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TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY AND CHORUS, APRIL 26, 2025, AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Celebratory performance features MTT alongside special guest vocalists including Sasha Cooke, Ben Jones, Frederica von Stade, and Jessica Vosk; further programming details to be announced

Tickets for MTT's 80th Birthday Concert start at \$99 and can be purchased at sfsymphony.org

San Francisco, CA—Tickets are on sale now for Michael Tilson Thomas's 80th Birthday Concert with the San Francisco Symphony, taking place on Saturday, April 26, at 7:30pm. The one-night-

only celebration features MTT alongside the Orchestra, SF Symphony Chorus, and special guests including vocalists Sasha Cooke, Ben Jones, Frederica von Stade, and Jessica Vosk.

The program includes Benjamin Britten's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Ottorino Respighi's *Roman Festivals*, and several of Tilson Thomas's own songs, sung by Cooke, Jones, and Vosk. Further programming details will be announced soon, and the event will feature special birthday surprises for MTT and the audience.

"I am overjoyed to mark my 80th with the wonderful musicians of the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus," said Tilson Thomas, who turned 80 on December 21, 2024. "I remember the fantastic celebrations for my 60th and 70th, and I am delighted that this milestone concert features extraordinary artists I've had the privilege to know and collaborate with over the years."

Tickets for MTT's 80th Birthday Concert with the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus start at \$99 and are on sale now at sfsymphony.org.

Michael Tilson Thomas made his San Francisco Symphony debut in 1974 at age 29 and quickly became a frequent and favorite guest conductor with the Orchestra. He was appointed Music Director in 1995, a role he served for 25 years. During his tenure, he pushed the boundaries of traditional orchestral performances through cutting-edge stagings of musical theater, operas, and theatrical works, the expansion of the symphonic repertory, and experimental new concert formats like SoundBox, which debuted in 2014. He has made a tremendous impact on the San Francisco Symphony and the entire classical music world as a conductor, composer, pianist, educator, mentor, and visionary.

MTT has championed the City of San Francisco through orchestral tours nationally and internationally, and frequently collaborated with Bay Area luminaries, composers, and bands. He helped expand the San Francisco Symphony's education initiatives, affecting the lives of countless young people in San Francisco and beyond, as part of his deep commitment to education and mentorship of young people. Additionally, he created the acclaimed multimedia education series *Keeping Score* in 2004, making classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds.

Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony's recordings—many of them released through the Symphony's own SFS Media label, which launched under MTT's leadership—have been recognized with 12 Grammy® Awards. In October 2024, to celebrate MTT's 80th birthday and honor his lifetime of contributions as a composer, PENTATONE released [*GRACE: The Music of Michael Tilson Thomas*](#), a deluxe collection of CDs and digital recordings of his compositions. The four-disc set spans more than five decades of MTT's compositional career and features 18 works, from premiere recordings to remastered archival recordings available for the first time, including nine works featuring the San Francisco Symphony. The deluxe collection also includes an extensive booklet containing composer's notes, original essays, and a timeline of archival photos chronicling MTT's life as a pianist, conductor, composer, recording artist, and teacher. All proceeds from *GRACE: The Music of Michael Tilson Thomas* will be donated to brain cancer research at UCSF Brain Tumor Center.

Michael Tilson Thomas is an Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France, member of the American Academies of Arts & Sciences and Arts & Letters, National Medal of Arts recipient,

Peabody Award winner, Kennedy Center Honoree, and a member of the California Hall of Fame. In 2023, Mayor London N. Breed and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi joined the San Francisco Symphony to honor and recognize MTT with new commemorative street signs for “MTT Way” on the 200 Block of Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street, home to the iconic Davies Symphony Hall.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Tickets:

Tickets for the MTT 80th Birthday Concert go on sale on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 10:00am PT, and can be purchased via sfsymphony.org or by calling the San Francisco Symphony Box Office at 415.864.6000.

Location:

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

SPECIAL EVENT

MTT 80th Birthday Concert

Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 7:30pm

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Sasha Cooke vocalist

Ben Jones vocalist

Frederica von Stade vocalist

Jessica Vosk vocalist

San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Jenny Wong director

San Francisco Symphony

BENJAMIN BRITTEN *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

OTTORINO RESPIGHI *Roman Festivals*

And more to be announced!

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Grants for the Arts is a Season Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

Lead support for the San Francisco Symphony Chorus this season is provided through a visionary gift from an anonymous donor.

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