



SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / APRIL 6, 2018



(High resolution images of Juraj Valčuha, Ray Chen, Gautier Capuçon, Stéphane Denève, Itzhak Perlman, and Eugene Izotov are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo credit L to R: *no credit*, Julian Hargreaves, Martin Argyroglo, Genevieve Caron, Lisa Marie Mazzucco, Terrence McCarthy)

## JURAJ VALČUHA, STÉPHANE DENÈVE, AND ITZHAK PERLMAN LEAD THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN THREE CONCERT PROGRAMS

May 3–5 concerts include Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 3*, first SFS performances of Andrew Norman's *Unstuck*, and Ray Chen making his SFS debut in Brahms' *Violin Concerto in D major*

May 10–12 concerts feature Gautier Capuçon performing Saint-Saens' *Cello Concerto No. 1*, as well as Ibert's *Escales*, Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, and first SFS performances of Guillaume Connesson's *E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare*

On May 17 & 19–20 Itzhak Perlman conducts the SFS in Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings* and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, and performs J.S. Bach's *Concerto in C minor for Oboe, Violin and Orchestra* with SFS principal oboe Eugene Izotov

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—Juraj Valčuha, Stéphane Denève, and Itzhak Perlman return to Davies Symphony Hall in May to lead the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in three compelling programs. On **May 3–5** [Juraj Valčuha](#) conducts the SFS in **Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 3***—based on Prokofiev's opera *The Fiery Angel* and considered by the composer to be his best symphony—and the Orchestra's first performances of American composer [Andrew Norman](#)'s *Unstuck*, a musical depiction of overcoming a creative block, inspired in turn by Kurt Vonnegut's classic anti-war novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*. The program also features violinist [Ray Chen](#) making his SFS subscription debut in **Brahms' lyrical and virtuosic *Violin Concerto in D major***. In composing his *Violin Concerto*, Brahms relied on the counsel of his friend and confidant, and one of the century's greatest violinists, Joseph Joachim, who is also credited with composing the concerto's famous first-movement cadenza. San Francisco audiences have a unique opportunity to hear the work performed by Ray Chen on the

1715 “Joachim” Stradivarius violin on loan from the Nippon Music Foundation—the same instrument that Joseph Joachim played when he premiered the work on January 1, 1879 with Brahms conducting the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig.

The following week, **May 10–12**, the San Francisco Symphony welcomes guest conductor [Stéphane Denève](#) as he leads the Orchestra in a program featuring works inspired by nature and travel—**Ibert’s *Escales***, structured as three colorful postcards from locales around the Mediterranean; **Respighi’s *Pines of Rome***, the second of Respighi’s three tone poems based on the city of Rome; and the first SFS performances of **Guillaume Connesson’s *E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare***, which pays tribute to the culture and music of Italy. *E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare* is included on Stéphane Denève’s 2016 recording of the works of Guillaume Connesson with the Brussels Philharmonic, a disc which was awarded the Diapason d’Or de l’année, Caecilia Award, and Classica Magazine’s CHOC of the Year. Also on the program is **Saint-Saens’ *Cello Concerto No. 1***, performed by internationally-acclaimed cellist [Gautier Capuçon](#), known for his deeply expressive musicianship and exuberant virtuosity, as well as for the glorious sonority of his 1701 Matteo Goffriller cello.

On **May 17 & 19–20**, the reigning virtuoso of the violin [Itzhak Perlman](#) returns to Davies Hall in capacities both as conductor and performer. In addition to leading the SFS in **Elgar’s *Enigma Variations*** and **Tchaikovsky’s *Serenade for Strings***, Perlman performs **J.S. Bach’s *Concerto in C minor for Oboe, Violin and Orchestra***, joined by SFS principal oboe [Eugene Izotov](#). Learn more about Eugene Izotov by watching [Meet the SFS Musicians: Principal Oboe Eugene Izotov](#).

**Calendar editors, please note:**

All concerts take place at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

**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.

**Pre-Order Food and Drinks:** Concertgoers may pre-order drinks and snacks [here](#) by 11 am the day of a performance to arrange to have them ready at Davies Symphony Hall either before the concert or at intermission.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, JURAJ VALČUHA CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, May 4, 2018 at 8pm](#)

[Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 8pm](#)

[Juraj Valčuha](#) conductor

[Ray Chen](#) violin [SFS debut]

**San Francisco Symphony**

**Andrew NORMAN**

*Unstuck* [First SFS Performances]

**BRAHMS**

Violin Concerto in D major, Opus 77

**PROKOFIEV**

Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Opus 44

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 3, 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:** Laura Stanfield Prichard 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, May 15 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.

Tickets: \$15-\$159.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, STÉPHANE DENÈVE CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, May 11, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Stéphane Denève](#) conductor

[Gautier Capuçon](#) cello

San Francisco Symphony

IBERT

*Escapes*

SAINT-SAËNS

Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Opus 33

Guillaume CONNESSON

*E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare* [First SFS Performances]

RESPIGHI

*Pines of Rome (Pini di Roma)*

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](http://sfsymphony.org/podcasts), and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from [soundcloud.com/sfsymphony](http://soundcloud.com/sfsymphony).

**Prelude Series:** Barbara Bogatin and Clifford Saron will lead an engaging discussion on the topic of "Musicians' Brains" 45 minutes before each performance on the First Tier Lobby of Davies Symphony Hall. Free to all concert ticket holders.

**Pre-Concert Talk:** Peter Susskind 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, May 22 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Tickets: \$15-\$159.

---

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, ITZHAK PERLMAN CONDUCTING

[Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 2 pm](#)

[Itzhak Perlman](#) conductor and violinist

[Eugene Izotov](#) oboe

San Francisco Symphony

J.S. BACH

Concerto in C minor for Oboe, Violin and Orchestra, BWV 1060

TCHAIKOVSKY

Serenade for Strings, Opus 48

ELGAR

*Enigma Variations*, Opus 36

**Audio Program Notes:** Listen to a free podcast about Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from [sfsymphony.org/podcasts](http://sfsymphony.org/podcasts), and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from [soundcloud.com/sfsymphony](http://soundcloud.com/sfsymphony).

**Pre-Concert Talk:** Alexandra D. Amati 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, May 29 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and [kdfc.com](http://kdfc.com) where it will be available for on-demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

**Tickets:** \$26–\$185.

---

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



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

*Ray Chen and Gautier Capuçon's appearances are generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Debut Fund.*

*Juraj Valčuha, Stéphane Denève, and Itzhak Perlman's appearances are supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.*

*Additional support for the May 10–12 concerts is provided by the Margaret Koshland Sloss Tribute Fund.*

*(May 20) 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.*

*The San Francisco Symphony's Official Radio Partner is KDFC, The Bay Area's Radio Home for Classical Music and the Arts*

- SFS -