

THE PASSION

April 30, 2011 May 1, 2011

Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD

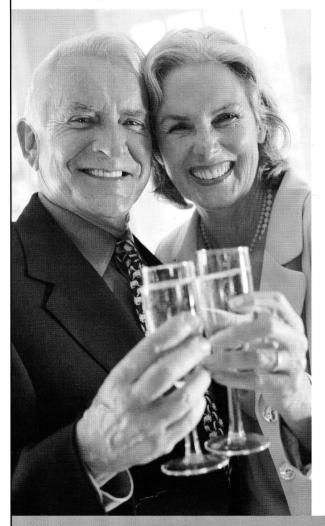
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Saturday, April 30, 2011, 7:30pm | Sunday, May 1, 2011, 3:00pm Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD

David Chase conducting

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

The Passion According to St. Matthew, BWV244

Jon Lee Keenan, tenor, The Evangelist Gregorio Gonzalez, baritone, Jesus

Prologue
Conspiracy
Bethany: Jesus' Anointment
Judas: Covenant of Betrayal
Passover: The Last Supper
Mount of Olives: Prophecy of Denial
Gethsemane: Christ's Agony in the Garden
Betrayal and Arrest

Intermission: 30 minutes

Prologue
Christ Before Caiphus
Peter's Denial
High Priests' Conspiracy; Judas' Suicide
Christ Before Pilate
Mocking
Calvary
The Ninth Hour: Final Agony
Burial

Supertitle design and production by Beda Farrell

Unauthorized flash photography and audio/video recording are prohibited during this performance.

We gratefully acknowledge our underwriters for this concert

Michael & Nancy Kaehr

VOCAL SOLOISTS

Jon Lee Keenan, tenor The Evangelist

Gregorio Gonzalez, baritone Jesus

Angela Cadelago, soprano First Maid

Janelle DeStefano, mezzo-soprano Second Maid, Pilate's Wife

Benjamin Bliss, tenor Peter, Pilate

Abdiel Gonzalez, baritone Judas

FEATURED ARTISTS

North Coast Singers
Sally Husch Dean, director

Victoria Heins-Shaw continuo organ and harpsichord

Eric Moore continuo cello and soloist

Peter Clarke violin soloist

Serena Cohen violin soloist

Elena Yarritu flute soloist

Carol Rothrock oboe soloist

FROM THE CONDUCTOR



Ripped from the Headlines

Twenty-four years after it premiered to some mocking reviews, John Adams' opera, *Nixon in China*, has recently ascended to exalted ground—the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. Over those

years, there's been much said about so-called "Head-line Operas" and whether current affairs make good art. It's an interesting debate, but no one has ever forgotten that the most powerful effect of art is timelessness. If, like the plays of Euripides, for example, *Nixon in China* is still being performed after thousands of years, it won't be because it represented the headlines, but because the headlines represented timeless elements of the human condition.

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* has this timelessness, and it strikes us to the pit of our stomachs. It was written as a liturgical work, yet its overwhelming effect is achieved by an uncanny theatricality. It transcends its original, churchly, context and draws us into its own dramatic world, much as great opera does.

Of course, Bach wrote this work as part of his duties as Cantor at Thomaskirche; he was required, like all church musicians, to provide the music for Holy Week, the most important week in the Christian calendar. But he clearly knew that this huge work, of all the great works that he provided for that often-thankless "church job," was something very special. He carefully copied the score—in two colors of ink—and he protected it carefully over time...He knew!

Indeed, it was *St. Matthew Passion* that ignited the world's rediscovery of Bach when Mendelssohn revived it a century after it was forgotten. Originally composed for a Good Friday church service and intended to amplify the sermon and gospel readings on that holy day, this piece became a monument, a transcendent work of art with timeless relevance. And we perform it today in that spirit.

When the High Priest declares that Jesus, this man of a different faith, has "blasphemed" and declares, "What need of witness have we now?" the crowd becomes blood-thirsty. They ultimately stun us with the unthinkable: "His blood be on us and on our children." Could this not have been ripped from the headlines of last week's Mideast news coverage?

All of this comes from a story that is held dear by Christians and is recounted as the cornerstone of Christian belief. But its impact is universal, and when it is shaped by Bach's wrenchingly beautiful and dramatic music, the result is profoundly moving to all who hear it.

As we contemplate the cyclical nature of these ancient "headlines," it's comforting to note, as Eric Bromberger writes in the accompanying program note, "this is not angry music, nor is it violent...the mood is of grieving acceptance rather than violent denial or resistance." Perhaps the greatest gift we receive from Bach's work is the knowledge that, while we must experience cruelty and pain, we may do so without despair. \(\infty\)

Gala 2011

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DAVID CHASE conductor

Conductor of the La Jolla Symphony Chorus since 1973, David Chase serves as a lecturer in the UCSD Music Department. Under his leadership the 130-voice ensemble performs a mixture of musical styles that combine standard repertory with new or rarely performed works. Major projects have included the world premiere and CRI recording of Henry Brant's Western Springs, a KPBS-TV broadcast of La Jolla Symphony and Chorus' first performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor, and the American premiere of the musical-theatre piece, Boojum! by Australian composer Martin Wesley-Smith.

Dr. Chase is a graduate of The Ohio State University, and received his doctorate at the University of Michigan. While living in Ann Arbor, he served as conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphonic Choir. He recently retired from Palomar College in San

Marcos, California, where he taught music since 1974. In addition to his academic and choral duties, he has performed and recorded with the Robert Shaw Festival Chamber Chorus in Souillac, France and at Carnegie Hall. He also has been a fellow in the Melodious Accord Fellowship with Alice Parker in New York City. His compositions are published by Shawnee Press and Concordia Music Publishers.

David Chase and members of the chorus have made four European tours and a tour of Mexico, and have been featured in the Mendocino Music Festival. In 2001 the mayor and city council of San Diego proclaimed the ensemble official "Cultural Ambassadors". The Royal Government of Bhutan invited them to be the first western choir to sing in that Himalayan kingdom, where they brought "Music from America" to the people of Bhutan.

PROGRAM NOTES

BY ERIC BROMBERGER

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW, BWV244

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Born March 21, 1685, Eisenach Died July 28, 1750, Leipzig



In 1723 Bach became cantor at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, where he would remain for the final 27 years of his life. One of his duties was to supervise the presentation of a Passion setting each Easter, and

this would be the major musical event of the year, involving all the choruses and performers available to him from the various churches of Leipzig. Usually Bach would present the music of other composers, but he wrote at least three Passion settings of his own. For the performance at the Thomaskirche on Good Friday 1727, Bach

composed his *St. Matthew Passion*. It would be his grandest work ever. Lasting a total of three hours, it requires two orchestras, two choruses, a boys' choir, six principal vocal soloists, and an array of secondary soloists, both vocal and instrumental. Bach took the *St. Matthew Passion* very seriously. He revised it carefully after the first performances, prepared a handsome manuscript using various-colored inks, and when that manuscript was later damaged he painstakingly repaired it. He was proud of this music, and he wanted it to survive.

The tradition of reciting one of the Passion settings at Easter began in the fourth century and slowly evolved over the next millennium: the words of the Evangelist were eventually read by a priest in a high, fast voice, while the words of Jesus were read more slowly by a lower voice; the words of the crowd would be read at another tempo, usually by an alto. Slowly this evolved: music was introduced, sections were sung by a four-part chorus, and some composers introduced vocal soloists. Later, instruments were

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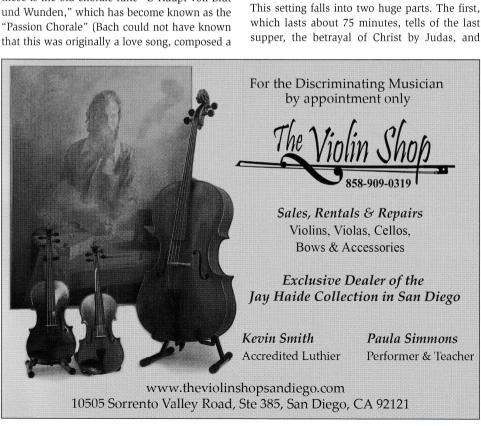
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added, as was additional text (from outside the original Gospel), and by the seventeenth century certain composers abandoned the Gospel text altogether and set paraphrases by other writers.

This was the tradition Bach had before him when he set to work on the St. Matthew Passion, and he both drew from these practices and introduced ideas of his own. Bach assembled his text from three sources. This Passion is based principally on the Book of Matthew, Chapters 26-27, which is usually presented in recitatives. But Bach felt the need for additional text to help flesh out the story and carry the action forward, and for this he turned to the Leipzig poet Christian Friedrich Henrici, who wrote under the name Picander. Picander wrote 28 recitatives and arias. which expand on the events from the gospel or express feelings of love and grief. Finally, Bach turned to Martin Luther's chorale tradition, breaking into the narrative fifteen times with chorale tunes that comment on the action and suggest the reactions of the crowd. Chief among these is the old chorale tune "O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden," which has become known as the "Passion Chorale" (Bach could not have known that this was originally a love song, composed a century earlier by Hans Leo Hassler). Bach uses it five times in the St. Matthew Passion, each time with a different text and harmony. The chorales would have been quite familiar to Bach's Leipzig audience, which may well have sung along with them at performances.

One of the stipulations of Bach's employment in Leipzig had charged him "With the object of maintaining good order in the Churches, to so arrange the music that it does not last too long, and shall be of a kind that does not make an operatic impression but rather incite the listeners to devotion." Bach would not have felt this a restriction, for he had no interest in opera, but his conception of the St. Matthew Passion is almost operatic: here is one of the most dramatic stories ever, and he tells it with a crowd milling through the streets, soloists who sing specific characters, and powerful and moving incidents. So dramatic is the conception behind the St. Matthew Passion that it is sometimes performed as an opera, with characters in costume, action, and scenery.



ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO NORTH COAST SINGERS

The San Diego North Coast Singers was founded in 1993 in Encinitas, California, The 110-member youth chorus has four ensembles serving children in grades 2-12. One of those ensembles, Caprice, is a 26-voice advanced treble choir directed by Sally Husch Dean and accompanied by Jeanne Saier. The group has performed at festivals and conferences throughout Southern California and made performance tours to New York City, Denver, Italy, Austria and the Czech Republic. Caprice is a regular with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, and in May 2012, they will travel to New York City to perform Benjamin Britten's Spring Symphony in Carnegie Hall with David Chase and the La Jolla Symphony Chorus.

Sally Husch Dean, founding director of North Coast Singers holds a bachelor's degree in voice performance from UCSD, and is currently completing a master of music, choral conducting program at California State University, Los Angeles. She has studied conducting with David Chase in San Diego and directs The Palomar College Chorale and Chamber Singers in San Marcos.

San Diego North Coast Singers, Caprice

Hannah Allen
Laila Al-Shamma
Namrita Baru
Liana Broyles
Aislinn Burnett
Julia Camilleri
Katie Clark
Nick Chase
Halley Edwards
Hannah Frankel
Hazel Friedman
Rachel Guralnick
Simran Israni

Leah Nadir Olivia Nash Jackie Nofal Bianca Rice Yeshe Salz Gabriela Schnepp Elise Segal Shawn Specht Emily Templin Tori Tomassetti Maria Touvannas Brigitte Williamson

Sophia Kazmierowicz

Christ's seizure by the authorities. The second part, which lasts about 100 minutes, tells of the trial, Peter's denial, the crucifixion, and the burial. Bach's deployment of his varied forces is imaginative: sometimes he draws on all his performers at once, sometimes just one chorus and one orchestra perform, sometimes Bach reduces his forces to solo recitatives and arias, and sometimes there are combinations of different performers which answer each other antiphonally across the stage. Characters are made to emerge in different ways: the Evangelist, a tenor, sings the text from the Book of Matthew, usually in recitative; Jesus, a baritone, is always surrounded by a "halo" of quiet string sound when he speaks. The other soloists assume different roles, sometimes commenting on the action and sometimes assuming the roles of Peter, Pilate, Judas, and others.

But it is the changing function of the chorus that may be the most striking feature of the *St. Matthew Passion*. At moments, the chorus can be a crowd surging uneasily through the streets; at others it can be the disciples; sometimes it can be an angry mob, shrieking out its anger at Christ and demanding the crucifixion; and instantly it can change to a stunned collection of believers, grieving over the fate of Christ. This fluid identity of the chorus is one of the most original features of the *St. Matthew Passion*, almost worthy of the narration of a twentieth-century novel.

This music offers so many wonderful small touches that they can be lost in the gradually-accelerating larger drama. These include a number of instrumental solos (for violin, flute, viola da gamba, oboe d'amore, oboe da caccia, and others), as well as some impressive vocal writing: the soft sibilances of the chorus as they sing their sins to sleep, the false witnesses whose lying is made clear when they sing in a close canon that makes false echoes of their words, the flogging of Christ through the streets that is mirrored through repetitive dotted rhythms.

Also striking is the tone of the *St. Matthew Passion:* this is not angry music,

nor is it violent. Tempos are generally moderate, and the mood is of grieving acceptance rather than violent denial or resistance. The drama moves inexorably forward, from the pulsing and ominous rhythms of the opening to the crucifixion and its stunned aftermath. In one of the most dramatic (vet understated) moments, Christ's halo of sound deserts him on the cross and his final words emerge from out of painful silence. The sections that follow the crucifixion are overpowering. Again, there is no anger, no violence, but instead a quiet, stunned acceptance in the cool afternoon of what has happened and what it means for mankind. The concluding arias and choruses are some of the most affecting music Bach ever wrote: the bass' final aria in which he commits himself to keeping the memory of Jesus pure within his heart; the thanks and farewells to Jesus sung by his grieving followers; and the magnificent final chorus in which mankind accepts its actions and comes to terms with its fate.◆

All that Sparkles

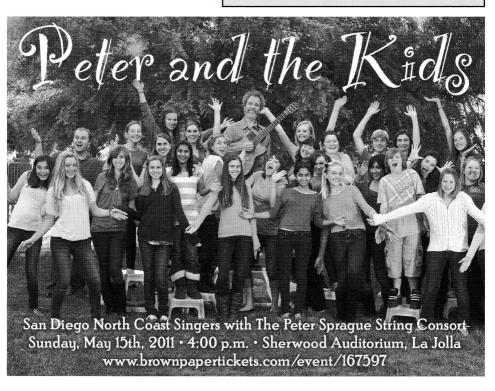
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JON LEE KEENAN tenor

Jon Lee Keenan currently resides in Los Angeles where he is pursuing a doctorate of musical arts in vocal arts at the USC. Thorn-

ton School of Music. He is in his third season with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, where he has been featured as a soloist in Haydn's *Therseienmesse* and Handel's *Messiah*. During this season, he will be the tenor soloist for Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with the Master Chorale and Musica Angelica. He holds undergraduate degrees in vocal music

education, vocal performance and jazz studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and has completed the coursework for a master's in music in choral conducting from California State University, Los Angeles and holds a master's in music in vocal arts from USC. Recent operatic engagements include the role of "Fenton" in Verdi's Falstaff and "Male Chorus" in Britten's The Rape of Lucretia with the Thornton Opera at USC. This April he performed the role of "Antonio" in Wagner's Das Liebesverbot, also with Thornton Opera. In addition to his singing career, Mr. Keenan is a jazz bassist active on the Los Angeles jazz scene.



ANGELA CADELAGO soprano

Hailed "charming as all get-out" by Opera News Online and as a "virtuosic...strong and versatile soprano" by the San Fran-

cisco Chronicle, Angela Cadelago most recently made her debut as the doomed heroine of Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor with Festival Opera and "impressed from the opening scene...opera lovers will be talking about her Lucia for a long time to come" (San Jose Mercury News).

Ms. Cadelago's other appearances on the operatic stage have included Olympia (Les contes d'Hoffmann), Adina (L'Elisir d'Amore), Susanna (Le nozze di Figaro), Norina (Don Pasquale), Adele (Die Fledermaus), Rosina (Il Barbiere di Siviglia), and the role of Alba in the West Coast premiére of Robert X. Rodríguez' La Curandera.

With a special affinity for music of the Baroque, Ms. Cadelago joined the Carmel Bach Festival as a Virginia Best Adams Fellow in 2007. She has sung Handel's *Messiah* with The Oratorio Society of Queens and the role of Romilda to Paula Rasmussen's adaptation of *Xerxes* (Handel) with Berkeley West Edge Opera.

A Metropolitan Opera Regional Audition finalist and 2010 Young Artist with Opera Santa Barbara, Ms. Cadelago has appeared in recital both in Italy, at the Spoleto Festival dei due Mondi; and in Denmark, as a featured student of Ileana Cotrubas. In the United States, Angela has appeared as a soloist with orchestras such as the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra, in works such as Mahler's Fourth Symphony, and Barber's Knoxville: Summer of 1915.

Ms. Cadelago is a native of California's Napa Valley and a highly regarded San Francisco Bay Area artist. Her performance in J.S. Bach's *The Passion According to St. Matthew* marks her debut with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus.



GREGORIO GONZALEZ baritone

Gregorio Gonzalez has appeared at the Nederlandse Opera in *I Puritani* and *La Traviata*, and also sang at Amsterdam's

Concertgebouw in concert versions of Donizetti's *Poliuto* and Verdi's *Othello*. Other international appearances include Vienna's Theater an der Wien in *Luisa Fernanda* and Opera de Panamá to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Teatro Nacional. His appearances in the U.S. include *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Virginia Opera, the Opera Theatre of St. Louis in

Street Scene, and Luisa Fernanda at Los Angeles Opera. During his three-season residency at Los Angeles Opera, Mr. Gonzalez created the roles of Count Obolenski and Avdeev in the world premiere of Nicholas and Alexandra, and sang in over a dozen productions. In his native México, he has performed for Opera de Tijuana and the Vive La Magia Festival in Guanajuato. He sang the part of Harasta in Spanish and Catalán-language animated film versions of the opera The Cunning Little Vixen by Janacek, which was produced by the BBC and released on DVD and televised throughout Spain.



JANELLE DE STEFANO mezzo-soprano

Janelle DeStefano has appeared on regional operatic and orchestral stages across the U.S., and is making a return en-

gagement with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus. Previous appearances have included the Bach *B-minor Mass*, Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity*, Debussy's *La Damoiselle Elue*, and Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*. Praised for her "passionate delivery" and "rich seamless voice," Ms. DeStefano has rendered dramatic performances in such works as Vivaldi's

Magnificat, Handel's Dixit Dominus, and Mahler's Symphony No. 4. Recent operatic roles include Romeo in I Capuletti e i Montecchi and the title role in Britten's The Rape of Lucretia. In 2011, she will be heard as Dido in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with the Bach Collegium San Diego, and as the alto soloist in the Messiah with the Los Angeles Master Chorale. A winner of several vocal competitions, she recently graduated with honors from the USC, Thornton School of Music, earning a doctorate of musical arts in performance. She is currently on faculty at Santa Monica College, and makes her home in Los Angeles.



BENJAMIN BLISS tenor

Benjamin Bliss moved from Kansas City to Southern California to attend Chapman University's film and music programs. While studying at

Chapman, Mr. Bliss participated in several recitals, the Chapman University Chamber Orchestra's performance of Berlioz's *Les Nuit D'ete* under the direction of Daniel Wachs and master classes with William Burden and Vincent Cole. Mr. Bliss' first operatic singing

experiences came when he performed the roles of Tamino in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and the title role in Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* in Chapman University's Conservatory of Music productions. After graduating with a degree in film and a minor is music, he spent two years working at Paramount Studios Television but is thrilled to have returned to the world of music. His most recent performance was a reprisal of Tamino in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Opera's production of *The Magic Flute*. Mr. Bliss has studied voice with Patrick Goeser for seven years.



ABDIEL GONZALEZ baritone

Puerto Rican Abdiel González made his Music Academy of the West debut in the summer of 2008 in Santa Barbara under the

tutelage of Marilyn Horne. He has performed the role of Mercutio in *Roméo et Julliette* and Shrike in the West Coast Premiere of *Miss Lonelyhearts* with the University of Southern California. Other roles include Athanaël in *Thaïs*, Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Morales in *Carmen*, Guglielmo in *Cosí fan Tutte*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, King Melchior in *Amahl*

and the Night Visitors, Ko-Ko in The Mikado. The Pirate King in The Pirates of Penzance, and Don Quixote in Man of La Mancha, Mr. Gonzalez has also performed lead roles in three Zarzuelas, an art form close to his heart. The concert stage has seen him as soloist in Händel's Messiah, Orff's Carmina Burana, Fauré's Requiem, Stravinsky's Pulcinella, Haydn's Creation, and works by Mozart. He was a first-place winner in the San Diego District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and in the Opera 100 Competition. Last year he sang as soloist in Benjamin Britten's War Requiem with La Jolla Symphony and Chorus.

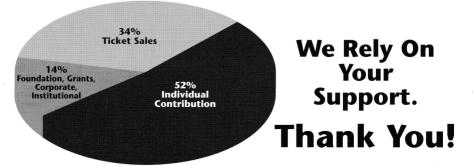
About La Jolla Symphony & Chorus

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DID YOU KNOW?

- LJS&C is a volunteer ensemble comprised of community members from all walks of life: doctors, scientists, lawyers, engineers, homemakers, students, and teachers, as well as professional musicians.
- LJS&C was founded in 1954 in the village of La Jolla by Peter
 Nicoloff, a conductor who assembled a small group of non-professional
 musicians "just for fun" and conducted them in what was modestly called
 an open rehearsal. Over the next half century, the organization grew to
 over 200 orchestra and chorus members.
- LJS&C became an affiliate of the UCSD Music Department under the direction of Thomas Nee in 1967 when the new campus opened.
 Concerts were split between Sherwood Auditorium and Revelle cafeteria on campus until Mandeville Auditorium opened in 1975.
- The Chorus has toured and performed in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Canada, Mexico, and Ireland, and was proclaimed official cultural ambassador of San Diego in 2003 when it was the first Western chorus to perform in Bhutan.
- LJS&C has performed over 800 concerts in San Diego County and Baja California, premiered new works, commissioned pieces and made recordings.
- LJS&C is not University funded but a separate 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, relying on private donations, fundraising activities, grants, and ticket sales for its support.



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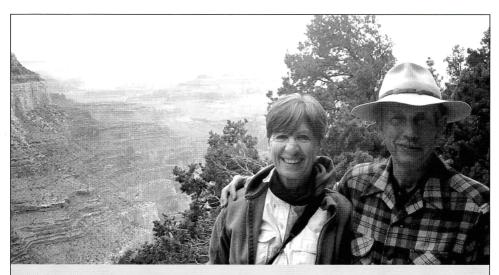
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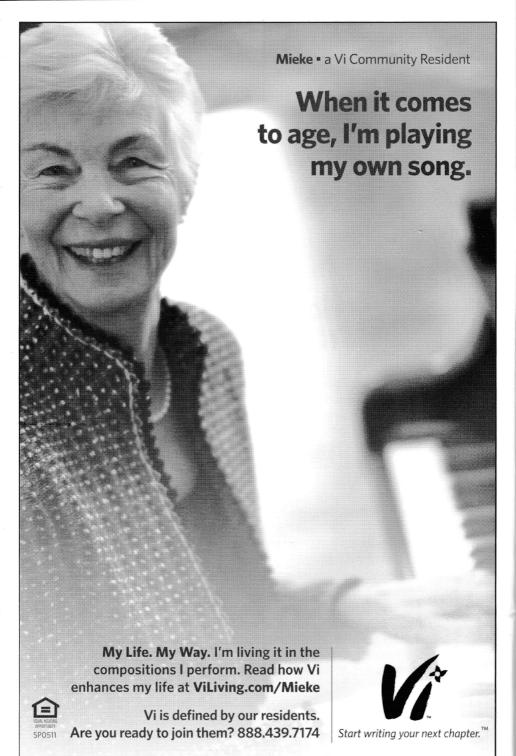
The LJS&C welcomes chorus members Ida Houby and Bill Miller into the Therese Hurst Musical Heritage Society. Thanks in part to a planned gift received 25 years ago from the estate of Therese Hurst, we've been able to ride out tough economic times and continue sharing our music with the community.

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LJS&C thanks the growing membership of the Therese Hurst Musical Heritage Society: Colin & Maxine Bloor, Sue & James Collado, Ida Houby & Bill Miller, Stephen Marsh, Amee Wood & Eric Mustonen, Richard & Glenda Rosenblatt, David Smith

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VIOLA Daniel Swem, *Principal*Odile Richart

CELLO Eric Moore, *Principal* Caitlin Fahey

BASS Christine Allen

FLUTE Elena Yarritu, *Principal* Angela Rowland

OBOE Carol Rothrock, *Principal* Kathryn Ringrose

BASSOON Tom Schubert

ORCHESTRA 2

VIOLIN I Serena Cohen, Associate Concert Master Evon Carpenter Sherman Ku

VIOLIN II Marit Chrislock-Lauterback, Principal
Igor Korneitchouk
Cheryl Swem

VIOLA Nancy Swanberg, *Principal* Sheila Podell

CELLO	
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Carol Tolbert	

BASS
Lance Gucwa

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Erica McDaniel, Principal
Eugene Mortison

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La Jolla Symphony & Chorus 2010-2011 Season



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Saturday, June 4 at 8:00 pm Sunday, June 5 at 3:00 pm Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD



Cindy Choi, soprano

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Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Symphony No. 1



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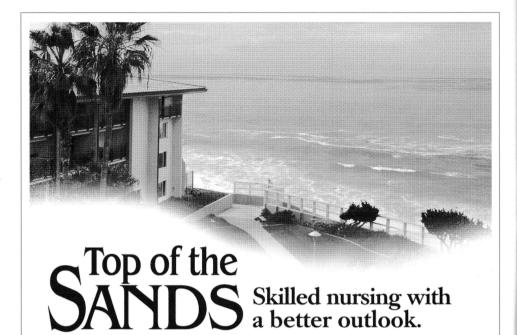


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