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

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## IN CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON

In celebration of the season, the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus is presenting Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. Choral Director DAVID CHASE leads the Chorus, Orchestra, and five guest soloists in one of the masterpieces of sacred choral literature.

The *Mass in B Minor* is widely considered to be a profound work of music. In the opening "Kyrie," the choir and orchestra showcase the majestic solemnity of the piece. As one critic has written, "The singing is both innocent, yet impassioned; the celebration is loud yet religious, devout yet festive. The emotions are solemn, yet sometimes almost sensual in feeling and/or fervour; the architecture Baroque, the soul Romantic." For audience members, it will be more than a performance -- it will be an experience.

Offering his insight on the piece, DAVID CHASE says that "The last time we did the Bach Mass was 18 years ago. For most groups that do sacred music, this piece is too big and too hard and so at that time it was one of the biggest challenges the Chorus had ever undertaken. But it turned out beautifully, and was telecast by KPBS."

"We have a wonderful group of extremely talented young soloists this time around, including: baritone **GREGORIO GONZALEZ**, 1st Place Winner of the 2002 LJS&CA Young Artists Competition and the 2001 Western Region Metropolitan Opera Auditions Winner; mezzo-soprano **JANELLE ROLLINSON**, who has performed with the San Diego Opera and

who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2001 Western Region Metropolitan Opera Auditions; tenor **JOHN EDWARD**, a Minnesota native, who is continuing his doctoral studies at UCLA and who has performed with both the L.A. Opera and the San Diego Opera; soprano **JESSICA COOPER**, a San Diegan who is studying and working in Boston; and mezzo-SOPRANO **AVA BAKER LISS**, who has appeared with both the San Francisco Opera and Opera San José. Ava made her San Diego Opera stage debut in 1997 and has toured with their Ensemble." Gregorio entered a one-year resident artist program with the L.A. Opera in August, and will play the rejected suitor, Prince Yamidori, in the San Diego Opera's production of *Madama Butterfly*. Both Ava and Gregorio are former members of the La Jolla Symphony Chorus.

"Another interesting aspect of this concert is the requirement of the use of small Baroque trumpets and the oboe d'amore, which are large oboes with rich warm voluptuous sounds. We are also using a very special baroque organ: the portable organ, an easily transported pipe organ, popular from the 13th to the 16th century."

"Everybody needs to hear the Bach *Mass in B Minor* at some time in his/her lifetime. There are a few cities in the world where this piece is done all the time. It is seldom done in San Diego, however, because it is a very large and monumental piece that takes a great deal of preparation."



## BOARD UPDATE

~ Colin M. Bloor ~

After our successful new gala in September, the Board of Directors is now focusing on several major issues facing the LJS&CA in the 2002-03 season. The top priorities concern our relationship with UCSD, how to improve our fund-raising activities, and recruitment of new Board members with critical expertise. Recognizing that our ensemble members have many unique talents, are deeply committed to our Association, and often have valuable insights into how we can address and resolve such issues, I want to give you a brief overview of these top three priorities, and I ask for your vision and opinions to help us successfully address them.

### Relationship with UCSD

We no longer have the informal 'gentleman's agreement' with UCSD that we enjoyed over several decades in our loosely-defined relationship with the Department of Music and UCSD. Starting about ten years ago, the University of California instituted more formal relationships between the various support groups that existed within the University and those separately incorporated groups like our Association. In part, this change came about due to changes in the overall climate and culture, where it became necessary to have agreements spelled out in detail and in reasonable legal language. We have had ongoing discussions for the past two years with the administration of the Department of Music and, more recently, with the Chancellor's representative, namely the UCSD Legal Counsel. Recently, with major input from our Board and a member who is an attorney, we have sent our suggested revisions. It is hoped that we will reach final agreement soon so that all parties can sign the document. Then we will have a stable Affiliation Agreement in place with UCSD that in its first form will be valid for a number of years.

### Improve Fund-Raising Activities

Similar to other arts organizations nationally, state-wide, and locally, we have new challenges to meet our projected budget for the 2002-03 season. Changes in the economy at various levels have had the greatest impact on us and other arts organization. The Board did adopt a lean and mean budget for this season, and is monitoring it carefully as the season progresses. The category that we have had

the best success in meeting this season's budget is Foundation income, including grant income. Our staff, especially COLLEEN PHILLIPS, has played a major role in this success. However, in other categories we have not had the same degree of success. Notably we have not been very successful in terms of contributions and donations from corporations within our community. In addition, some of the other sources on which we were counting for contributions have not been contributing at the levels we projected. We wanted the ensemble members to be aware of this ... not asking you to solve the problems for which the Board has responsibility, but to encourage you that if you have any thoughts or ideas about what new approaches we might try, we would be very happy to hear from you. We know there is a lot of talent and creativeness in all parts of our family, and now in these challenging times, all thoughts and ideas should be made known and considered.

### Recruitment of New Board members

Periodically we have a time when intensive recruitment of new Board members is needed. We again are in that need. Only three years ago in 'TUTTI' we enthusiastically reported that we had recruited seven new Board members. Since then, through resignation, expiration of terms, and moving away, we presently have only thirteen of our twenty-two member positions filled. The active Board members are deeply committed and are actively participating in our ongoing activities. However, we need to have the other positions filled, in order to bring new ideas and new expertise to our responsible handling of the Association affairs. We have a subcommittee in place to address this need. However, if any ensemble members know of any people in the community that have expertise that would be helpful to the Association and have an interest in so doing, please let us know. You should send these individuals' names and any other pertinent information to me, at: 858-459-7665 (phone); 858-457-7348 (fax); or cbloor@ucsd.edu (email). We will take it from there and arrange formal contact with the individuals to determine their degree of interest and commitment.

As always, if anyone within our family has views or opinions that he/she want the Board to hear, please contact me, or our Executive Director, SYLVIA GRACE ([sgrace@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgrace@ucsd.edu)), at any time.

## YOUNG ARTISTS TO COMPETE IN FEBRUARY

~ Thelma Parris ~

The 44th annual Young Artists Competition sponsored by the LS&CA will take place at Mandeville Center on Saturday, February 22, 2003. Instrumentalists aged 14 to 26 and vocalists aged 18 to 28 will compete for prize money and performance opportunities. The deadline for submitting an application is January 25. Applications may be obtained from JEANNE SAIER or via our website, <http://www.lajollasympphony.com>

The top prize in each category is \$1,500 plus a paid gig with the LS&C during the 2003-04 season. All winners will perform on Sunday, February 23 at the Winners Showcase Concert as well as at one of the Mini-Concert series. For more details, please see HARVEY SOLLBERGER, DAVID CHASE, or JEANNE SAIER..

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

~ Colleen Phillips ~

The **California Arts Council**, a major sponsor of arts throughout our state, received a devastating 50% cut to its budget this year, resulting in a major loss of staff and a reduction in its funding to arts organizations. It is anticipating another major cut for next year. Arts organizations in California generate BILLIONS of dollars for the state each year, through both performances and attracting tourists to our state. Recent statistics estimate that \$69M in revenue will be lost to the state from the cuts already made. I encourage everyone to **write Governor GRAY DAVIS** and his/her assembly person in support maintaining funding for the CAC. (All addresses are available at [www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov)).

Despite tough economic conditions, the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Association is enjoying the support and sponsorship of a number of government agencies, foundations, and corporations. Please join me in gratefully acknowledging the following:

- California Arts Council
- San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture
- San Diego County Enhancement Fund
- The Ackerman Foundation

- Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust
- Qualcomm
- Hokanson Capital Management
- California Bank & Trust

If you know of other foundations and corporations who would be interested in supporting the LJS&C, please email me at [colzmp@yahoo.com](mailto:colzmp@yahoo.com).



### TEACHER TED BIETZ HITS JUST THE RIGHT NOTE

Long-time La Jolla Symphony Orchestra trombonist TED BIETZ is also an accomplished conductor, well-known in local classical music circles. From age 9 (he's 58 now), when he came under the influence of a dedicated 4th grade music teacher, he has been a connoisseur of the art. It's his "passion," he readily confesses. So what does Bietz, the educator and El Cajon hometown boy, teach full time? Math, what else? What, were you thinking history? He did teach that, too, for a couple of the 36 years that he's been with the Grossmont Union High School District. But for 22 of those years, most at his own alma mater (El Cajon Valley High School), it's been math.

And Bietz reckons, too, that he's inspired more than a passable proficiency in most of more than 4,000 kids -- many who didn't come waltzing through his doors with great love for the third R. "Former students still come back today, thanking me for helping them (grasp) math and telling me how grateful they were to have been in my class," Bietz says. "I love to hear that because I care about my kids and I care that they succeed."

Clearly, this soft-spoken fellow, who now lives with his wife of 31 years in the mountains of Jamul, is a teacher at heart. And that, in itself, explains some of the irony in his having taught his passion in the public school district for only a fraction of his time there. It also begins to explain why the **San Diego Youth Symphony** recently honored him for his "long-term contributions" in music education. He received the organization's **Profiles in Musical Excellence Award** during an annual celebration on Sunday, November 10, at Copley Symphony Hall.

For most of the past 11 years now, in his free time, Bietz has coached and conducted the symphony's wind ensembles, which he started 9 years ago. As he's nurtured thousands of youngsters along in math in the public school system, he's guided hundreds, including his own son and daughter, through the rigors of the non-profit community youth orchestra. He has 140 kids in his charge this year alone. "Ted possesses both outstanding teaching skills and a nurturing approach which provides all his students with a rewarding and memorable experience," says the Youth Symphony's artistic director, JEFF EDMONS. He also has an appetite for challenges like the kind that come with trying to enhance young people's learning in two basically unrelated fields.

But above all, he and wife Carol, a stellar violinist, have Spencer and Victoria, their two children, both adopted before they turned 3. Now 25 and 22 years old, Spencer and Victoria are the main reasons why Bietz switched from band director at Valhalla High School to math teacher at El Cajon Valley 21 years ago. The two kids are both brilliant musicians in their own right. Bietz tells of how his son didn't speak until he was 2 1/2, and his first words were a question he asked while listening to the radio: "Isn't that Beethoven?" Spencer started piano lessons at 5. His sister, a violinist like her mom, is now a senior in the music program at UCLA, where she's gearing for a professional career. Spencer and Victoria also

played with the Youth Symphony between 1988 and 1997.

And Bietz began putting in time with the symphony primarily to help bring his youngsters along. But soon after he began doing that, he says, new state guidelines began savaging public school arts and extracurricular programs. As a result, teachers such as band directors were putting in more hours but with less effectiveness. "A lot of band directors were telling me they were missing too much time with their families," Bietz says. "I didn't want to say that -- I wanted to grow up with my kids. So I figured that being a math teacher would allow me time to work with kids and spend time with my family." And, Bietz adds, with a smile: "It's all worked out well."

*San Diego Union-Tribune, November 5, OZZIE ROBERTS*



### CHORAL ARRANGEMENTS

~ Beda Farrell ~

#### More New Choir Babies

Soprano MICHELLE MCCURDY's baby *Collette Intan* made her appearance on October 27, at 9:53 PM PST. She took her own sweet time, too, with mom being in labor over eighteen hours. That being said, mommy and daddy are fine. *Collette*, whose middle name means "diamond" in Malay, weighed in at a whopping 9 lbs., 1 oz. She even has her own website: <http://www-cse.ucsd.edu/users/nemccurd/gallery/index.php>

Michelle was back in B-210 the following Sunday evening for the *Messiah* rehearsal!



**Collette Intan**

Bass BOB WILLIAMS and his wife Jill (former LJSC alto) had their baby girl on November 16. *Rose Nancy* weighed 8 lbs., 5.6 oz. Bob reports that her hobbies include listening to music and waking mom and dad at night. Oh, yes ... Bob was back in rehearsal on November 25.



**Rose Nancy**

Not to be outdone, soprano JEANNE STUTZER reports that she is "the proud grandmother of a baritone, born November 4. His name is *William Tobin Giesting*, and he weighed 7 lbs., 15 oz. "We stayed with my daughter the first two days they were home from the hospital, and, of course, the baby got cranky. Nothing seemed to help until I started humming the 'Kyrie' chromatic theme from the *B Minor Mass*. After a couple of repetitions of the theme, Will settled down and went to sleep. That happened twice!! So Bach gets the lullaby award."



**Bhutan Tour**

As of Sunday, November 24, we have 51 singers signed up for the Bhutan concert tour. We have LJSC UCSD students interested in going on the tour who are desperately seeking financial support. Please contact me ([LJChorus@ucsd.edu](mailto:LJChorus@ucsd.edu))

if you know of organizations or individuals who might help sponsor a student.

**Messiah-Sing**

The LJSC's Annual Messiah-Sing will be held at 2 PM on Saturday, December 16. The event takes place at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Alga Rd. at El Fuerte, LaCosta/Carlsbad. Messiah-Sing isn't limited to Chorus members -- we encourage participation by the entire LJS&CA family (including Orchestra, Board, and UCSD Dept. of Music). IT'S FUN!!!

The first LJSC Messiah-Sing -- which was the first Messiah 'sing-along in San Diego County -- took place on Saturday, December 9, 1978 at 2 PM in the St. James-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church. Accompaniment was provided by organist JARED JACOBSEN, then organist and choir-master at St.James.

The soloists in that first Messiah-Sing were: SHARON O'BRIEN, soprano; ANN PETERSON, soprano; SARAH YOUTKUS and EVELYN RABADAN, mezzo-sopranos; TOM KIMBALL, tenor; and JOE STANFORD, baritone.

The event was extremely popular right from the beginning. Public response to the idea of 'singing along' with the chorus was overwhelming, and after several years in he La Jolla location, the annual event moved to Clairemont Lutheran Church, in order to accommodate a larger audience. Messiah-Sing quickly outgrew that space and was moved to the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in La Costa, where it's been held since 1997. St. Elizabeth Seton is a beautiful, acoustically dynamic church, which accommodates more than 800 people.

Soloists for the 2002 Messiah-Sing are: ANN CHASE, soprano (former LJS&C soloist, former LJSC staff singer, and David's wife); AVA BAKER LISS, mezzo-soprano (Ava is the mezzo-soprano soloist in the *Bm Mass*, and may also be remembered for her solo work in *Ode to Common Things* in 1999); MAX CHODOS, tenor (LJSC staff singer, and music director at St. Elizabeth Seton); and JOE PECHOTA, baritone (a soloist for the *Mozart Mass in C* last June).

Our Messiah-Sing is unique in that Chorus members are interspersed with the audience, rather than removed as in a concert. This format gives our audience -- those who have sung Handel's *Messiah* a number of times as well as those who sing it for the first time -- an opportunity to sing along-side our excellent Chorus. It's the ultimate 'sing-along'. Even non-singers in the audience

have a great appreciation of this type of musical event. Based on attendance at previous Messiah-Sings, we expect a full house this year."

Tickets for Messiah-Sing are \$12/\$10/\$8. Call the LJS&CA office for advance sales, or purchase at the door. *Messiah* rental scores will be available at the door for \$3.

Save money and benefit the LJS&CA, too! **\$250** will be donated to the LJS&CA in your name if you refinance your mortgage with Board Member TOM BAZE, who is a realtor with *The Real Estate Advantage*. **\$500** will be donated if you purchase or sell real estate with Tom.

*The Real Estate Advantage* is a full service real estate company offering exceptional service and very competitive rates on mortgages and real estate transactions. If interested, you can call Tom at 760-672-9202, or email him at [thomasbaze@cox.net](mailto:thomasbaze@cox.net).

## DECEMBER EVENTS, UCSD DEPT. OF MUSIC

**Tuesday, December 3 9, 8 PM**

**Mandeville Auditorium**

**'Messiah'**

Class concert performing Handel's 'Messiah,' directed by Philip Larson. Admission: General Public, \$5; Students, \$3.

**Wednesday, December 4, 7 PM**

**Mandeville Auditorium**

**'Jazz Ensemble'**

Class concert, directed by Jimmy Cheatham. Admission: General Public, \$5; Students, \$3.

**Thursday, December 5, 8 PM**

**Mandeville Auditorium**

**'Wind Ensemble'**

Class concert, directed by Robert Zelickman. Admission: General Public, \$5; Students, \$3.

**Saturday, December 7, 4 PM**

**Erickson Hall (B210)**

**'Voice Students'**

Performances by students of Carol Plantamura. Admission: FREE.

**Saturday, December 7, 6 PM**

**Warren Music Studio A**

**'Piano Students'**

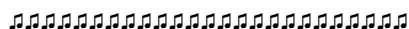
Performances by students of Aleck Karis. Admission: FREE.

**Sunday, December 8, 8 PM**

**Erickson Hall (B210)**

**'Chamber Ensembles'**

Performances by students of Janos Negyesy. Admission: FREE.



For additional information on people and events in the UCSD Dept. of Music: go to <http://www.ucsd.edu/music>; email [publicity@music.ucsd.edu](mailto:publicity@music.ucsd.edu); or phone MELANIE SEYER, at 858-534-4830.



What sorts of things would YOU like to know and read about? Please direct any questions, comments, news, or story ideas to the Editor at (858) 534-3642, or [scjones@ucsd.edu](mailto:scjones@ucsd.edu).

This issue of 'TUTTI' has been brought to you by:

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