

April 2003

**WORLD PREMIERE OF ADAMS' *MY FATHER KNEW CHARLES IVES*, WITH TILSON THOMAS CONDUCTING SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

The latest orchestral work by **John Adams**, titled *My Father Knew Charles Ives*, makes its debut on Wednesday, April 30 (8 pm) with Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the San Francisco Symphony. The program at Davies Symphony Hall is repeated on Thursday, May 1 (2 pm), and Friday, May 2 (8 pm).

the composer's musical  
childhood

*My Father Knew Charles Ives*, a major essay lasting approximately 25 minutes, was commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony. Says Adams, "*My Father Knew Charles Ives* is about my musical childhood, growing up in a small New England town, playing in marching bands with my father and being exposed to the work of Thoreau, Emerson and Ives at an early age. The piece is, in a sense, my own Proustian madeleine, but with a Yankee flavor. There are three movements, each with an Ivesian title: *Concord*, *The Lake* and *The Mountain*. The Concord in this case, however, is Concord, New Hampshire, my home town. The lake is Lake Winnepesaukee, where my grandfather owned a dance hall for thirty years. And the mountain is the one I could see from behind the family house. The work is written for Michael Tilson Thomas, a friend and, like me, an admirer of Charles Ives."

"An American Master"  
continues

Soon after the premiere of *My Father Knew Charles Ives*, Lincoln Center's Adams festival resumes, May 11-17. Highlights include the New York premiere of Penny Woolcock's compassionate and deeply moving film version of *The Death of Klinghoffer* (May 13, Walter Reade Theater); the New York premiere of *Guide to Strange Places*, choreographed by Peter Martins for New York City Ballet; and the London Sinfonietta in a program of ensemble works, including *Chamber Symphony* and *Gnarly Buttons*, on May 17 at Alice Tully Hall with the composer conducting.