



2016–17

# In Review



For more than a century, the San Francisco Symphony has been committed to bringing culturally meaningful and significant contributions to the Bay Area and around the globe. After the 1906 earthquake, a group of civic-minded music lovers envisioned an orchestra to help reinvigorate San Francisco's cultural life.

This vision gave birth to the San Francisco Symphony and still embodies the values of the organization today: creating music of the highest artistic excellence, celebrating creativity and innovation, fostering a growing and engaged local and global audience, and reflecting the spirit and cultures of San Francisco for its people.



# OUR MISSION

To set the highest possible standard for **excellence in musical performance** at home and around the world.

To **enrich, serve, and shape cultural life** throughout the spectrum of Bay Area communities.

To **maintain financial stability and gain public recognition** as a means of ensuring its ability to fulfill its mission.

## ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE



108

of the world's finest musicians

150+

commissioned works by composers around the globe

450,000

audience members reached through live concerts and nearly 40 million global listeners each year

15

Grammy Awards



23

years of acclaimed artistic partnership with Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

100%

of SF public elementary school students, Grades 1-5, receive free music education through the *Adventures in Music* (AIM) program

1,000+

in-school performances are provided by AIM music ensembles each year

145+

classrooms in 50 schools are visited by *Concerts for Kids* (CFK) Education Docents each year to prepare 3,600+ students to take part in the CFK program

1,800+

volunteers give their time—over 25,000 hours—to the SFS each year

100+

Youth Orchestra musicians receive the finest orchestral training each year tuition free



4,000+

children, teachers and chaperones attend the annual *Deck the Hall Community Day* concerts free of charge

## DID YOU KNOW?

1919

Launch of *Concerts for Kids* series

1923

First major US orchestra to hire women musicians other than harpists

1973

Founding of the SFS Chorus, one of the few professionally-trained American choruses under a major US orchestra

1988

Launch of *Adventures in Music*, the longest-running and most comprehensive program of its kind among US orchestras

2001

First major American orchestra to start an in-house audio/video label, SFS Media

2014

SoundBox created as a laboratory for musical experimentation and audience engagement

## 2016–17 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

### SFS CELEBRATIONS



Steve Reich's 80th Birthday



John Adams's 70th Birthday



Lou Harrison Centennial

### PREMIERES

World premiere of Bright Sheng's *Dream of the Red Chamber Overture*, commissioned by the SFS

U.S. premiere of Robin Holloway's *Europa and the Bull*

West Coast premiere of Michael Tilson Thomas's *Four Preludes on Playthings of the Wind*

### SFS MEDIA TURNS 15



All-Debussy album released and nominated for 2018 Grammy Award



SFS Media's first-ever digital-only album released: Berg's *Three Pieces for Orchestra*



Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette* recorded with MTT

High profile **10-concert tour** of Asia with Yuja Wang and **New York tour** to Carnegie Hall

Third SoundBox season featured **10 sold out shows**

**Semi-staged production** of Mahler's *Das klagende Lied*

**First-ever Symphony Pride** LGBTQ benefit concert

**Beethoven No. 5 Discovery Concert:** an experimentation of new concert formats

**Christian Reif's first season** as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

**Brent Assink concluded 18-year tenure** as Executive Director of SFS

**Mark Hanson appointed** the fifth Executive Director of SFS





Do you have an interesting fact to share with us about the SFS?  
Email us your thoughts at the address below.

For more information, please visit [SFSYMPHONY.ORG/GIVE](https://www.sfsymphony.org/give)  
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