



SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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POST-EVENT INFORMATION: SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY OPENING NIGHT GALA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony celebrated the start of their 24th season together on Wednesday, September 5, with an [Opening Night Gala](#) performance in Davies Symphony Hall, featuring legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman. Perlman performed music from beloved Hollywood film scores and was joined on stage by students of his exceptional Perlman Music Program for a special and unique performance of J.S. Bach's Concerto No. 3 in D minor for Two Violins, Strings, and Continuo. The Orchestra's sold-out 107th opening also featured Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the SF Symphony in showpieces by Gershwin and Liszt.

Prior to the Gala Concert, the SF Symphony hosted four separate formal dinners, all beginning at 6pm, with cocktail receptions beginning at 5pm. The Patrons' Dinner was the largest and took place in the Tented Pavilion next to Davies Symphony Hall. The Symphony Supper and Symphonix Dinner took place at City Hall's Grand Rotunda and North Light Court, respectively, and the fourth dinner was in the Wattis Room of Davies Hall. Proceeds from the Opening Night Gala benefit the San Francisco Symphony's myriad artistic, education, and community programs, which serve nearly 100,000 children, students, educators, and families in the Bay Area each year.

Following the Gala concert, all guests enjoyed a high-energy indoor-outdoor After-Party in the Tented Pavilion and on Grove Street, which included entertainment from [DJLI](#) and [The Cheeseballs](#), as well as complimentary drinks and food from an array of local San Francisco establishments including Dobbs Ferry Restaurant & Bar, Doppio Zero, Nightbird, The Meatball Bar, Smuggler's Cove, Salt & Straw, Souvla, Monsieur Benjamin, Johnny Doughnuts, The Absinthe Group, Cala, August (1) Five, Corridor Restaurant, Proposition Chicken, Revelry Bistro, Humphry Slocombe, Palm House, The Dorian, and Sutro's at The Cliff House.

GALA CHAIRS

Opening Night Gala Chairs: James Hormel & Michael Nguyen-Hormel

Wattis Room Dinner Chair: Ann Paras

Symphony Supper Chairs: Ellie Pollak & Andrea Palmer

Symphonix Dinner Chairs: Kevin Yeh & Catherine Meng and Ariel Anaya & Jerica Lee

After-Party Chair: Catherine Geeslin

Honorary Chair: Diane B. Wilsey

DÉCOR BY BLUEPRINT STUDIOS

A harmonic medley of iconic imagery, woven into a contemporary tapestry of impressionism, set the scene for the San Francisco Symphony's 2018 Opening Night Gala. The Gala showcased an extravagant display of inspired designs and complex technical ingenuity requiring over 100 Blueprint Studios production team members to execute nine events throughout the evening, including four simultaneous dinners.

The opening night celebration on September 5th began with Symphony enthusiasts striding over a bouquet of flowers woven into the arrival carpet while passing through a series of lenticular images. Artistry in movement was ever present in the setting of classic black, white, gold, and rose tones. This dramatic motif was interwoven throughout all event areas spanning from San Francisco City Hall and Davies Symphony Hall, and the most opulent of all—the Patrons' Pavilion.

The 12,000 square foot Patrons' Pavilion embraced the emboldened patterns and colors of the arrival experience and hosted one of the evening's four simultaneous dinners. The ceiling was draped in midnight black dupioni and framed the over 300 gold and rose gold glass illuminated pendants that cascaded at varying heights throughout the space. Walls filled with colossal bouquets of impressionistic flowers book-ended a room set with a multitude of elegant dining arrangements. From traditional round tables draped with luxurious linens and tufted leather seats to contemporary black mirrored king tables and opaque acrylic chairs, this dining area was designed to embrace the uniqueness and diversity of the attendees while celebrating an artistry that ties us together.

Since 2009, Blueprint Studios has been the exclusive designer of the San Francisco Symphony's Opening Night Gala, orchestrating every stage of the design for this high-profile celebration.

PRODUCTION PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

The décor for all cocktail receptions and dinners, the pre-concert reception in Davies Symphony Hall, and the After-Party was created by **Blueprint Studios**. Catering for all four dinners was provided by **McCalls Catering and Events**. Other Opening Night Gala production partners are **Got Light**, **Hensley Event Resources**, and **Global Gourmet**. Wine for the Patrons' Dinner was generously provided by **Hafner Vineyard**.

Opening Night Gala was made possible through the generous support of Presenting Sponsors **Franklin Templeton Investments** and **Fiduciary Trust International**, Patrons' Dinner Sponsor **Kaiser Permanente** and Signature Education Sponsor **Neiman Marcus/The Heart of Neiman Marcus Foundation**. Opening Gala guest artist was underwritten by **James Hormel & Michael Nguyen-Hormel**.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Patrons' Dinner (Tented Pavilion): 700 guests; price range \$1,750–\$10,000

Wattis Room Dinner: 50 guests; price \$1,600

Symphony Supper (City Hall – Rotunda): 380 guests; price range \$495–\$850

Symphonix Dinner (City Hall – North Light Court): 395 guests; price range \$495–\$750

Concert only: 1250 guests; price range \$180–\$300

The Opening Night Gala benefits the SF Symphony's myriad artistic, community, and education programs.

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The San Francisco Symphony serves its community and beyond with a comprehensive range of education programs, providing five consecutive years of equitable access to music education for all students in San Francisco's public elementary schools, and support for every band and orchestra program in SF's public middle schools and high schools—all provided free of charge. Throughout the Greater Bay Area, the San Francisco Symphony's education programs provide opportunities for young people to engage with music through family-friendly performances and heritage events; interactive concerts for school groups; music education and training programs in schools; resources for teachers, parents, and students; and the prestigious tuition-free SFS Youth Orchestra.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY 2018 OPENING NIGHT GALA

[Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 8 pm](#)

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

[Itzhak Perlman](#) violin

Students of the [Perlman Music Program](#)

San Francisco Symphony

LISZT

Mephisto Waltz No. 1 for Orchestra

J.S. BACH

Concerto No. 3 in D minor for Two Violins, Strings, and Continuo, BWV 1043

GERSHWIN

Cuban Overture

GARDEL

Tango from *Scent of a Woman*

BARRY

Main Title from *Out of Africa*

John WILLIAMS

Theme from *Schindler's List*

Ennio MORRICONE
GERSHWIN

Love Theme from *Cinema Paradiso*
An American in Paris

- 5pm Cocktail Reception for Patrons' Dinner and Wattis Room Dinner, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall Lobby
5pm Cocktail Reception for Symphony Supper and Symphonix Dinner Party, South Light Court – San Francisco City Hall
- 6pm Patrons' Dinner, Tented Pavilion
6pm Wattis Room Dinner, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
6pm Symphony Supper, Rotunda – San Francisco City Hall
6pm Symphonix Dinner Party, North Light Court – San Francisco City Hall
- 7pm Complimentary wine reception for all concert guests, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
8pm Gala Concert, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
10pm After-Party for all concert guests, Tented Pavilion and Grove Street

Formal dinner packages began at \$495 and included a 5pm cocktail reception, 6pm dinner, the After-Party in the Tented Pavilion and on Grove Street, and premium seating for the concert. Dinner packages were available by contacting the Volunteer Council at (415) 503-5500 or online at www.sfsymphony.org/gala.

Concert tickets were \$180 and \$300 and included a complimentary pre-concert wine reception, as well as access to the After-Party in the Tented Pavilion. Tickets were available by calling the box office at 415-864-6000, at www.sfsymphony.org/gala, or at the box office located on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street.

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#):



The San Francisco Symphony receives support from over 10,000 individual donors and 150 partner institutions.

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The Opening Night Gala guest artist is underwritten by James Hormel & Michael Nguyen-Hormel.

Opening Night Gala production partners are Blueprint Studios, Got Light, Hensley Event Resources, McCalls Catering and Events, and Global Gourmet Catering.

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