

SF SYMPHONY

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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 CONDUCTS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN TWO CONCERT PROGRAMS AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL, JANUARY 26–28 AND MARCH 30–APRIL 1, 2023

January 26–28 concerts include Claude Debussy's *Prélude à L'Après-midi d'un faune*, Olivier Messiaen's *Trois petites liturgies de la Présence Divine*, Claude Debussy's *Fantaisie* for Piano and Orchestra, and Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Chôros* No. 10, featuring pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, ondes Martenot player Cynthia Millar, and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus

March 30–April 1 concerts feature Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 6*

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, January 26–28 and March 30–April 1, 2023.

January 26–28: MTT & Jean-Yves Thibaudet

On January 26–28, MTT conducts the San Francisco Symphony in a program highlighting works by Claude Debussy, Olivier Messiaen, and Heitor Villa-Lobos. The program opens with Claude Debussy's *Prélude à L'Après-midi d'un faune*, inspired by a poem by Stéphane Mallarmé. Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, one of MTT's longtime collaborators, joins MTT and the Orchestra for two works on the program: Olivier Messiaen's *Trois petites liturgies de la Présence Divine*, also featuring ondes Martenot player Cynthia Millar and members of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, combines themes

of spirituality with the sounds of birdsong; and Debussy's *Fantaisie* for Piano and Orchestra, a lesser performed work of the French composer which was heavily inspired by Javanese gamelan and did not premiere until after Debussy's death. The program closes with Heitor Villa-Lobos's *Chôros* No. 10, a work that evokes a tropical forest.

March 30–April 1: MTT conducts Mahler 6

On March 30–April 1, MTT leads the Orchestra in Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 6. Though Mahler wrote it during one of the happiest periods of his life, Symphony No. 6 is filled with angst and is often referred to as his darkest work. The closing movement is especially tragic, and its two signature hammer blows signify the inevitability of fate. MTT last conducted Symphony No. 6 with the San Francisco Symphony on March 6, 2020, during his final season as Music Director in what was the Orchestra's last performance in Davies Symphony Hall before the pandemic canceled the rest of the 2019–20 season. MTT and the San Francisco Symphony recorded Mahler's Symphony No. 6 in 2001 and released it on the SFS Media label as part of their Mahler symphony recording cycle, which has garnered seven Grammy Awards and has helped solidify MTT's stature as one of the world's foremost Mahler interpreters.

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

MTT & Jean-Yves Thibaudet

[Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, January 27, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#) conductor

[Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#) piano

[Cynthia Millar](#) ondes Martenot

San Francisco Symphony

San Francisco Symphony Chorus

CLAUDE DEBUSSY *Prélude à L'Après-midi d'un faune*

OLIVIER MESSIAEN *Trois petites liturgies de la Présence Divine*

CLAUDE DEBUSSY *Fantaisie* for Piano and Orchestra

HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS *Chôros* No. 10

Tickets: \$35-165

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/MTT-Jean-Yves-Thibaudet>

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SERIES

MTT Conducts Mahler 6

[Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10am](#) [Open Rehearsal]

[Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Friday, March 31, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 7:30pm](#)

[Michael Tilson Thomas](#) conductor
San Francisco Symphony

GUSTAV MAHLER Symphony No. 6

Tickets: \$35-165

Ticket link: <https://www.sfsymphony.org/Buy-Tickets/2022-23/MTT-Conducts-Mahler-6>

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Open rehearsals are endowed by a bequest from The Estate of Katharine Hanrahan.

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