October 1, at 8 pm](#)

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

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Yuja Wang piano

Mark Inouye trumpet

San Francisco Symphony

Bright SHENG *Dream of the Red Chamber Overture* [SFS commission and world premiere]

SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Opus 35

STRAVINSKY *Le Chant du rossignol*

STRAVINSKY *The Firebird Suite* (1919 version)

Audio Program Notes: Listen to free podcasts about Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Peter Grunberg will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, October 4 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

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-\$169.

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.

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The September 22-24 concerts, part of The Barbro and Bernard Osher Masterworks Series, are made possible by a generous gift from Barbro and Bernard Osher.

Michael Fabiano's appearance is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.

The September 28-October 1 concerts are generously sponsored by the Seiger Family Foundation.

The performances of Stravinsky's Le Chant du rossignol and The Firebird Suite are made possible by the Athena T. Blackburn Endowed Fund for Russian Music.

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