

The Nature of Things ... on the nature of utterance ...

Choral Director David Chase

What could be harder to endure than the loss of a child? What could be a better way to memorialize that child than to create art? The emotional weight of these questions nearly crippled us as we approached this work, *There Was a Child*. And, as the music coalesced through rehearsal, the weight was offset by the joy of the music and poetry, by its whimsy and eloquence, as well as its depth. This, to paraphrase

Lucretius, is "the Nature of Things," and it draws us in on a highly emotional plane.



To take the Lucretius reference further, the "nature of utterance" in this concert is the extraordinary choice of poetry that composer Jonathan Dove amassed for his libretto when Rosemary Pickering asked him to compose this homage to her son Robert, lost at the age of nineteen. This is no requiem; it is singularly non-liturgical. There's nothing sentimental about it, either; it aspires to serious expression, not the pulling of heart-strings.

It is reminiscent of favorite choral works by British masters who preceded Dove, especially Vaughan Williams and Britten. As in Britten's *Spring Symphony*, the libretto includes a dazzling array of poetry, both highbrow and low, structured to make a kind of dramatic arch. In *Spring Symphony*, the

texts take us through the cycle of the seasons, but the arch in *There Was a Child* is more challenging—it describes the essence of childhood and the heady development toward manhood.

By necessity, the piece must broach the fearsome subject of Grief in the eighth movement. It does so with a gracious combination of Shakespeare and Tichborne. Then the final movement combines literally all the elements of the piece in a very Brittenesque finale, which adds layer to layer until there's a wall of roiling sound. The vehicle for this sprawling finale is a poem by the ubiquitous Walt Whitman, *There Was a Child*, which quite magically describes the process by which a child learns the world in a very personal way.

Jonathan Dove, a prolific opera composer, clearly loves the voice, and this pleases all of us in the Symphony Chorus. As a group we have an affinity to new music and never complain about its technical challenges, but I had to laugh when a singer (herself a composer) recently said, "At last, something that's just enjoyable to sing!" Despite the weight of its subject, this is a piece that has won the hearts of the performers.

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While the Dove oratorio is a West Coast premiere, the other work on the program is a “chestnut”! Tchaikovsky’s *Violin Concerto* is a favorite of all music-lovers. But it is especially gratifying to feature Annelle Gregory as our soloist. Annelle is a winner of our venerable LJS&C Young Artists Competition which started back in 1960. Her interpretation of the Tchaikovsky will thrill everyone.



News from the Executive Director ... Diane Salisbury

Congratulations to our orchestra for an excellent May concert. Guest conductor Christopher Rountree seemed a hit with ensemble members and subscribers, several of whom met Chris during a small reception prior to the Friday night dress rehearsal. The forty or so subscribers who attended the reception, stayed to enjoy the dress rehearsal—a first-time experience for most of them.

Steven Schick Named Inaugural Holder of Endowed Chair. Congratulations to our Music Director! UCSD just announced the appointment of Steven to the Reed Family Presidential Chair in Music. The endowed faculty chair was funded by music department supporters Joel and Ann Reed through UC’s Presidential Match for Endowed Chairs to recruit and retain distinguished faculty.

Wine Tasting Biggest Ever! Our April 25 wine tasting, “In Pursuit of Pinot Perfection,” was a huge success, gathering our largest crowd to-date and earning over \$10,000 for LJS&C. After an opening reception of world wines and tapas, moderator Robert Whitley conducted a blind tasting of California Pinot Noirs, followed by a raffle of over 30 wines and an auction of three wine lots. Special thanks go to Don and Julie MacNeil, who hosted the event in their Rancho Santa Fe home. Photos from the event have been posted on our Facebook page. Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/La-Jolla-Symphony-and-Chorus/122280958909>

Twice the Postings, Twice the Visibility. You may have noticed a little more social media activity lately. That’s due to our academic intern, Layla Amiri. Layla is a communications and business major at UCSD, interning with us spring quarter to boost our Facebook and Twitter activity.



Contributors:

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<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1962652>



Meet Sally Husch Dean and The San Diego North Coast Singers ... Evon Carpenter

Once again I am in awe of the quality of people that fill the ranks of the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus and of the things they have accomplished. Sally Husch Dean, who began singing in the soprano section of the chorus as a UCSD student in the 1970s, is the founding Artistic Director of The San Diego North Coast Singers and is one of those people.

As a child growing up in St. Louis, music was an important part of family life for Sally. She attended the St. Louis Institute of Music, studying piano and music theory through high school, and later attended UCSD as an undergraduate music major. Choral music is what she dearly loves, with its combination of language, melody, and community, which she finds rich and rewarding.

Sally's career as a choral director began when she joined forces with music teacher Jill Metzner, who sang alto in La Jolla Symphony Chorus. Together they founded Capri Chorus, a group of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders who rehearsed before school and presented many community concerts for ten years.

In 1991 music classes in the schools were discontinued due to severe tax cuts. Sally was asked to begin a community youth chorus to partially fill the music education gap. This was the birth of The San Diego North Coast Singers. Over the next twenty-one years, SDNCS has grown to five ensembles serving over 110 young singers each year. The program provides choral music education for young people from seven to eighteen years of age. It is recognized for its exceptional artistic quality and joyous and spirited performances of songs from diverse cultures. The group is dedicated to collaboration and has a history of adding local professional performers to its concerts, in an effort to demonstrate high-level artistry to young musicians and their families.



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Caprice Chorus of the San Diego North Coast Singers



In celebration of their 15th anniversary year, SDNCS commissioned and produced a new one act opera, *Mice and Beans: The Opera*. It features the children's chorus and is based on a story by award winning Encinitas author Pam Muñoz Ryan, with libretto and music by Cary Ratcliff, whom Sally met when LJS&C performed *Ode to Common Things*. The children worked with local opera singer Ann Chase, who created the role of Rosa Maria. David Chase conducted the pit orchestra. The opera received its East Coast premiere last spring in Rochester, New York.

SDNCS has performed numerous times with La Jolla Symphony & Chorus on major works such as the Bernstein *Mass* and Benjamin Britten's *Spring Symphony*. The group often performs at regional festivals and conferences and has toured nationally and internationally, including a performance tour to Carnegie Hall with David Chase and La Jolla Symphony Chorus. They celebrated their 20th anniversary by hosting the Youth Creating Harmony Children's Choral Festival, uniting eight community youth choirs from throughout California. Last year, when LJS&C brought Venezuelan conductor Maria Guinand to Mandeville, SDNCS and LJS&C collaborated to present a workshop on Latin American Music to local youth choirs. All five of the SDNCS ensembles recently performed in *San Diego Sings!* at Balboa Park, San Diego.

North Coast Singers' current season will end with the LJS&C production of Jonathan Dove's oratorio *There Was a Child*. Sally comments that she has never been as moved emotionally by a large choral work as by this potent yet charming and delightful piece rooted in a mother's love and her grief over the loss of her child. Sally is grateful to LJS&C and in particular to David Chase, Tom Nee, and Steven Schick for offering a longstanding collaborative tradition now woven into the fabric of North Coast Singers for 22 years.

Sally Husch Dean has given much to the San Diego music community. In addition to her work with SDNCS, Sally serves on the board of The Choral Consortium of San Diego, co-chairing *San Diego Sings!: Festival 2015*. She is adjunct professor of music at Palomar College where she directs the Chamber Singers and Chorale. Along with music she enjoys theater, reading, long walks and camping with family in the Redwoods. She is married to Bill Dean, LJS&C photographer. Sally and Bill have four children and five grandchildren,

Thank you, Sally, for all you do. We are so very proud to share our love of music with you in La Jolla Symphony and Chorus.

San Diego North Coast Singers Youth Chorus Performances of Major Works With La Jolla Symphony and Chorus

- 1996** *Spring Symphony* by Benjamin Britten
- 1997** *Christmas Cantata* by Arthur Honegger
- 2000** *Hodie* by Ralph Vaughn Williams
- 2005** *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff
- 2006** *Songs of Experience* by William Bolcom
- 2007** *Scenes from Goethe's Faust* by Robert Schumann
- 2009** *MASS* by Leonard Bernstein
- 2011** *St. Matthew Passion* by J.S. Bach
- 2012** *Spring Symphony* by Benjamin Britten
Mandeville Auditorium, La Jolla and Carnegie Hall, New York
- 2015** *There Was a Child* by Jonathan Dove

Need to contact the LJS&C?

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Diane Salisbury,
Executive Director



Purchase fine art and support LJS&C

These numbered and signed, limited-edition serigraphs and lithographs are from artist Perla Fox. They will be on sale June 6-7 in the Mandeville East Room. 100% of the proceeds benefit LJS&C.



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Have some news
to report?

Let the editor
know!

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



Make a date for “Enchanted Evening”



Arts Angel Announced

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17th and the LJS&C's annual Gala. The festivities will once again be

held at The Westgate Hotel and include a silent auction of delights, gourmet dinner, and post-dinner cabaret. This year's "Arts Angel" is one of our own – chorus accompanist and alto Vicki Heins-Shaw (pictured). Join us as we celebrate Vicki and our 61st season next fall. Gala invitations will be mailed in August.



Gala auction items needed

Letters soliciting auction items for our October 17th Gala will be mailed soon. But there's no need to wait to hear from us! If you have a fun, interesting, glamorous, adventurous, or otherwise special item for our auction, please contact Adam Perez at 858-534-4637 or boxoffice@lajollasympphony.com. Top bid-getters in past years have been local getaways, event tickets, vacation rentals, restaurant certificates, spa packages, and behind-the-scenes tours. We want to hear your ideas on items that can fetch big bucks to support LJS&C!

e-Bay Auction Treasures to Benefit Gala

Have you recently down-sized? Are your closets full of family treasures too good for a garage sale? Put your special items to good use by donating them to LJS&C's first online "Auction of Treasures." Your treasure could be a piece of fine art, estate jewelry, silver serving pieces, china or other collectable valued at \$150 or more. You receive a tax receipt for the value while LJS&C reaps the reward from the sale. Collectables can bring full value or more in an online auction format like e-Bay that reaches thousands and thousands of prospective buyers. Please contact Adam Perez at 858-534-4637 or boxoffice@lajollasympphony.com with your donation ideas and for more information. Thank you!



Sila: The Breath of the World

Preparations are heating up for our September 27, 3:00 PM concert-event at the Japanese Friendship Garden as part of the Balboa Park Centennial Celebration. You will soon hear more about our performance of John Luther Adams' site-determined work, *Sila: The Breath of the World*, which the composer says is intended "to inspire the audience to more ecological listening and a deeper relationship with the world we inhabit." Whether as a performer or listener wandering among the musicians, you won't want to miss this remarkable 70-minute work. The Japanese Friendship Garden, a partner with LJS&C on this event, will suspend its usual admission fees during the performance so that it is free to the public. LJS&C is a co-commissioner of *Sila* with Lincoln Center, Washington Performing Arts Society, and Ojai Music Festival.



"Sila" performance in the plaza at Lincoln Center, July 2014
(Photo: Kevin Yatarola/Lincoln Center)



Article Watch

From Tom Peisch:

[Rancho Santa Fe Review, April 28, 2015](http://www.ranchosantafereview.com/news/2015/apr/28/win-e-tasting-fundraiser-pursuit-pinot-perfection/)

"Wine tasting fundraiser: 'Pursuit of Pinot Perfection!'"

<http://www.ranchosantafereview.com/news/2015/apr/28/win-e-tasting-fundraiser-pursuit-pinot-perfection/>

and

[U-T San Diego, May 4, 2015](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/may/04/tp-liang-ucsd-team-tuned-into-the-power-of/)

"Liang, UCSD team tuned into the power of paintings"

By James Chute

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/may/04/tp-liang-ucsd-team-tuned-into-the-power-of/>



From Sheila Podell:

Goods Home Design

"Impressive Swimming Pool: Replica of a Stradivarius Violin"

<http://www.goodshomedesign.com/impressive-swimming-pool-replica-stradivarius-violin/>



From Diane Salisbury:

South China Morning Post, May 19, 2015

"Hong Kong composer's futuristic sounds wow California campus"

By Oliver Chou

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/1795945/hong-kong-composers-futuristic-sounds-wow>

and

UCSD Guardian, May 13, 2015

"By the Light of the Moon"

By Karly Nisson

<http://ucsdguardian.org/2015/05/13/by-the-light-of-the-moon/>

and

U-T San Diego, May 20, 2015

"Percussionist's perspective: Ojai Festival music directory Steve Schick has a percussive world view"

By James Chute

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/may/20/ojai-festival-2015-steven-schick>



From Victoria Eicher:

JMS Reports, Spring 2015

"City Heights: Keeping alive the sound of music"

By Rosalina Famania

This includes a video of an interview with Victoria and some footage of her teaching the kids.

<http://jmsreports.org/2015/05/06/city-heights-keeping-alive-the-sound-of-music/>



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