

AMERICAN MAVERICKS FACT SHEET

>> OVERVIEW

American Mavericks™ is a groundbreaking new radio and Internet series produced by Minnesota Public Radio in association with the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director. Inspired by the adventurous programming of the San Francisco Symphony and its concert festival of the same name, *American Mavericks* features the iconoclastic, tradition-breaking composers who shaped the development of American music — from Charles Ives and Laurie Anderson to Aaron Copland and John Adams.

The 13-week radio series tells the story of the distinctly American music that grew along with the country. Interviews with composers and discussion with San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas highlight this celebration of musical inspiration and creativity.

>> THE AMERICAN MAVERICKS TEAM

Suzanne Vega, renowned for her musical innovation, hosts this gathering of entertaining and compelling stories, personalities and performances. Vega is a pop-folk music icon who, as a vanguard singer-songwriter in the 1980s, cleared the way for a wave of female artists that followed. Known for her musical and lyrical inventiveness, Vega contributes substantially to the program's spirit of earnest and unpretentious exploration.

Producer Tom Voegeli has directed a talented and dedicated production team in designing the program's approach and sound, both on the radio and the Web. Associate producers Alan Baker and Gabrielle Zuckerman, and Web producer Preston Wright have searched the continent, doing research and gathering recordings and interviews. Contributors to the series include some of the most prominent names in contemporary American music:

Kyle Gann, the program's writer, is music critic for the *Village Voice* and a long-time commentator on contemporary American music.

Charles Amirkhania, executive director of the Other Minds Festival, guided the producers through the historic interviews in the substantial KPFA radio archive.

Vivian Perlis, director of the Oral History American Music collection at Yale University.

Michael Tilson Thomas, artistic director and conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, who originated the *American Mavericks* concert series on which the radio program is based.

>> WEB

American Mavericks incorporates a rich Web component that presents the music, words and artwork of the composers featured in the series. The site, www.musicmavericks.org, contains extensive streaming audio, extended interviews and an e-studio that invites audiences to play with the concepts featured in the series. Visitors to the site can be their own mavericks by creating music on virtual instruments designed especially for this project.

>> ACCESS

American Mavericks is produced by Minnesota Public Radio in association with the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director. *American Mavericks* is distributed by Public Radio International, and has been carried by public radio stations nationwide since April 2003.

American Mavericks is made possible by a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.