



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR



FACTS ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

- Founded in 1911 and performing its 103rd season in 2014-2015, the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) is widely considered to be among the country's most artistically adventurous and financially stable arts institutions.
- Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) celebrates his 20th season as Music Director of the SFS during the Orchestra's 2014-15 season.
- MTT is currently the longest-tenured music director at any major American orchestra, and has surpassed Pierre Monteux as the longest-tenured San Francisco Symphony Music Director. MTT assumed his post as the SFS's 11th Music Director in September 1995.
- Nearly 600,000 people hear over 220 concerts and presentations of the SFS each year.
- More than 60,000 people hear the SFS at no cost each season.
- More than 10,000 individual donors from throughout the region join businesses and foundations in supporting the SFS.
- Throughout its history, the SFS has presented almost 300 world premieres, commissioned 150 new works, and received 19 awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) for adventurous programming and/or commitment to American music.
- The SFS acts as a cultural ambassador for the Bay Area through its over 60 national and international concert tours, nearly 270 recordings, including commercial videos on DVD and Blu-ray, and through its radio broadcasts, heard on more than 370 stations nationally and internationally.
- The San Francisco Symphony donates approximately 6,000 complimentary tickets annually. These tickets go to community groups and underserved populations through relationships with various Bay Area organizations. In addition, the Symphony donates tickets to various charities to be used as auction items for their fundraising efforts.
- The low-priced All-San Francisco Concert, held for more than 30 years, welcomes more than 100 local social service and neighborhood organizations.
- The SF Symphony's renowned education programs date back to 1919 and are the most comprehensive of any U.S. orchestra. The SF Symphony's second concert, in 1911, was a concert for children.
- The SFS's *Adventures in Music* (AIM) program is a comprehensive music education program designed specifically for San Francisco's public elementary schools, in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District. Now in its 27th year of partnership with the SFUSD during the 2014-15 season, AIM serves *every child in grades 1 through 5 in every San Francisco public elementary school*, as well as a number of the City's parochial and independent schools. AIM reaches over 25,000 children and their teachers annually, and is presented to schools absolutely free of charge. Since its inception in 1988, over 150,000 children have gone through the AIM program.
- More than 26,000 Bay Area school children, teachers, and chaperones attend *Concerts for Kids* each season.

- The SFS launched its *Instrument Training and Support Program (IT&S)* in 2006, designed to assist all of San Francisco's public middle and high school music programs with professional coaching, instruments and supplies, sheet music, and free concert tickets for students and their families.
- The SFS and MTT launched *Keeping Score* in 2006, an unprecedented multimedia program designed to make classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds. *Keeping Score* is a national PBS television series comprising eight composer documentaries and eight live concert films; an interactive web site, www.Keepingscore.org, to explore and learn about music; a national radio series; documentary and live performance DVDs and Blu-rays; and an education program for K-12 schools to further teaching through the arts by integrating classical music into core subjects. To date, more than six million people have seen the *Keeping Score* television series in the U.S. and episodes have been broadcast in countries around the world. The radio series has been broadcast on more than 400 stations nationally. The Mahler episode won the prestigious German *Preis der Deutschen Schallplatten Kritik* award in 2011.
- *SFSkids.org*, launched in 2002, teaches children and families about music and has had more than 5 million site visits in more than 20 countries. A newly retooled site was launched in 2014 with the University of California, Irvine's Institute for Software Research.
- In 1981, the SFS founded the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, now led by Wattis Foundation Music Director Donato Cabrera. The young musicians perform annually for audiences of more than 10,000. MTT and SFS musicians coach these young players, and master classes are offered by renowned visiting guest artists, including Yo-Yo Ma, Sir Simon Rattle, David Robertson, and Midori.
- The SFS Chorus is comprised of 31 professional and 125 volunteer singers and was founded in 1973. The SFS is one of only a handful of major orchestras in the United States with its own chorus. Led by Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin, the Chorus has been recognized for its excellence with multiple Grammy awards, most recently in 2010 for its performance with Tilson Thomas and the SFS in Mahler's Symphony No. 8.
- The SFS Volunteer Council is an organization of approximately 1,500 committed volunteers, whose purpose is to support the SFS in areas of fundraising, audience development, and community outreach.
- Davies Symphony Hall, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2010, was built at a cost of \$27.5 million. Named for Louise M. Davies, the largest individual contributor, the building is owned by the City of San Francisco, which contributed \$10 million toward its construction. Davies Symphony Hall underwent a successful \$10 million acoustic renovation in 1992.
- The San Francisco Symphony has won 15 Grammy Awards, including seven for its Mahler recording cycle of all of the composer's symphonies and his works for voice, orchestra and chorus.
- The San Francisco Symphony was an early pioneer of the composer-in-residence concept. John Adams was the first composer to assume that role, in 1982.

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