

SF SYMPHONY

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

415-503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

www.sfsymphony.org/press

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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](#).)

MUSIC DIRECTOR LAUREATE MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS RETURNS TO CONDUCT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, NOVEMBER 11–19, 2022, AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

November 11-13 concerts feature United States premiere of Danny Elfman’s Cello Concerto performed by Gautier Capuçon, alongside Igor Stravinsky’s *Symphonies of Wind Instruments* and Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s *Serenade for Strings*

November 17-19 concerts include an all-Johannes Brahms program of *Serenade No. 1* and *Piano Concerto No. 1* with soloist Emanuel Ax

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas (MTT) returns to conduct the San Francisco Symphony in two weeks of concerts at Davies Symphony Hall, November 11–13 and November 17–19.

November 11–13: Capuçon plays Danny Elfman

On November 11–13, MTT conducts the U.S. premiere of Danny Elfman’s Cello Concerto with Gautier Capuçon as soloist. This is Elfman’s second major concerto following his Violin Concerto, written in 2017. A lauded and prolific film composer, Elfman is well-known for scoring over 100 feature films, including *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Batman*, *Men in Black*, *Big Fish*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Good Will Hunting*, and he’s been steadily expanding his concert repertoire over the last several years. In [an interview](#) with *The Strad*, Elfman said he found the intensive parameters of the classical genre appealing. “I can do denser things than I’m allowed in film,” he

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said. “I gravitate towards whatever’s most difficult. That’s how I’m wired.” His cello concerto was written for Capuçon, who premiered the piece in Vienna in March.

The program is framed by showpieces for two sections of the SF Symphony: Igor Stravinsky’s *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, dedicated to the late Claude Debussy, and Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s charming and romantic *Serenade for Strings*.

November 17–19: MTT & Emanuel Ax

On November 17–19, MTT leads the Orchestra in two early works by Johannes Brahms, both written when the composer was in his 20s: *Serenade No. 1* and *Piano Concerto No. 1*, performed by Emanuel Ax.

Brahms first wrote his *Serenade No. 1* for a smaller ensemble, but on the advice of his colleague and close friend Joseph Joachim, scored it for full orchestra. Joachim conducted the original version in Hamburg in 1859, and he was also on the podium for the first performance of the final version, which took place a year later in Hanover. In its expanded form, the *Serenade* retains the intimacy of chamber music while harnessing the power of the full orchestra. After intermission, Emanuel Ax returns to the Symphony for Brahms’ turbulent *First Piano Concerto*, written over a four-year period. Though the work was poorly received at its second performance in Leipzig in 1858, Brahms found a silver lining in the rejection. “I think it’s the best thing that could happen to one, it forces you to collect your thoughts and it raises your courage,” he wrote to Joachim. “For all that, one day, when I’ve improved its physical structure, this concerto will please, and a second one will sound very different.”

MTT returns to Davies Symphony Hall for two additional programs during the 2022–23 season: on January 26–28, he conducts the Orchestra in Claude Debussy’s *Prélude à L’Après-midi d’un faune*, Olivier Messiaen’s *Trois petites liturgies de la Présence Divine*, *Chôros No. 10* by Heitor Villa-Lobos with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and Claude Debussy’s *Fantasia for Piano and Orchestra* featuring Jean-Yves Thibaudet; and on March 30–April 1, he conducts Gustav Mahler’s *Symphony No. 6*.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Tickets

Tickets for concerts at Davies Symphony 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.

Health & Safety Information

Davies Symphony Hall is currently operating at full audience capacity. Based on the advice of the San Francisco Symphony’s Health and Safety Task Force, a face covering and vaccination against COVID-19 are strongly recommended but no longer required for entry into Davies Symphony Hall. These policies are subject to change.

Visit sfsymphony.org/safety for the San Francisco Symphony’s complete up-to-date health and safety protocols.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

Capuçon Plays Danny Elfman

[Friday, November 11, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 2pm](#)

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#) conductor

[Gautier Capuçon](#) cello

San Francisco Symphony

IGOR STRAVINSKY *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*

DANNY ELFMAN Cello Concerto [San Francisco Symphony Commission, U.S. Premiere]

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Serenade for Strings

Tickets: \$20–165.

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/Capucon-Plays-Danny-Elfman>

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, November 22 at 8pm 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.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

MTT & Emanuel Ax

[Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 2pm](#)

[Friday, November 18, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 7:30pm](#)

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#) conductor

[Emanuel Ax](#) piano

San Francisco Symphony

JOHANNES BRAHMS Serenade No. 1

JOHANNES BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 1

Tickets: \$20–170.

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/MTT-Emanuel-Ax>

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, November 29 at 8pm 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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