

"TUTTI"

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

Vol. 2 No. 2

December 8, 1997

CELEBRATING "CHRISTMAS OLD AND NEW," IN FOLLOW-UP TO HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 1st CONCERT



Our holiday program is aptly called "Christmas Old and New." It features the piece BACH wrote to celebrate his first Christmas (1723) in his new job as Kantor (director of music) at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig. The *Magnificat* is one of those rare things: a piece where BACH sets out to be festive and bright ... and he succeeds. It uses the biggest orchestra he ever wrote for, including three trumpets, timpani, and a large wind section. This has always been one of BACH's most popular pieces, and it was performed frequently during his lifetime.

The other BACH piece has nothing to do with Christmas, but it does make a big and imposing sound. This is the *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor*, originally for organ but being heard in our concert in the STOKOWSKI arrangement for full orchestra. Audiences may remember this as the piece that leads off "Fantasia."

The 'new' Christmas piece is *Karolji*, composed in 1990 by CHRISTOPHER ROUSE, an American composer who lives in Baltimore. He has said that the piece was inspired by a performance of *Carmina Burana* he heard when he was a boy, and the music has much of the same bright, linear, rhythmic feel of ORFF's piece. The interesting thing is that ROUSE wrote his own 'Christmas carols,' as well as his own texts in different languages.

But these texts -- supposedly in Swedish, Latin, Czech, French, Russian, Spanish, German, and Italian -- are actually meaningless: they use the words, but they are without syntax or real meaning. ROUSE is evoking the sound

of the language rather than writing music with definable meaning. None of this matters in performance, however, where the evocation of language and the music of different countries is handled deftly.

This concert should be a great success. It makes a big, brave sound; it's very festive; and it should be as much fun for the audience to hear as it is for the performers to perform.

Friday night dress rehearsal [268 attendees, including 161 ensemble family and friends, and 107 UCSD students], and a sellout and near sellout for the Saturday and Sunday concerts. BRENDA MONTIEL, President of the Fallbrook Music Society, wrote to thank everyone for making the run-out such a great afternoon. She described the performance as "glorious," "magnificent," and "overwhelming," and patrons of the concert were overheard saying the concert was the best they have ever attended in Fallbrook.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE LJSCA OFFICE

The Mahler Resurrection Concerts. All four concerts were tremendously successful, with a huge turnout for the

A special note of appreciation goes to JENNIFER JEFFRIES and BRENDA MONTIEL for their efforts in facilitating the November 16 Fallbrook run-out concert!

Season Subscriptions We are also happy to report that, as of November 14, our season subscriptions are at an all-time high of 911!

Administrative

Communications Thanks to all the Orchestra and Chorus members this season who have shared their ideas for improving the flow of communication from the Office to the ensembles! With the assistance of the Conductors and the Orchestra and Chorus Managers, Interim Executive Director BILL MORGAN, along with HEATHER CALVIN, is working on a rehearsal and performance calendar which he "Friends" was created as a result of the visit of AUDREY BAIRD, Audience Relations Manager of the Milwaukee Symphony, on November 15. Our Board members were first introduced to MS. BAIRD at this summer's ACISO [Association of California Symphonies Orchestras] convention, where she presented seminars on volunteer recruitment and organization. MS. BAIRD has extensive experience in coordinating volunteer groups, having served for many years with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's volunteer group, and having advised numerous other symphony orchestras on the establishment of volunteer organizations.

"Friends" is in the process of recruiting and organizing a

hopes to be able to get to the ensembles consistently well in advance of the actual events.

If you have any suggestions for the calendar, or anything else, please feel free to call BILL or HEATHER at 534-4637.

GLAD TIDINGS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friends of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus. The Board recently approved a resolution authorizing the provisional Board of Directors. Thus far the following have volunteered to serve: BILL KUEBLER, President; THELMA PARRIS, 1st Vice President (Publications/Membership); and CAROL BEAM, 2nd Vice President (Social/Fundraising Events). Projects for the coming year include the annual "Music with Love" fundraiser in February; a membership recruiting drive; and another fundraising event, as well as an end-of-the-season party.

Anyone interested in becoming involved, as either a "Friends" Board member or a volunteer, should contact BILL or THELMA, at 235-4040.

Thomas Nee Commissioning Endowment Fund

The Board is

creation of "The Friends of the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus." Developed in conjunction with continuing efforts to improve the Board's effectiveness, "Friends" is our newly established volunteer arm of the Association. It will assume primary responsibility for staffing fundraising and social events, for example, as well as managing other activities previously handled by Board committees, such as Publications [which produces our season brochures, concert programs, "FANFARE" and "TUTTI!"].

very pleased to announce the creation of the *Thomas Nee Commissioning Endowment*, in honor of TOM NEE's tremendous contributions to the San Diego music community throughout his 30 years as Music Director of the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus. The endowment will support an annual commission fee, in perpetuity, for original compositions by UCSD student composers.

A founder of the UCSD Dept. of Music and Professor Emeritus (having technically 'retired' in 1991), TOM requested that the endowment be used primarily to encourage talented young composers from UCSD. The endowment goal is \$36,000; and to 'seed' it, the Board has

committed \$12,500 from reserve funds. We are currently already two-thirds of the way to our goal, in that more than \$24,000 has been received, including personal donations from all members of the Board of Directors. [Donations may be directed in care of BILL MORGAN in the LJSCA Office, UCSD Mail Code 0038, La Jolla, CA 92093.]

The Endowment's focus on original compositions pays tribute to TOM's creation of that 30 year tradition of promoting new music through the LJS&C. His commitment (shared by Choral Director DAVID CHASE) to include in each season works outside the traditional classical repertoire has resulted in programming in which 40% or more of our performances have included premieres, recent compositions, and rarely performed pieces. Remarks ERIC BROMBERGER (two-time Board President and noted pre-concert lecturer), "This Endowment, and the Board's strong support for it, will keep TOM's commitment alive for years to come ... and for composers not yet born."

We are also very appreciative to JEFF NEVIN, recipient of the Endowment's first award, for having generously donated half his commission back to the Endowment Fund. His *Concerto for Mariachi and Orchestra* (co-written with JORGE HERNANDEZ) will be premiered in Mandeville Auditorium in February and is

expected to be a highlight of the season.

Success of Grant Application.

For the first time, the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Association received a grant from the California Arts Council. This will provide partial support of our season for the next two years. We received a rating of "4-" (their highest rating given was "4"). Although the amount is modest, because of CAC budget cuts, this gives us increased visibility in California.

Fifty-two ACSO member organizations received CAC awards this year. Of these fifty-two, four received awards for the first time. We were one of these four. Also, we are one of only three organizations in San Diego County that received support.

"Music Outreach '98." The San Diego Community Foundation (SDCF) recently announced that the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Association will receive an award of \$5,000 to begin "Music Outreach '98" to introduce the benefits of music to San Diego County school children as a way of augmenting the limited resources the public school systems make available for music education. We are one of twenty-six San Diego arts organizations to receive support from the SDCF.

Also, the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, starting in January 1998, will collaborate with UCSD's Art Gallery-Mandeville Center in its program targeting San Diego County schools to enhance their experiences with and exposure to the arts. Our role in this collaboration will be to provide musical performances by our Young Artists Competition winners and selected members of our ensembles. The individual events will consist of a lecture-style presentation about the music performed, and an interactive discussion by both participants with the students about the meaning of the music and the role it plays in the lives of the Young Artists and the performers.

KATHLEEN STOUGHTON, Director of the Art Gallery, has been an active participant with our Board of Directors in developing this exciting collaboration. KATHLEEN and our Board members are very excited about this challenge. TOM NEE enthusiastically volunteered to coordinate our activities in this new collaboration.

"Music Outreach '98" is expected to play an important role in our coming season as part of the LJSCA's mission to inspire San Diego with the joy of music through diverse and high quality musical experiences in order to enrich

the quality of life for the people of San Diego and enhance the City's reputation as a cultural center.

Association Website Launched.

We are happy to announce the creation of our own LJSCA website! Visit us at ...

www.ucsd.edu/music/LJSCA

VISION 2000: Priorities for This Year. The Board of Directors has identified the following four topics from its Vision 2000 statement as our

YOUNG ARTISTS TO COMPETE IN JANUARY

The LJS&CA's 39th annual Young Artists Competition will be held at Mandeville Center on Saturday, January 31 (with possible overflow on Sunday, February 1), according to Event Chair JEANNE SAIER. Prizes have been increased considerably -- to a total of \$5,900 this year -- thanks in part to a generous bequest from MILTON SAIER [UCSD Professor of Biology] in memory of his father, MILTON SAIER, SR., who died in May, 1996.

The Saier Memorial Scholarships consist of four annual scholarships of \$1,500 each, earmarked for four departments at UCSD. One of these will be an annual gift of \$1,500 towards YAC prizes. We are extremely grateful to the SAIERs for this important gift.

The application deadline is January 15, and application forms are available from THELMA PARRIS, 595-0537. JEANNE SAIER, at (760) 436-7993, can answer any questions you may have. All events are free and open to the public; a reception for the contestants and their families and friends will follow Saturday's competition.

Listening to these young people perform is both inspirational and enjoyable, so be sure to make plans to

top priorities for the present season. These are: (1) excellence in the ensembles; (2) a solid sense of identity, within and without; (3) strong enrollment, succession planning, and volunteer development; and (4) concert hall. Contact Board President COLIN BLOOR (459-7665), or Interim Executive Director BILL MORGAN (534-4637), for detailed information.

We expect to be able to provide 'progress reports' in future issues...

join us for a fun musical weekend.

"MUSIC WITH LOVE" BENEFIT, FEBRUARY 8

Our annual "Music with Love" benefit, slated for Sunday, February 8, at the famed music salon in the La Jolla home of DR. & MRS. CHRIS FAN, will feature a silent art auction this year, in addition to the usual delightful mix of music, refreshments, and ocean view ambiance.

Our new volunteer organization, "Friends of the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus," will be engineering this year's event, along with long-time Event Chair JAN SHARPLESS. Ensemble members are invited -- and encouraged -- to attend. Everything for this event is donated, so all receipts support our musical endeavors.

Invitations will be mailed out right after the holidays. In the meantime, mark the date on your 1998 calendars. Questions? Call CAROL BEAM at 688-9639.

[photo]

YOUTH SYMPHONY GALA HONORS TOM NEE

San Diego may have lost its symphony, but the San Diego Youth Symphony is doing its best to keep symphonic music alive in our city. TOM NEE conducted 250 children in the 2nd annual Gala Concert by the San Diego Youth Symphony on Sunday, December 7, at 2:45 PM, downtown at the Civic Theatre. He was also honored on this occasion with a "Profiles in Musical Excellence" award for the music he has given to the people of San Diego since his appointment at UCSD back in 1967.

A brief talk preceded the concert of BEETHOVEN (*5th Symphony*), BACH (*2nd Brandenburg Concerto*), MEYER (*Knights of Dunvegan*), and BIZET (*Farandole*). All the ensembles under the aegis of the San Diego Youth Symphony performed: the San Diego Youth Symphony Orchestra (JEFF EDMONDS conducting); the Symphonic Strong Ensemble (MARY GERARD conducting); the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Concert Wind Ensemble (our own TED BIETZ conducting); the Premiere String Ensemble (MARY GERARD and MARGARITO RAMIREZ conducting); the Suzuki Strings (MARGARITO RAMIREZ conducting); and the St. Stephen's Strings (JANE GERHART conducting). In the finale, all the ensembles performed together under MAESTRO NEE.

— CHORUS
NOTES —

Annual Caroling Activities. No 'official' LJSC caroling is scheduled this year, but you will still have several opportunities to don your gay apparel to tell of yuletide carol.

Contact MICHELE DIXON, at (760) 966-1753, if you'd like to join the "Victorian Voices" in donning historically authentic attire to sing traditional Christmas carols -- music will be provided -- at Horton Plaza from 7 to 10 PM on Friday, December 19.

Think you'll have any energy left after the Saturday, December 20, *Messiah* sing? If so, come and join a group of happy carollers who'll be singing in the beautiful lobby of the Four Seasons Resort in La Costa, where we can be heard by guests dining and milling about. We'll start around 6:30 PM; this should give us enough

ORCHESTRATIONS β

TED BIETZ is pleased to announce the formation of the *Orchestra Advisory Committee*, whose function will be to facilitate communication between the Conductors and the members of the Orchestra.

In his capacity as President TED sought out Orchestra members who would be interested in discussing concerns and issues relating to the quality of the experience of being involved with the La Jolla Symphony Orchestra. The membership was opened to any interested Orchestra personnel, and resulted in the following 9 representatives: TED

time for a break and short rehearsal after the *Messiah* sing.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact CHUCK CARVER at 296-7333, or BARBARA PEISCH at (760) 729-9607. If you have 'the green book' of "Carols for Choirs 1" (Oxford Press), please bring that with you.

We are also trying to arrange an additional evening of caroling at the Four Seasons on the 17th, 18th or 19th. If we can get this together, the Four Seasons will give us a party after the caroling on the 20th! If you can make it on one of these additional evenings, again, please contact CHUCK at 296-7333.

~ MESSIAH SING ~

The Saturday, December 20, "Messiah" sing-along at St. Elizabeth Seton's in La Costa will take place at two o'clock, rather than three o'clock, as previously reported. Directions and/or a map will be provided at an upcoming rehearsal. See STEWART SHAW, 488-1128, for information regarding the purchase of scores. Be sure not to miss this always fun event!

BIETZ, SUE COLLADO, MAX FENSTERMACHER, PAT GIFFORD, JEFF NEVIN, KAREN PARKS, STEVE SHIELDS, NANCY SWANBERG, and LENN WHITEHEAD.

So far, the committee has met twice, and has already identified several concerns, which were subsequently presented to Director TOM NEE and Director-Designate HARVEY SOLLBERGER.

The committee's next meeting (TBA... some time in January) will be attended by TOM and HARVEY, both of whom have expressed a desire to meet with the committee to discuss issues of mutual concern, and help clarify and resolve any misunderstandings.

The committee's goal is to represent the Orchestra and be a voice for its

⇒ *Everyone, please bring some sort of snacks -- cookies or "finger food" -- to share afterwards in the parish hall.*

Winter Quarter Auditions.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 3. Please pass the word, particularly if you know of someone who may be interested in joining the Chorus. Contact BEDA FARRELL, at (760) 727-6451.

2nd "Tour de France".

Members of the Chorus will be returning to Southern France for a two-week performance tour next summer. A few spaces remain for non-performers (A.K.A., "groupies"). For more information about the July 13-26, 1998 tour, call BEDA FARRELL, at (760) 727-6451, as soon as possible.

members. With this purpose in mind, the committee will strive to be receptive to any Orchestra member. "We are ready to listen to your concerns," says TED, who can be reached at 468-3234.

HAPPENINGS IN THE UCSD DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

UCSD Wins Music Awards. Eighteen musicians from the department attended the International Computer Music Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, this past September. During the annual conference, 29 works by UCSD Music faculty, students, and alumni were featured. The 29 works presented at the conference were selected following a juried competition, with more than 500 scores and tapes submitted

from around the world.

A highlight of the conference was Professor MILLER PUCKETTE'S unveiling of a new computer program, "Public Domain," which was presented as a gift to the world. "PD" opens up new computer possibilities to regular musicians and adds the ability to create and process visual images from musical cues.

UCSD has a long history of involvement in computer music, going back to the early 1970s when very few universities had computer music programs. This strong program has enabled UCSD to excel in the worldwide arena of computer music development.

New Faculty Member. Jazz pianist ANTHONY DAVIS joins the department in January. His opera, *Amistad*, was premiered by the Chicago Lyric Opera last month, to rave reviews. (By coincidence, a new STEVEN SPIELBERG movie addresses the same topic: a revolt on a slave ship.) Professor DAVIS will participate in "CSEP" -- Critical Studies/Experimental Practices -- and will teach courses in improvisation and African-American history.

Red Fish, Blue Fish. These UCSD percussionists, under the direction of Professor STEVEN SCHICK, will perform in the Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Green Umbrella Series" at 8 PM on Monday, January 12, in the Japan-America Theatre.

Lecture by Pandit Ravi Shankar. On Thursday, December 18, UCSD-TV will be filming the first of a series of lecture/demonstrations with famed sitar master RAVISHANKAR, who was recently appointed as UCSD's first Regents Professor.

New SONOR Recording. UCSD's resident contemporary music ensemble has released a new CD entitled, "Will Ogdon," which features compositions by the Department of Music's founding member.

Calendar of Events. For additional information, to join "Friends of Music" [the department's support group that raises funds for student scholarships], or to be placed on the mailing list for the department's Calendar of Events, you may contact Concert Manager BONNIE HARKINS, at 534-4830.

EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLE OF SAN DIEGO TO PRESENT "CANDLELIGHT CONCERT"

The Early Music Ensemble of San Diego will present a "Candlelight Concert" at 8 PM on Wednesday, December 17, at the Congregational Church of La Jolla, corner of Cave and Ivanhoe. The suggested donation is \$10 (\$5 for students).

This acclaimed choral ensemble is comprised of sopranos CONNIE LAWTHERS and ELISABETH MARTI; tenor JOHN PEELING; our own alto (and Chorus accompanist) VICKI HEINS-SHAW; and noted bass-baritone PHILIP LARSON (Associate Professor in the UCSD Dept. of Music, and director of its Concert Choir and Chamber Singers).

For more information, contact VICKI at 488-1128.

COME HEAR "THE MAGIC OF MEXICO"

Spend a magical evening enjoying the best music of some of the most renowned Mexican popular composers, interpreted with special orchestra arrangements by the Symphonic Orchestra of Baja California, with soprano FLORENZIA. This event will be presented at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 18, at the Sherwood Auditorium, Museum of Contemporary Art, 700 Prospect St., in La Jolla. Tickets and information are available at 231-8414, extensions 11 and 15.

TO ALL: MERRY CHRISTMAS ...
HAPPY HANUKKAH ... FELIZ
NAVIDAD ... and
HAPPY KWANZAA!

THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN
BROUGHT TO YOU BY :

EDITOR
SHARON JONES

CONTRIBUTORS
TED BIETZ

COLIN BLOOR

ERIC BROMBERGER

CHERYL BROWN

BEDA FARRELL

BONNIE HARKINS

BILL KUEBLER

BILL MORGAN

THELMA PARRIS

BARBARA PEISCH