

Contact: Public Relations
San Francisco Symphony
(415) 503-5474
publicrelations@sfsymphony.org
www.sfsymphony.org/pressroom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Revised March 25, 2009



Pictured from Left to Right: Lemony Snicket and Art by Carson Ellis, from *The Composer is Dead*, HarperCollins, 2009

**LEMONY SNICKET NARRATES *THE COMPOSER IS DEAD*
AT THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S *MUSIC FOR FAMILIES* PERFORMANCES
IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL MARCH 29
AND FLINT CENTER ON APRIL 4**

**SFS recording accompanies new illustrated *Composer is Dead* book,
published March 3 by HarperCollins Children's Books**

WHAT: *The Composer is Dead*, a [San Francisco Symphony](http://www.sfsymphony.org) (SFS) commission by San Francisco composer and SFS Youth Orchestra alumnus [Nathaniel Stookey](http://www.nathanielstookey.com), with narration written and performed by popular children's author [Lemony Snicket](http://www.lemosnicket.com) (*A Series of Unfortunate Events*), will be presented as part of the San Francisco Symphony's *Music for Families* series on Sunday, March 29 at Davies Symphony Hall and Saturday, April 4 at the Flint Center in Cupertino.

The Composer is Dead is a collaborative effort by the [San Francisco Symphony](http://www.sfsymphony.org), Lemony Snicket, and Stookey that helps make the symphony orchestra and classical music more accessible and irresistible for children of all ages. A new work building on the tradition of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, its music and narration introduce the musical instruments and shed light on the inner workings of the Orchestra, all in the form of a whodunit murder mystery. A video interview with Snicket and Stookey on *The Composer is Dead* is posted on the SFS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/sfsymphony.

For this special performance, Lemony Snicket himself performs the narration with the grim hilarity that made the best-selling books in his *A Series of Unfortunate Events* so popular. Former SFS Resident Conductor Edwin Outwater leads the Orchestra.

An audio CD of the San Francisco Symphony's 2006 live recording of *The Composer is Dead* will be included with a new picture book adaptation of the work, with art by [Carson Ellis](#), an acclaimed illustrator known for her album artwork for [The Decemberists](#). The book and accompanying CD published by HarperCollins Children's Books became available on March 3 and is available from the Symphony Store in Davies Symphony Hall, online at shopsfsymphony.org, and at other book retailers.

The SFS *Music for Families* performances of *The Composer is Dead* in March and April are two of only three orchestral presentations taking place this spring in which Lemony Snicket appears as narrator. The other is March 7 at Carnegie Hall.

The *Music for Families* series is a vital part of the San Francisco Symphony's commitment to educating and nurturing the musical needs of its community. Designed for Bay Area families, the concerts include an afternoon of great music and informative talks. All ticket-buyers receive free materials by mail in advance of each concert to help them prepare for their musical adventure and to reinforce the concepts to which they will be introduced. These concerts offer the entire family the opportunity to share the joy and discovery of music making, introducing families to the wonders of a live symphony concert. *Music for Families* concerts are recommended for children ages seven and older.

WHO: Edwin Outwater, conductor ([Click here for bio.](#))
Lemony Snicket, narrator ([Click here for bio.](#))
San Francisco Symphony

PROGRAM: Wagner/Prelude to Act III of *Lohengrin*
Beethoven/Funeral March from Symphony No. 3, *Eroica* (excerpt)
Mahler/Opening measures of Symphony No. 5
Schubert/Allegro moderato from First Movement of Symphony No. 8, *Unfinished* (excerpt)
Tchaikovsky/Finale from Symphony No. 6, *Pathétique* (excerpt)
Berlioz/"Dream of a Witches' Sabbath" from *Symphonie fantastique* (excerpt)
[Nathaniel Stookey](#)/Funeral March from *The Composer is Dead*
[Nathaniel Stookey](#), Lyrics by Lemony Snicket/ *The Composer is Dead*

WHEN/WHERE: Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 p.m. in Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
Saturday, April 4 at 3:00 p.m. at the Flint Center on the De Anza College campus in Cupertino.

TICKETS: Recommended for children ages seven and older. Davies Symphony Hall tickets are \$15-\$55 for adults and \$7.50-\$27.50 for children age 12 and under. Flint Center tickets are \$37-\$55 for adults and \$18.50-\$27.50 for children age 12 and under. Tickets available through the SFS Box Office at (415) 864-6000, or at sfsymphony.org.

BOOK AND CD: *The Composer is Dead* book and accompanying CD featuring the San Francisco Symphony can be preordered for \$17.99 online at the Symphony Store at shopsfsymphony.org. The book and CD will also be available for purchase at the Symphony Store at Davies Symphony Hall and at retail outlets everywhere beginning March 3.

The concert of March 29 is made possible through the generosity of Macy's Foundation.

*Music for Families concerts at Flint Center are supported by a grant from
The James Irvine Foundation's Artistic Innovation Fund.*

Additional support for the April 4 concert is provided by The Christensen Fund.

-SFS-