

Conductor's Note



Sameer Patel, Conductor

“So, Sameer, what do you want to conduct?”

This is how my conversation with Steve Schick began over coffee back in December 2016. I took a deep breath, summoning the courage to say the two words that have sent marketing executives, orchestra managers, and audiences into a fit of anxiety for the past 100 years:

“Arnold Schoenberg.”

He didn't flinch. So I took it a step further.

“And I'd really love to perform some of the composers I've always admired but have never had the opportunity to conduct...Messiaen, Takemitsu...”

“Well, that sounds great,” Steve said.

Continued on Pg. 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

- P1 Conductor's Note
- P3 Luke Schulze
- P4 Note from the Executive Director
- P5 Pictures from the wine tasting
- P6 Article Watch

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This is one of the many reasons why I love Steve. Not only is he an incredible artist, but he's also a generous colleague who has taught me so much. And there was indeed an underlying lesson in that simple affirmation, one I've heard from him on countless occasions: that you should never underestimate your audience. This sense of imagination and courage is something I've enjoyed whenever I've attended a La Jolla Symphony and Chorus performance, and it's why I knew disclosing my aspirations wouldn't fall on deaf ears.

Over the next several weeks, Steve and I shot several emails back and forth, carefully crafting the program you're experiencing this weekend. It's bookended with the music of two mavericks, Arnold Schoenberg and Igor Stravinsky, who set the music world ablaze with their distinct musical language. While Schoenberg's music from fin-de-siècle Vienna calls forth the expressivity and angst of Europe before the outbreak of World War One, Stravinsky's music from the 1940s has a distinctly cosmopolitan flavor, with a melting pot of influences from jazz and rumba to Hollywood and the horrors of the world at war around him.

Schoenberg and Stravinsky's influence continued deep into the future, with the other three composers on this program continuing this exploration of sonority and movement. In Olivier Messiaen's final orchestral work, *Un Sourire*, he melds classical form with birdsong and humor. The Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu considered Messiaen his spiritual mentor, and in his *A Flock Descends into the Pentagonal Garden* we fall into a dreamlike world that melds east and west. And we have a work by a living composer, Hannah Lash, whose piece, *Eating Flowers*, was inspired by the great symphonic colorists that came before her and naturally propels the conversation of sonic exploration into our own time.

In closing, I want to thank Steve, Diane Salisbury, and the curious and passionate musicians of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus for the opportunity to delve into this music together.

Sameer Patel



Appointment of Luke Schulze as the Chorus's New Assistant Choral Conductor



LJS&C Choral Director Patrick Walders has named Luke Schulze to serve as the chorus's Assistant Choral Conductor. Schulze's duties will include leading some sectional preparations, assisting in rehearsals, providing input on musical issues, and supporting logistics for activities such as auditions and seating plans. Schulze will continue singing as a member of LJS&C's bass section where he has sung since joining the chorus in 2016.

Schulze holds a Ph.D. in music composition from UCSD and was a Conducting Fellow at the San Diego Summer Choral Festival Conducting Workshop 2017. He is a teacher at Thurgood Marshall Middle School in Scripps Ranch, where he directs chorus activities.

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* Board representatives to the ensembles

Note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to all in the orchestra and chorus for a memorable “Carmina Burana” in March. The concert was a big success, with ticket sales topping \$40,000. It was also the perfect platform at which to announce the 2018-19 season –off to a strong start with 120 “early bird” subscriptions to-date.

Hear our Young Artists in Two Free Concerts:

Winners of our 2018 Young Artists Competition will be performing at the beautiful community room of the Encinitas Library on May 16 and May 23. The one-hour concerts begin at 12 noon and are open to the public at no charge. Reservations are not necessary, but arrive early to get a good seat. The concerts are made possible by the City of Encinitas Arts & Culture Commission.

Become a LJS&C Concert Sponsor:

Consider becoming a concert sponsor for the just-announced 2018-19 concert season. Sponsorships are \$2,750, with four sponsorships available for each concert. If you are interested in learning more, contact me at 858-822-3774 or dsalisbury@lajollasympphony.com. Concert sponsors are acknowledged throughout the season in the Concert Program Guide, at the concert with Lobby signage, and with a personal thank-you from the stage. As a sponsor, you’ll also receive 4 complimentary tickets to your sponsored concert. Sponsoring is a great way to support the season and your favorite music.

Diane Salisbury

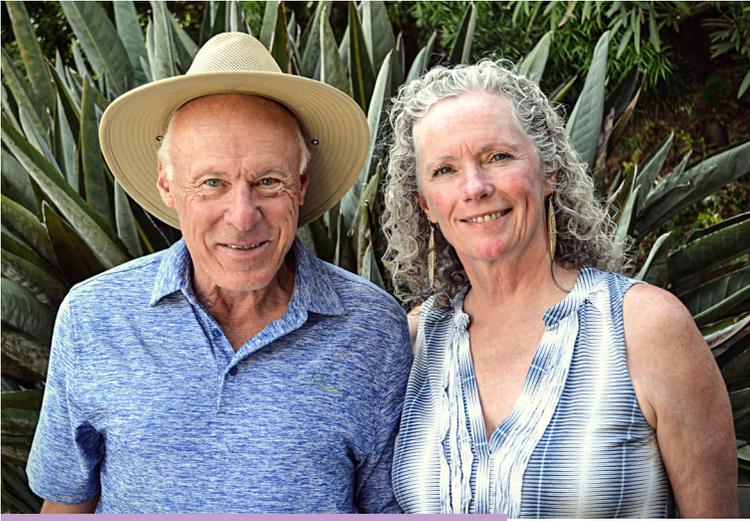
17th Annual Wine Tasting

On April 21, 75 guests joined in the fun at this year’s Wine Tasting – “Beyond the Tuscan Sun...” The focal point of the event was a blind tasting, moderated by syndicated wine columnist Robert Whitley, of red wines from Italian wine regions other than Tuscany. Complemented by a beautiful spring day, the event raised over \$8,000 for LJS&C.



Event Photos on Page 5

Photos from Beyond the Tuscan Sun...



Our hosts Robert Engler and Julie Ruedi



Happy raffle prize-winner Peter Gourevitch (chorus)



Gary Brown (orchestra) and his wife, Susan, with raffle winnings.

Executive Director Diane Salisbury and moderator Robert Whitley look for bidders on this 6-bottle boxed auction lot.



Erica (orchestra) and Ryan Gamble win a bottle of ZD Chardonnay.



A standing ovation for Robert Whitley

Article Watch



From Beda Farrell

Disabled musicians create music from brainwaves

Tim Muffett - BBC News

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/science-environment-35557908/disabled-musicians-create-music-from-brainwaves>

Dorset orchestra forms 'first ensemble of disabled musicians

BBC News

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-dorset-43407047/dorset-orchestra-forms-first-ensemble-of-disabled-musicians>

Lost Verdi Opera Score Discovered in Berlin Basement *By Fred Plotkin - WQXR*

<http://www.wqxr.org/story/lost-verdi-opera-score-discovered-berlin-basement/>



Save the Date

2018 GALA - OCTOBER 6

THE WESTGATE HOTEL

Need to contact the LJS&C?

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If you find an interesting, music-related article or web site, please send the information about it to Danbi at yoahn@ucsd.edu