



**artist:** Michael Tilson Thomas, John Adams  
 St. Lawrence String Quartet  
 San Francisco Symphony  
**title:** Adams: Absolute Jest, Grand Pianola Music  
**price:** Premium price (Hybrid SACD)  
**release date:** August 2015  
**selection number:** SFS 0063  
**bar code:** 82196006320

**about the release**

Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony join forces with America’s most-performed living composer, John Adams, in a colossal album featuring Adams’s *Absolute Jest* and *Grand Pianola Music*. Hear Adams’s inspired and witty take on Beethoven’s spirited scherzos in this first-ever recording of his SFS- commissioned *Absolute Jest*. Also featured is *Grand Pianola Music*, with its tongue-in-cheek allusions to

Beethoven’s Emperor Concerto, written for and premiered by the SFS. Both works speak to the deeply personal and vital relationship of some of the top musicians of our time: John Adams, MTT, and the SFS.

**critical acclaim for John Adams, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony**

“exuberance and skill ... Adams combines his resources into a heady blend that is by turns translucent and rumblingly grand.” – *San Francisco Chronicle* (on *Grand Pianola Music*)

“great entertainment ... it got a hot performance under Tilson Thomas. Subtle amplification is part of the postmodern package and the jumpy St. Lawrence was so energized that you might have thought sound designer Mark Grey had wired the quartet’s seats.” – *Los Angeles Times* (on the premiere performance of *Absolute Jest*)

**performance dates**

27, 28 August	Edinburgh Festival	Usher Hall
30, 31 August	London, BBC Proms	Royal Albert Hall
3 September	Wiesbaden, Rheingau Festival	Kurhaus
4 September	Berlin Festival	Philharmonie
6, 7 September	Bucharest, George Enescu Festival	Sala Palatulul
9, 11 September	Lucerne Festival in Summer	Kultur-und Kongresszentrum
12 September	Luxembourg	Philharmonie
13 September	Amsterdam	Concertgebouw
14 September	Paris	Philharmonie

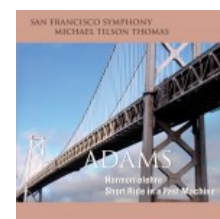
**summary**

Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony offer the world-premiere recording of John Adams’ *Absolute Jest*, commissioned by the orchestra, alongside the composer’s *Grand Pianola Music*, another SFS commission from 30 years earlier.

**tracklist**

<b>John Adams</b> (b. 1947)	
Absolute Jest (25:40)	Grand Pianola Music (31:54)
St. Lawrence String Quartet	Orli Shaham and Marc-André Hamelin, piano
Conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas	Synergy Vocals
1. Beginning (10:35)	Conducted by John Adams
2. Presto (3:30)	7. Part 1 (15:23)
3. Lo stesso tempo (1:07)	8. Part 1 – Slow (7:46)
4. Meno mosso (3:18)	9. Part 2, On the Dominant Divide (8:45)
5. Vivacissimo (1:49)	
6. Prestissimo (5:21)	

**also available**



Adams Harmonielehre,