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(High-resolution images of the San Francisco Symphony and guest artist headshots are available for download from the [Online Photo Library](#).)

## LUDOVIC MORLOT JOINS MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS TO CONDUCT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY NOVEMBER 18–20

**Morlot conducts Tim Higgins' Trombone Concerto and Maurice Ravel's *Ma Mère l'Oye* (Mother Goose) Suite (replacing William Grant Still's *Patterns*); Tilson Thomas conducts Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring***

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—Ludovic Morlot joins Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) to conduct part of the November 18–20 San Francisco Symphony concerts at Davies Symphony Hall. Morlot will conduct the first half of the program, including Maurice Ravel's *Ma Mère l'Oye* (Mother Goose) Suite, which replaces William Grant Still's *Patterns*, and the world premiere of San Francisco Symphony Principal Trombone Timothy Higgins' Trombone Concerto, commissioned by the SF Symphony and performed by Higgins. Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas will lead the orchestra in Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* as planned.

Michael Tilson Thomas says: "I'm happy to be in San Francisco, making music with my Symphony colleagues once again. I am feeling well, having returned to the stage in New York last week for the first time since my surgery. I now see that I have to conserve my energy as I continue to recover and have made the decision to focus next week on conducting Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. I am so happy that Ludovic Morlot can be here to premiere the Higgins Trombone Concerto, which I was hoping to perform

with the remarkable Tim Higgins. I look forward to conducting William Grant Still's *Patterns* with the San Francisco Symphony at a later date, and to seeing you at Davies Symphony Hall this coming week."

Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas also conducts the San Francisco Symphony this week in three performances November 12–14 featuring music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Robert Schumann, and his own composition, *Notturmo* featuring flutist Demarre McGill.

**Ludovic Morlot** was recently appointed Music Director of the Barcelona Symphony, starting in September 2022. He was previously music director of the Seattle Symphony, where his innovative programming encompassed theatrical productions, performances outside the traditional concert hall, collaborations with musicians from different genres, and commissions and world premieres. Some of these projects, including John Luther Adams's *Become Ocean* and Aaron Jay Kernis's Violin Concerto earned the orchestra five Grammy awards, as well as the distinction of being named *Gramophone's* 2018 Orchestra of the Year.

Morlot is now Conductor Emeritus in Seattle, and in 2019 was appointed Associate Artist of the BBC Philharmonic. He was artistic director and a founding member of the National Youth Orchestra of China, and was chief conductor of La Monnaie opera house in Brussels. As a guest conductor, he has led the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, London Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, and Melbourne Symphony.

This season, Morlot leads a concert performance of Richard Wagner's *Die Walküre* at Seattle Opera, returns to the Philadelphia Orchestra, and also conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Taipei Symphony. He makes his San Francisco Symphony debut at these performances. He is affiliate professor at the University of Washington School of Music and a visiting artist at the Colburn School, and he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 2014 in recognition of his significant contribution to music.

### **Calendar editors, please note:**

#### **Tickets**

- Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony can be purchased via [sfsymphony.org](https://sfsymphony.org) or by calling the San Francisco Symphony Box Office at 415-864-6000. Tickets prices range from \$20 to \$125.

#### **Location**

- Davies Symphony Hall is located at 201 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

#### **Health & Safety Information**

- Davies Symphony Hall is currently operating at full audience capacity. The San Francisco Symphony requires proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 for everyone ages 12 and up entering Davies Symphony Hall—including patrons, performers, volunteers, and staff. Full vaccination is defined as completion of the two-dose regimen of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine administered two weeks or more in advance of the concert. Audience members under age 12 must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR test within 72 hours of the event, or antigen [rapid] test within 24 hours of the event). All patrons are required to wear a face mask while attending performances. Details about health and safety protocols at Davies Symphony Hall can be found [here](#).

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## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Michael Tilson Thomas and Ludovic Morlot Conduct the SF Symphony

[Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 10am \[Open Rehearsal\]](#)

[Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, November 19, 2021 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 7:30pm](#)

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#) conductor (Copland)

[Ludovic Morlot](#) conductor (Higgins, Ravel)

[Timothy Higgins](#) trombone

San Francisco Symphony

MAURICE RAVEL *Ma Mère l'Oye* (Mother Goose) Suite

TIMOTHY HIGGINS Trombone Concerto [San Francisco Symphony Commission, World Premiere]

AARON COPLAND *Appalachian Spring*

Tickets: \$20–125.

**Pre-Concert Talk:** Peter Grunberg will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to the November 18–20 performances. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

**Off-The-Podium:** A post-concert audience Q&A session with moderator Peter Grunberg will be presented from the stage immediately following the concert on November 20. Free to all ticket holders.

**Broadcast / Archived Stream:** A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, November 30 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.

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