

Mixed Melodies ... John Fonville



After the shock of Harvey's announcement that he was stepping down as the artistic director/conductor of the La Jolla Symphony, it was very heartening to see several of my colleagues step forward to make sure the symphony would continue. Most notably Steve Schick and Rand Steiger offered to conduct the symphony this year and in future years, if needed. I too, was excited about the possibility of working with this excellent group of musicians dedicated to the quality performance of important historical works and with newer works seldom heard here, or anywhere else for that matter. We all know that this interim situation of guest conductors is not optimum for the organization, but on an artistic level I think it will be an exciting period of working with a number of engaged faculty and gifted outside guest conductors. It has been a very positive and eye-opening experience to see firsthand the dedication of so many

individuals and musicians who work tirelessly for this treasured musical organization, not the least of which is Tom Nee, who was and remains such a vital force for and with the symphony.

It was, in fact, Tom who helped put this program together. He asked me for a list of works that I might want to conduct. I complied with a list of composers whose work I feel is especially meaningful to me and for which I might have an affinity. Mozart was on the list, but Brahms' Academic Festival Overture that is at the same time lean, reserved and joyous. Or rather, as Donald Teeters states in his program notes, "a potpourri of German student songs celebrating the less intellectual aspects of college life: wenching, wining, and freshman initiation!"

Foremost on my list of composers was Debussy. While the surface of his music is sensuous and seductive, it is the interior emotions represented in the music that interest me most profoundly. Much has been written about the influence on Debussy by Joseph Turner's paintings in general, and *The Great Wave of Kanogawa* by Hokusai specifically, and these images are certainly compelling in regard to *La Mer*. But if we take Debussy at his word, it is the deeper aspects of the musical experience that draw not only on the outward power and intensity of nature but the more illusive and vague interior responses to it that could only exist in the imagination fueled by memory. As Debussy states, "But I have an endless store of memories, and to my mind, they are worth more than the reality, whose beauty often deadens thought."

In this issue...

- Mixed Melodies
- The Cymbal of our Quest: \$\$\$\$
- Love in the Symphony (Part 3)
- Mariachi news
- News from Jeanne Stutzer
- LJSC Casino Night
- Annual Wine Tasting
- Article watch

Broken finger? Vocal cord nodules? If you are out of commission for a while, continue participating by volunteering at the LJS&C office...

One of the most rewarding experiences for me has been the premiering of new works by living composers. To give life to something never heard before is perhaps the greatest satisfaction a performer can have. This is certainly true in Yumiko Morita's new work *Echoes of a Wave*. I have only heard this work in my mind, for as I write this, we have yet to rehearse the work. But in talking to Yumiko and in studying the score, I believe it is a work that will pair perfectly with Debussy's and one that I feel certain will elicit a very positive response from listeners.

[Editor's note: John Fonville is currently the Chair of the UCSD Department of Music and is an accomplished flutist.]



The Cymbal of Our Quest: \$\$\$\$... Amee Wood

Let me snare your attention. The tenor of this opus is the major - not minor - matter of money. The time has come when we need to sing for our supper and pay the piper. You may feel I am harping on this issue; believe me, your donation in dues is one key to the success of this organization. I won't string you along - fiscally we are in the bass-ment. But it ain't over 'til the Fat Lady sings. So look sharp, don't B flat, and augment our coffers by paying your dues. Remember, there are no strings attached; dues are tax deductible. Let there be no need to bang the drum slowly or play the fife lowly. Don't fiddle while Rome burns or sing the blues. Keep a song in your heart, chime in and help us trumpet our success by keeping the LJS&C alive with the sound of music.



Love in the Symphony (Part 3)

Janet and Steve Shields

Steve has been playing clarinet, bass clarinet, and saxophone in the Orchestra since 1971, and sings in the Chorus whenever he can, especially on summer tours. Janet played bassoon and occasionally clarinet in the Orchestra for several years in the '70s, and has been singing alto in the Chorus for the last several years. They both love this musical experience, and are so appreciative of the wonderful conductors they've worked under, as well as the volunteers that continue to make this experience possible! It has meant more to them than they can say.



Although they both ended up in science, music was a major part of their lives as they grew up. Janet, growing up in California, started piano at age 4 and then concentrated on clarinet, playing in many school and outside groups such as Idyllwild and the Music Academy of the West. Steve played baritone and alto saxophone in excellent school programs and other groups in the Atlanta area, starting in 5th grade. Although they both love music, they each decided to go into physics, and met at MIT where they were students, playing in the concert band. Janet says, "I'll always remember the first day in band, when one of the other clarinetists pointed out Steve as a really nice guy - he was wearing a yellow shirt and had a cheerful laugh." Steve was in band, jazz band, and The Gilbert & Sullivan Society, while Janet played in band and orchestra. They also enjoyed doing physics labs together, starting with a semester-long project on the physics of the clarinet tone. Later, they spent their senior year working together in a low temperature lab, doing a joint bachelor's thesis in experimental physics of superfluid helium.

Contributors:

Barbara Peisch, Ed.

Mea Daum

Beda Farrell

John Fonville

Joan Forrest

Vicki Heins-Shaw

Sharon Jones

Jeff Nevin

Ann Secord

Janet Shields

Sean Peisert

Amee Wood

Enjoy hearing gossip about the seamier side of the LJS&C? Join us around the water cooler while volunteering...

Steve's story with the La Jolla Symphony is pretty straightforward. He and Janet were married and moved to San Diego in 1971 when Steve went to grad school at UCSD. He auditioned for the bass clarinet position and passed. As Steve recalls, "I was the only candidate who auditioned on bass clarinet." He's loved it ever since. "I always expected Tom [Nee] to come up to me one day and tell me it was time for me to retire from the Orchestra; however, he retired first!" When he has the chance, Steve loves to sing bass with the Chorus, and has gone on several summer tours as a singer.

Janet's story is a little more complex. As a non-student, Janet was not allowed to audition for the clarinet section. She played in several other groups around town. A couple of times when the first clarinetist for the LJS was sick, Janet stepped in and sight-read the concert. But she couldn't audition for a regular seat in LJS. So, she asked Tom what she had to learn to get in, and was told "bassoon!" It took a year of very hard work to become good enough to get into the Orchestra playing bassoon, but this led to several years of fun in the Orchestra.

During the years when their kids were growing up, Janet cut back and only played in a less time-demanding woodwind quintet. Once the kids were grown, she thought it would be fun to tackle something new, and started learning to sing. "Initially, I had



the volume of a mouse and lyric quality of a kazoo, and was hoarse after a half hour. But singing definitely provided a new challenge!" says Janet. After awhile, David accepted her into the Chorus with some trepidation, but over the years she's become a decent singer. The Chorus is wonderful and extremely demanding, musically. Many of the challenges are the same for singers and instrumentalists. The challenge to produce a beautiful sound is an ongoing work of many years. It's a challenge to play or sing a

running passage as smooth as a river, but with each note clear as a crystal drop of water. But other challenges are different. With first clarinet or bassoon, one challenge is to beautifully interpret the solos, and play with strength and soul. With voice, it's the same, but now you've got to do it as a clone of the other 30 people in your section – which means that suddenly precision in endings and vowel sounds takes on a whole new dimension of importance. But it's wonderful to experience Brahms both as a clarinetist and as a vocalist.

Today, both Steve and Janet work in applied physics and engineering. Steve is an engineering fellow at Raytheon, working in ship communication design, and Janet is a principal engineer at UCSD's Scripps Institute of Oceanography, heading a small research group in atmospheric optics. But now that the kids, ages 26 and 28, are grown, they have much more time for music. They also love camping and backpacking, and enjoy reading and studying Native American art. Steve likes to golf, and Janet loves having her two Samoyed dogs race while pulling her on a scooter.

This music program is definitely a highlight in the Shields' lives, and they'd like to thank all conductors and fellow musicians for the wonderful music experience, and thank the many volunteers who make this possible.



Janet being pulled by her two Samoyed dogs

Tutti is online!

Thanks to Sean Peisert, you can download this and previous issues of *Tutti* from:

lajollasympphony.com/download/tutti

Grateful for how the LJS&C has enriched your life?
Show thanks by volunteering...

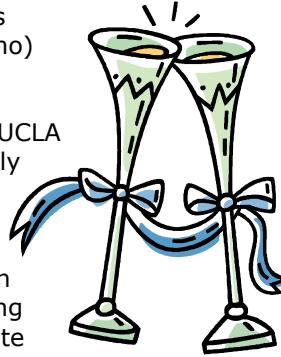


Sean Peisert and Kathryn Croom

Kathryn Croom (recently appointed Principal Flute) and Sean Peisert (Principal Percussion) first met at the La Jolla Symphony concert in March 2004, when Sean saw Kathryn walking across the stage after a concert, and bolted out of his chair to introduce himself to her. It was Kathryn's first concert with the LJS&C, after having moved back to her native San Diego from graduate school in Boston. Sean has been playing with the Orchestra since September 2000. Oddly enough, despite Kathryn's obvious interest, Sean did not ask Kathryn out then. Nor did he do so after their next meeting at the June 2004 concerts. Finally, after deciding that Sean was a bit slow on the uptake, Kathryn contacted the Orchestra manager at the time,

Susan Ung, and got Sean's email address and *she asked him* out on their first date. Over the course of the next year-and-a-half, and many concerts (and late-night, drunken soirees singing and playing Sean's piano) later, they are now engaged and living together in La Jolla.

Though she has two degrees in Flute Performance, a B.A. from UCLA and a M.M. from Boston University, Kathryn's day job is currently as an editor for The Governance Institute, a membership organization that advises boards of non-profit hospitals. Outside of her day job, Kathryn also teaches flute and piano, plays in flute competitions, and has auditioned for Michael Tilson Thomas, James Levine, and Daniel Barenboim. When not playing in the La Jolla Symphony or listening to Kathryn practice her flute and piccolo at home (which Sean loves), Sean is a computer security researcher and Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Computer Science at UCSD.



What happens after Sean finishes his doctorate is anyone's guess, but it will undoubtedly be a musical future. In the meantime, Kathryn and Sean are planning to be married in July 2006, in La Jolla. *They have dreams of a live orchestra at their wedding, composed of volunteers from the La Jolla Symphony, or at least LJS musicians whose arms are easily twisted.*

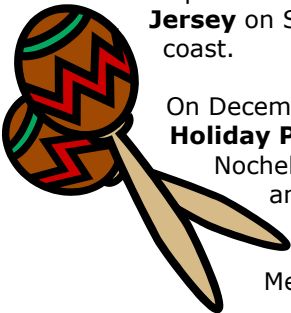
As they both love music, wine, and food, they are therefore, for obvious reasons, planning to honeymoon in Italy.



Mariachi News ... Jeff Nevín

Performances since the last Tutti

Mariachi Champaña Nevín performed at the **State Theatre in New Brunswick, New Jersey** on Saturday, December 10. This was our first trip to the east coast.



On December 16 - 18, we soloed with the **San Diego Symphony** for its **Holiday Pops!** concerts performing my suite "La Fiesta de la Nochebuena." It's really beautiful and features traditional Mexican and American Christmas carols, and also an original song by Oscar Amezcua (a member of the mariachi), all tied together with original music and arranged to depict a traditional Mexican Christmas Eve.

Need to contact the LJS&CA?

La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Assoc.

9500 Gilman Drive

Mail Code 0361

La Jolla, CA 92093

(858) 534-4637

www.lajollasympphony.com

Anne Merkelson,
Managing Director
amerkelson@ucsd.edu

Have an aging parent you'd love to get out of the house? Volunteer work available at the LJS&C...

New Books!

I have a big announcement that I've been dying to tell you about for a long time: **My mariachi method books are finally starting to come out!** I've been working on these books for years; Kjos Music (the most respected publisher of method books as far as I'm concerned) is publishing them, and they should be in music stores across the country this spring.

This is another example of mariachi's continuing evolution; the greater respect that this music is receiving from the "music establishment": we are performing with major symphony orchestras across the country, and major music publishers are now publishing mariachi music. This, the first complete and integrated mariachi method book distributed nationally by a major publisher, will help schools across the country to augment their musical offerings with mariachi music.

The violin book (the first of 8: violin, trumpet, harp, armonía, guitarrón, viola, cello/bass, teachers' edition) was unveiled at the Midwest Bandmaster's Convention. And here's the best part: you can write or call the Neil A. Kjos Music Company at 1-800-797-5567 or email@kjos.com to sign up to receive a free sample copy when the books are available!



"Encontramos en el libro de Jeff el mejor camino para entender y aprender la verdadera esencia de la música de mariachi. Lo recomendamos ampliamente."

"We find in Jeff's book the best means of understanding and learning the true essence of mariachi music. We recommend it very highly indeed."

Rubén Fuentes - Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán
Octubre de 2005



Is there something you'd like to see in Tutti? Like what you see...or maybe you don't?

Send feedback to the editor!

barbara@peisch.com

Tired of the same old routine? Put some variety in your life by volunteering with the LJS&C...



News from Jeanne Stutzer ... Submitted by Mea Daum

It seems that our Chorus dress maven, Jeanne Stutzer, has been missing in action. But she has good reason! She says, "I haven't fallen off the face of the earth. I am still in Northern California helping my son, his wife and twins. The babies, born December 15, had serious complications or I'd be home by now." Things have improved since this first report. She later has said that, "Thankfully the twins, Jonathan and Gabrielle Stutzer, are doing much better, gaining weight and behaving like newborns with no life-threatening complications. Their blood platelets were critically low, 4,000 and 6,000 when they should have been over 250,000. This condition, NAIT, is very rare. Gabrielle coded blue in her mother's arms the day after she was born and was airlifted to UCSF Medical Center for platelet transfusion. Jonathan followed with his mother in ambulance (a six hour drive in stormy weather) the next day. It's been scary, but the outcome is good.

"I'll be back on January 26th and am really looking forward to singing again."

This newsletter has come out after your return, so we all say, "Welcome back, Jeanne, and congratulations!"



Casino Night ... Ann Secord

Where: UCSD Institute of the Americas

When: Friday, February 24, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Phone: (858) 534-4637

Cost: \$20 per person

We're celebrating Fat Tuesday on a Friday!

Viejas Casino is providing the fun with roulette, craps, poker (Texas Hold'em) and blackjack tables. Start the evening with 80 chips... buy more if Lady Luck takes her time finding you!

Start the evening with 100 chips!

Light appetizers, a drink ticket and an opportunity drawing ticket are also included in the admission price.

Also available: California Pizza Kitchen pizza slices (\$2), beer or wine (\$3), soda or water (\$1).

An opportunity drawing will be held at the end of the evening. Items include a weekend for two at Laughlin resort, dining certificates for Karl Strauss and California Pizza Kitchen, a case of professional clay poker chips and wine baskets courtesy of Robert Whitley.

The pleasure of your company helps to support a variety of La Jolla Symphony & Chorus programs, including Music Outreach, Young Artists and the Tom Nee Commission.

Join us! All bets are on!

More info and RSVP at:

<http://www.evite.com/pages/invite/viewInvite.jsp?inviteId=HVRWSWLMBUOIXJVAPPW&li=iq&src=email>



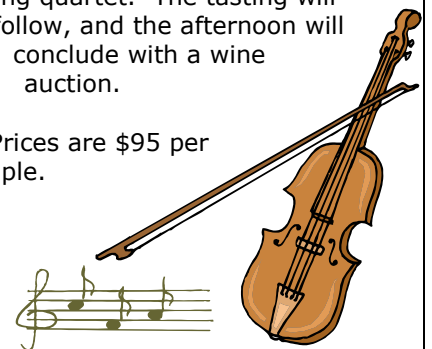
Annual Wine Tasting ... Joan Forrest

The fourth annual wine tasting fundraiser is to be held on April 1 this year. It will be from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at the home of Walter and Judy Munk in La Jolla.

The festivities will start with a wine and cheese reception, accompanied by a string quartet. The tasting will follow, and the afternoon will conclude with a wine auction.

Prices are \$95 per person or \$175 per couple.

For information and reservations, contact the LJS&C Office at 858-534-4637.



Article Watch

A new, and I hope, semi-regular reference to interesting, music-related articles from various publications.

From Beda Farrell:

San Francisco Chronicle, November 17, 2005

"Playing music can be good for your brain - Stanford study finds it helps the understanding of language"

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/11/17/MNGQ9FPODP1.DTL>

by Carrie Sturrock, Chronical staff writer, who can be reached at csturrock@sfchronicle.com



San Francisco Chronicle, November 18, 2005

"Beethoven skull fragments resurface - Danville couple loan long-missing relics to university"

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/11/18/BAGLFFQEO91.DTL>

by Dave Murphy, Chronical staff writer, who can be reached at dmurphy@sfchronicle.com



From Barbara Peisch:

San Diego Union-Tribune, January 4, 2006

"Taking note of our words - Local scientist says how we speak influences the music we make"

http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20060104/news_lz1c04music.html

by Susan Brown, Quest intern.

Related story:

"We may be in rhythm, but out of sync"

http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20060104/news_1c04rhythm.html



From Sharon Jones:

This Week @UCSD, January 30, 2006

"L.A. and D.C. Concerts Celebrate UCSD Composers"

http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/thisweek/2006/jan/01_30_composers.asp

by Dirk Sutro, I



From Vicki Heins-Shaw:

@UCSD, January, 2006

"Martial Arts and Mariachis"

A short piece that covers the focus of the LJS&C, including the varied and unusual pieces we perform and a brief history of the LJS&C.

<http://alumni.ucsd.edu/magazine/vol3no1/campus/mariachis.htm>



If you find an interesting, music-related article, send the information about it to me at barbara@peisch.com. You may either send a link to the article or just the name and date of the publication, along with the title of the article, and I can find it online. You may also hand me the article during

rehearsal or mail it to me at:

Peisch Custom Software
3138 Roosevelt St, Suite O
Carlsbad, CA 92008

