

The long dirt road ... Choral Director David Chase

I've always been a fan of Garrison Keillor (Are my Midwestern roots showing?), and I recently ran into a quote of his that I wish had been at my fingertips all year, as lots of wonderful people congratulated me on the distinction of being with LJS&C for forty years. "... So I forgot about immortality and headed down the long dirt road of longevity." It's true: my contribution has been more that of the proverbial tortoise than the hare. But there's been so great a reward.

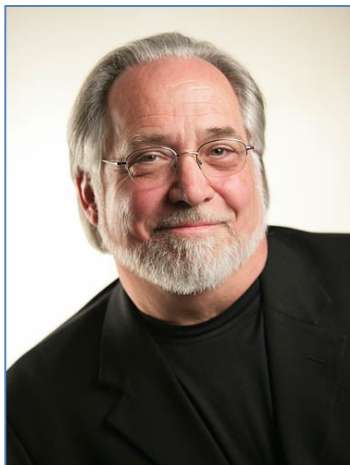
My fortieth anniversary has been a fabulous year. Steve Schick started it all with his concept to organize the season around his "Life*" poem, which has created a kind of delicious embarrassment for me. And like a kid's birthday party, the anniversary has given me license to do some things that I've been wanting to do, but needed others' indulgence to support; for example, inviting Maria Guinand from Venezuela to share a program of Latin American music in March, and now doing a reprise of Cary Ratcliff's *Ode to Common Things*, a setting of poetry by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, for this last concert.

If you perceive a thread of Latin American influence in all this, you're right on. That culture has had a rejuvenating influence on me and on the ensembles.

Classical music programs these days are, thankfully, far more cosmopolitan than they used to be, combining styles of many more cultures and historical times than we heard fifty years ago. Since the days of Tom Nee (who was LJS&C Music Director and our spiritual leader from 1967 to 1998), LJS&C has made it its mission to combine the accepted "masterworks" with spunky new works of young and counter-culture composers. In the '70s, Tom declared his interest in non-European music by organizing a large festival of Latin American music. Furthermore, the first piece to be commissioned by the Thomas Nee Commission Endowment was Jeff Nevin's *Concerto for Mariachi and Orchestra* (1998).

It's in that context that Ratcliff's *Ode to Common Things* caught my imagination decades ago. When I first saw the score, I felt that something I'd been looking for had suddenly fallen into my lap. It was a sprawling, colorful setting of text that spoke to me as a choral musician trying to open new space in a repertory that was crowded with serious sacred works. This poetry was fun and sometimes self-deprecating; it bordered on the banal, but plumbed deep and meaningful metaphors; and it was innately musical.

Ratcliff's setting of these poems is clever and nuanced, with memorable tunes and infectious rhythms. Those rhythms immediately spoke to my inner 18-year-old jazz-player. . . this, I felt, was "my piece." And so it becomes my last offering of this anniversary year.



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It was our conscious choice from the outset to have both conductors engaged in this season closer. It's always a great honor for me to share the podium with Steve Schick, who has taken the tradition of Tom Nee's programming and respectfully updated it. In this concert, he has chosen to underscore our ongoing dedication to the classics conjointly with new and unusual works with the inclusion of a Haydn symphony.

Haydn, "Father of the Symphony" and heir to Handel's oratorio legacy, represents the very foundation of what we do. The last of his 104 symphonies is the epitome of what we call "masterworks" and, as such, presents an interesting interpretation



challenge. In our day, the concept of what is called "authenticity" is long-established. There exist whole ensembles and organizations whose work is focused on re-creating the music of long-dead composers just as it might have been heard when the composer wrote it. Those conscientious performers have done us all great service in peeling away misconceptions that accrued over centuries, but they have also precluded our modern-day re-conceptions of those works.

Rather than trying to re-create the 18th century, Steve prefers to look at this work with 21st century eyes (and ears) – and, more specifically, with "La Jolla Symphony eyes and ears." The same can certainly be said of his

interpretation of Janáček, whose *Zárlivost Overture* comes to us from almost exactly 100 years after its London Symphony debut. (By coincidence, that progression is continued with the *Ode to Common Things*: all three are nearly 100 years apart: Haydn–1795, Janáček–1894 and Ratcliff–1995!)

So this, it seems, is my "long dirt road:" an anniversary season that has included daughter Claire Chase and ICE, the premiere of an exciting choral commission, our Venezuelan guest conductor, then the beloved *Chichester Psalms*, and now *Ode*. How fortunate can I be? I hope the road will still stretch a good distance more!

See you next season.



*Life is fresh,
 sometimes a little scary,
 utterly ecstatic,
 sometimes hidden (in plain sight),
made for sharing, and bursting with promise.
 Life is for celebrating.

To David on his 40th year with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus.

[The "Life" poem was written by Steven Schick]

Contributors:

Barbara Peisch, Ed.

Evon Carpenter, Asst Ed.

David Chase

Walt Desmond

Beda Farrell

Marty Hambright

Jean Lowerison

Tom Peisch

Diane Salisbury



News from the Executive Director ... Diane Salisbury

Our May 3-4 concert, "bursting with promise," certainly delivered on its theme! It was not only an artistic achievement, but we had several new concert-goers in our audience. City councilmember (and President Pro Tem) Sherri Lightner and her husband attended for the first time as did 38 members of UCSD's Town & Gown organization. This latter group is the result of new efforts by LJS&C Board members and staff to grow our audience through sales to on- and off-campus groups. If you have a connection to an alumni group, service group, or a company or community organization that might be interested in creating an activity around one of our concerts, please contact me at dsalisbury@lajollasympphony.com to discuss the possibilities.

Fundraising Update: On April 26th, we held our 13th annual Wine Tasting, which netted \$7,300. "When in Rhône" was hosted by Don and Julie MacNeil and visited by surprise guest County Supervisor Dave Roberts. (See story in this issue of *Tutti*). Our annual Major Donor Thank-You reception was held post-concert on May 3rd for donors who have contributed \$500 or more this season. I'm happy to report that the ranks are swelling thanks to the many new contributors who have given to the *Sostenuto* endowment effort! On May 6th, LJS&C participated in the San Diego Foundation's

GiveBIG online fundraising campaign and raised \$5,293, which includes a partial gift match by the Foundation. Nineteen gifts were received during the 24-hour giving period.



(l. to r.) Wine Tasting hosts Don MacNeil, Julie MacNeil, Diane Salisbury, Supervisor Dave Roberts

The season is coming rapidly to a close! Thank you for another incredible year of music-making. I look forward to celebrating with you all at the potluck after the June 8th concert!

You can view *Tutti* online!

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

www.lajollasympphony.com

Look for TUTTI NEWSLETTER on the right side of the home page.



Meet Ken Fitzgerald ... Evon Carpenter

Each time I sit at my desk and write about one of our ensemble members, I am awed by the level of expertise and professionalism our members possess. Ken is our principal trumpet player and has been part of the group for fifteen years. He holds a B.A. in Music from Rice University and after graduation spent time freelancing in Houston and trying to figure out what to do with his life. During that time he visited a friend in San Diego, fell in love with the beaches, weather and vibe of the area, and decided to move. After moving to San Diego he picked up some gigs with the San Diego Symphony and opera, played in a brass quintet and took the LSAT.

Ken made the decision to go to law school and attended UCLA School of Law. He found the law to be fascinating, challenging and intellectually rewarding. After serving as a law clerk to a federal district judge, he began practicing law as a trial lawyer handling business disputes at Latham & Watkins, a large, multi-national law firm. After twenty years of practice there, he decided to practice in his own firm, a litigation boutique firm that is now called Chapin Fitzgerald LLP. The firm specializes in business litigation and trial work, and handles cases in state and federal courts in San Diego, Los Angeles, and around the country.

Ken began playing the trumpet at age eight, and is an active supporter of music education. He serves on the Governing Council of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, where he has also endowed a trumpet scholarship, and is a Governing Member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has made a multi-year pledge donation to the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus endowment fund and says, "I hope everybody in our ensembles will join this important effort by giving what they can."

The Houston Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Rice University Shepherd Symphony, and the University of Michigan Symphony Band are groups that this seasoned musician has performed with. He recently had the honor of performing Mahler's Eighth Symphony with the Houston Symphony under Christoph Eschenbach, and has performed chamber music with members of the brass section of his favorite orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, as well as playing the National Anthem on ESPN with the University of Kansas Trumpet Ensemble. He says he feels like the Forrest Gump of trumpet and when I asked why he said, "Because I've somehow wound up playing with great musicians and ensembles in inexplicably random places. The brass community of Facebook is vibrant, and I've made lots of musical friends around the world there."

When I asked what Ken likes about being a part of LJS&C he replied, "The great repertoire, the musical leadership of our conductors, the opportunity to learn new pieces, and most of all, the spirited and fearless enthusiasm of the music-making by our musicians."

Ken is a single parent of four children, ages twenty two, eighteen, eleven, and nine. Brendan, his oldest, is a bassist who played with our orchestra when he was in high school. He is about to graduate from Northwestern with a music degree and his dad would love to get him home and to be able to make music together again; however, Brendan is currently planning on staying in Chicago. His eighteen-year-old daughter studies fashion design at FIDM and his two youngest daughters, Katie and Allison, can sometimes be seen roaming on and behind the Mandeville stage during concert weekends. They both play piano; Allison plays cello and horn, and Katie plays the



Need to contact the LJS&C?

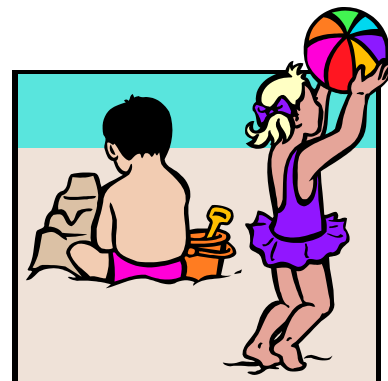
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trumpet. Ken says, "Our house in Coronado has the chaotic sounds of a music school practice area at night, but the neighbors have yet to complain." Hobbies that Ken enjoys are playing basketball, skiing, triathlons, weight-lifting, cooking, and traveling to listen to great orchestras.

We are so fortunate to have Ken volunteer his time and talent to our ensembles. He is one more of those people I mentioned at the beginning of this article and is also a very nice guy!



Sostenuto, your LJS&C endowment: Ensuring the future of your musical experience with your contribution ... Walt Desmond

As we ensemble members approach the end of yet another rewarding and challenging season, we might ask, "What was the key to those rewards and challenges?" Did you think of our conductors? Have you



ever worried about how we can support their rewarding and challenging us with their artistic direction, regardless of what happens in the always-shaky area of financial support for the arts....even OUR arts? And how will we sustain this privilege, if and when Steven or David decide to pass their batons?

If you are worried, you should be relieved to know that your organization shares those concerns, and in fact we are addressing them right now! That's right! You've all heard about it! It's

Sostenuto, the LJS&C endowment campaign specifically aimed at stable funding for this crucial element of our artistic life. A successful *Sostenuto*, will mean finishing every season reassured of a maestro on the podium for yet another series of rewards and challenges the next year.

As some of the principal beneficiaries of this guarantee, please consider the importance of your own contribution to this campaign. Whatever you give now will move us toward 50% completion by the end of this season. (The accompanying chart shows that YOU will add to the current \$661,852 as we look for \$750,000 by this June.) And enthusiastic participation in the endowment by ensemble members themselves will be a great advertisement and motivation for contributions from those outside LJS&C, as we seek the other 50% of the fund in our appeal to the public over the next year.

As with many contributions already made by your fellow musicians, avid audience supporters and longtime friends of LJS&C, yours can start with a single donation now, a pledge for a future donation, or an installment toward a pledge to be paid out over several years. After all, *Sostenuto* is itself a promise for the future. More information on ways this can be done is available from ensemble endowment representatives or by contacting Diane Salisbury at 858-822-3774. (LJS&C Endowment Committee members are: Walter Desmond, Frank Dwinnell, Beda Farrell, Ida Houbby, Wendy Matalon, Steve Marsh, Diane Salisbury, Jim Swift, and Ameer Wood.)



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(Board representatives to the ensemble in bold)

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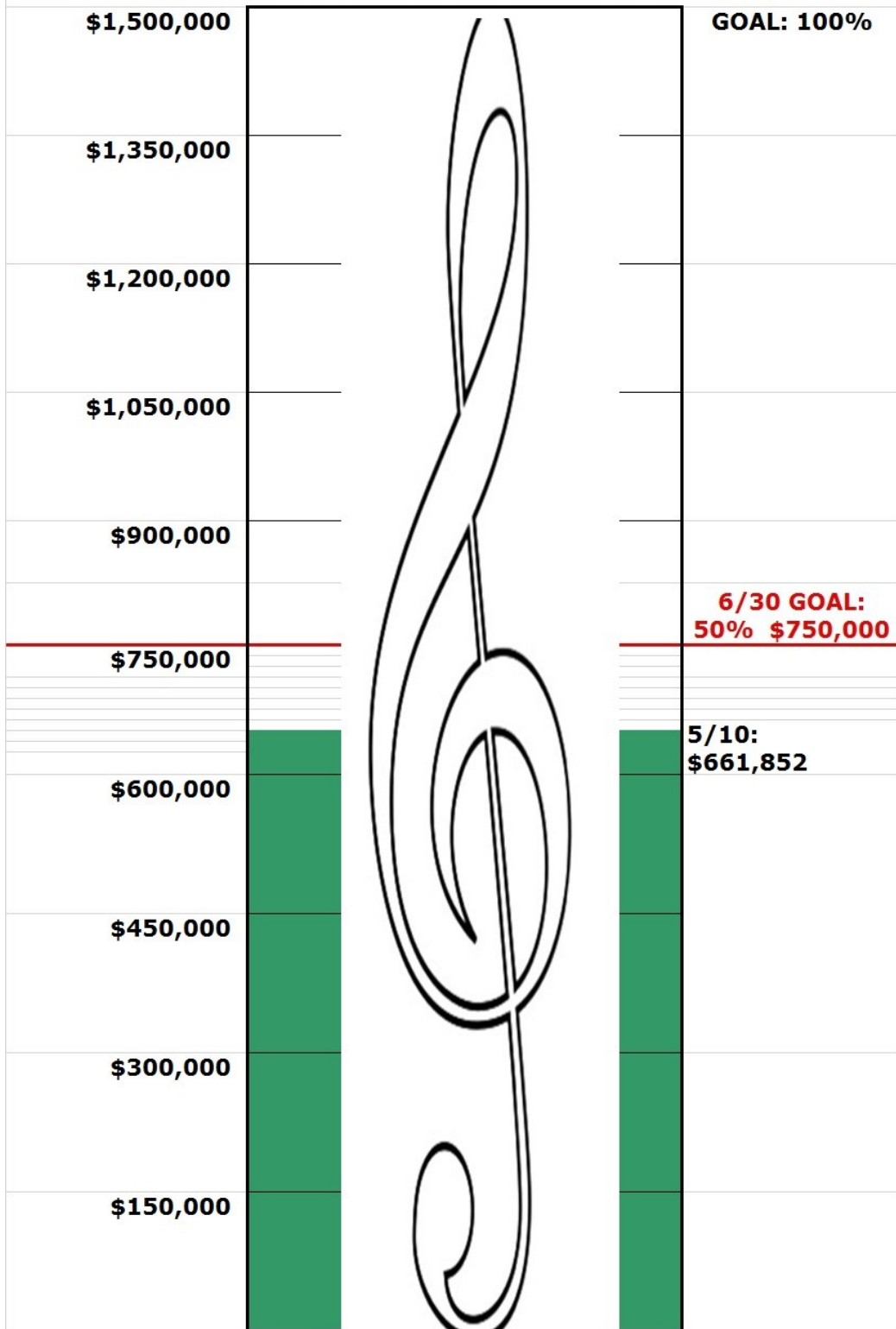
Diane Salisbury

Steven Schick



SOSTENUTO

LJS&C ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN



Have some news
to report?

Let the editor
know!

barbara@peisch.com

(Be sure to mention *Tutti* in
the subject so I know it's not
spam!)



“David Chase Day” caps annual Wine Tasting ... Diane Salisbury

Dodging threatening dark clouds and an occasional sprinkle, our 13th annual Wine Tasting, “When in Rhône,” turned into a beautiful day – “David Chase Day,” in fact! Hosted by Don and Julie MacNeil in their gracious Rancho Santa Fe home, the fundraiser was attended by special guest County Supervisor Dave Roberts. Supervisor Roberts met with guests during the reception and then surprised David Chase not only with a proclamation but the news that the County Supervisors had voted to name the day in his honor! The Supervisor stayed to help wine guru Robert Whitley demonstrate a “perfect pour” for the blind tasting before heading off to his next event. Eighty guests enjoyed the camaraderie and fun and an entertaining and informative tasting of six different Rhône wines, ranging in price from \$18.99 to \$98.99. The *Rancho Santa Fe Review* society reporter and photographer was on hand and documented it all in the newspaper’s May 1 edition.

<http://www.ranchosantafereview.com/2014/05/01/lj-symphony-chorus-wine-tasting-benefit/>



Supervisor Dave Roberts presents proclamation to David Chase



Wine writer Robert Whitley preps for the blind tasting



Article Watch

From Jean Lowerison:

Facebook, Appears to have been posted sometime in April 2014

A video of a flash mob performing parts of *Carmina Burana* in the Vienna airport

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=772866689425061>



From Marty Hambricht:

YouTube, February 4, 2014

“Competitive Foursome”

Salut Salon

A humorous performance of selections from Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKezUd_xw20



From Walt Desmond:

Phys.org, March 4, 2014

“World-class orchestras judged by sight not sound”

By Siobhan Pipa

<http://phys.org/news/2014-03-world-class-orchestras-sight.html#jCp>

This is the original article referred to:

Nature, August 19, 2013

“Musicians’ appearances matter more than their sound - Our judgements of quality depend more on how a musician moves than what they sound like.”

By Phillip Ball

<http://www.nature.com/news/musicians-appearances-matter-more-than-their-sound-1.13572>



From Tom Peisch:

U-T San Diego, May 3, 2014

"La Jolla Symphony goes to the heart of things"

By James Chute

A review of our last concert:

<http://m.utsandiego.com/news/2014/may/03/la-jolla-symphony-prokofiev/>



From Beda Farrell:

CMUSE, May 19, 2014

"A symphony recorded entirely from bike parts"

<http://www.cmuse.org/a-symphony-from-bike-parts/#.U35m7ygSaKs>

and

CMUSE, May 17, 2014

"This photo of birds on the electric wires turned into an intriguing musical piece"

<http://www.cmuse.org/birds-on-the-wire/#.U35pQSgSaKs>

[Editor's note: www.cmuse.org has a tagline of "Music stories around the world." There are many interesting articles and it's probably worth visiting periodically. But I can't attest to the validity of everything they post.]



If you find an interesting, music-related article or Web site, send the information about it to Barbara at barbara@peisch.com or Evon at evon.carpenter@gmail.com. For Web sites, send us a link to the site and include "Tutti" in the subject. 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 we can find it online. Or you can bring it to rehearsal and hand it to one of us or snail mail it to Barbara at:



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