

Contact: Public Relations San Francisco Symphony (415) 503-5474 <u>publicrelations@sfsymphony.org</u> www.sfsymphony.org/press

National Press Representation: Shuman Associates (212) 315-1300 <u>shumanpr@shumanassociates.net</u>

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(A high resolution version of this cover image is downloadable from the SFS online press room.)

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY RELEASE RECORDING OF BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 7 AND *LEONORE* OVERTURE NO. 3 ON SFS MEDIA

Recording available for download starting today on the iTunes Store

SAN FRANCISCO, April 24, 2012 —<u>Michael Tilson Thomas</u> (MTT) and the <u>San Francisco Symphony</u> (SFS) will release a hybrid SACD recording of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and *Leonore* Overture No. 3 on the Orchestra's SFS Media label June 12. A pre-release of the album is now available <u>exclusively on the iTunes</u> <u>Store</u>. The San Francisco Symphony's e-store is currently accepting pre-sale orders for a hybrid SACD version at <u>sfsymphony.org/store</u>, and on May 16 the SACD will become available at the Symphony Store in Davies Symphony Hall. The national retail release for the recording, both on CD and digitally, will be June 12.

The release at the Symphony Store coincides with MTT and the Orchestra's concerts of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, *Pastoral*, taking place <u>May 16-19</u> at Davies Symphony Hall. All of the music on the new recording was captured live in concerts held at Davies Symphony Hall. Symphony No. 7 was recorded in concerts held October 7-9, 2010 and *Leonore* Overture No. 3 was recorded September 14-17, 2011.

The new release continues MTT and the SFS's ongoing exploration of the music of Beethoven. In addition to the May 2012 performances of Symphony No. 6, MTT and the SFS will end the 2011-12 Centennial Season with performances of <u>Beethoven's Symphony No. 9</u>, *Choral*, to be recorded for release next season. In February 2011 SFS Media released MTT and the Orchestra's recording of Beethoven Symphony No. 5 and his Piano Concerto No. 4 featuring Emanuel Ax. In May 2013, MTT leads the Orchestra in three concert programs that explore Beethoven's earliest inspirations and how they informed not only his own style but that of composers who came long after. Over the course of two weeks the journey traces Beethoven's advanced and often revolutionary musical ideas, culminating in performances of one of his most significant works, *Missa solemnis*. Also next season, the St. Lawrence String Quartet joins the Orchestra once again for performances of John Adams's *Absolute Jest*, an SFS co-commission inspired by Beethoven's string quartets that was premiered during the 2012 *American Mavericks* Festival.

The Orchestra's recording series on SFS Media continues to reflect the artistic identity of its programming, including its commitment to performing the work of American maverick composers alongside that of the core classical masterworks. Next season MTT and the SFS are scheduled to release several recordings made during the 2012 *American Mavericks* Festival.

All SFS Media recordings are available from the Symphony Store in Davies Symphony Hall and online at <u>sfsymphony.org/store</u> as well as other major retailers. The recordings can also be purchased as downloads from iTunes, Amazon and other digital outlets. SFS Media recordings are distributed by Harmonia Mundi in the U.S., IODA digitally and Avie internationally.

Title: Composer: Artists:	Beethoven: <i>Leonore</i> Overture No. 3 and Symphony No. 7 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) Michael Tilson Thomas, Conductor San Francisco Symphony
Recorded:	Leonore Overture No. 3 recorded live at Davies Symphony Hall on September 14-17, 2011
Label:	Symphony No. 7 recorded live at Davies Symphony Hall October 7-9, 2010 SFS Media
Catalogue Number:	SFS0054
Release Date:	June 12, 2012
	Available for pre-release by download exclusively from Apple's iTunes Music Store
	beginning April 24, 2012
Distribution:	Harmonia Mundi (U.S.)
	Avie (International)
	IODA (Digitally)
	Online: sfsymphony.org/store
Media copies:	If members of the press would like a copy of the recording for review, please contact Shuman Associates at <u>shumanpr@shumanassociates.net</u> or Louisa Spier at <u>lspier@sfsymphony.org</u> .

