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"From Russia with Love" ... Kellie Rice

On March 13 and 14 the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus will present "From Russia with Love," a concert featuring works by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff, plus UCSD composer KERRY HAGAN.

The program opens with one of Tchaikovsky's most famous works: "Polonaise and Waltz" from *Eugen Onegin*. This operatic adaptation of Eugen Onegin's long narrative poem is full of dramatic contrasts. It is romantic, yet tragic ... controversial, yet elegant. This story of love and Russian life was written during one of the most emotional times in Tchaikovsky's life.



The second piece on the program is the world premiere of (*orchestra*) by UCSD student composer and Thomas Nee Commission winner KERRY HAGAN. Hagan describes the piece as an aesthetic experience that explores the all-encompassing and abstract notion of musical space. The parenthetical title of her piece is meant to imply "no philosophical statement," and allow audience members to discover the music without compromising any "individual inclinations in favor of a singular suggested direction."

Ending the concert is Rachmaninoff's *The Bells, Opus 35*. This musical piece is a Russian adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem about the "tintinnabulation" of ringing bells. It is a highly dramatic piece, full of passion and emotional intensity. Rachmaninoff considered this his finest work.

**DISCOUNTED TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
FOR UCSD FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS**

For more information, call the Box Office at (858) 534-4637 or visit
<http://www.lajollasympphony.com>.

News from the Office ... Cindy Collins

Wine-Tasting to Benefit the LJS&CA

Tour the world's great syrahs and shirazes with wine columnist ROBERT WHITLEY at the lovely Del Mar home of BOB ENGLER and JULIE RUEDI on Saturday, March 27, from 2 PM to 4:30 PM. Robert will lead us on a tour of the world's great syrahs and shirazes in the blind tasting of wines from Australia (the land of shiraz), France's Rhone Valley, and California. The tasting will be accompanied by a raffle of 60 fine wines from private collections, featuring some of the most renowned and rare wines in the world, donated for the occasion by Robert and other friends of the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Association. All proceeds from this event will benefit the LJS&CA.

Tickets are \$95 per person or \$175 per couple. [NOTE: Since this is a fundraising event, there are no discounts for ensemble members.] Raffle tickets are only \$20 each. Attendance is limited to only 60 people (last year we sold out!), so reserve early! Call me in the office (858) 534-4637, or email me at cycollins@ucsd.edu to reserve your space.

NOTE: Volunteers are needed to assist with the benefit. We are looking for one or two to transport patrons, in a golf cart (which will be provided), from a parking area to the benefit site. The volunteers will be needed from 1:30 to 2:00 and then again from 4:30 to 5:00. Volunteers are welcome to attend the event for free, but any alcohol consumption during this period of time would be prohibited. If you are interested or know someone who might be, again, contact me in the office.

Star Award Honorees John and Mary Benbow



The LJS&CA is proud to honor JOHN and MARY BENBOW as our recipients of this year's "Star Award" at the 13th annual celebration of volunteers in the performing arts. John and Mary were chosen for this award for the range and impact that their volunteer involvement has made on the LJS&CA.

Besides being fans, John has been a Board Member since 1998 and has served as an officer (Secretary). John has also worked in the community promoting the LJS&CA and ascertaining in-kind and cash donations through other organizations such as the Kiwanis Club and George's at the Cove. Mary has diligently worked as our Saturday Volunteer Usher Captain -- a role often overlooked but essential for running a smooth front of house -- for eight years. We give these two a standing ovation for their hard work and dedication!

Contributors:

Sharon Jones, Ed.

Monica Brooks

Cindy Collins

Sally Dean

Beda Farrell

Vicki Heins-Shaw

Yaphet Jones

Chris Lewis

David Parris

Kellie Rice

Susan Ung



John was a minister for 40 years and recently retired from the Congregational Church of La Jolla. Mary is a Pediatric Occupational Therapist; she conducts workshops around the country on hand development in children, and has authored a many articles and a book on handwriting. The Benbows have been married for 44 years and have two grown sons and two granddaughters.

Past LJS&CA "Star Awards" honorees have included DR. COLIN BLOOR, VICTORIA EICHER, THELMA and DAVID PARRIS, and DR. DAVID D. SMITH.

The awards ceremony will be June 1, 2004 at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine and presented by the San Diego Performing Arts League. Over 800 volunteers, supporters, and performing arts staff from San Diego will attend, celebrating the spirit of volunteerism in the arts and the significant and diverse contribution volunteers make. Tickets will go on sale March 15. If you would like to attend, please contact me in the office.

50th Anniversary Preparations

As you know, the LJS&CA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary, and plans for many special events and projects are in the works, including a Commemorative Book with CD/DVD. We are looking for volunteers who are able to scan old photographs, programs, newspaper clippings, etc., onto a computer disk. Also, if you have any historical memorabilia you are willing to lend or donate to us, please contact me in the office, or email me at cycollins@ucsd.edu.

We would also love to get in touch with any "alumni" members to recognize them as being important to our history. If anyone has any lead on how to contact past participants, please let us know by calling or emailing me.

Music on UCSD-TV ... Sharon Jones

UCSD-TV presents "Hymns," a piano recital of works by Franz Liszt and George Ivanovich Gurdjieff, performed by UCSD Provost and renowned pianist Professor CECIL LYTLE. This 9th annual Rebecca Lytle Memorial Scholarship Concert will air throughout March beginning Friday, March 5, at 8 PM. The program includes late religious piano music by Liszt, *Harmonie Poetiques et Religieuses*, and Gurdjieff, *Sufi Hymns* and *Sacred Hymns*.

Like past programs, this recital will benefit the Rebecca Lytle Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund was established in 1995 to support and encourage a select group of 1st-year students enrolled in UCSD's Thurgood Marshall College who are the first in their families to attend college.

Past recitals by Professor Lytle are available for viewing on UCSD-TV's website with video-on-demand. For more information, go to <http://ucsd.tv/schedule/>.

Did you know that we now have recording samples of the LJS&C on the web site?

Check them out at...

<http://www.lajollasympony.com/concerts/recordings/>

CHORAL ARRANGEMENTS ... Beda Farrell

When First Rang The Bells for the LJS&C

It was in 1983 ... Sunday, November 20 and Monday (yes, Monday), November 21. Our soloists were soprano PAULINE TWEED, tenor THOMAS OBERJAT (yup, the same Tom Oberjat who's singing with us in 2004), and bass KENNETH TOM (as opposed to TOM ROY, who's singing now).

The program for that concert was:

Concerto for Orchestra No. 1 (Mischievous Melodies), by Shchedrin
The Bells, Op. 35, by Rachmaninoff
Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 54, by Shostakovich

Here's a following "Special Note" from David Chase in the 1983 program guide:

The choral part of the program is dedicated to the memory of Anne Cohu, who sang with the Chorus from 1972 until 1983. She was a Board member of the LJS&C Association, and took special delight in her support of our Young Artist Auditions, serving as chairman of the Auditions Committee for many years. Anne was a cultured and discerning lady who often enjoyed playing the eccentric, but always showed her love and appreciation of the chorus and all the individuals in it. When rehearsals began this fall and Anne was in the hospital, we sent a copy of the Rachmaninoff score, covered with affectionate salutations from the Chorus members, to the hospital. We felt that she was still part of the group.

We still do ... and she continues to watch over us, along with her dearest friend and our benefactor, TERESE HURST.

Current Chorus members who sang The Bells in 1983 include sopranos BEDA FARRELL, FRAN HANSEN (CASTLE), KAREN KAKAZU, and DEBBY PARK [now singing alto]; altos JUNE ALLEN, VICKI HEINS (-SHAW), and AMEE WOOD; tenors CHARLES CARVER and WALT DESMOND; and basses PAUL FRIEDMAN, PETER JORGENSEN, STEW SHAW, and OTTO SORENSEN.



Info for the Upcoming April 23 "Sacred Voices" Concert

CHRIS LEWIS, LJSC bass, has mp3 files of the Palestrina *Stabat Mater* and Rachmaninoff *Bogoroditse Djevo* on his website. The recordings are of the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, the ensemble Chris sang with before

What sorts of things would
YOU like to know and read
about?

Would you be interested in
being Editor?

moving to San Diego. The files are relatively large, so are most appropriate to download on cable or dsl internet service. Thanks, Chris!

Palestrina *Stabat Mater* (relatively big file -- 8.6 MB -- recorded in a very echoey hall): <http://clewis.myfonts.com/stuff/mp3/LJSC/stabatmater.mp3>

Rachmaninoff *Bogoroditse Devo* (2.8 MB)
<http://clewis.myfonts.com/stuff/mp3/LJSC/bogoroditse.mp3>

Alumni Search Continues

We continue to search for former Chorus members who've sung with David Chase during the past 30 years. We'd like as many as possible to join us for the final concert of this season, to sing one movement of the Verdi *Four Sacred Pieces ...* and to have a bit of fun reminiscing with David. Unfortunately, we've lost contact with many people. If you have contact information on former members, please contact FRAN CASTLE at Jofrcastle@aol.com, (619) 296-7203.

Chorus Performs in Las Vegas

There's more to Las Vegas than gambling, Cirque du Soleil, and "cold beer and dirty girls" (sign at the New Frontier). On Saturday, February 28, singers from the LJSC gave a spectacular performance at the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) Western Division Convention in Las Vegas. Seventy singers (more than half the chorus) traveled to LV by plane, car and van, meeting Friday night for a brief (30 minute) rehearsal in the Cathedral of the Guardian Angel. We were joined by percussionist MATHIAS REUMERT and pianist LUCIANE CARDASSI (two hands of a four-hand piano accompaniment, with VICKI HEINS-SHAW). Our 25-minute program featured the first movement, "Oda a las cosas," from Cary Ratcliff's *Ode to Common Things*. Cary rewrote the orchestral score for piano (four hands) and percussion instruments. The program also included two David Chase arrangements, *Cancioncilla Romántica Venezolana* for women's voices by Venezuelan composer Juan Plaza, and *Eres tú* by Spaniard Juan Carlos Calderon. David arranged *Eres tú* for chorus with solo by alto BECKY RAMIREZ. The audience, primarily comprised of choral directors -- David's peers -- responded enthusiastically to our music, especially the Ratcliff. The composer flew to Las Vegas to hear this new "stand alone" movement of his larger work. He was very pleased with our production, and he made many new contacts for his choral work at the convention.

The Chorus singing at the ACDA Western Convention was quite an honor for David and the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Association. Very few choruses are chosen to participate at the annual event. This became just one more memorable event in David's 30th season with the LJS&CA. *Bravo, Maestro!!*

The next copy deadline is
Friday, February 27, 2004.



David received this plaque.

Chorus to Sing with San Diego Symphony Next Season

In addition to a full season with our own fine Orchestra, the LJSC has been offered two opportunities to sing with the SDSO in 2004-05.

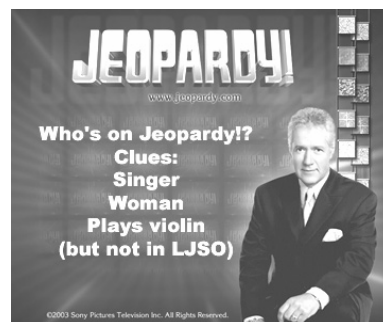
November 18,19,20 & 21
Verdi *Requiem*

A volunteer ensemble (not the entire Chorus) will join with the San Diego Master Chorale. Rehearsals will be the same as this season's *Porgy & Bess* ensemble, with KEN BELL running rehearsals until production week.

May 14, 2005
Hot Jazz Live!
Lambert: *Rio Grande*

A "Lightbulb Concert" with MURRY SIDLIN conducting. The LJSC is the chorus. We sang this piece with our own Orchestra, TOM NEE conducting, a few years back.

LJSC Singer to Appear on 'Jeopardy'



One of our singers will appear on the TV quiz show *Jeopardy!* on Friday, March 19. We're sworn to secrecy about her identity until Sony makes a public announcement about local contestants, so you'll have to do a bit of

Please direct any questions,
comments, news, or story
ideas to the Editor at (858)
534-3642, or
scjones@ucsd.edu.

Need to contact the LJS&CA?

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La Jolla, CA 92093

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sleuthing in rehearsal. It's a female singer-musician who also plays violin (but not in the LJSO). Check her out on NBC 7/39 at 7:30 PM on the 19th and the week of the 22nd. We wish her lots of luck!!

Piano for Sale

Soprano SALLY DEAN brings us the information that an electronic Yamaha piano is available for sale at The Unitarian Fellowship of San Dieguito (Solana Beach). It's a P-150 with full-scale weighted action keyboard and high-quality piano and other instrumental voices, and was recently reconditioned by Pro Sound & Music. For more information, contact Miles Anderson at (760) 942-3950.

Orchestrations ... Susan Ung

Hello, everyone. Sometimes (maybe) it helps to put things in perspective when you receive a couple of emails from a colleague in the Marines, serving in Iraq. Any of you who would like to email YAPHET JONES, our LJS trumpet player who is now in Iraq, I just want to let you know that he has been sending and receiving emails. We have corresponded a few times recently, amidst one interruption due to an explosion (YIKES). He is in a pretty scary situation (as you can imagine), and would be really happy to hear from any of you folks. When things aren't flying his way, he does appreciate the contact from those of us over here. Here follow a couple of his recent communications...

March 2nd

Hello, Susan, Jeff, Harvey and all. I wanted to let you know that all is OK thus far. We are in a extremely dangerous area now in Iraq (near Baghdad), and we experience quite frequent rocket and mortar attacks from the Iraqis. One landed pretty close to us -- only 40 meters away!! All is well, though. I was very sick when I first arrived in the country; now I'm back to 100%. The drive up from Kuwait was quite an experience, as intelligence stated that we would be attacked during our convoy. Of course, there is always the fear of running over an IED (improvised explosive device) that they seem to plant all over around the clock. It's serious business here ... much more dangerous than the actual war we were in just last year, if you could believe that. It's pretty freaky seeing the same destroyed tanks near Baghdad that we destroyed last year off the side of the road. All in all we are doing OK. The food is really good; they have a good gym, a movie center, x-box games, and all types of hobbies for us to help pass the time and improve morale. It looks like I'll be back sometime in November. - Yaphet

Hi Susan. Sorry I had to leave so abruptly, but we had an explosion on our camp at that very moment. We're all OK; we were told it was an RPG round that was fired. I hope to be able to do some playing once things calm down. We'll be most careful; the IEDs are tough, but we are becoming better and better at discovering them ... and we have some pretty good tactics, too. Take care, and please send my regards to everyone in the LJS and let them know how things are going. Best regards... -Yaphet

Once again, you can contact Yaphet at:

GySgt Yaphet K. Jones, U.S. Marines
1st Marine Division
HQBN, H & S CO (BAND)
UIC 40120
FPO AP 96426-0120
ykjones@mac.com

PHOTOGRAPHY WEB SITE... David Parris (former Board member)

This is to let you know that I have completely redesigned my website, and it contains mostly new images that you have not seen before. Please look at my site and get back to me if you have any comments that you would want me to hear. The address is <http://www.parrisphotography.net>.

In addition, I will be participating in ArtWalk in San Diego on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25, and (with five other photographers) in an exhibition at the Miller Art Museum in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin in August and September on this year (the opening of the show is August 7).

WESTENBURG CALLED SUCCESSOR TO SHAW...Sharon Jones

Parade Magazine, March 7, 2004. For decades, ROBERT SHAW was 'dean' of choral conducting in America. Now, RICHARD WESTENBURG, who founded **Musica Sacra** in New York almost 40 years ago, is considered by many to be Shaw's successor.

At 71, Westenburg still conducts all of Musica Sacra's concerts, including an upcoming performance of Mozart's *Requiem* at Carnegie Hall on March 24. "Conducting is one of those professions where you get better as you get older," Westenburg has said. "One famous conductor, Leopold Stokowski, signed a five-year recording contract when he was 94. I'm shooting for that mark." [Are you listening, David??]

Sylvia Grace, Executive Director
sgrace@ucsd.edu