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MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

PREMIERE *KEEPING SCORE: MAHLER* ON PBS TELEVISION

IN JUNE 2011

Orchestra's acclaimed *Keeping Score* Project Also Features New Interactive Companion

Web Site, National Public Radio Series, Home Video on DVD and Blu-Ray

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (JUNE 15, 2011) – The [San Francisco Symphony](#) and [Michael Tilson Thomas](#) will present new episodes of their acclaimed *Keeping Score* television series on PBS exploring the life and music of enigmatic composer Gustav Mahler. The two-part series will begin airing in many markets June 23, 2011 and will continue on June 30, 2011 (**exact airdates vary market-to-market; check local listings**). It is scheduled to appear on PBS affiliates in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago, Miami, Philadelphia and Atlanta, plus other cities.

In a year marking the centenary of the death of Gustav Mahler and the birth of the San Francisco Symphony, the Orchestra's *Keeping Score* project consists of two one-hour documentary-style episodes, two live-performance programs, new Mahler-related content at <http://www.keeping-score.org> and a 13-part national radio series. The *Keeping Score* project is a natural outgrowth of the San Francisco Symphony's century-long commitment to make classical music more accessible and meaningful to people of all ages and musical backgrounds.

“Gustav Mahler was a visionary musician,” said Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony. “In his compositions he made reference to many styles, building his huge symphonies from materials abstracted from songs, dances and marches from many cultures. His symphonies, or worlds, as he called them – represent the many ways that people make music and why they make music. In *Keeping Score: Mahler*, we walk in his footsteps, visit the places and sounds that influenced his life.”

Shot on location in the Czech Republic, Austria and New York, with concert footage shot in San Francisco, *Keeping Score: Mahler* reveals the life and music of an emotionally charged composer, providing viewers with an unprecedented journey through his music and the influences that shaped it. Each documentary style episode is followed by a one-hour San Francisco Symphony concert program. *Keeping Score: Mahler* is presented nationally by KQED in San Francisco.

In the first documentary episode, “**Gustav Mahler: Origins**,” SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas journeys to rural Bohemia to rediscover the inspirations of Mahler’s music, and traces Mahler’s life through the premiere of his first symphony in 1888 which shocked audiences at the time. Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony reveal how this ground-breaking symphony contains elements of everything else that Mahler composed. “Origins” is followed by “**Mahler: Symphony No. 1 in D Major in Concert - Titan**” performed by Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony.

In the second documentary episode, “**Gustav Mahler: Legacy**,” Tilson Thomas examines Mahler’s creative growth from the 1890s to his death at the age of 51 on May 18, 1911, including his symphonies, the *Rückert* songs and *Das Lied von der Erde*. The show charts Mahler’s mercurial career as a conductor, from the Vienna Opera to Carnegie Hall in New York, as well as his tempestuous relationship with his wife Alma. At Mahler’s simple grave in a Grinzing cemetery, Tilson Thomas explains why Mahler has so profoundly affected his own life. “Legacy” is followed by “**A Mahler Journey**,” with a performance of *Songs of a Wayfarer* by world-renowned baritone Thomas Hampson, a noted interpreter of Mahler’s work. The program also includes Mahler’s famous and poignant love song, Adagietto from Symphony No. 5, the *Scherzo* from Symphony No. 7 in E minor and the *Rondo Burleske* from Symphony No. 9 in D major.

[To view the trailers, click here.](#)

Unlike any other orchestra initiative in scope or complexity, the national *Keeping Score* program provides innovative, thought-provoking classical music content via integrated multimedia including public television, public radio and interactive web content at www.keeperscore.org. More than six million viewers have tuned into the critically-acclaimed episodes of *Keeping Score* on PBS, with previous programs about composers Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Stravinsky, Copland, Berlioz, Shostakovich, and Charles Ives.

Keeping Score: Mahler is part of the San Francisco Symphony’s commemoration of the centenary of Mahler’s death and completes its ten-year exploration of the composer’s music through its Grammy Award-winning Mahler recording cycle on SFS Media.

Funding

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About The San Francisco Symphony

Founded in 1911, the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) celebrates its Centennial Season in 2011-12 and is widely considered to be among the country's most artistically adventurous and innovative arts institutions. The Orchestra's distinguished history is marked by artistic excellence, innovative programming, broad educational initiatives, and acclaimed recordings and media projects. Now in their sixteenth season together, Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and the SFS have formed a musical partnership hailed for its revitalization of the classical music experience, performing and presenting more than 220 concerts annually for an audience of 600,000 in its home of Davies Symphony Hall, in other Bay Area venues, and through an active national and international touring program. For additional information, please visit www.sfsymphony.org.

Photos, videos, and press materials are available at www.sfspressroom.org/keepingscore.



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