

La Jolla Symphony and Chorus

David Chase, Choral Director

39th Annual

Christmas Messiah Community Sing

by George Frideric Handel

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

Sunday, December 11, 2016

The Soloists

Amanda Olea, *soprano* Mary Saffell, *mezzo-soprano*
Michael Sakell, *tenor* Joshua Lee, *bass*
Steven Gray, *organ*

The Program

Overture

Recitative for Tenor- Michael Sakell
Comfort Ye

Air for Tenor
Every valley shall be exalted

Chorus *p.16**
And the glory of the Lord

Recitative for Bass - Joshua Lee
Thus saith the Lord

Air for Bass
But who may abide

Chorus *p.36*
And he shall purify

Recitative for Alto -Mary Saffell
Behold, a virgin shall conceive

Air for Alto and Chorus *p.54*
Oh, thou that tellest

Recitative for Bass - Joshua Lee
For, behold darkness

Air for Bass
The people that walked in darkness

Chorus *p.66*
For unto us a child is born

Pastoral Symphony

Recitative for Soprano - Amanda Olea
There were shepherds abiding in the field

Chorus *p.82*
Glory to God in the highest

Air for Soprano - Amanda Olea
Rejoice greatly

Recitative for Alto -Mary Saffell
Then shall the eyes of the blind
be opened

Air for Alto
He shall feed his flock

Air for Soprano - Amanda Olea
Come unto Him

Chorus *p.98*
His yoke is easy

Chorus *p.193*
Hallelujah!

**Page numbers correspond to the
Schirmer edition, complete vocal score*

Concert Sponsored by Donald & Frances Diehl, in honor of David Chase

Meet the Soloists

Amanda Olea, soprano, is a senior at SDSU where she studies with Laurinda Nikkel. Last summer Amanda performed the role of Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Utah Lyric Opera. For SDSU Opera, her roles have included Adina in *L'elisir d'amore* and Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas*. She is part of San Diego Opera's outreach program, Opera Exposed! and was featured as a stepsister in San Diego Opera's *Opera on Track* performance of *La Cenerentola*. Amanda's local award credits include La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Young Artist Competition, the Virginia Hawk Competition, and the Musical Merit Competition.

Mary Saffell mezzo-soprano, is currently a junior studying vocal performance at San Diego State University. She is a recent transplant from Rockville, Maryland, where she graduated with an associate degree in Music from Montgomery College. Ms. Saffell is a young artist with San Diego Opera's Opera Exposed! program, and recently placed first in her division at the 2016 NATS San Diego Student Auditions. She is a member of SDSU Opera, which presented *L'elisir d'amore* this fall. She was also a featured soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Händel's *Messiah* with the SDSU Choirs and Chamber Orchestra.

Michael Sakell, tenor, has a bachelor's degree in music education (with choral music as a concentration) from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. He has performed as both a soloist and professional choral member in Washington D.C. area venues such as the Kennedy Center, the National Cathedral, and the Church of the Epiphany. His professional ensemble credits include Chantry, D.C.'s finest professional 12 voice early music ensemble as well as Voci per l'Arte, a professional chamber chorus. Sakell is currently pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting at San Diego State University under the direction of Dr. Patrick Walders.

Joshua Lee, baritone, was born in New Jersey and raised in South Korea. Fulfilling his passion for music, Joshua has performed with many groups around San Diego including: San Diego Pro Arte Voices, Bach Collegium, and Sacra/Profana. In addition, Lee has performed the Beethoven's *9th Symphony* and Mozart *Requiem* solos with SDSU Symphony Orchestra and choirs. He recently performed Belmore in SDSU Opera's production of *L'elisir d'amore*. Lee is currently attending San Diego State University, where he is pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance. Lee also studies piano and guitar.

Messiah-Sing Orchestra

(Members of the La Jolla Symphony)

Steven Schick, Music Director

R. Theodore Bietz, Orchestra Manager

Ulrike Burgin, Orchestra Librarian

Celeste Oram, Production Assistant

First Violin

David Buckley
Jeanne Saier

Second Violin

Susanna Han-Sanzi
Ted Tsai

Viola

Nancy Swanberg
Anne Gero-Stillwell

Cello

Max Fenstermacher
Cliff Thrasher

Contrabass

Christine Allen

Oboe

Carol Rothrock

Bassoon

Tom Schubert

Trumpet

Ken Fitzgerald
Julie Lees

Timpani

James Beauton

Appreciation Expressed

La Jolla Symphony and Chorus wishes to thank St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Father Michael Robinson, and Music Director Rebecca Steinke for their gracious hospitality in welcoming the community to share the experience of singing *Messiah* in this beautiful sanctuary.

La Jolla Symphony Chorus

Founded in 1965 by Patricia Smith

David Chase, Choral Director

Kenneth Bell, Assistant Conductor

Victoria Heins-Shaw, Accompanist

Mea Daum, Manager

Marianne & Dennis Schamp, Librarians

LA JOLLA SYMPHONY CHORUS PERSONNEL

SOPRANO

Young Ahn (Danbi)
Cherrie Anderson
Aislinn Burnett
Frances Castle
Sally Dean
Justine Desan
Beda Farrell
Marta Fernandez
Genevieve Gonzalez
Meryl Gross**
Marty Hambright
Martha Hamilton
Ida Houby
Karen Johns
Donna Johnson
Hima Joshi
Amanda Kadlubek
Karen Kakazu
Alicia Kim
Kathryn Kinslow
Constance Lawthers
Christine Lehman
Judy Manuche
Mona McGorvin
Nancy Moore
Annika Nabors
Celeste Oram
Amy Schick
Jeanne Stutzer

Mary Ellen Walther*
Sharon Willoughby
Gloria Xefos

Alto

June Allen
Kathy Archibald
Magdolna Bornemisza
Sonja Brun
Kim Burton
Peggy Clapp
Elinor Elphick
Karen Erickson
Clare Friedman
Cathy Funke
Kathleen Gullahorn
Vicki Heins-Shaw
Renée Gordon Holley
Deanna Johnson
Jin-Soo Kim
Jean Lowerison
Carol Manifold
Helen Mout
Rebecca Nguyen
Debby Park
Cinda Peck
Barbara Peisch
Rebecca Ramirez
Meghan Rossi
Valerie Rubins

Satomi Saito*
Marianne Schamp
Lisa Shelby
Janet Shields**
Carol Slaughter
Jil Stathis
Pamela Surko
Susan Taggart
Melissa Troyer
Dasha Vovk
Amea Wood

Tenor

Joseph Allen
George Anderson
Sebastian Bohm
Nathan Daum
Walter Desmond*
Andrew King
Kiwoong Lee
Anthony Leonard
Jim Macemon
Danny Maloney
Sean McCormac**
Myles Mayfield
Joe Mundy
Samuel Rohrbach
Nathan Samskey
Dennis Turner
Gerry Whitney

Bill Ziefle

Bass

Kenneth Bell
Jack Beresford*
Charles Carver
Scot Cheatham
Ned Dearborn
Lawrence Dickson
Paul Engel
Bryan Heard
Don Jenkins
Michael Kaehr
Marc Madison
Steve Marsh
William Miller
Gilbert Omens
Ray Park
Dennis Schamp
Lukus Schulze
Stewart Shaw**
Steve Shields
Otto Sorensen
Richard Tilles
Mark Walters
Robert Wennerholt

**Section Leader

*Assistant Section Leader

Messiah-Sing Tradition

Since December 1978 La Jolla Symphony and Chorus has given *Messiah-Sing* to the community as a celebration of the Christmas season. *Messiah-Sing* holds the distinction of being the first *Messiah* "sing-along" in San Diego County with its earliest performances at St. James-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, La Jolla. The first performance was accompanied by Jared Jacobsen, then organist and choir-master at St. James; later performances were enhanced by the addition of the La Jolla Symphony *Messiah-Sing* Chamber Orchestra. *Messiah-Sing* became so popular that it finally "outgrew" St. James. At the invitation of Pastor David Jorstad, the community sing moved to Clairemont Lutheran Church in 1993, and remained there until it "outgrew" that sanctuary as well. December 2016 marks the twenty-first *Messiah-Sing* at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Carlsbad.

La Jolla Symphony & Chorus

Mission Statement

Rooted in San Diego for over 60 years, the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus enriches our lives through affordable concerts of groundbreaking, traditional and contemporary classical music.

Administrative Staff

Diane Salisbury
Executive Director

Adam Perez
Patron Services Manager

Meg Engquist
Executive Assistant
& Event Support

How to Reach Us

La Jolla Symphony & Chorus
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La Jolla, CA 92093-0361
Phone: 858-534-4637
LaJollaSymphony.com

Choral Director's Program Note

For many years, we have printed this Program Note in the program of our *Messiah-Sing*:

Handel's *Messiah* has become "people's music" in the best sense. Just as certain traditional styles of hymn-singing and folk-singing have been shared by generation after generation, so has the performance of *Messiah*. The uplifting distinction of *Messiah* as people's music, however, is that we are not only singing traditional and familiar music, but we are at the same time participating in a great work of art. It is in this sense of *Messiah* as the best of people's music that the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus invites the community to join with us to sing the Christmas portion this holiday season.

I can't bear to alter it because it says exactly what I believe! But today, on my last *Messiah-Sing*, I'd like to make it even more personal.

When we first did the "Sing" some colleagues accused me of "selling out" – going commercial. "It's *Art!* Not *Sing-along with Mitch!*"

But from that first successful *Messiah-Sing*, I realized that it had nothing to do with being commercial, but everything to do with the warmth and joy of the folks who sing – many of them year after year. And yes, it does have one thing in common with Mitch Miller and what he discovered in the early 1960's: Communities do love to sing together, and they deserve the opportunity.

For me, and for the soloists and orchestra, it's a special opportunity, too. This annual mercurial performance is the equivalent of the jazz jam sessions that I started playing in my teenage years! There's a lot to be said for that freedom, in the midst of a career of always trying to be near-perfect. Today, our *Messiah* will be as just good as it can be today, that's all!

And then, after the *Halleluia* Chorus, we will cheer for each other. We will smile and laugh and cry. And hug each other. And take photos in this beautiful church, wearing these holiday clothes. We will feel that it is *really* Christmas and that we *really* love one another.

Is there *really* a better way to enjoy G.F.Handel and his most enduring masterpiece?

-David Chase

January Chorus Auditions Announced

La Jolla Symphony Chorus holds auditions for openings in all sections on Sunday afternoon, January 8, 2017. The 100-voice chorus rehearses on Monday evenings at the University of California, San Diego, Conrad Prebys Music Center. Chorus membership is open to community members with music training as well as to students at UCSD.

Chorus repertoire for winter quarter 2017 will be the performance of Giuseppe Verdi: *Requiem* on March 17, 18 and 19

The chorus, conducted since 1973 by David Chase, has received local, national and international recognition for presenting well-known choral masterpieces as well as introducing unusual or rarely heard works to its audiences; and has been proclaimed official *Cultural Ambassadors* of the City and County of San Diego. Dr. Chase has announced his retirement. The final concert of his tenure will be presented on June 10 and 11, and will feature Hector Berlioz: *Beatrice and Benedict* and Samuel Barber: *The Lovers*.

For an audition appointment, interested singers should contact chorus manager Mea Daum by email at chorus@lajollasympphony.com or by phone at 858-243-2045 (evenings). Detailed information about the audition process is available in the "Chorus Auditions" section of the Website: www.lajollasympphony.com.

Final Community Sing Coming in April

The "Messiah Sing" is not the only community singing I've had the privilege to conduct over the years; there have been many other times when we've gathered a crowd of choral enthusiasts and done what I consider to be serious-but-fun community-building with singing.

Since 2016-17 is my last season in this auspicious position, I think it's important to have one more Sing, aimed at all veterans of the Messiah-Sing and alumni of the choruses that I've conducted over the last 44 years. I've chosen Bernstein's CHICHESTER PSALMS as a serious-but-fun piece of music, which, like MESSIAH, so many of us have performed and enjoyed.

The sing is scheduled for Sunday, April 30 at 4:00 p.m. here at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church.

The format will be the same: rehearsal, then a "performance" run-through. It's not practical to have the orchestra play, so we'll use the excellent arrangement for organ, harp and percussion, which is sanctioned by composer and publisher.

As always, it should be an occasion for musical fellowship -- concentrated work with choral music colleagues. One final dollop of the kind of work that we always do together! I truly look forward to it and I hope you will join us.

I hope to see you back here in April. -DC