

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA

THE SUNDAY TIMES

October 29, 2006

mes.com

Volume 86, Number 161

\$1
plus tax



OCTOBER 29, 2006

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SECTION C

A&E



I want my MTT

Page 3

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE BAY AREA

THE SUNDAY TIMES COVER STORY OCTOBER 29, 2006



FOR THE "Keeping Score" project, Michael Tilson Thomas traveled to many of the venues where the featured composers lived and worked. Here he is playing from the Palazzina Polce in Beethoven's Vienna.

PBS gives MTT a TV star turn

S.F. Symphony's music director is an engaging musical guide in new three-episode documentary

BY Chuck Barney
NEVER LET it be said that Michael Tilson Thomas is afraid to be his own man. The 67-year-old conductor, who has led the San Francisco Symphony since 1992, is the central figure in a new three-episode documentary that is being broadcast on PBS in November. More than 200 million viewers are expected to watch the series, which will air on PBS in November. More than 200 million viewers are expected to watch the series, which will air on PBS in November.



LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S "Young People's Concerts," which opened the world of classical music to America's youth in the 1950s and '60s, was an inspiration for "Keeping Score."

Tune in and turn on to 'Score'

There's a rerun of the three "Keeping Score" documentaries, originally and two live concerts scheduled to air on PBS in November. More than 200 million viewers are expected to watch the series, which will air on PBS in November.



TILSON THOMAS traveled to Vienna, an artist community in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where Copland nurtured some of his works.

"The possibility of bringing people closer to the musical experience has always excited me, and this is a big step in that direction."

Television will play a dual role with three one-hour documentaries that explore composers from the 19th to the 20th century. The series will air on PBS in November. More than 200 million viewers are expected to watch the series, which will air on PBS in November.

There was a lesson to be learned from the "Young People's Concerts," says Tilson Thomas. "We're trying to draw viewers in and get them to follow more enthusiastically their favorite players," says Tilson Thomas. "We want people to be able to relate to them in the same way they relate to sports heroes, because they deserve to be."

'Score'

FROM PAGE 1
through the "Young People's Concerts."

The "Keeping Score" biographical documentaries explore the composers by breaking down some of their most revolutionary works. Tilson Thomas serves as a passionate tour guide through the music and some of the locales from which it originated.

"We're trying to draw viewers in and get them to follow more enthusiastically their favorite players," says Tilson Thomas. "We want people to be able to relate to them in the same way they relate to sports heroes, because they deserve to be."

Naturally, Tilson Thomas is a major draw himself. Throughout the shows, he comes across as an old-hat professor, but one who waxes away talking down to the neophytes — and one who is passionate enough to make classical music seem, well, pretty darn cool.

"A big misconception about classical music is that it's proper music, or good-two-shoes music," he explains. "On the contrary, it's extremely provocative music. And ultimately it's an out-there-in-the-edge style of music made up of different streams that pull on every one of our emotions."

Chuck Barney is the Times TV critic. Reach him at 515-652-2885 or chubarney@comcast.net.