



**SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY**

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Contacts:**

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

[publicrelations@sfsymphony.org](mailto:publicrelations@sfsymphony.org)

[sfsymphony.org/press](http://sfsymphony.org/press)

Joanna Lee, Museworks Limited (Taiwan and China)

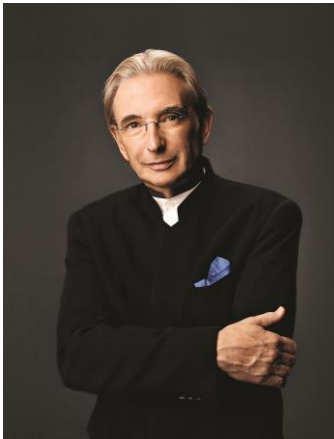
(+1) 917 365 2479 (US)

(+852) 91913182 (Hong Kong)

(+86) 1355 2898289 (China)

[Jchlee23@gmail.com](mailto:Jchlee23@gmail.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / SEPTEMBER 15, 2016**



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

**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS, THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, AND PIANIST YUJA WANG  
EMBARK ON TOUR OF ASIA FEATURING TEN CONCERTS IN SIX CITIES  
NOVEMBER 9-22, 2016**

**Tour repertoire includes Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*,  
Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite* and *Le Chant du rossignol*, and Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7***

**SFS-commissioned *Dream of the Red Chamber Overture* by Bright Sheng  
is performed in Seoul, Shanghai, Beijing, and Tokyo**

**New Michael Tilson Thomas composition *Agnegram* is performed in  
Seoul, Tainan, Taipei, Shanghai, and Osaka**

**Pianist Yuja Wang performs Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No. 1* and Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2***

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 15, 2016)** – Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) and the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) embark on their fourth tour of Asia together (and the SF Symphony's eighth overall) November 9-22, 2016, performing a total of ten concerts in Seoul, South Korea (November 9-10); Tainan, Taiwan (November 12); Taipei, Taiwan (November 13); Shanghai, China (November 15 and 17); Beijing, China (November 18); Osaka, Japan (November 20); and Tokyo, Japan (November 21-22). Pianist Yuja Wang will join the Orchestra on tour, performing Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No. 1*—which also features SFS Principal Trumpet Mark Inouye in a solo role—and Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2*. Pianist Dong-Hyek Lim will perform the Chopin *Piano Concerto No. 2* in Seoul, Korea. The tour showcases the SFS's newly commissioned work by Chinese composer Bright Sheng, *Dream of the Red*

*Chamber Overture*. Other concert repertoire includes Michael Tilson Thomas's own *Agnegram*, Stravinsky's *Le Chant du rossignol* and *The Firebird Suite*, Mahler's Symphony No. 1, and Bruckner's Symphony No. 7. San Francisco audiences will have the opportunity to preview this music at Davies Symphony Hall in concerts September 28-October 1 and November 2-4.

Since MTT assumed his post as the SFS's eleventh Music Director in September 1995, he and the San Francisco Symphony have formed a musical partnership hailed as one of the most inspiring and successful in the country. His tenure with the Orchestra has been praised for outstanding musicianship, innovative programming, highlighting the works of American composers, and bringing new audiences to classical music. In addition, the Orchestra has been recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in music education and recording. MTT is now the longest-tenured music director for a major American orchestra, and the longest-serving music director in the San Francisco Symphony's history.

On this tour of Asia, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony make their first-ever appearance together in South Korea, with two performances at the Seoul Arts Center (November 9-10), as well as their first performance in Tainan, Taiwan at the Tainan Municipal Cultural Center (November 12), and first performance in Osaka, Japan at Osaka Festival Hall (November 20). MTT and the SFS also return to numerous cities they have visited together over the course of three previous tours of Asia. The orchestra returns to Taipei, Taiwan (November 13, National Concert Hall), where MTT and SFS first performed in 2012; Shanghai, China (November 15-17 Shanghai Oriental Art Center), where MTT first brought the orchestra in 2006, and returned in 2012; Beijing, China (November 18, National Centre for the Performing Arts), where MTT and the SFS performed together in 2012; and Tokyo, Japan (November 21, Suntory Hall; November 22, NHK Hall), where MTT and the SFS performed on their very first Asian tour together in 1997. The final concert in Tokyo will be broadcast live on radio and recorded for delayed television broadcast.

Michael Tilson Thomas commented, "On this tour, we are bringing the adventurous spirit and generosity of San Francisco to audiences across the Pacific. Our orchestra is like our city, and sharing that energy through music with new people is always a great pleasure. The audiences we encountered on our last trip to Asia in 2012 impressed us with a true love for music and an eagerness to connect with our musicians. We very much look forward to returning to familiar venues and to exploring new cities on this tour."

Of piano soloist and frequent collaborator Yuja Wang, MTT stated, "Making music with Yuja is a terrific ensemble experience. I have made music with her since she was 16 and it has been a joy to watch her evolve into a dynamic, probing and serious artist. Her dazzling technique is matched by her profound understanding of the music and her ability to communicate with audiences world wide"

As a cultural exchange underscoring the sister city relationship between San Francisco and Shanghai, China, MTT and San Francisco Symphony musicians will lead a day of master classes and coachings with conducting and instrumental students from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and the Shanghai Orchestra Academy on November 16. Further details of the Orchestra's educational activities in China will be announced at a later date.

This tour is preceded by concerts of the tour repertoire in San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall on September 28-October 1 (Stravinsky, Shostakovich, and Bright Sheng) and November 2-4 (Bruckner, Chopin, and Michael Tilson Thomas).

### **About Michael Tilson Thomas**

Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) first conducted the San Francisco Symphony in 1974 and has been Music Director since 1995. Now in his 22nd season as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony, MTT is currently the longest-tenured music director at any major American orchestra. A Los Angeles native, he studied at the University of Southern California, becoming Music Director of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra at nineteen and working with Stravinsky, Boulez, Stockhausen, and Copland at the famed Monday Evening Concerts. He was pianist and conductor for Piatigorsky and Heifetz master classes and, as a student of Friedelind Wagner, an assistant conductor at Bayreuth. In 1969, Mr. Tilson Thomas won the Koussevitzky Prize and was appointed Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony. He went on to become the BSO's Associate Conductor, then Principal Guest Conductor. He has also served as Director of the Ojai Festival, Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic, Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and co-Artistic Director of Japan's Pacific Music Festival. Formerly Principal Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, he

now serves as Principal Guest Conductor. He currently serves as Artistic Director of the New World Symphony, which he founded in 1988. Michael Tilson Thomas is a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres of France, was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama in 2010, and was recently named the American Academy of Arts and Letters' 2016 award recipient for Distinguished Service to the Arts.



### **About pianist Yuja Wang**

A pianist who radiates palpable magnetism and a distinctly contemporary sensibility, Yuja Wang is an astounding artist 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 Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington; the London Symphony Orchestra; Orchestre de Paris; Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra; Berlin and Munich Philharmonics; Orquesta Nacional de España; Accademia di Santa Cecilia; Mariinsky Orchestra; the Israel and China Philharmonics; NHK Symphony; Melbourne and Sydney Symphonies; and Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar. 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. Outside the concerto repertoire, Yuja is a fiercely dedicated chamber musician and recitalist, appearing at concert halls and festivals worldwide. 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. Yuja is a Rolex ambassador and a Steinway Artist.

### **About composer Bright Sheng**

MacArthur Fellow Bright Sheng was born in Shanghai, China in 1955, and moved to New York in 1982. He is currently the Leonard Bernstein Distinguished University Professor at University of Michigan, and Y. K. Pao Distinguished Visiting Professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Sheng has collaborated with distinguished musicians such as Leonard Bernstein, Kurt Masur, Christoph Eschenbach, Charles Dutoit, Michael Tilson Thomas, Leonard Slatkin, Gerard Schwarz, David Robertson, David Zinman, Neeme Järvi, Robert Spano, Hugh Wolff, Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Gil Shaham, Yefim Bronfman, Peter Serkin, Chao-Liang Lin, and Evelyn



Glennie, among others. He has been widely commissioned and performed by virtually all important musical institutions in North America, Europe and Asia, including the White House, the 2008 Beijing International Olympic Games, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, LA Philharmonic, Minnesota Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestra de Paris, BBC Symphony, Hamburg Radio Symphony, Danish National Symphony, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe Opera, New York City Opera, New York City Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet. His music ranges from dramatic to lyrical and is strongly influenced by the folk and classical music tradition from eastern and central Asia. Since 2000, he has been studying and researching the music phenomenon of the Silk Road culture. He has also served as the Artistic Advisor to Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project Inc. Since 2011, he has been the Founder and Artistic Director of *The Intimacy of Creativity—The Bright Sheng Partnership: Composers Meet Performers in Hong Kong*, an annual two-week workshop with new approach to creativity.

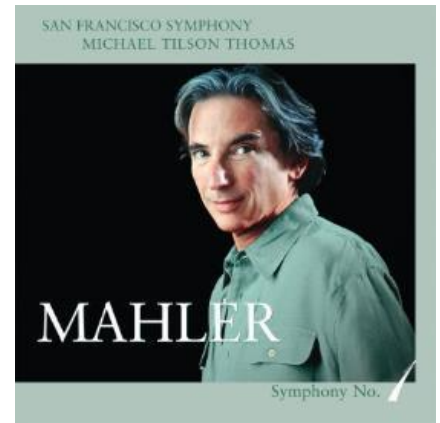
### **About SFS Media All-Debussy recording to be released October 28**

Just two weeks before they embark on this tour of Asia, Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony will release a new all-Debussy album featuring three works that illustrate the French composer's mastery with orchestration including *Images pour orchestre*, *Jeux*, and *La plus que lente*, on the Orchestra's Grammy Award-winning SFS Media label on Friday, October 28, 2016.

Michael Tilson Thomas comments, “Right from the start of my musical life, Debussy’s music captivated me. He had a genius for sensing the essential quality of a particular instrument’s voice and creating for it evocative solos that have become emblematic. His sense of unusual blends of different instruments was also original and highly demanding. In fact, his orchestral music, especially the later orchestral works like those on this album, presents some of the greatest challenges in the whole repertory for both conductor and instrumentalists.” He continues, “It has been a pleasure to perform this music with the San Francisco Symphony, whose members possess all the artistry and are more than willing to take the risks that this music demands.”

### About MTT and SFS Media’s Mahler Cycle

Michael Tilson Thomas and the SF Symphony have been hailed as one of the world’s foremost Mahler interpreters. MTT and the SFS’s self-produced Mahler recording cycle, launched in 2001, encompasses all of Mahler’s symphonies and works for voice, chorus, and orchestra. The Orchestra’s Mahler cycle on SFS Media has been recognized with seven Grammy Awards, including three Grammys for its recording of Mahler’s Symphony No. 8 and the Adagio from Symphony No. 10. MTT was honored with a Gramophone “Artist of the Year” award in 2005 for the project.



Complete box sets of the cycle are available on vinyl and SACD. MTT and the SFS’s recording of Mahler’s Symphony No. 1 was released in 2002, the second recording of the cycle. At the time of its release, *Gramophone* wrote, “This is probably the best-played and most vividly engineered recording of Mahler’s First Symphony I’ve yet heard. The strings are silky, the woodwind solos dewy fresh, and the brass retain a radiant brilliance from the first climax to the last.” MTT and the SFS explore Mahler in an episode of their *Keeping Score* television series, an excerpt of which can be viewed [here](#).

### About SFS Media



SFS Media is the San Francisco Symphony’s award-winning in-house label, launched in 2001. SFS Media releases reflect MTT and the SFS’s artistic vision of showcasing music by American composers as well as core classical masterworks and embody the broad range of programming that has been a hallmark of the MTT/SFS partnership. Recorded live in concert and engineered at Davies Symphony Hall, the audio recordings are released on hybrid SACD and in high-resolution digital formats. SFS Media has garnered eight Grammy awards. SFS Media also produces and releases documentary and live performance videos, including the SFS’s national public television series and multimedia project *Keeping Score*, which included three seasons of television episodes, eight documentaries, and eight concert films designed to make classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds. The *Keeping Score* series is now available as a digital download and on DVD and Blu-ray. Other videos of the San Francisco Symphony available from SFS Media include *A Celebration of Leonard Bernstein: Opening Night at Carnegie Hall 2008* and *San Francisco Symphony at 100*, a documentary about the Symphony’s history, which won a Northern California Emmy Award.

All SFS Media recordings are available from the Symphony Store in Davies Symphony Hall and online at [sfsymphony.org/store](https://sfsymphony.org/store), digitally on [itunes.com/sfsymphony](https://itunes.com/sfsymphony), and from all major retailers and other digital outlets worldwide. SFS Media recordings are distributed in the U.S. and Canada by the [PIAS] Group via RED Distribution and Sony Music Canada, through Avie Records internationally, and by The Orchard to digital retailers.

### About the San Francisco Symphony

The San Francisco Symphony (SFS), widely considered to be among the most artistically adventurous and innovative arts institutions in the U.S., celebrates its 22nd season with Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) in the 2016-17 season. Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony maintain a leading presence among American orchestras around the world through active touring, award-winning recordings, and innovative broadcast and education projects. The Orchestra presents more than 220 concerts and presentations annually for an audience of nearly 600,000 in its home of Davies Symphony Hall and through its active national and international touring.



Since 1996, when MTT led the Orchestra on the first of their more than 30 tours together, they have continued an ambitious yearly touring schedule that takes them to Europe, Asia, and throughout the United States. In August 2015 they travelled to Europe for a three-week tour performing at the continent's most prestigious music festivals in Usher Hall, Edinburgh; the BBC Proms in Royal Albert Hall, London; the Rheinhau Festival in Wiesbaden; the Berlin Festival in Berlin; the George Enescu Festival in Bucharest; the Lucerne Festival in Summer in Lucerne; and in the Philharmonie in Luxembourg, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and Philharmonie in Paris.

The San Francisco Symphony's most recent tour of Asia took place in November 2012 and was led by Michael Tilson Thomas, featuring pianist Yuja Wang performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. That tour represented the Orchestra's first performances in Beijing and Macau, and its first visits to Japan and Taiwan in more than 15 years, as well as performances in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

The San Francisco Symphony provides the most extensive education programs offered by any American orchestra today. In 1988, the Symphony established *Adventures in Music* (AIM), a free, comprehensive music education program that reaches every first- through fifth-grade child in the San Francisco Unified School District. The SFS Instrument Training and Support program reaches students in San Francisco public middle and high schools with instrumental music programs, providing coaching by professional musicians. In 2014 the SFS revitalized its children's music education website, [www.sfskids.org](http://www.sfskids.org), in conjunction with the UC Irvine Institute for Software Research. The SFS also offers opportunities to hear and learn about great music through its programs *Concerts for Kids*, *Music for Families*, the internationally-acclaimed SFS Youth Orchestra, and annual free and community concerts.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY NOVEMBER 2016 ASIA TOUR DATES

**Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director**

### SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

**Wednesday, November 9 at 8:00 pm**

Seoul Arts Center / Seoul, South Korea

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor

**Yuja Wang** piano

**Mark Inouye** trumpet

**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>Bright Sheng</b>	<i>Dream of the Red Chamber Overture</i>
<b>Shostakovich</b>	Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Opus 35
<b>Stravinsky</b>	<i>Le Chant du rossignol</i>
<b>Stravinsky</b>	<i>The Firebird Suite</i> (1919 revision)

---

### SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

**Thursday, November 10 at 8:00 pm**

Seoul Arts Center / Seoul, South Korea

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor

**Dong-Hyek Lim** piano

**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>Michael Tilson Thomas</b>	<i>Agnegram</i>
<b>Chopin</b>	Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21
<b>Mahler</b>	Symphony No. 1 in D major

---

### TAINAN, TAIWAN

**Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 pm**

Tainan Municipal Cultural Center / Tainan, Taiwan

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor

**Yuja Wang** piano

**San Francisco Symphony**

**Michael Tilson Thomas**

*Agnegram*

**Chopin**

Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21

**Beethoven**

Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Opus 67

---

**TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

**Sunday, November 13 at 8:00 pm**

Taipei National Concert Hall / Taipei, Taiwan

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor

**Yuja Wang** piano

**San Francisco Symphony**

**Michael Tilson Thomas**

*Agnegram*

**Chopin**

Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21

**Beethoven**

Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Opus 67

---

**SHANGHAI, CHINA**

**Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 pm**

Shanghai Oriental Art Center / Shanghai, China

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor

**Yuja Wang** piano

**San Francisco Symphony**

**Bright Sheng**

*Dream of the Red Chamber Overture*

**Chopin**

Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21

**Stravinsky**

*Le Chant du rossignol*

**Stravinsky**

*The Firebird Suite* (1919 revision)

---

**SHANGHAI, CHINA**

**Thursday, November 17 at 7:30 pm**

Shanghai Oriental Art Center / Shanghai, China

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor

**Yuja Wang** piano

**Mark Inouye** trumpet

**San Francisco Symphony**

**Michael Tilson Thomas**

*Agnegram*

**Shostakovich**

Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Opus 35

**Bruckner**

Symphony No. 7 in E major

---

**BEIJING, CHINA**

**Friday, November 18 at 8:00 pm**

National Centre for the Performing Arts / Beijing, China

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor  
**Yuja Wang** piano  
**Mark Inouye** trumpet  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**Bright Sheng** *Dream of the Red Chamber Overture*  
**Shostakovich** Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Opus 35  
**Bruckner** Symphony No. 7 in E major

---

## **OSAKA, JAPAN**

**Sunday, November 20 at 2:00 pm**  
Osaka Festival Hall / Osaka, Japan

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor  
**Yuja Wang** piano  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**Michael Tilson Thomas** *Agnegram*  
**Chopin** Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21  
**Mahler** Symphony No. 1 in D major

---

## **TOKYO, JAPAN**

**Monday, November 21 at 7:00 pm**  
Suntory Hall / Tokyo, Japan

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor  
**Yuja Wang** piano  
**Mark Inouye** trumpet  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**Bright Sheng** *Dream of the Red Chamber Overture*  
**Shostakovich** Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Opus 35  
**Mahler** Symphony No. 1 in D major

---

## **TOKYO, JAPAN**

**Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 pm**  
NHK Hall / Tokyo, Japan ss

**Michael Tilson Thomas** conductor  
**Yuja Wang** piano  
**San Francisco Symphony**

**Chopin** Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21  
**Bruckner** Symphony No. 7 in E major

---

## **PRE-TOUR PERFORMANCES**

**Davies** Symphony Hall, San Francisco  
**Michael Tilson Thomas**, Music Director

[Wednesday, September 28 at 8:00 pm](#)

[Thursday, September 29 at 8:00 pm](#)

[Friday, September 30 at 8:00 pm](#)

[Saturday, October 1 at 8:00 pm](#)

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

**Michael Tilson Thomas**, conductor  
**Yuja Wang** piano  
**Mark Inouye** trumpet  
**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>Bright Sheng</b>	<i>Dream of the Red Chamber Overture</i>
<b>Shostakovich</b>	Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Opus 35
<b>Stravinsky</b>	<i>Le Chant du rossignol</i>
<b>Stravinsky</b>	<i>The Firebird Suite</i> (1919 revision)

**Tickets:** \$15-\$169.

Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](https://www.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.

---

[Wednesday, November 2 at 8:00 pm](#)

[Thursday, November 3 at 8:00 pm](#)

[Friday, November 4 at 8:00 pm](#)

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

**Michael Tilson Thomas**, conductor  
**Yuja Wang** piano  
**San Francisco Symphony**

<b>Michael Tilson Thomas</b>	<i>Agnegram</i>
<b>Chopin</b>	Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21
<b>Bruckner</b>	Symphony No. 7 in E major

**Tickets:** \$15-\$165.

Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](https://www.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](#), and [Instagram](#):



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

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.