

La Jolla Symphony and Chorus

Ruben Valenzuela, Guest Conductor

41st Annual

Christmas Messiah Community Sing

by George Frideric Handel

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

Sunday, December 16, 2018

The Soloists

Katherine Polit, *soprano* Sarah-Nicole Carter, *mezzo-soprano*
Timmy Simpson, *tenor* Michael Sokol, *bass*
Justin Murphy-Mancini, *organ*

The Program

Overture

Recitative for Tenor- Timmy Simpson
Comfort Ye

Air for Tenor
Every valley shall be exalted

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

Recitative for Bass - Michael Sokol
Thus saith the Lord

Air for Bass
But who may abide

Chorus *p.36*
And he shall purify

Recitative for Alto - Sarah-Nicole Carter
Behold, a virgin shall conceive

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

Recitative for Bass - Michael Sokol
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 - Katherine Polit
There were shepherds abiding in the fi

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

Air for Soprano - Katherine Polit
Rejoice greatly

Recitative for Alto - Sarah-Nicole Carter
Then shall the eyes of the blind
be opened

Air for Alto
He shall feed his flock

Air for Soprano - Katherine Polit
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 Sponsors: Amee Wood & Eric Mustonen, in memory of Louise Wood

Meet the Soloists

Hailed by Opera News as "vibrant," soprano Katherine Polit is quickly gaining recognition on the concert and operatic stage. Her most recent performances include Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate* with the Helena Symphony, Vivaldi's *Gloria* at Lincoln Center and Samuel Barber's *Knoxville, Summer of 1915* with the Owensboro Symphony. In January she will sing Pamina in *The Magic Flute* with Pacific Symphony. Katherine has also been featured with Virginia Opera, Opera Naples, Opera Louisiane, and the Ohio Light Opera. She completed her post-graduate studies at Indiana University and holds a Master of Music from The University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Humanities and Arts from Carnegie Mellon University.

Mezzo-Soprano Sarah-Nicole Carter has been hailed by the L.A. Times as "simply wonderful", and as having "verve and vibrant color" by San Diego Story. Recent performances have included a Kennedy Center debut performing *La Lettre du Jardinier* by Marcel-Lucien Tournier, Berta in *The Barber of Seville* and Jack's Mom in *Into The Woods* at Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater and Kate in *The Pirates of Penzance* at San Diego Opera. As a soloist she has performed with Opera Saratoga, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theater, the Los Angeles Conducting Institute, Eureka Symphony, Grossmont Symphony, San Diego Master Chorale, Colorado Choral Arts Society, and Loveland Opera. She is a core member of the San Diego Opera chorus and a staff singer at All Souls Episcopal Church in Point Loma, CA.

Timothy Simpson is an active performer in a number of San Diego's prestigious ensembles. He has been a featured soloist in *All is Calm* with San Diego Opera and Bodhi Tree Concerts, Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Bach's *Magnificat in D* and Cantata 63 at First United Methodist Church of San Diego, and Handel's *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso, ed il Moderato* with Grossmont Symphony and Master Chorale. In concert with San Diego Symphony, Timothy was featured in "Beyond the Score: I've's Symphony No. 2: Things Our Father Loved", and also in the Symphony's Summer Pops Final Fantasy and Broadway Pops concerts.

Baritone Michael Sokol has distinguished himself in opera and oratorio throughout the US and Europe, with companies including the Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Boston Opera, the Netherlands Opera Zuid, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Slovenian Philharmonic, the Phoenix Symphony and the Cincinnati Symphony under the baton of James Levine, Maurice Abravanel, Charles Dutoit, Lukas Foss, Skitch Henderson and Scott Dunn among others. He is the founder and director of the San Diego Summer Gilbert and Sullivan Workshop.

Messiah-Sing Orchestra

(Members of La Jolla Symphony)

Steven Schick, Music Director
Michael Gerdes, Assistant Conductor
R. Theodore Bietz, Orchestra Manager
Ryan Beard, Orchestra Librarian
Celeste Oram, Production Assistant

First Violin

David Buckley
Anna Matuszczak
Loie Flood

Second Violin

Ted Tsai
Judy Gaukel
Andy Helgerson

Viola

Nancy Swanberg
Sarah Quemada
Anne Gero Stillwell

Cello

Max Fenstermacher
Sarah Quemada

Contrabass

Christine Allen

Oboe

Heather Marks-Soady
Anna Torrezan de Sousa

Bassoon

Tom Schubert

Trumpet

Ken Fitzgerald
Marcelo Braunstein

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
Ruben Valenzuela, Guest Conductor
Victoria Heins-Shaw, Accompanist
Mea Daum, Manager
Marianne & Dennis Schamp, Librarians
Sean McCormac, Production Assistant

LA JOLLA SYMPHONY CHORUS PERSONNEL

SOPRANO

Danbi Ahn
Cherrie Anderson
Jamie Baar
Macia Banks
Marcia Biller
Shawn Copon
Hannah Davis
Sally Dean
Ruvani Fonseka
Cecilia Frankenfeld
Georgia Gebhardt
Meryl Gross*
Marty Hambricht
Martha Hamilton
Ida Houby
Anita Ip
Lidia Jimenez-Garcia
Karen Johns
Hima Joshi
Karen Kakazu
Jin-Soo Kim
Kathryn Kinslow
Christine Lehman
Anna Lettang
Sophie Liu
Barbara McGowen
Yolanda Orrantia
Clara Pierone

Amy Schick
Elizabeth Simmons
Jeanne Stutzer
Paula Tallal
Maria Tiu
Mary Ellen Walther**

ALTO

June Allen
Claudia Anthony
Kathy Archibald
Sarah Ausman
Magdolna Bornemisza
Sonja Brun
Kim Burton
Peggy Clapp
Jo Clemmons
Monica Disselkoen
Susan Elden
Elinor Elphick
Karen Erickson
Cathy Funke*
Kathleen Gullahorn
Vicki Heins-Shaw
Jane Howell
Deanna Johnson
Ariel Lange
Tarina Lee
Carol Manifold

Mona McGorvin
Debby Park
Cinda Peck
Barbara Peisch
Rebecca Ramirez
Tiffany Remuzzi
Valerie Rubins
Satomi Saito**
Marianne Schamp
Carol Slaughtert
Jil Stathis
Diana Steel
Beth Sullivan
Susan Taggart
Friederike Touillon
Kathy Vaughn
Dasha Vovk
Amea Wood
Nina Woods
Jialu Xu (Zoey)
Haoqi Zhang (Cindy)

TENOR

Walter Desmond**
Bill Eadie
Joseph Garcia
Frank Hafner
Michael Kaehr
Anthony Leonard

Jim Macemon
Sean McCormac*
Joe Mundy
Tam Phan
Samuel Rohrbach
Nathan Samskey
Kenneth Thai
Dennis Turner
Bill Ziefle

BASS

Jack Beresford**
Ned Dearborn
Craig Disselkoen
Paul Engel
Jim Friedhofer
Peter Gourevitch
Bryan Heard
Daniel Kosoy
Marc Madison
Steve Marsh
William Miller
Gilbert Omens
Ray Park,
Luke Schulze,
Stewart Shaw*
Otto Sorensen
Vincent Tedjasaputra
Richard Tilles

*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 2017 marks the twenty-second *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
Operations Manager

Melanie Intrieri
Development Assistant
& Event Support

How to Reach Us

9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD 0361
La Jolla, CA 92093-0361
Phone: 858-534-4637
LaJollaSymphony.com

Guest Conductor's Program Note

What keeps us returning to *Messiah* year after year? Indeed, this is a work that has an unbroken performance history dating back to Handel's lifetime. That *Messiah* became an institution is without question a testament to Handel's unparalleled storytelling prowess. Much of the appeal of *Messiah* is displayed in Handel's bold and subtle use of text painting in creating an impression of a plot or narrative, where one is not present. In this fashion, Handel's *Messiah* becomes more than the sum of its parts; yet, each moment captivating on its own.

In our own experience this afternoon, our *Messiah* 'Sing' serves as catalyst for fostering community and bridging gaps, and for a brief moment we are drawn together once more by Handel's musical genius. A community 'Sing' of any kind, be it *Messiah*, a rousing church hymn, or the ubiquitous *Take me out to the ball game* during the seventh inning stretch, is at its best also more than the sum of its parts, each of us bringing our experiences and talents woven into one rich community tapestry.

Welcome to LJSC's *Messiah* 2018 'Sing'!

Ruben Valenzuela

*More Concerts with Chorus and Orchestra
Coming Up at Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD*

Bernstein Centennial

March 16 @ 7:30pm – March 17 @ 2:00pm, 2019
Steven Schick, conductor

Laurie San Martin *nights bright days*
Ludwig van Beethoven *Symphony No. 8*
Leonard Bernstein *Symphony No. 3 (Kaddish)*

Guest artists: Stacey Fraser, soprano; Eva Barnes, narrator;
North Coast Caprice youth choir

After meeting Laurie San Martin, one this country's most important ebullient composers, we'll experience the lightness of a classical great—the seldom-heard 8th Symphony of Beethoven—and conclude with Leonard Bernstein's extraordinary and poignant Symphony No. 3 (Kaddish), with chorus, soprano soloist and narrator. The Bernstein piece, named for the Jewish prayer for the dead, was dedicated to the late President John F. Kennedy and premiered in the days after of his assassination in 1963. It is a reflection simultaneously on the loss of a president and the loss of a generation of European Jews. It is powerful music, but also hopeful.

Remembrance of Things Past

June 8 @ 7:30pm – June 9 @ 2:00pm, 2019
Michael Gerdes, guest conductor

Maurice Ravel *La Valse*
Charles Ives *From Hanover Square North*
Samuel Barber *Adagio for Strings*
Ralph Vaughan Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem*
George Butterworth *The Banks of Green Willow*

Soloists: Eden Tremayne, soprano;
Anthony Whitson-Martini, baritone

We close our season with a reflection on the composer/soldiers of World War I, from Maurice Ravel to Ralph Vaughan-Williams to George Butterworth, whose life was tragically cut short in the war. Music from the same time by Charles Ives, and a favorite of Benjamin Britten, the Adagio for Strings rounds out a program that is both steeped in memory and full of messages for our own time.

*Interested in joining the
La Jolla Symphony
Chorus?*

Contact Chorus Manager
Mea Daum at
chorus@lajollasympphony.com
or visit
www.lajollasympphony.com
for more information