

“TUTTI”

A Newsletter by and for the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Association

Vol. 2 No. 1

September 29, 1997

NOV. 1-2 “RESURRECTION” 43rd SEASON OPENER

A Solid Group Identity

Last year it was observed that the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Association was “suffering from an identity crisis” -- who are we, and where are we going? On a less global level, it had also become apparent that Chorus and Orchestra members, for example, generally don't know how the organization is run and who runs it, how the music is selected and the season created. And Board members and staff often aren't aware of what it takes to become a performing member, what happens at rehearsals, how concerts are produced, etc. But in fact, internal communication within the performing groups, as well

as among the Board, Orchestra, and Chorus, is crucial.

A “Communications Committee,” composed of concerned Board, Orchestra, and Chorus members, informally organized after the August '96 retreat. Last fall we premiered this bi-monthly newsletter to help solidify our group identity by broadening our understanding of the organization, providing information about, and facilitating communication among, our various components. To help foster interaction, several social events may also be again considered. If you have any questions, issues, or ideas -- or if you would like to participate -- please speak ① with your current newsletter representatives.

Board
Office

COLIN BLOOR (Acting)

BILL

MORGAN
Orchestra

TED

BIETZ
Chorus

BARBARA

PEISCH
UCSD Dept. of Music
CHERYL BROWN

And rather than attempting to “reinvent the wheel,” we urge you to read through the “missionary” brochure (published by the Association three years ago, on the occasion of our 40th anniversary), copies of which are expected to be made available at tonight's rehearsals. The history of the two ensembles is detailed in this publication, along with information about the Association's affiliation with UCSD's Dept. of Music. An abundance of these brochures are on hand and available from BILL MORGAN in the Association

office.



Board of Directors Update

Second Retreat Held. Board members who attended the August 7-9, 1997 Annual Convention of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras, held in Pasadena, brought back a number of ideas for promoting the health of our organization. As some of you may know, the Board subsequently held its second annual retreat on Saturday, August 23. The retreat was facilitated by JUDY ALDEN, a specialist in personal growth work and group facilitation, to help focus the Association's priorities, goals, and plans for the future. Key Orchestra and Chorus members and other interested parties again joined the Board in this endeavor. What resulted was a renewed commitment to making this organization as successful as possible. Some of the major objectives targeted for development were: a strong financial base; a strong relationship with UCSD; campus and community outreach events; grant funding and corporate

Comp Tickets/ Weekend Parking/Dues. It's been determined that due to the increasing number of season

sponsorships, a new concert hall; and improved organization and recognition for volunteerism.

Board Membership No Mystery.

Some of you may be interested to learn that the Bylaws specify that the Board membership include three members from each of the performing groups. Both conductors are also on the Board, as is the Chair of the UCSD Dept. of Music. In all we currently have 21 Board members. (A list of the full membership -- as well as other important names and numbers to know -- appears in the Appendix on p. 4.) The Executive Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month, and the full Board meets on the third Tuesday in September, November, February, and May.

Ours is truly a "working board," with no one here in name only.

In order to increase and diversify the membership, the Nominating Committee is always on the look-out for individuals who may offer more both in the way of financial enhancement or an entrée into the business or social community, as well as talented and dedicated volunteerism. The contact person in this regard is JENNIFER JEFFRIES.

subscribers filling the house, "comp tickets" can unfortunately no longer be made available to our

Managing Our Endowment.

When in the mid-1980's Chorus member THERESE HURST died, to the surprise of all she left her house as a gift for the LJS&CA. The house was sold, and the cash proceeds of over \$300K were the beginnings of the LJS&CA Endowment Fund. The funds were invested in short-term interest-bearing notes. In 1989 an endowment committee was formed, headed by then-Board member ELOISE DUFF, and the funds were reinvested through TRACY RODGERS, a long-time violinist in the Orchestra and a stockbroker by profession. The investment plan was to keep one-third of the funds in growth securities and two-thirds in income securities. The fund has provided income for the Association since its inception, and as the principal has grown, so has the income. In December '96, after an extensive search, \$500K was transferred to Hokanson & Associates, a local and well-respected money management firm; the rest was put in money market funds. We are happy now to report that the fund has increased to \$570K+, thus we are very stable and doing well.

performers. Instead, Orchestra and Chorus members may purchase up to 4 tickets per performance weekend at a

reduced cost of only \$10 per ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased at regular prices. (All tickets can be ordered through the Association office, 534-4637; a voucher system may be developed to facilitate the process.) But as of October 1 your concert-going friends and relatives will now be able to park on campus at no cost on weekends, thanks to a change in policy by the UCSD Parking Office. Your friends and family are also invited to attend Friday night dress rehearsals.

Additionally, your responsive Board is happy to announce that performers' dues have been eliminated!

New Executive Director. We wish the best of luck to SUZANNE SINCAVAGE, who recently resigned as LJS&CA Executive Director to take a sales position in "the real world." BILL MORGAN, who came to us last spring to assist in accounting and general office operations, has been appointed Interim Executive Director. Regular office hours will be Monday-Friday, from 10 AM to 4 PM, starting September 29.

ORCHESTRATIONS β

Music Director-Designate. The LJS&CA is pleased to welcome HARVEY SOLLBERGER as Music Director-Designate. Like retiring long-time Director TOM NEE, HARVEY is a professor in UCSD's Dept. of Music. He arrived on campus in 1992, and

in addition to being a conductor is an accomplished and well-known flutist and composer.

Other Notables. TED BIETZ continues as Orchestra President, and ULI BERGIN as Orchestra Librarian. BRIDGET DOLKAS begins her second season as Concert-Mistress.

We bid a fond farewell to Orchestra Manager and principal oboist SCOTT PAULSON, who has accepted a position in the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. He will, however, continue to be UCSD's Carillonneur. Listen for him at lunchtime chiming out tunes from atop the Geisel Library; song requests may be directed to him at spaulson@ucsd.edu. At the same we welcome as Orchestra Manager third trumpet DAVID BITTHEL.

Formation of "Orchestra Committee." The "Orchestra Committee" will be an addition to our attempts to resolve concerns and improve the dissemination of information. This group of volunteers is expected to meet regularly to discuss issues relating to improving the quality of the experience of being an Orchestra member. The committee membership will be announced at an upcoming rehearsal so that everyone will know who to contact whenever concerns arise. For more information, consult with TED BIETZ.

— CHORUS NOTES

In front of every great chorus stands a great but often beleaguered conductor. Behind our great conductor, DAVID CHASE, is a crew of tireless, talented, and terrific people who you should get to know. An advance round of applause goes to the following dedicated people who help make our Chorus not only an outstanding musical experience but also one of the best places to spend Monday nights!

Assistant to the Conductor. Master of languages KENNETH BELL returns as the Maestro's able assistant.

Manager. BEDA FARRELL has a laudable track record of facilitating auditions, concert arrangements, publicity, general announcements, flyers, etc. Assisted by perennial Chorus Angel KAREN JOHNS, she will also be preparing the calendar and maintaining and distributing the membership roster.

Librarian. This is SUE ANN TAGGART's second year of ably handling music ordering and distribution and records maintenance.

Rehearsal Accompanist. We are ever grateful for VICKI HEINS-SHAW, who continues to play this integral role.

Staff Singers. Are you having trouble making that pesky little tri-tone leap? Well, that's what your staff singers are here to help you with! We've got some of the finest singers in town heading up each section, enhancing performance and sound quality, and they can help you take care of such problem areas. Returning this year are soprano CONNIE VENTI, alto HEIDI LYNN, tenor MAX CHODOS, and bass KENNETH BELL.

Section Leaders. Do you need to miss a rehearsal? do you have a comment or suggestion? are you especially pleased about something? *Your section leaders are your voice to the Chorus Administration.* They are...

Sopranos:	MARTHA NEAL-BROWN
Altos:	
AMEE WOOD	Tenors:
WALT DESMOND	Basses:
	STEWART SHAW

Get to know them, and keep the lines of communication open. Be aware of how many missed rehearsals are allowed, and discuss any absences in advance with your section leader. Remember that prompt arrival and regular attendance at rehearsals is imperative.

Other Important Contributors. Also making notable contributions to the smooth operation of the chorus are: JEANNE STUTZER, women's dresses and pearls; FRAN CASTLE, concert tapes and black music folders [cost: approximately \$15]; and -- last but certainly not least -- CHUCK CARVER, refreshment\$!

Chorus Membership Up! BEDA reports that so far we have 13 *new* members, of whom 2 are UCSD students who auditioned early (1 undergraduate, and 1 graduate student just arrived from Japan). We hope to add a lot more after the auditions on the 27th and 29th of this month. So far 11 students in all (grad & undergrad) have indicated that they're returning ... an excellent response. Several community members have also returned, after extended "sabbaticals." Total numbers so far include 35 sopranos, 28 altos, 19 tenors, and 20

basses ... but DAVID and BEDA expect that we will begin the season with at least 130 singers -- WELCOME, ALL!

Tour Plans. The "La Jolla Chamber Chorus" will return to *La Belle France* next summer ... July 13-26, 1998. The trip will include a ten-night stay in the Chateau de Puy Robert, near the Dordogne River; a Bastille Day celebration in Paris; and four or five concerts scheduled throughout the scenic Perigord Blanc region. Preliminary information outlining itinerary and costs has already been made available. In addition, BRENDA MONTIEL and TED KILMAN from Adventures in Learning, Inc., will be making a brief presentation about the tour after tonight's rehearsal.

CONDUCTOR'S CORNER

On the Nature of Re-Auditioning

... David Chase

"Symphony Chorus Re-Audition' is a term whose psychological effect is often similar to terms like 'IRS audit,' 'draft notice,' and 'root canal.' But it seems to me that the annual ritual was far less painful this year -- it was even enjoyable in most cases. The explanation may lie in the fact that a number of chorus members cornered me last spring and convinced me to drop some of the elements of the audition that made them feel unduly re-assessed. *The skills testing and the written quiz were eliminated*; the singing of an appropriate song was all that was required for returnees. This singing, after all, is what's important. It allows me to be reacquainted with each voice and discover what has changed since the last hearing. Occasionally, of course, the voice has deteriorated, and some reassignment has to be agreed upon. Sometimes the individual has made great strides, and I'm as happy to hear that as the individual is to show me. Most often, it's a matter

Annual Messiah Sing. Plans are afoot to move the *Messiah Sing* (scheduled for 3 PM on Saturday, December 20) to St. Elizabeth Seton of reaffirmation. I may hear some shortcomings, but I'm also reminded of the individual contribution that that voice has made over the years, and I have the opportunity to express my appreciation for it.

"It's not a bad process. But it was even better this year when some individuals got creative! One baritone sang a PDQ Bach astrology aria; a certain soprano of British persuasion, announcing that a re-audition should say something about the passing of time, sang Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Silvered is the Raven Hair;' and two section leaders combined talents to offer a sweetly romantic Schumann duet, with an apology for having forgotten their lederhosen at the cleaners.

"All good music for singing, all good-natured fun, all good, dedicated members of a good chorus. Many thanks all!"

Perspectives on the Season

... Harvey Sollberger

"The 1997/98 concert season is bearing down upon us, and as I contemplate rehearsals and schedules and (even!) scores, I'd like to share a few thoughts with Chorus and Orchestra members about the two concerts that I'll be leading. The season opener will feature Mahler's *Second Symphony*, and I look forward to putting together the many pieces of this grand mosaic-tapestry of sound that stretches over 70 minutes. I've conducted some long, complicated pieces in my time (most recently,

Church, La Costa/Carlsbad. Mark your calendars, and listen for announcements at rehearsal breaks.

Roger Reynolds' hour-long *Odyssey* a year ago, with orchestra, singers, multiple slide projection, and quadriphonic computer sound), but none involving this many people on (and off) stage. Rehearsals and sectionals need to be planned with the strategic acumen of a Napoleon -- or at least (ahem!) a Dick Morris -- and I'm much in TOM NEE's debt for his advice and counsel concerning such matters. As for my own connection with this particular Mahler symphony, it goes back forty years to a performance in which I played one of the piccolo parts ... 'From Piccolo to Podium,' so to speak.

Mahler's music, in order to achieve its intense expressiveness, presents the performer with highly specific and precisely-notated instructions.

It's a great opportunity to grow in strength and discipline while traversing a whole continent of cathartic moments. And won't we be fluent and at ease in the German language after traversing those many pages of intensely-penned instructions!

"The May 16th and 17th concerts present Verdi's *Overture to Nabucco*; my own *In Terra Aliena*; and Berlioz's *Symphonié Fantastique*. While the Verdi and Berlioz pieces are venerable and well-known, mine is new to these shores, its first performance having taken place two years ago in Rome's

Church of the Aracoeli. Aside from the orchestra, *In Terra* calls for four singers, a flute soloist, and a narrator, and uses texts dealing with exile, taken from the Biblical Book of Psalms. Some of you may spot the tie-in to the Verdi overture which precedes it on the program: *Nabucco*, having for its setting the "captivity" in Babylon of the Jewish

People. Indeed, emerging through the shifting mists of my piece at one point will be a brief quotation from Verdi's "Va pensiero" chorus (which the audience will have already heard in the overture). Our distinguished soloists will be JOHN FONVILLE, PHILIP LARSON, CAROL PLANTAMURA, and VIRGINIA SUBLETT (all of UCSD); and their participation along with the involvement throughout the season of more UCSD students in the Chorus and Orchestra will go far toward reinforcing the ties between our University and community components.

As for the Berlioz ... well, I don't quote from it -- but I did play that piccolo part forty years ago, too."

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Joining the Faculty. Internationally renowned sitar musician RAVI SHANKAR has been named

UCSD's first Regents' Professor. A resident of Encinitas, his latest CD, "Chants of India," was just released this year. Watch for his lecture series on campus.

Web Site. A brief word urging one and all to be sure to take advantage of the wonderful ongoing musical happenings in UCSD's Dept. of Music. You can pay a visit to its web site at www.ucsd.edu/music for comprehensive information regarding concerts, recitals, courses and programs, etc. (Note that plans are underway to develop an LJS&CA web page as well...)

All suggestions and comments are welcome! This newsletter has been brought to you by:

Editor

Sharon Jones

Contributors

Ted Bietz

Colin Bloor

Cheryl Brown

David Chase

Beda Farrell

Barbara Peisch

Harvey Sollberger

Amee Wood

<u>NAME</u>	<u>WORK#</u>	<u>HOME#</u>	<u>FAX#</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	---------------

BOARD OF DIRECTORS***Officers:***

Colin M. Bloor, Pres. (Chorus)	534-4324	459-7665	459-7348	cbloor@ucsd.ed
Diane Salisbury, Vice Pres.	543-9300, x13	291-7818	543-0466	dsalis@aol.com
David Parris, Treas.	557-0357	595-0537	687-0172	david@newtonlearning.com
Jennifer Jeffries, Sec'y.	760-723-7020	760-723-7806	760-723-3895	

Staff:

Bill Morgan, Interim Exec. Dir.	534-4637	624-9592	534-9947	wmorgan@ucsd.edu
---------------------------------	----------	----------	----------	------------------

Members:

Thomas Baze		793-2227, x313	459-2295	459-2199	tombaze@engtelabridge.com
Susan Dramm (Chorus)			459-5478	457-5437	SHDramm@connectnet.com
Glenna Hazelton			459-5678		
Jeff Nevin (Orchestra)			675-7524		jnevin@ucsd.edu
Nolan Penn	534-0195	459-1868			npenn@ucsd.edu
Jay Sacks (Chorus)	694-8881	299-1495			
Jeanne Saier (Orchestra)			760-436-7993		
Ted Tsai (Orchestra)			278-1242		tsai@juno.com

Ex Officio:

David Chase, Choral Dir.	760-744-1150, x2141	760-436-3539	744-8123	DavC1815@aol.com
Tom Nee, Music Dir.			760-753-0527	
Harvey Sollberger, Music Dir. Des.	534-7291	274-6052	534-8502	hsollberger@ucsd.edu
Eric Bromberger, Program Notes	561-5810	561-5810		
Cheryl Brown, Music Dept. Liaison	534-3231	695-1426	534-8502	clbrown@ucsd.edu
F. Richard Moore, Dept. Chair	534-7940	642-7413	642-7416	frmoore@ucsd.edu

Honorary Members:

Eloise Duff			270-8884	
Will Ogdon		534-4601	259-8174	

ORCHESTRA MANAGEMENT

David Bitthel, Manager			457-1906	
Bridget Dolkas, Concertmistress			729-9086	
Ted Bietz, President			468-3234	
Uli Bergin, Librarian			459-3520	

CHORUS ADMINISTRATION

Beda Farrell, Manager	760-727-6451	760-727-6451		vikelt@cts.com
Kenneth Bell, Asst. to Cond.	760-754-7427	760-941-7470		
Victoria Heins-Shaw, Accomp.	488-1128	488-1128		
Sue Ann Taggart, Librarian	338-2990	672-2318		
Jeanne Stutzer, Dresses/Pearls			562-8264	
Fran Castle, Tapes/Music Folders	495-5505	297-7203		
Chuck Carver, Refreshments	296-7333	453-0656		

Staff Singers:

Connie Venti, Soprano			760-747-4425	
Heidi Lynn, Alto		469-3901	670-4759	
Max Chodos, Tenor	438-5412	565-9347		
Kenneth Bell, Bass	760-754-7427	760-941-7470		

Section Leaders:

Martha Neal-Brown, Soprano	534-0495	760-436-7410		mnealbrown@ucsd.edu
Amee Wood, Alto	221-6101	223-5926	221-6565	
Walt Desmond, Tenor	263-4083	223-3265		
Stewart Shaw, Bass	488-1128	488-1128		

"TUTTI"

Sharon Jones (Chorus), Editor 534-3642 549-4709 534-4528 sjones@ucsd.edu