



# Meet MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

WOW—you've never seen anything like *this* before!! Tall (almost six feet) with a shock of shaggy, beautiful dark brown hair, and flashing eyes that change from brown to blue to green, depending on his mood—young and handsome Michael Tilson Thomas is fast becoming one of the finest classical music conductors in musical history! Maybe you've always turned up your nose at classical music (perhaps thinking it's something for "squares" only), but conductors of the great symphony orchestras are getting younger and groovier—and with that comes a host of brand new, bright ideas about music that are going to make you flip out!

Dynamic Michael Tilson Thomas is just such a conductor. He strongly believes that people should "...get rid of the notion

that classical music is something boring"—and dig right into the long hair stuff! And that's just what he's doing—as Associate Conductor for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Music Director for the Buffalo Symphony—in his own determined and dashing way!

Michael grew up in a musical, theatrical family and began playing the piano when he was only five. He was always "out of it," he recalls, because at ten he was more interested in practicing the piano than in playing baseball with his school chums. Now, of course, he thinks the time spent with his music was well worth it, and he feels that if *you* have something you *want* to do that's *different*, you should go ahead and *do* it! Going along with the crowd—if you want to be doing something else—won't do *you* any good in the long run.

Michael wants you to listen to classical music—and *all* music, for that matter—the same way you watch a movie. He says, "Take your mind and go into the music. Really listen—and explore it on your own, instead of letting it wash over you. Let the highs and the lows of the music hit you—be an active listener instead of a passive one. Try feeling the music—the rhythm, the combinations of notes, the patterns and the musical images. You might have to play a symphony a few more times than the latest pop hit, but after a couple of listens, classical music will really *grow* on you and you'll find it soon has a special meaning for you."

So clear your mind, maybe even close your eyes, and get ready for one of the most exciting musical experiences of your entire life! Get a copy of Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra playing Debussy's *Images* and *Afternoon Of A Faun*, and Tchaikovsky's *Winter Dreams: Symphony No. 1*—both on the Deutsche Grammophon label. Once you've tried listening to these the way Michael wants you to, no doubt *you*—like millions of music lovers in America and abroad—will be completely hooked on Michael's magical method of making every note important.

And watch the news of symphony concerts in or near your hometown, cos if you're very lucky—Michael Tilson Thomas may be conducting near you this fall! In the meantime, you have all summer to familiarize yourself with this magnificent maestro's technique of listening to music! Although he hasn't recorded it himself yet, MTT feels that—after you've become friendly with Debussy and Tchaikovsky—you should give a special listen to Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*—"a towering, incredibly great masterpiece."

So say hello to, give a listen to, and watch for Michael Tilson Thomas—because this terrifically talented young man is going to conduct his way straight into your heart!!



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