

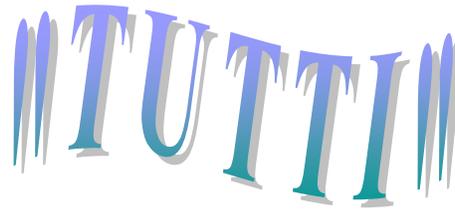
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A Newsletter by and for the La Jolla
Symphony & Chorus Association

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CHAMBER ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM AT NEUROSCIENCES INSTITUTE

~ William Morgan ~

On January 22 & 23, LJS&C Music Director HARVEY SOLLBERGER tries something new, in leading the recently created **La Jolla Chamber Symphony** in a concert of classic, romantic, and modern favorites. Works by Hindemith, Dvorak, Strauss, and Haydn are featured in this enchanting concert, held in the acoustical gem of the **Neurosciences Institute Auditorium**. Harvey says the new group it "inhabits that elusive but tantalizing territory between the mass and muscle of the full symphony orchestra on the one hand, and the delicacy and intimacy of chamber music on the other." This crack group of musicians debuted just weeks ago downtown at **Bravo San Diego**, a San Diego Performing Arts League fund-raiser, to the delight of business, civic, and arts leaders.

The chamber orchestra-sized Neurosciences Institute Auditorium provides the perfect venue for the concert, with its bright acoustics, easy access, and stadium seating. New York architectural firm Tod Williams Billie Tsien & Associates worked in conjunction with famed acoustician Cyril Harris on the auditorium to create one of the most impressive small performance halls in the United States.

The concert opens with Richard Strauss' *Wind Serenade*, the benchmark piece that established his name as a composer. Written for woodwinds and horns when he was just 17, this expressive, jaunty work shows Strauss's talent, youthful ardor and hopefulness.

Antonin Dvorak's spirited *Serenade for Strings* follows. This ear-pleasing work travels from expressions of ardent longing to cheerful celebration. After intermission --when patrons can stroll amidst the award-winning architecture of the Neurosciences Institute courtyard -- the La Jolla Chamber Symphony resumes the stage with a performance of Paul Hindemith's *Kammermusik I*. Written after WW I, this elaborate, whimsical work explores the possibilities of a concentrated chamber orchestra while capturing the giddy, frenzied spirit of Weimar Germany during the 1920s better than any other piece of music ever written.

The La Jolla Chamber Symphony concludes with a delightful and moving finale: Franz Joseph Haydn's *Symphony No. 83, "The Hen."* Concert-goers will be treated to hearing this favorite composition performed in its intended chamber-sized space. From "The Hen's" great 'clucking' second theme, to an on-going tension between G minor and a secondary melody, to its marvelous minuet, and a final movement that takes off like a stallion, the performance transports the audience to 18th century Vienna.

By popular demand, the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus has added a third performance to its concert line-up. Ticket availability is limited, and

patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

These concerts take place in the Neurosciences Institute Hall at 8 PM Saturday, January 22, and 3 PM and 8 PM Sunday, January 23. A free pre-concert lecture is given one hour prior to each performance by noted lecturer, writer, and musicologist ERIC BROMBERGER.

Tickets are \$16 standard, \$14 senior and \$9 student. Group discounts are available. Parking is free. For ticket information, call (858) 534-4637.

'MUSIC WITH LOVE' ANNUAL BENEFIT



~ Jan Sharpless ~

Join us on Sunday, February 20, for this 7th annual afternoon of sweet delights, which will feature champagne and music, desserts, and silent auction thrills. JAN SHARPLESS and THELMA PARRIS, who again are co-chairing this benefit for our **Young Artists Competition**, claim you simply can't have so much fun while doing so much for your community. And by supporting San Diego's young musicians, you pave the path for San Diego's musical future ... and don't forget your tax deduction!

The festivities commence at 2:30 PM with a champagne reception on the ocean-front plaza of the **Institute of the Americas** and the unveiling of the silent auction goodies (art, jewelry, fine wines, and more). The musical potpourri in the Institute's elegant theater will be followed by coffee and exquisite desserts. As always, all ladies receive a long-stemmed rose. Buy your tickets from any Board member, or by calling the Association Office at (858)

534-4637 and using your credit card. Prices range from \$35 to \$125 per person. The Institute of Americas is located on the UCSD campus (opposite the Salk Institute), and has easy parking and level access.

AUCTION ITEMS WANTED: *Jewelry, art, gift certificates, music performances ... what-have-you (also tax-deductible). Use your imagination! Please call THELMA PARRIS at (619) 595-0537.*

YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE CONCERT

~ Thelma Parris ~

If you're tired of bowl games ... come to the **Young Artists Showcase Concert** at 3 PM on Sunday afternoon, January 30, in the Mandeville Recital Hall. It is absolutely free, and will feature the six winners of our 41st annual Young Artists Competition, to be held the day before on Saturday, January 29.

Performing will be the three instrumental winners and the three vocal winners, who will share \$6,000 in prizes.

NANCY SWANBERG of the Board's **Outreach Committee** is working to bring in a young audience from the Boys and Girls Clubs and the North County Singers (Youth Chorus). This is a prime opportunity to bring your children/grandchildren to a free event that is sure to inspire everyone.

Both of the competitions in Mandeville Center on Saturday are also free and



open to the public.

OUTREACH PROGRAM MAKES ITS DEBUT

~ Victoria Eicher ~

The **LJS&C Outreach Program** is making its millenium debut in the Del Mar elementary schools (Del Mar Heights and Del Mar Hills) with a string quartet performing short excerpts of Haydn and Dvorak quartets in a program that previews our upcoming LJSCO concert. The program will also include conversation in the area of musical styles/themes, interesting bits of trivia on the composers, and some connection to period art, history, and geography.

All students in attendance will be given invitations and maps to the upcoming dress rehearsal.

This is the core of our Outreach Program, which also offers coaching and sectional rehearsals for schools with existing music programs.

Upcoming outreach is being scheduled at Wilson Middle School, the Weingart-Price Library, and other local and surrounding area schools. Outreach performances highlight either string, brass, wind, or choral ensembles.

If members of the Orchestra or Chorus have requests for an outreach program in their schools or libraries, please contact WILLIAM MORGAN in the Association Office, (858) 534-4637, or VICTORIA EICHER (e-mail: ictrola@san.rr.com).

Thanks to all the musicians who responded to our survey in October; the Program is underway and we may be contacting you soon.



OPENINGS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The LJS&C Bylaws require that Board membership include 3 Chorus members and 3 Orchestra members. These delegates represent the interests of their fellow musicians and support the Association's work and growth.

Ensemble members currently serving on the Board are JAY SACKS and COLIN BLOOR from the Chorus, and JEFF NEVIN and NANCY SWANBERG from the Orchestra.

Currently there are openings in both ensembles. The nomination process has gotten under way, and some interest has already been expressed.

Those interested should submit nominations should be submitted to Chorus Manager BEDA FARRELL or Orchestra Personnel Manager SUSAN UNG (as appropriate) as soon as possible.

Slates of nominees for each ensemble are expected to be prepared and distributed for voting within a couple of weeks.

If you would like more information about Board activities, service, and meetings, you may phone the Association Office, at (858) 534-4637).

UCSD Department of Music: Upcoming Events

~ Bonnie Harkins ~

Thursday, March 9, 8 PM
Friday, March 10, 4 PM
Saturday, March 11, 8 PM
Sunday, March 12, 4 PM
Erickson Hall, Mandeville Center
'L'Orfeo'

Students of Professors Carol Plantamura and Philip Larson will present Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, directed by Terry Glaser. Regents' Lecturers Jurgen Hubscher, Martha McGaughey, Marijke Veberne, and Arthur Haas will provide continuo accompaniment along with a chamber orchestra. An open dress rehearsal will be held at 4 PM on Wednesday, March 8, in Erickson Hall, Mandeville Center. On Saturday Professor Plantamura and a panel of guest scholars will discuss *L'Orfeo* in a symposium at 6 PM in Room 125 Mandeville Center. Reservations are recommended. Call (858) 534-5404, or (858) 534-4830.

Monday, February 14, 8 PM
Mandeville Recital Hall
'Valentine Soiree for Music Lovers'

The Soiree feature violinist Professor Janos Negyesy and friends, performing Mozart, Brahms, Moszkowsky, Schumann, and others. An optional Faculty Club gourmet dinner package is available for \$40, and includes parking, dinner, Soiree ticket, and a reception following in the Faculty Club. For dinner reservations call (858) 534-0876.

Wednesday, February 9, 8 PM
Mandeville Auditorium
'SONOR'

UCSD's resident contemporary music ensemble SONOR will perform works by Webern, Berg, and Cage, featuring soloists Professors Janos Negyesy on violin and Aleck Karis on piano. Tickets available at the door (\$10/\$8).

Wednesday, February 8, 8 PM
Mandeville Recital Hall
'Works for Percussion'

Professor Steven Schick will be joined by guest percussionist Fritz Hauser in a concert of recent percussion works. Tickets available at the door (\$8/\$6).

2000-01 SEASON CONCERT SCHEDULE

~ William Morgan ~

Here for your planning purposes is the schedule of concerts for next season:

Concert #1
November 4-5, 2000
Orchestra

Concert #2
December 9-10, 2000
Orchestra & Chorus

Christmas Messiah-Sing
St. Elizabeth Seton Church
December 16, 2000

Concert #3
January 20-21, 2001
Chamber Orchestra & Concord

Concert #4
February 24-25, 2001
Orchestra & Young Artists Soloists

Concert #5
March 24-25, 2001
Chorus & brass ensemble

Easter Messiah-Sing
St. Elizabeth Seton Church
April 22, 2001

Concert #6
May 5-6, 2001
Orchestra

Concert #7
June 9-10, 2001
Chorus & Orchestra

A complete schedule will be announced in an upcoming issue, pending Board approval of the proposed programming as developed by the Conductors' Committee.

“CONFESSIONS OF A CHORAL CURMUDGEON” (OR, CONDUCTOR SCROOGE ON CHRISTMAS DAY)

~ David Chase ~



For choral organizations (as for retailers and other capitalist institutions), Christmas is big. It's huge. The Christmas 'sales spike' can drive the whole year's plans. A 'traditional concert' (like Target's yearly sales) becomes the *sine qua non* of every yearly cycle, casting a cold shadow over all new, creative programming ideas.

For this reason, TOM NEE and I agreed when we planned the first Messiah-Sing (20-odd years ago) that we would NOT let it become the tail that wags the dog. It would NOT be a yearly tradition, no matter how popular it might be. And so it was scheduled only in those years when it served our programming purposes -- most years, to be sure, but not every year.

Personally, I dreaded the event most years. It was one more time in the busiest period of the year when I was expected to smile a lot and be amusing. Meanwhile, we were doing a great (if overdone) piece of music with ... well, with anybody who walked in the door!

But somewhere along the way, things changed.

First, the organization of it stopped being a burden because of the team of talented volunteers who handled the scores and the room set-up and a hundred other things that I learned to stop worrying about. Then the enthusiasm of many of the Chorus members made me re-evaluate my general skepticism. Then I discovered that some of the Orchestra members looked forward to the event and went out of their way to work their busy schedules around it. Why, one bassoonist (who will, of course, remain nameless) even volunteered despite the fact that I forgot to include his instrument on the orchestra memo --two years in a row! Was it possible that THIS was the elusive 'Christmas Spirit?' How could I continue to be the Grinch? What's more, I've gotten some very lovely post-Messiah letters over the years -- that's melted my resistance, too. Here are two of this year's favorites:

- *“My wife's grandmother was brought to tears by the majesty of our Messiah moment.”*
- *“My 2-year-old now stands upon her stool, in the middle of the living room, with a book in her hand, and starts singing --- sometimes with words, sometime just kid music -- and when asked what she's singing, she says: 'I'm singing the Messiah, Daddy!' And she returns to her performance.”*

Thus, I can give you direct responses of two people -- among the oldest, 88, and the youngest, 2 -- who attended your Messiah.

Now I ask you, who could remain a curmudgeon in the face of all this? Not even Ebenezzar Chase. So, I thank you all for your help and support, and for teaching me the true meaning of this tradition. I even look forward to the next time!

God bless us, every one.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

What is 'facing the music'?

This expression almost sounds like the name of a quiz show, but what it describes is hardly entertaining.

When you 'face the music,' you've either done something wrong and now have to 'pay' for it, or you've made a tough decision that will result in some negative consequences for you. Either way, you're not headed for an evening of dining and dancing.

The phrase originates in a military tradition. You've probably seen a soldier in the movies 'drummed out' of the service. He's done something dishonorable, so he's stripped of his rank and has to pass through columns of other soldiers who may look away from him while drum beats mark his passage through the ranks. The drums are the music he's facing ... and the source of the phrase.

[From *Why You Say It*, by Webb Garrison]

Questions, comments, and submissions should kindly be submitted to the Editor at (858) 534-3642, or scjones@ucsd.edu. This issue of 'TUTTI' has been brought to you by:

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