

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCE 2007-08 SEASON

Michael Tilson Thomas' Thirteenth Season Opens September 19 with Soprano Renée Fleming

MTT Leads Orchestra in a Brahms Festival, *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater*, and Musical Explorations of Ives, Shostakovich, and Berlioz

Distinguished Roster of Guest Conductors and Soloists Includes Myung-Whun Chung, Gustavo Dudamel, Sakari Oramo, Itzhak Perlman, David Robertson, Leif Ove Andsnes, Thomas Hampson, and Deborah Voigt

SFS Expands Family, Youth Orchestra, and Free Community Concerts to Silicon Valley

Three-Week European Tour Features Festival Appearances in Edinburgh, Berlin, Frankfurt and Lucerne, With Additional Concerts in London, Hannover, Cologne, and Düsseldorf

SFS Presents West Coast Premiere of New Co-Commissioned Work by Magnus Lindberg

Next Series of *Keeping Score* Documentaries to Feature Berlioz, Shostakovich, and Ives

SFS Media Mahler Recording Project Continues with *Das Lied von der Erde*

Great Performers Series Features András Schiff Beginning Two-Year Beethoven Piano Sonata Cycle; The Simón Bolívar National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela with Gustavo Dudamel; And Two-Concert Appearances by St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields and Philharmonia Orchestra of London

Special Recital by Anne-Sophie Mutter

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, February 5, 2007 – Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) today announced details of the San Francisco Symphony's (SFS) 2007-2008 season, the Orchestra's 96th and MTT's thirteenth as Music Director. Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the SFS in sixteen weeks of concerts in San Francisco and on tour, with programs pairing works of the core classical repertoire with works new to or rarely heard by Davies Symphony Hall audiences. Season highlights include the return of *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater*; a Brahms Festival featuring Leif Ove Andsnes, Yefim Bronfman, Laura Claycomb, and Matthias Goerne, and the West Coast premiere of a new work by Finnish composer Magnus Lindberg, co-commissioned with the Berlin Philharmonic. The SFS 2007-08 season features a distinguished lineup of conductors and guest artists, including Myung-Whun Chung, Gustavo Dudamel, Sakari Oramo, Itzhak Perlman, David Robertson, Renée Fleming, Thomas Hampson, Deborah Voigt, Gil Shaham, and many more.

The 2007-08 season also introduces a number of new initiatives to take the Orchestra's music beyond Davies Symphony Hall. Further deepening its connections to the Bay Area community, the San Francisco Symphony is expanding its family and free community concert series to Silicon Valley with appearances by both the SFS and SFS Youth Orchestra. MTT and the Orchestra open the season with a three-week festival tour of European musical capitals, performing concerts at the Edinburgh Festival, Rheingau Music Festival, Berliner Festspiele, and the Lucerne Festival, with additional concerts in London, Hannover, Cologne, and Düsseldorf. The acclaimed *Keeping Score* project continues with the filming of the next series of documentaries featuring the music of Berlioz, Shostakovich and Charles Ives, and the Orchestra records *Das Lied von der Erde* for the award-winning SFS Media Mahler recording project.

"The San Francisco Symphony has earned the reputation as one of North America's most dynamic, forward-looking arts organizations," said Symphony President John D. Goldman. "We need look no further than the coming season to see why. Along with MTT's creative programs, we are offering an extraordinary lineup of guest artists and conductors; *Keeping Score* on DVD, on the radio, on the Web and in our schools; the country's farthest reaching music-education effort; continuation of our Grammy Award-winning Mahler recording project; an expansion of our concerts into Silicon Valley; and national and international tours. This season demonstrates the Symphony's commitment to bringing music to the widest possible audience and to ensuring the finest music-making in Davies Symphony Hall, around the Bay Area, and throughout the world."

"The virtuoso musicians of the Orchestra and I have the privilege, in concert after concert, of deepening our audience's connections to the music, and of encouraging new listeners to join us," said Michael Tilson Thomas, SFS Music Director. "The 2007-08 season offers numerous opportunities for us to build on this partnership with our audiences, and to broaden the scope of our musical and emotional journeys."

2007-08 SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY OPENING GALA

MTT and the SFS open the 2007-08 season on **Wednesday, September 19 at 8:30 p.m.** with a special Opening Gala concert featuring soprano **Renée Fleming** singing Ravel's *Shéhérazade* and a selection of arias. The program inaugurates the SFS season with an American flourish as the Orchestra performs Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, Ruth Crawford Seeger's *Andante for Strings*, and John Adams's *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*. The gala evening program concludes with a suite from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. Gala celebrations begin with the Patrons' Dinner, Symphony Supper, and Symphonix Dinner and are followed by post-concert parties in the Davies Symphony Hall Tent Pavilion and at City Hall.

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS'S 2007-08 PROGRAMS

MTT's first subscription program includes Mozart's *Symphony No. 34* and performances of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with baritone **Thomas Hampson** and tenor **Stuart Skelton**, which will be recorded for release on the Orchestra's own SFS Media label. For three weeks in the fall, MTT and the SFS turn their attention to works of three composers, Charles Ives, Dmitri Shostakovich and Hector Berlioz, who will be the focus of the next series of *Keeping Score* documentaries. Concerts are highlighted by Ives' *New England Holidays* *Symphony*, Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*, and Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* and its sequel *Lélio*. In January, soprano **Deborah Voigt** makes her SFS debut, joining MTT and the Orchestra for performances of Strauss's *Vier letzte Lieder* (Four Last Songs) and the first SFS performances of Barber's *Andromache's Farewell*. Later that month,

MTT conducts the SFS premiere of Iannis Xenakis's *À l'île de Gorée* and his first performances with the Orchestra of Schubert's Symphony No. 9, *The Great*.

In February, flutist **Paula Robison** joins MTT and the Orchestra for the first SFS performances of MTT's *Notturmo*, which MTT describes as "a virtuoso piece evoking the lyrical world of Italian music." The program also includes MTT's own *Agnegram*, composed in honor of SFS benefactor Agnes Albert and given its world premiere at Davies Hall in 1998. **Gil Shaham** is the soloist with MTT and the SFS on a program that includes William Schuman's Violin Concerto and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*. In June, MTT and the Orchestra present *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater*, a musical compendium inspired by the music and memories of MTT's grandparents, Bessie and Boris Thomashefsky, pioneers and stars of American Jewish musical theater. Originally presented for one evening as part of the 2005 SFS festival *Of Thee I Sing*, *The Thomashefskys* includes new material from the archives and expands to four semi-staged concerts in June 2008. This presentation is made possible by The Bernard and Barbro Osher Staged Production Fund.

2008 BRAHMS FESTIVAL

In May 2008, Michael Tilson Thomas leads the Orchestra in a three-week celebration of the music of Johannes Brahms. Soloists for the festival include pianists **Leif Ove Andsnes** and **Yefim Bronfman** performing the piano concertos, and soprano **Laura Claycomb** and baritone **Matthias Goerne** joining the SFS Chorus in Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem (A German Requiem)*. The women of the SFS Chorus are also featured in selected Brahms songs for women's chorus. Additional festival works include MTT's first performances with the SFS of Brahms' Symphony No. 3, in addition to Variations on a Theme by Haydn and Serenade No. 2. Further details on the 2008 Brahms Festival will be announced at a later date.

SFS COMMISSIONS, FIRST SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PERFORMANCES AND RARELY HEARD WORKS

The San Francisco Symphony's long tradition of affirming the importance of showcasing new, rarely performed, and commissioned works continues in the 2007-08 season. In June, conductor Sakari Oramo leads the West Coast premiere performances of a new work by Finnish composer **Magnus Lindberg** (co-commissioned with the Berlin Philharmonic). Lindberg's music was first performed for SFS audiences in 1997, with Jukka-Pekka Saraste conducting the Orchestra in the U.S. premiere of *Marea*. His "new modernist classicism" has been informed by studies with countrymen Einojuhani Rautavaara and Paavo Heinenen. He and Esa-Pekka Salonen founded the experimental Toimii Ensemble, which became a laboratory for his sonic development. His recent compositions include large-scale orchestral works such as *Fresco* (1997) and *Cantigas* (1999). His *Concerto for Orchestra* was premiered by the BBC Symphony Orchestra in 2003, and his latest work, *Sculpture*, was premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Esa-Pekka Salonen in October 2005. In 2003 Lindberg was awarded the prestigious Wihuri Sibelius Prize.

The 2007-08 season features a total of thirteen works never before performed by the SFS. In October, the SFS gives its first performances of Italian composer Luca Francesconi's *Cobalt, Scarlet: Two Colors of Dawn*, led by conductor Roberto Abbado. SFS Associate Conductor James Gaffigan leads the Orchestra in Chen Yi's *Si Ji* (Four Seasons), and Roberto Minczuk visits in November to conduct pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque and the Orchestra in the SFS premiere of Martinů's Concerto for Two Pianos and String Orchestra, and his fellow Brazilian

Almeida Prado's Symphonic Variations. MTT conducts the Orchestra and SFS Chorus in November performances of Ives' Psalm 90, and in January MTT leads the Orchestra and soprano Deborah Voigt (her SFS debut) in the first SFS performances of Barber's *Andromache's Farewell*. Harpsichordist Elizabeth Chojnacka performs Iannis Xenakis's *À l'île de Gorée* with the Orchestra, and flutist Paula Robison appears with the Orchestra to perform MTT's *Notturmo*, which she premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2006. The work was written in tribute to Paul Renzi, who retired in 2005 after fifty years as the SFS' Principal Flute. Conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy leads the first SFS performances of Rautavaara's *Manhattan Trilogy*, and, in March, young Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel leads the SFS in his countryman Evencio Castellanos' *Santa Cruz de Pacairigua*. Also in March, Alan Gilbert returns to lead the Orchestra in another SFS premiere, that of American composer Steven Stucky's *Son et Lumière*. Harry Christophers conducts the SFS in its first performances of Handel's Overture to *Ariodante*.

The SFS will also rediscover several works rarely performed by the Orchestra, including Berlioz's complete *Episode in the Life of an Artist* (*Symphonie fantastique* and *Lélio*, or *The Return to Life*). The complete work (and *Lélio* itself) has been performed here only twice before, during the SFS's *Sacred and Profane Festival* in June 1997. Violinist Itzhak Perlman visits to perform and lead the SFS in two Mozart works rarely heard by Davies Hall audiences, including the Adagio in E major for Violin and Orchestra and Rondo in C major for Violin and Orchestra. Barber's Piano Concerto returns for the first time since 1992, performed by Garrick Ohlsson on a program led by Leonard Slatkin. Shostakovich's *From Jewish Folk Poetry* makes its subscription series debut (it was heard in the 2002 Russian Festival). Under Vladimir Ashkenazy, the SFS performs Roussel's *Bacchus et Ariane* Suite No. 2 after an absence of more than 30 years, and Bruch's *Scottish Fantasy* for the first time since 1989, featuring James Ehnes on violin. The late György Ligeti's *San Francisco Polyphony*, a 1975 SFS commission, will be performed for the first time since 1987, under Ingo Metzmacher's baton. Conductor Harry Christophers' April program with the SFS includes rarely performed music from Respighi, Suites Nos. 1 and 3 from *Ancient Airs and Dances*, as well as the first subscription performances since 1953 of Bach's *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 4 in G major.

Under Charles Dutoit, the SFS will devote a concert to the theme of Don Quixote, with Falla's *Master Peter's Puppet Show* performed for the first time since 1957 (the only other time it has been heard here) along with Strauss' *Don Quixote*. Bernard Labadie, who leads the SFS for two weeks in April, reintroduces three Haydn works rarely performed by the SFS: *Te Deum for the Empress Maria Therese*, last performed here in 1970; Symphony No. 100 in G major, *Military*, last heard at the SFS in 1961; and Mass in C major, *Mass in Time of War*, performed at the SFS only once before in its entirety, in 1987. He also leads the Orchestra in Ravel's *Pavane pour une Infante défunte* (*Pavane for a Dead Princess*), last heard here in 1985. Lutoslawski's *Mi-parti*, on a program conducted by David Robertson, has been performed by the SFS just once before, in 1991.

U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL TOURS

To begin the 2007-08 season, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony perform at some of the most important music festivals in Europe. The European tour, from August 29 through September 14, features concert appearances at the Edinburgh Festival, Rheingau Music Festival, Berliner Festspiele, and the Lucerne Festival, with additional concerts in London, Hannover, Cologne, and Düsseldorf. Tour programs include works by John Adams, Aaron Copland, and Ruth Crawford Seeger; Mahler's Symphony No. 7; Ives' Symphony No. 3, *The Camp Meeting*; Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5; and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1, *Winter Daydreams*. Guest

2007-08 RETURNING CONDUCTORS AND SOLOISTS

Several renowned conductors long admired by San Francisco audiences will return to the Davies Symphony Hall podium during the 2007-08 season. Violinist/conductor **Itzhak Perlman** leads the Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings and Brahms' Symphony No. 2, and joins the SFS for Mozart's Adagio for Violin and Orchestra and Rondo for Violin and Orchestra. Italian conductor **Roberto Abbado** conducts the first SFS performances of Luca Francesconi's *Cobalt, Scarlet: Two Colors of Dawn*, and **Kurt Masur** returns to conduct Liszt's *Totentanz*, Beethoven's Choral Fantasy and Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*. **Leonard Slatkin** takes to the podium to lead the Orchestra's performance of Haydn's Symphony No. 67, Barber's Piano Concerto and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*; Korean conductor **Myung-Whun Chung** returns after a 25-year absence to lead the Orchestra in Mahler's Symphony No. 1 and Messiaen's *L'Ascension*; and **Vladimir Ashkenazy** conducts the Orchestra's first performance of Rautavaara's *Manhattan Trilogy*, as well as Bruch's *Scottish Fantasy*, Respighi's *Fontana di Roma (The Fountains of Rome)* and Roussel's *Bacchus et Ariane*, Suite No. 2. **Ingo Metzmacher** leads the SFS in Ligeti's *San Francisco Polyphony* and Liszt's Dante Symphony; **Alan Gilbert** conducts the first SFS performances of Steven Stucky's *Son et Lumière* in March; **Harry Christophers** will lead the Orchestra in Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4*, Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances, Suites no. 1 and 3, and Handel's Overture to *Ariodante* and *Water Music: Suite No. 3*. **Charles Dutoit** will conduct Falla's *Master Peter's Puppet Show* and Strauss' *Don Quixote* in April. Canadian **Bernard Labadie** leads the Orchestra for two weeks in April, including performances of Gluck's Suite from *Orphée et Eurydice*, Bizet's Symphony No. 1, and an all-Haydn concert program. **Yuri Temirkanov** conducts performances of Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1 and Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances. In June, **Sakari Oramo** will lead the SFS in Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. The 2007-08 subscription season comes to a close with conductor **David Robertson** returning to conduct Janáček's *Taras Bulba* and Dvořák's Cello Concerto with Alisa Weilerstein.

Many distinguished guest artists return to perform with the SFS during the 2007-08 season. Violinists returning include **James Ehnes** in Bruch's *Scottish Fantasy*, **Gil Shaham** in William Schuman's Violin Concerto, and **Vadim Repin** in Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1. **Paula Robison** is flute soloist in MTT's *Notturmo* and cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** returns to perform Dvořák's Cello Concerto. Among the many renowned pianists returning to perform with the Orchestra are **Louis Lortie** in Liszt's *Totentanz* and Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, and **Katia and Marielle Labèque**, duo-pianists, in Martinů's Concerto for Two Pianos and String Orchestra. **Garrick Ohlsson** is featured in Barber's Piano Concerto; **Jonathan Biss** in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22; **Hélène Grimaud** in Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3; **Nikolai Lugansky** in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1; and **Richard Goode** in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 18. Pianists **Leif Ove Andsnes** and **Yefim Bronfman** perform the Brahms piano concertos under the direction of MTT during the May 2008 Brahms Festival.

Vocalists returning to the SFS include soprano **Renée Fleming**, performing Ravel's *Shéhérazade* in the SFS Opening Gala; tenor **Stuart Skelton** and baritone **Thomas Hampson** in Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*; mezzo-soprano **Nancy Maultsby** in *Alexander Nevsky*; mezzo-soprano **Elena Manistina** and tenor **Vsevolod Grivnov** in Shostakovich's *From Jewish Folk Poetry*; and soprano **Christine Brandes** and bass **Nathan Berg** in Haydn's Mass in C major, *Mass in Time of War*. Soprano **Laura Claycomb** and baritone **Matthias Goerne** are featured in *Ein deutsches Requiem* during the Brahms Festival in May. **Judy Blazer**, **Ronit Widmann-Levy**, and

artists for the tour are soprano **Deborah Voigt** singing the Final Scene from R. Strauss' *Salome*, pianist **Yefim Bronfman** performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3, and, in Lucerne, violinist **Julia Fischer** performing Sibelius' Violin Concerto.

The Orchestra makes its annual appearances in New York's Carnegie Hall in a March 2008 tour that also includes concerts in New Brunswick, New Jersey and Ann Arbor, Michigan. Programs include **Deborah Voigt** performing Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder* (Four Last Songs) and Barber's *Andromache's Farewell*; William Shuman's Violin Concerto with **Gil Shaham**; Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*; Sibelius' Symphony No. 7; and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9.

2007-08 CONDUCTOR AND SOLOIST DEBUTS

Acclaimed Venezuelan conductor **Gustavo Dudamel** makes two appearances this season. The twenty-six-year-old Dudamel debuts as a guest conductor with the SFS in March with performances of Stravinsky's complete *Firebird*. Dudamel also leads his lauded Simón Bolívar National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela in a November Great Performers Series concert. In October, thirty-one-year-old Swiss conductor **Philippe Jordan** leads the SFS for the first time, in a program featuring Beethoven's *The Creatures of Prometheus* Overture and Piano Concerto No. 3 and Strauss' *An Alpine Symphony*. Jordan is currently the Principal Guest Conductor of the Berlin Staatsoper and Music Director at the Graz Opera. In November, Brazilian **Roberto Minczuk** makes his debut with the Orchestra, conducting its first performances of Brazilian composer Almeida Prado's Symphonic Variations and Martinů's Concerto for Two Pianos and String Orchestra. The program also includes Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*.

In addition to these three conductors making their SFS debuts, twelve guest artists perform with the SFS for the first time this season. In January, MTT leads renowned soprano **Deborah Voigt** in her SFS debut, performing Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder* (Four Last Songs) and Barber's *Andromache's Farewell*. In June, Argentine pianist **Ingrid Fliter**, the first female winner of the prestigious Gilmore Artist Award in 2006, plays Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2. Twenty-three-year-old violinist **Sergey Khachatryan**, who at 15 became the youngest ever to win first prize in the International Jean Sibelius competition, makes his debut with the SFS in November, performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with MTT conducting. Russian pianist **Kirill Gerstein**, who was selected as Carnegie Hall's "Rising Star" for the 2005-06 season, makes his debut with the SFS in March, with conductor Gustavo Dudamel in Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 1. In April, mezzo-soprano **Kelley O'Connor** and Canadian tenor **Frédéric Antoun** make their SFS debuts in Haydn's Mass in C major, *Mass in Time of War*, while soprano **Awet Andemicael** makes her SFS debut in Falla's *Master Peter's Puppet Show* in April. Finnish soprano **Anu Komi** joins the Orchestra for the first time in June and Ukrainian soprano **Oksana Dyka** performs Shostakovich's *From Jewish Folk Poetry* under MTT's direction in November. Nineteen-year-old French-born pianist **Lise de la Salle** performs Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with SFS Associate Conductor James Gaffigan on the podium in October. Harpsichordist **Elizabeth Chojnacka** debuts in January's performance of Xenakis' *À l'île de Gorée* conducted by MTT. In June, **Neal Benari** makes his SFS debut in the role of Boris Thomashefsky, MTT's grandfather, in *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater*.

the soloists for these September concerts, which will be recorded for future release on SFS Media. The Mahler cycle has won two Grammy Awards and has been nominated six times, including twice this year for Mahler's Symphony No. 7 in the categories of Best Classical Album and Best Orchestral Performance. The Grammy Awards are scheduled for February 11, 2007. The Mahler Project is made possible through the generosity of the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation.

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY CHORUS

The SFS Chorus begins its first full season in 2007-08 under the direction of newly appointed SFS Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin. Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the SFS Chorus in three separate programs, the first featuring the music of Charles Ives, including Psalm 90 and *New England Holidays* Symphony. In December, the Chorus performs under MTT's baton in Berlioz's *Lélio*, or *The Return to Life*, which will be filmed for a future *Keeping Score* television documentary. As part of the May Brahms Festival, the Chorus is featured with soprano Laura Claycomb and baritone Matthias Goerne in performances of *Ein deutsches Requiem* (*A German Requiem*) and other songs for women's chorus. In June, Bohlin leads the Chorus in selected Poulenc choral works. Under guest conductor Kurt Masur, the Chorus performs Beethoven's Choral Fantasy in October, and Bernard Labadie conducts the Chorus and soprano Christine Brandes, mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor, tenor Frédéric Antoun, and bass Nathan Berg in Haydn's Mass in C major, *Mass in Time of War*.

KEEPING SCORE

The nationally acclaimed *Keeping Score* project launched in 2006 with three hour-long national PBS broadcasts watched by over three million Americans. The next series, to be aired in 2009, will feature composers Charles Ives, Dmitri Shostakovich and Hector Berlioz. Fall 2007 concert weeks dedicated to these composers will provide filming opportunities for the upcoming series. The *Keeping Score* Education program, designed to help K-12 schools integrate classical music into their core curriculum, is expanding to the North Bay to include school districts in Sonoma County. *Keeping Score* is the San Francisco Symphony's ambitious program designed to make classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds through television, the web, radio, DVDs, and in the classroom. Major funding for *Keeping Score* is provided by the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, with generous support from The James Irvine Foundation, Marcia and John Goldman, Nan Tucker McEvoy, William and Gretchen Kimball Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, and others.

2007-08 GREAT PERFORMERS SERIES AND SPECIAL CONCERTS

The San Francisco Symphony's 2007-08 season offers a twelve-concert Great Performers Series and several special concerts. Pianist **András Schiff** performs the first four concerts of a complete two-year Beethoven sonata cycle. The **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam**, led by **Mariss Jansons**, and the **Philharmonia Orchestra of London**, under the baton of **Christoph von Dohnányi**, each perform two concerts. The series also offers concerts by the renowned **Simón Bolívar National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela**, conducted by the 26-year-old **Gustavo Dudamel**; the **St. Petersburg Philharmonic**, led by **Yuri Temirkanov** with violinist **Julia Fischer**; the **Russian National Orchestra**, led by **Vladimir Jurowski** with pianist **Stephen Hough**; and pianist **Murray Perahia** performing as soloist and conducting the **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields**.

Eugene Brancoveanu and director **Patricia Birch** all return to the SFS for *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater*.

SFS CONDUCTORS AND MUSICIANS

SFS Conductor Laureate **Herbert Blomstedt** returns to conduct the SFS for two subscription weeks devoted to composers Tchaikovsky and Mozart, in February 2008. Blomstedt leads the SFS in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, featuring pianist Nikolai Lugansky, and Symphony No. 6, *Pathétique*, including a Friday 6.5 series concert. The following week, pianist Jonathan Biss performs Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 in a program that also includes Mozart's Divertimento and his Symphony No. 38, *Prague*.

SFS Associate Conductor **James Gaffigan** leads the Orchestra in October 2007 subscription concerts featuring Mussorgsky's Selections from *Khovanshchina*, Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, with pianist Lise de la Salle in her SFS debut, the first SFS performances of Chen Yi's *Si Ji* (Four Seasons), and Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy-Overture. James Gaffigan joined the San Francisco Symphony as Associate Conductor in the fall of 2006. Previously the Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra from 2003-2006, Gaffigan is also the Music Director of CityMusic Cleveland, a chamber orchestra presenting free concerts throughout that city.

Gaffigan returns to the podium in June concerts, leading the Orchestra and SFS Concertmaster **Alexander Barantschik** in Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 and Bartók's Suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin*. These concerts also feature SFS Resident Conductor **Benjamin Shwartz** and new SFS Chorus Director **Ragnar Bohlin**. Bohlin leads the Chorus in vocal works by Poulenc, and Shwartz makes his SFS subscription concert conducting debut as he leads the Orchestra in a work by Berlioz. Bohlin, most recently choir master of Stockholm's Maria Magdalena Church, appears regularly on Swedish radio with the Maria Magdalena Motet Choir and Swedish Radio Choir. He has worked frequently with The Ericson Chamber Choir, and with the Royal Philharmonic Choir and the Opera Choir of Stockholm. Shwartz is the Wattis Foundation Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Four other SFS musicians will appear as soloists in subscription concerts during the 2007-08 season. In January, the Orchestra's new Principal Flute **Tim Day** is the soloist in Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 2. SFS Principal Cello **Michael Grebanier** and Acting Principal Viola **Yun Jie Liu** are soloists in Strauss' *Don Quixote* in April. Also that month, newly-appointed Principal Clarinet **Carey Bell**, who joins the SFS from the San Francisco Opera orchestra, makes his debut as soloist in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, conducted by Bernard Labadie.

Many SFS musicians will appear in the 2007-08 Chamber Music Series. The five Sunday matinee concerts in Davies Symphony Hall are scheduled for October 28, November 18, February 24, March 30, and May 4. Barantschik and members of the Orchestra also continue their chamber music series at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, with Barantschik performing on the famed *David* Guarnerius violin, once owned and played by Jascha Heifetz, and now on loan to Barantschik and the SFS from the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Legion of Honor Chamber Music Concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons on October 14, February 3, May 18 and another date to be announced.

THE MAHLER RECORDING PROJECT

The San Francisco Symphony's acclaimed Mahler recording cycle, launched in 2001, will continue this season with a live recording of *Das Lied von der Erde*. Tenor **Stuart Skelton** and baritone **Thomas Hampson** are

The series begins October 7 with the first of four recitals this season by pianist **Andrés Schiff**, in which he begins a complete cycle of Beethoven's piano sonatas, co-presented by San Francisco Performances. Schiff commences the cycle with performances of Sonatas No. 1 through 4, and continues with Piano Sonatas Nos. 5 through 8 on October 14. On April 6, Schiff returns to perform Piano Sonatas Nos. 9 through 11 and Nos. 19 and 20. On April 13, Schiff concludes this year's performances with Piano Sonatas No. 12 through 15. Schiff's Beethoven sonata cycle continues in the 2008-09 season. On November 4, the heralded conductor **Gustavo Dudamel** and the inspirational **Simón Bolívar National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela** make their Bay Area debut, performing Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 in E minor, plus works by Bernstein and a selection of music from Latin America. **Yuri Temirkanov** brings the **St. Petersburg Philharmonic** back to Davies Hall November 19, with violinist **Julia Fischer** joining the orchestra to perform Beethoven's Violin Concerto. The program also includes Mozart's Overture to *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5. On November 18, Temirkanov leads the orchestra and pianist **Nelson Freire** in a special concert featuring Schubert's *Entr'acte* from Act III of *Rosamunde*; Schumann's Piano Concerto, and the conductor's arrangement of Prokofiev's Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*.

The SFS presents the **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam** in two programs, January 27 and 28, conducted by **Mariss Jansons**. The January 27 concert features Debussy's *La Mer* and Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, while the January 28 performance includes Strauss's *Don Juan* and Mahler's Symphony No. 5. On February 14, **Vladimir Jurowski** conducts the **Russian National Orchestra** with pianist **Stephen Hough** in Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1, plus Schubert's Symphony No. 8 (*Unfinished*, completed by Anton Safranov). Pianist **Murray Perahia** performs as soloist and leads the **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** in concert March 31, performing Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave Overture)* and Symphony No. 4, *Italian*, and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24. The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields also performs a special concert on March 30, in a program that includes Mozart's Symphony No. 31, *Paris*, and Piano Concerto No. 21; Bach's Piano Concerto No. 3; and Haydn's Symphony No. 104, *London*. The **Philharmonia Orchestra of London**, led by conductor **Christoph von Dohnányi**, visits Davies Hall for two concerts, performing Mozart's Symphony No. 25 and Mahler's Symphony No. 1 on May 4, and Weber's Overture to *Der Freischütz*, Schumann's Symphony No. 1, *Spring*, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 on May 5.

In addition to the artists and visiting orchestras featured on the 2007-08 Great Performers Series, the San Francisco Symphony presents a special all-Brahms recital by violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter** with pianist **Lambert Orkis** on April 7, co-presented with San Francisco Performances.

EXPANDED FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CONCERTS FOR SILICON VALLEY

The San Francisco Symphony will expand its family and community concert series to include concerts in Silicon Valley, strengthening its connections with the entire Bay Area community. The *Music for Families* series, one of the most popular concert series offered by the SFS, will be offered in a three-concert series in Cupertino's Flint Center in 2007-08. The acclaimed SFS Youth Orchestra, currently celebrating its 25th anniversary, will perform its annual holiday concert *Peter and the Wolf* at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose on December 15. The SFS will also perform a free community concert at the Plaza de César Chávez in San Jose on October 5, to

complement its existing free annual community concerts in Yerba Buena Gardens, Dolores Park and Sigmund Stern Grove in San Francisco.

The SFS also continues its series at Cupertino's Flint Center with eight concerts during the 2007-08 season. Guest conductor Philippe Jordan opens the Flint Center Series on October 25 with a program of Beethoven and Strauss. Other conductors featured in the series include SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, SFS Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Harry Christophers, and David Robertson. Appearances by soloists include pianists Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Jonathan Biss, and Yefim Bronfman and violinist James Ehnes. The SFS has performed at Cupertino's Flint Center since 1971.

20th ANNIVERSARY OF *ADVENTURES IN MUSIC*

The San Francisco Symphony's *Adventures in Music* (AIM) program, one of the most comprehensive music education programs of any symphony orchestra, celebrates its 20th anniversary during the 2007-08 season. *Adventures in Music* is a comprehensive music education program designed by the SFS for the San Francisco public elementary schools that includes a series of in-school performances, a music-centered, interdisciplinary curriculum, professional development sessions for teachers and principals, instruments, CDs and books, depending on the curriculum, and a student journal for each child, all free of charge to students and schools. The AIM program offers nearly 1,100 music ensemble performances and approximately a dozen SFS concerts in Davies Hall, reaching nearly 23,000 schoolchildren annually and serving every child in grades 1-5 in the San Francisco Unified School District, plus a number of private and parochial schools. Events to celebrate AIM's 20th anniversary will be announced at a later date.

The San Francisco Symphony's goal is to serve and enrich its community through its numerous education programs. In addition to *Adventures in Music*, the SFS also offers *Concerts for Kids* performances attended by 35,000 schoolchildren from throughout Northern California, *Music for Families* concerts designed for families (offered in both San Francisco and Silicon Valley), student programs such as the acclaimed SFS Youth Orchestra, free outdoor community concerts, and the award-winning kids' Web site *sfskids.com*, all of which carry SFS education and community efforts beyond Davies Symphony Hall and the classroom. In addition, the Orchestra's *Keeping Score* project offers both interactive websites and an innovative education program for K-12 schools designed to give teachers the tools to integrate classical music into core subjects.

FRIDAY 6.5 SERIES

The San Francisco Symphony's popular **Friday 6.5** series, featuring an early start time and a format designed to provide audiences with a deeper connection to the music, continues in 2007-08 for its third season. The **Friday 6.5** series features six concerts, all beginning at 6:30 p.m., with a program designed especially for curious concertgoers who want to learn more about the music being performed. Each Friday 6.5 concert allows for the introduction of a featured work by the conductor as he leads the Orchestra through musical examples and provides an informative glimpse into the work. The works are then played in their entirety. The early start time also allows patrons to enjoy a leisurely night out on the town afterwards. Friday 6.5 Series concerts for the 2007-08 season are October 12 (with Roberto Abbado and pianist Ingrid Fliter), November 9 (with Roberto Minczuk and pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque), January 11 (with MTT leading the Orchestra in Beethoven's Symphony No. 4), February 15 (all-Tchaikovsky, with Herbert Blomstedt and pianist Nikolai Lugansky), April 4 (Bach, Handel and Respighi

with Harry Christophers), and June 6 (SFS Associate Conductor James Gaffigan, SFS Resident Conductor Benjamin Shwartz and SFS Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin share the podium, conducting works by Bartók, Berlioz, and Poulenc).

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, led by Wattis Foundation Music Director Benjamin Shwartz, celebrates its twenty-sixth season in 2007-08. Its members are between the ages of 12 and 20, and the SFSYO is internationally acclaimed as one of the world's finest ensembles of young musicians. In the 2007-08 season, the SFSYO performs Sunday matinee concerts on November 11, March 16, and May 18. This year, the Youth Orchestra performs its annual *Peter and the Wolf* holiday concerts both in Davies Symphony Hall and San Jose's California Theater.

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

The San Francisco Symphony's 2007-08 Community Concert Series includes a number of free concerts for music lovers, in neighborhoods around the Bay Area. On August 24, Michael Tilson Thomas and the Orchestra perform a free noontime concert at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco. On October 5, the Orchestra performs a noontime concert at Plaza César Chávez in downtown San Jose. In the summer of 2008 (date TBD), the SFS performs its annual free concert in Dolores Park as part of the San Francisco Arts Commission/San Francisco Symphony *Summer in the City* series.

Several traditional events return to the SFS schedule in 2007-08: The annual All-San Francisco concert for upwards of 100 community organizations on September 20; the annual Chinese New Year Celebration on February 10, ringing in the Year of the Rat; four weeks of San Francisco Arts Commission/San Francisco Symphony *Summer in the City* concerts in Davies Symphony Hall in the summer of 2008; the annual SFS Fourth of July celebration at Shoreline Amphitheatre; and the annual free summer performance in Stern Grove as part of the Stern Grove Festival. The SFS will also make a special appearance at the Mondavi Center on the campus of the University of California, Davis on October 10.

TICKET INFORMATION

Subscription series tickets for the San Francisco Symphony's 2007-08 season will be available starting Thursday, March 1 at 10 a.m. through the San Francisco Symphony's Ticket Services office, by calling (415) 864-6000, or online at sfsymphony.org. Single tickets go on sale to the general public via the SFS web site at sfsymphony.org on August 24 at noon. Until then, tickets are available in subscription packages only. Single tickets are also available beginning August 27 at 8 a.m. at the Davies Symphony Hall box office and by phone at 10 a.m. Subscribers have advance ordering privileges for the Opening Gala, special events, and for additional single tickets for concerts. Several plans are available, offering packages of six, seven, eight, nine, twelve, fourteen, eighteen, twenty-one, or twenty-four concerts on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, and Thursday and Sunday afternoons. Davies Symphony Hall six-concert subscription series, including the Friday 6.5 series, are priced from \$180-\$690. Tickets for the Opening Gala concert are \$250 and \$130. Special subscription series, such as the four-concert *Music for Families* Series, start as low as \$60, with children's tickets at half-price.

The three-concert San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra subscription series is priced at \$36 for open seating and \$90 for reserved seating. The five-concert Chamber Music Series is priced at \$120. Flint Center series tickets are priced from \$264-\$480 for eight concerts, and the three-concert Flint *Music for Families* Series starts at \$60. Tickets for the eight-event Open Rehearsal series are priced at \$160 for open seating and \$264 for reserved seating. Tickets for the Great Performers Series are priced at \$189-\$498 for a six-concert series. As always, the Symphony's Ticket Services office anticipates a heavy demand for season tickets, and subscribers are encouraged to renew early. Subscriber benefits include ticket-price savings, guaranteed same seats, ticket-exchange privileges, priority for single-ticket purchases, and *Symphony*, the SFS newsletter, mailed to subscribers' homes. For further information, or to receive a 2007-08 season brochure, please contact SFS Ticket Services at (415) 864-6000 or visit sfsymphony.org.

Further highlights of the season and a full list of programs can be found in the "Season at a Glance" and the 2007-08 Season Calendar documents that accompany this release. All programs are subject to change; additional concert, program, and artist information will be announced at a later date. For further press information, please contact the SFS Communications Department at (415) 503-5474, email publicrelations@sfsymphony.org, or visit the SFS Press Room online at sfspressroom.org.

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