

Classical, with a Twist

The San Francisco Symphony finds new ways to inspire and entertain. BY IVY LAMB

The San Francisco Symphony (SFS) just celebrated its 100th season. But its history is just one aspect that makes it vital to the city's cultural landscape.

Each year, the SFS presents more than 200 concerts and reaches nearly 600,000 people.

Under the baton of music director Michael Tilson Thomas — he's led the symphony since 1995 — the SFS has garnered acclaim for its exceptional musicianship and innovative programming. For example, in its centennial season the orchestra reprised its American Mavericks Festival, which showcased the work of pioneering modern American composers.

Highlights of the 2012–2013 season include performances by guest artists Renée Fleming, Itzhak Perlman, and András Schiff, among

many others, as well as the first concert performances by an orchestra of the complete music from Bernstein's *West Side Story*.

The SFS also strives to make classical music accessible to a wider audience.

The symphony not only performs at home in Davies Symphony Hall, it also tours the U.S., Europe, and Asia. The SFS brings music into the San Francisco Unified School District's classrooms, K–12, free of charge. And in 2006, SFS launched Keeping Score, a multiyear, multimedia program that included a national PBS television series, an interactive website, a national radio series, and much more.

Since its founding in 1911, the SFS has delighted audiences in San Francisco and around the globe. And as the symphony looks ahead, it aims to do just that for another 100 years.

Below: Michael Tilson Thomas and the SF Symphony, low brass section



San Francisco Symphony

Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA
415.864.6000
sfsymphony.org

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

