

T u t t i

December 1, 2008

A newsletter by and for the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Association

Volume 13, Number 2

Motion ... Music Director Steven Schick

After "time" comes "motion." And so the second link in our chain of musical DNA deals with music that moves, and makes us move, and by extension, moves us.

So, what is the quality of music in motion? Is it the presence of pulse? Is it a sense of propulsion, of forward momentum? Is it sheer vitality of rhythm or color or story-line?

In the case of Evan Ziporyn's *Frog's Eye*, motion comes from a system of overlapping pulses and melodic lines reiterated at every level, from simple repeating percussion parts to waves of melodic foam that rise from the mists of the orchestra. Evan speaks poetically about the "frog's eye," a view of the world that is both dryly observant, almost outside the action, while simultaneously stuck right in the middle of the swampy fertility of life's many options.

We seek to amplify the motions of a *Frog's Eye*, literally by adding movement. We are extremely pleased to welcome Tijuana's

fascinating young dance company Lux Boreal Contemporanea Danza who will take the teeming plenty of Ziporyn's composition and translate it into dance. Likewise we are very pleased to have the composer himself present for these concerts. Evan's musical roots are both broad and deep: he is an extraordinary clarinetist, as well as a gifted composer whose music represents the diversity of his fascinations from contemporary classics to minimalism to the traditional music of Indonesia.

Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto* deals less with a vocabulary of pulse and more in the language of momentum. From the sharp opening notes of the solo cello, everything in the piece seems in motion towards a goal. It's as though the piece was born with its weight on one leg always looking forward towards its next step. Shostakovich cloaks his forward propulsion with a solo cello line of enormous virtuosity and an orchestration that is sometimes raw and rhythmic and at other times wistful or even comical. But for all of its compositional refinements the piece is essentially a shark: restless and yearning, believing fully that living is equivalent to moving forward and that to stop is to die. We are pleased to welcome as soloist for this weekend's performances the winner of the 2008 Young Artist Competition, cellist Margaret Zhou.



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If *Frog's Eye* is a tale of our multiple lines (and stories) and Shostakovich signals an inexorable momentum, Stravinsky's great ballet *Petrushka* is an injection of sheer vitality. In his story of a puppet brought to life, Stravinsky literally takes a lifeless thing and gives it hope, love and the quest for life. For Stravinsky, *Petrushka* was a bridge—between a static puppet and a whirling ballet; and for the composer personally, between the colors and sound of his Russian past and his first steps towards a beckoning modernity. Stravinsky's *Petrushka* is a kaleidoscopic universe, a preview of the 20th century's life in the fast lane

We hope that you will enjoy this concert. So if your world is still a Newtonian one, then your first law is clear: these musical bodies will always remain in motion.

From the Executive Director ... Diane Salisbury

I'm pleased to announce that the new season started with a bang, not a whimper, with near-capacity crowds for our November 1-2 concerts, and a successful Gala the following weekend.

From our concert audience, I heard over and over how good the orchestra sounded and how much they enjoyed the concert programming. Good to hear!

We are beginning to receive recognition from several quarters. In addition to feature story coverage of the first concert and our season in the *San Diego Union-Tribune, La Jolla Village News*, and *La Jolla Light*, among others, our Gala resulted in a two-page photo spread in the *La Jolla Light*'s November 13 edition and coverage by the online publication *Discover SD* (http://www.lajollalight.com/life/250501-la-jolla-symphony--chorus-gala-celebrates-season and http://pictures.discoversd.com/san-diego-events/a591.html, respectively). Both publications sent photographers to the event. Our own photographer's photos are part of this issue of TUTTI. The Westgate Hotel, signature sponsor of our Gala, also included our event with photos in their online promotions to their regular patrons.

Our choral concerts in Carlsbad (*The Motet Project* and *Messiah Sing*) are part of the Carlsbad Winter Music Celebration this year and are receiving promotion through this organization. On Tuesday, November 18th, I attended the Carlsbad City Council meeting to receive a proclamation from Mayor Lewis on behalf of LJS&C, recognizing our participation in the cultural offerings of the City as part of the Winter Music Celebration.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for December 4th for the first in our series of four INFORMANCES. This Informance will be held at The LOFT in UCSD's Price Center East at 7:00-8:30 pm and feature dancers from Lux Boreal, composer/clarinetist Evan Ziporyn, and Steven Schick on glockenspiel! It's going to be an evening of surprises, music, and audience discussion. Advance tickets are \$12 (\$15 at the door), and UCSD students can attend on a "pay as you can basis." The LJS&C website has more information and a pdf brochure of the entire series. I hope you can join us!



Contributors:

Barbara Peisch, Ed. Victoria Eicher Beda Farrell Tom Peisch Diane Salisbury Steven Schick Jenny Smerud Amee Wood



Howard Bresner - In Memoriam ... Amee Wood

I was visiting my father in New York when I received Diane's email about Howard's sudden death from a heart attack Oct 17. I was shocked and saddened. While I was enjoying my family and Fall in New York, I would experience random jolts, from time to time, that Howard had died.

Now back in San Diego and fully immersed in the activities of the LJS&C, I am struggling to integrate his absence. Howard worked as our bookkeeper for 8 years, but was more than a bookkeeper. He was with us through several administrations, weathered our ups and downs and listened to us. Howard was an amazing listener. Over the years staff confided their frustrations, hopes and worries to Howard, and he always responded with kindness and honesty. His knowledge of our history was prodigious. Facts, figures and anecdotes were always on the tip of his tongue, clarifying many of our fuzzy memories. Despite not liking our music – I think he only once attended a concert – he was our champion. He contributed ideas and solutions, recruited a Board member and was the first to rejoice as our budget came into balance.

I was fortunate to get to know Howard personally, and not only respected his professional expertise, but also his warmth, generosity, keen sensitivity to those around him and wonderful sense of humor. Howard was always ready to help, and believe me, I took him up on his offers often.

Howard's death leaves a hole in our organization and for many of us personally. We join his mother and siblings in grieving his loss. I will miss Howard very much.



The La Jolla Symphony Chorus dedicated its Sacred Voices concerts on November 22 and 23 to the memory of our esteemed friend, tenor Brian Pugh, who died tragically in Santa Clara on November 14.

Member Spotlight

Jenny Smerud, Clarinet and Board Treasurer

I grew up the oldest of four siblings in the Midwest and moved to many different cities and states throughout school as my dad worked for Kraft Foods. I lived mostly in Iowa and Missouri and went to high school near Nashville, Tennessee. I started playing clarinet in fourth grade. My mom played clarinet, so we had one in the closet, and I picked it up. My mom encouraged all of us to play an instrument. My mom's side of the family is very musical – my grandma, who just turned 80, still plays trombone in two community bands in Illinois!



You can view *Tutti* online!

You can download this and previous issues of *Tutti* from:

www.peisch.com/tutti



By the time I was a junior in high school, I had decided to pursue music as a career. I really loved band and thought I wanted to be a band director. I applied to music schools and chose Indiana University because they had an outstanding conservatory type music program within a complete state university, so I knew I could pursue other fields if I changed my mind about music. The summer after my freshman year I signed up to be a counselor at Interlochen Academy for the Arts and was assigned a cabin full of sixth and seventh grade girls. After that experience I knew I did not have enough patience to be a band director! I changed my focus to

clarinet performance and also took business courses as electives. Indiana was a great place to go to school. We had so many performance opportunities. I played in operas, ballets, chamber groups, and symphony orchestras and got a chance to play most of the standard repertoire. One of the highlights was performing Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* as a ballet with the conductor of the American Ballet Theatre. It was kind of a fluke – I had done well enough in my semester audition to be playing second clarinet in the orchestra that was performing the *Rite of Spring* but for whatever reason I was assigned the third clarinet part. Since high school I had loved the big bass clarinet solo in the beginning of the piece and that solo is in the third part. To this day, those performances are some of the highlights of my music career. It was a really unique experience to perform the piece with the dancers instead of as a concert piece.



Jenny with Scott and Watson

I graduated with a degree in clarinet performance and business and continued my education at Indiana, completing a Masters of Accountancy. It is tough to win a job as a professional clarinetist. I enjoy teaching privately, but ultimately decided I did not want to pursue a doctorate and a university teaching position, so I decided to get my CPA. After graduation I moved to Chicago to work for Ernst & Young. It was there I met my future husband, Scott, who worked as an attorney in tax consulting. Scott grew up in Escondido and wanted to move back to California to work in his family's business, so he proposed and we moved to San Marcos in 2003. I joined the LJS&C the same year.

Need to contact the LJS&CA?

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Diane Salisbury, Executive Director <u>dsalisbury@lajollasymphony.com</u>



Besides playing in community ensembles and doing some private teaching, I enjoy pursuing my hobby as an amateur musicologist. If I had it to do all over, I would pursue musicology in addition to clarinet performance. At Indiana I won an award for my work on Messiaen's use of symbolism in the music and in his written notes that are a part of the *Quartet for the End of Time*. I have an opportunity to continue writing as a member of a Lutheran congregation in Escondido. I am fortunate to be a member of a congregation where the pastor puts a special emphasis on the rich history of the liturgy and hymnody of the Lutheran church. Last spring we sponsored a hymn festival where I gave a presentation on the poems of Paul Gerhardt and their setting in hymns and use by other composers such as Bach. I am pursuing that research and am especially interested in how Bach used Gerhardt's poems and the traditional hymn accompaniments in his major works, like the *St. Matthew Passion*.

My favorite composer is Igor Stravinsky. I even have the famous Arnold Newman photo of him hanging in my office. It has been very exciting for me to get to play *Firebird* and now *Petrushka* with the LJS&C. I am a huge fan of Steve's programming philosophy. Pairing *Petrushka* with the Ziporyn and the Shostakovich makes for a rhythmic extravaganza. It is going to be a great concert. I fully expect to add this concert to one of my most treasured performance experiences as a musician! We are so blessed to have an organization like the LJS&C to allow us to continue to pursue our passion for music, even if we don't play professionally. I am thrilled to be a part of it!

Redux of November 8 Gala ... Diane Salisbury, Photos by Pablo Mason

La Jolla Symphony & Chorus' 2008 Gala, "It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing!)," was held at The Westgate Hotel on November 8th. After a Silent Auction and cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception in the Riviera Room and Terrace, guests gathered in the Versailles Room for an elegant three-course dinner with wine provided by Robert Whitley. Emcee for the night was KUSI-TV weatherman and reporter Dave Scott, who welcomed guests and conducted a Live Auction of three special items: a Fallbrook Winery tasting, tour and alfresco lunch for 10; handmade pasta dinner for six by David Chase; and Steven Schick's conducting baton from his inaugural concert as LJS&C Music Director. After the dining, San Diego Smooth Dancers Chuck DiSessa and Susan McKee gave a demonstration of "Swing," and got everyone to their feet, dancing to the swing-era sound of the 16-piece Big Band Express. Special thanks go to The Westgate Hotel (signature sponsor); Gala Committee members Julie Croom, Andrea Gilbert, Carol Marshall, Liza Perkins-Cohen, and Caron Schattel; and all those who contributed to making this event a success.



The LJS&CA Board

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Have some news to report? Let the editor know! <u>barbara@peisch.com</u>





KUSI's Dave Scott as emcee



Show 'em how to do it!



Steven offers his baton for auction



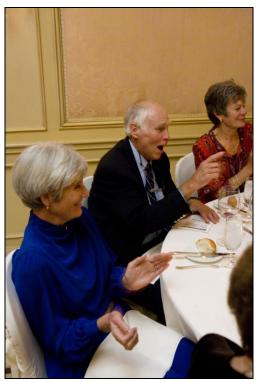
David Chase



Ida Houby



Michael Kaehr makes a bid



Amee Wood



Brenda and Steven Schick

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Outreach ... Victoria Eicher

Greetings! To summarize our current outreach program, I thought I'd take some excerpts from a grant proposal I recently submitted to Qualcomm for continued funding. The program breaks down into three parts: a Latin American Music Project (established in April 2006), a Music Literacy Program (evolving since 1999) and a student internship program (new this year).

The *Latin American Music Project*, through its City Heights Mariachi and Afro-Cuban Ensemble classes, offers music instruction and performance opportunities to youth in City Heights, a low-income, mid-city region of San Diego. Over the summer, parents expressed gratitude that their children have blossomed in the program – finding the confidence to sing and perform center stage, all by memory. It is a tribute to the remarkable dedication and commitment of the instructors and the discipline developed by the students that the ensembles perform several times a year to a high standard, reflecting pride and achievement in their community and amongst their peers. The classes meet every Saturday at the City Heights Park and Recreation Center.

The LJS&C *Music Literacy Program* complements the instructional and performance emphasis of the Latin American Music Project by bringing a Vocal Ensemble (four singers: soprano, alto, tenor, bass) and Mariachi (violins, guitars, guitarron, vihuela, trumpets and vocals) to elementary school audiences throughout San Diego for large group assemblies. The interactive performances incorporate California Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) standards and carry the Arts Education Roundtable (AERO) of San Diego Seal of Approval. The Vocal Ensemble engages the students in activities with melody, harmony and rhythm. The Mariachi embraces an important connection between school, community and family life, particularly in San Diego Title I schools, and calls upon student volunteers for an impromptu quitar lesson and performance with the ensemble. The Mariachi program is presented by Mariachi Garibaldi, an ensemble of advanced Mariachi students from Southwestern College. The college age of the musicians creates a strong rapport with the audience of elementary students. The *Music* Literacy Program encourages students to join school and community music programs. All students receive educational bookmarks with invitations to LJS&C dress rehearsals.

A new component this year to LJS&C Outreach is the **student internship program**. LJS&C Outreach is offering an opportunity for student interns to engage in the development and performance aspects of the outreach program. Working in the same community as the Latin American Music Project (LAMP), the high school interns distribute and promote material for the LAMP and reflect the focus of the LJS&C Music Literacy Program by serving as mentor coaches to nearby middle school music students, and creating and performing in outreach programs for local 4th grade classrooms. In addition, the interns assist in the research and design of educational LJS&C season concert

displays, interact with young audiences at LJS&C dress rehearsals, and provide support at LJS&C season events, including the Young Artist Competition. Victoria Eicher, the LJS&C Outreach Director, serves on the arts advisory boards of Hoover High and San Diego High schools, the sources for student interns this year.

Displays of outreach program events and activities can be found in the East Room (across the lobby from the auditorium in Mandeville) during LJS&C concert weekends. Any questions or comments on the LJS&C outreach program, please contact Victoria at 858-442-0237 or <u>outreach@lajollasymphony.com</u>.

Upcoming Events

Jenny Smerud's church is hosting a choral group called the Kantorei. It is a 16 member men's choir based at the Fort Wayne seminary for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The group tours around the country giving concerts.

Kantorei, resident men's choral ensemble of the seminary of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod - Free and open to the public!

Saturday, January 3, 7pm Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1087 W Country Club Ln Escondido, CA 92026 Call (760)743-2478 for more information



Article watch

From Tom Peisch:

The San Diego Union-Tribune, Sunday, October 26, 2008 "Symphony makes music in the hear and now"

By Roxana Popescu

http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20081026/news_ 1a26lajolla.html

This article is about us and our first concert of the season. Unfortunately, it came out after the previous issue of *Tutti* was released.



<u>The San Diego Union-Tribune, Tuesday, November 4, 2008</u> "It Matters—behind tonight's election results are people who are divided on many issues, but united on the idea of voting. Here are a few of their stories."

By John Wilkens

http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20081104/news_ lz1n4election.html

"Stories of local voters" (A separate article related to the one above.)

www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20081104/news lz1n4v oters.html

Although this article isn't music-related, it does feature an interview with a member of our ensemble—Ida Houby.



From Beda Farrell:

<u>Kuensel Online, Bhutan's daily news site, Thursday,</u> <u>November 20, 2008</u> "Vintage cars, a grand piano and many musicians"

By Kesang Dema

http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&fi le=article&sid=11490

Bhutan is in for a grand treat with two groups of special guests arriving in the country to be a part of the coronation and centenary celebrations.



If you find an interesting, music-related article or Web site, send the information about it to me at <u>barbara@peisch.com</u>. For Web sites, send me a link to the site. For articles, you may either send a link to the article or just the name and date of the publication, along with the title of the article, and I can find it online. You may also hand me the article during rehearsal or mail it to me at:

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