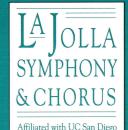


To Explore 1999/2000 Season



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Mandeville Auditorium Saturday, November 6, 1999, 8 p.m. Sunday, November 7, 1999, 3 p.m.



WUORINEN

Machault Mon Chou

Quarter-note = 108 Quarter-note = 96 Quarter-note = 128

Harvey Sollberger, conductor

STRAVINSKY

Symphony of Psalms

Quarter-note = 92 Eighth-note = 60 Quarter-note = 48

David Chase, conductor

INTERMISSION

HOLST

The Planets, Opus 32

Mars
Venus
Mercury
Jupiter
Saturn
Uranus
Neptune

Harvey Sollberger, conductor

Slide show for *The Planets* prepared by Dennis Mammana, resident astronomer of the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center.

Slide show operator is Lukas Schultz.

Greetings Season!



And what a season opener... As you sit back and prepare to listen to this weekend's concert of Wuorinen, Stravinsky and Holst, we hope to inspire, entertain and delight.

This varied and entertaining program is a fitting start to our 45th year. This season we introduce our new chamber orchestra (ringing in the Millennium in a special January program), an expanded number of concerts, and a new work by this year's winner of the Thomas Nee Commission.

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A Universe to Explore

The Planets

NOVEMBER 6/7, 1999

Charles Wuorinen—Machault mon Chou-Igor Stravinsky—Symphony of Psalms Gustav Holst—The Planets

Around the World

DECEMBER 11/12, 1999

Bohuslav Martinu—Sinfonietta La Jolla Luciano Berio—Folksongs

Charles Ives—Three Places in New England Felix Mendelssohn—Symphony No. 4 "Italian"

New Chamber Orchestra

JANUARY 22/23, 2000

Paul Hindemith—Kammermusik I

Antonin Dvorak—Serenade for Strings

Richard Strauss—Wind Serenade

Franz Joseph Haydn—Symphony No. 83 "The Hen"

Israel in Egypt

FEBRUARY 12/13, 2000

George Frideric Handel—Israel in Egypt

Beethoven to Ellington!

MARCH 18/19, 2000

Duke Ellington—New World A-Comin'

Antonio Vivaldi—Lute Concerto

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Red Star

APRIL 29/30, 2000

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Alfred Schnittke—Gogol Suite

Belshazzar's Feast

June 10/11, 2000.

Benjamin Britten—Four Sea Interludes
William Walton—Belshazzar's Feast



Program Notes By Eric Bromberger

Machault Mon Chou

CHARLES WUORINEN Born June 9, 1938, New York City

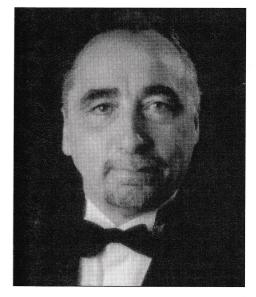


omposer of more than 200 works (to date), Charles Wuorinen has led a varied career that has taken him throughout this country as composer, performer, conductor, teacher, lecturer, and composer-inresidence. Educated at Columbia University (B.A., 1961, M.A., 1963),

Wuorinen has taught at Columbia, the Manhattan School of Music, and Rutgers, and been a visiting faculty member at others; while at Columbia, he co-founded (with Harvey Sollberger) the Group for Contemporary Music, one of the country's leading new-music ensembles. He has been composer-in-residence at the Ojai Festival (1975), Cabrillo Music Festival (1985), Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival (1993), and with the San Francisco Symphony (1985-89). As a pianist or guest conductor, he has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, and many others. Wuorinen has composed for orchestra, chamber ensembles, keyboard, tape, and voice, both solo songs and choral works. He has received numerous awards, principal among which have been the MacArthur Award and the Pulitzer Prize for music in 1970 (for Time's Encomium, a composition for tape); at age 32, Wuorinen was the youngest composer ever to receive the Pulitzer.

Machault Mon Chou, commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony, was written in 1988 for that orchestra and its then-music director, Herbert Blomstedt. This brief threemovement work is an orchestration of music from the Messe de Nostre Dame by the fourteenth-century French composer-poet Guillaume de Machaut (sometimes spelled Machault). Wuorinen was not content simply to orchestrate music from the fourteenth century, and in fact Machault Mon Chou is an affectionate recomposition: Wuorinen reorders the original music, omits some parts of it, and supplies additional counterpoint of his own. The symphony orchestra of course did not exist in the fourteenth century, and a modern orchestration allows us to hear Machaut's music in a resplendent way its creator never dreamed of—but would probably have loved. Machault Mon Chou has proven popular with both orchestras and audiences and has been performed by the San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and others.

$A_{bout\atop the} Conductors$



Harvey Sollberger ____

Music Director of the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus since 1998, Harvey Sollberger has been active as a composer, conductor, flutist, teacher, and organizer of concerts. His work in composition has been recognized by an award from the National Institute of Arts and Letters, two Guggenheim Fellowships, and by commissions from the Koussevitsky Foundation, Fromm Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Walter W. Naumberg Foundation, Music from Japan, and the New York State Council on the Arts. Maestro Sollberger's music has been performed here and abroad by such ensembles as the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and Pierre Boulez's Domaine Musical. As a flutist and conductor, he has toured and recorded extensively. His orchestral credits include appearances and recordings with the San Francisco Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, American Composers Orchestra, and the June in Buffalo Chamber Orchestra. He has taught at Columbia University, Manhattan School of Music, Indiana University, and Amherst College, and he is currently Professor of Music at UCSD, where he conducts the new-music ensemble SONOR.

David Chase

Conductor of the La Jolla Symphony Chorus since 1973, Dr. 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 unusual works. Major projects have included the world premiere and CRI recording of Henry Brant's Western Springs; a KPBS-TV broadcast 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 and members of the chorus traveled to Europe in 1988 where they gave performances in Germany, Austria and Italy. In 1992 the ensemble was the only adult choir chosen to represent the United States in the International Choral Kathaumixw held in Canada. In July 1996 and again in 1998 they presented the Musique des Ameriques concert series throughout Southern France. David 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, the choral arm of the Grand Rapids Symphony, then conducted by Semyon Bichkov.



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Robert is host of "Whitley On Wine" on KSDO-AM 1130 and wine critic for the San Diego Union Tribune.



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Symphony of Psalms

IGOR STRAVINSKY

Born June 17, 1882, Oranienbaum Died April 6, 1971, New York City



Stravinsky in 1931, the year after he composed the Symphony of Psalms.

or the Boston Symphony Orchestra's fiftieth anniversary in 1930, Serge Koussevitsky commissioned a series of new works to be performed in celebration of that season. That set of commissions turned out to be the most impressive in the history of music: it included

Hindemith's Concert Music for Brass and Strings, Roussel's Third Symphony, Prokofiev's Fourth Symphony, Hanson's Second Symphony, Copland's Symphonic Ode, and Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms (the other works commissioned that year are seldom heard today: Honegger's First Symphony, Respighi's Metamorphosen, and Edward Burlingame Hill's Ode for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Boston Symphony Orchestra).

Koussevitsky asked these composers for a symphonic work, but specified that each was free to write for whatever combination of performers he preferred. When this commission arrived, Stravinsky had been thinking for some time of composing a large-scale instrumental and vocal work. Raised in the Russian Orthodox church, he had fallen away from its practice, but in 1926—at the age of 44—he rejoined the church, and in response to Koussevitsky's commission he composed the *Symphony of Psalms*. This setting, however, should not be considered a statement of Stravinsky's particular beliefs; rather, it is a generalized expression of religious faith.

For the Symphony of Psalms, composed between January and August 1930, Stravinsky turned to the Old Testament, taking excerpts from two Psalms and using one Psalm complete, and presented them in an order that suggests three different relations with God: separation from God, strength derived from God, and praise of God. The title "symphony" may seem a strange one for what is essentially a setting of three texts without the conscious drama one associates with symphonic form; Stravinsky explained that "I wanted to create an organic whole without conforming to the various models adopted by custom, but still retaining the periodic order by which the symphony is distinguished from the suite, the latter being simply a succession of pieces varying in character." Stravinsky wished to give equal prominence to the chorus and the orchestra, but he made some unusual decisions about instrumentation, and these give the Symphony of Psalms its unique sound. First, Stravinsky eliminates violins, violas, and clarinets

from the orchestra, and the absence of the bright, resonant upper strings and the smooth sonority of the clarinets helps intensify the music's consciously "archaic" sound. Second, Stravinsky includes two pianos and a harp in the orchestra and then uses them percussively—their "strikes" of sound give this music its characteristic pointillistic sonority. Finally, Stravinsky tries to underline the "ancient" sound he wanted in this music by specifying that the soprano and alto parts should be sung by boys rather than women, as was the custom in early church music (this is almost never done, and in his own recording Stravinsky used women rather than boys).

Stravinsky's initial musical idea was the repeated six-note sequence in the final movement, and he composed that section first, then wrote the opening movements. None of the movements has an Italian tempo indication; instead,

Stravinsky specifies only a metronome marking. The first movement (quarter-note=92; Psalm 39, 12-13)—which Stravinsky said was composed "in a state of religious and musical ebullience"—opens with a crack of sound generated in large part by the two pianos, and the chorus quickly enters with its plea to be heard. The second movement (eighthnote=60; Psalm 40, 1-3) is a complex double fugue, first for woodwinds, then for voices, and then for combinations of them. The final movement (quarter-note=48; Psalm 90) is the most varied. It opens with the chorus' Alleluia, but instead of being festive, the phrase is somber, imbued with an almost funereal splendor. The original six-note germ pulses quietly, then explodes to life at the Laudate Dominum. At the close, the music moves steadily forward on a pulsing fournote ostinato. Stravinsky himself noted that this "final hymn of praise must be thought of as issuing from the skies, and agitation is followed by the 'calm of praise.""

Symphony of Psalms .

I

Exaudi orationem meam, Domine, et depreciationem meam: auribus percipe lacrymas meas. Ne sileas, quoniam advena ego sum apud te, et peregrinus, sicut omnes patres mei. Remitte mihi, ut refrigerer priusquam abeam, et amplius non ero.

Psalmus XXXVIII 13, 14 (Vulgate)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not Thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with Thee, and sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength: before I go hence, and be no more.

Psalm XXXIX 12, 13 (King James)

II

Expectans expectavi Dominum, et intendit mihi. Et exaudivit preces meas; et eduxit me de lacu miseriae, et de luto faecis. Et statuit supra petram pedes meos; et direxit gressus meos. Et immisit in os meum canticum novum, carmen Deo nostro. Videbunt multi et timebunt; et sperabunt in Domino.

Psalmus XXXIX 1-3 (Vulgate)

I waited patiently for the Lord: and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: and many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Psalm XL 1-3 (King James)

Ш

(Alleluia.) Laudate Dominum in sanctis ejus: Laudate eum in firmamento virtutis ejus. Laudate eum in virtutibus ejus: laudate eum secundum multitudinem magnitudinis ejus. Laudate eum in sono tubae: laudate eum in psalterio et cithara. Laudate eum in tympano et choro: laudate eum in chordis et organo. Laudate eum in cymbalis bene sonantibus: laudate eum in cymbalis jubilationis: omnis spiritus laudet Dominum.

Psalmus CL (Vulgate)

(Alleluia.) Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His Sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and the harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

Psalm CL (King James)



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The La Jolla Symphony & Chorus would like to thank

ITALO SCANGA

for generously creating the program guide's cover art for this season.

The piece, "Fortissimo" was made from a real music sheet, painted with gold primer, and then painted with acrylic paint. "The inspiration for the work comes from the language of the music sheets, for example 'fortissimo,' 'pianissimo' or 'con fuoco' (with fire)," Scanga said. "The language that describes the music gives me inspiration for the imagery. What does fortissimo or pianissimo mean? From language to music, I'm inspired to invent a visual statement."



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The Planets, Opus 32

GUSTAV HOLST Born September 21, 1874, Cheltenham Died May 25, 1934, London



ystic, visionary, and socialist, Gustav Holst was also fascinated by astrology, and that passion helped shape *The Planets*. Holst composed this seven-movement suite for large orchestra during the years 1914-16, when he was teaching

at St. Paul's Girls School in Hammersmith, a borough of London. The name The Planets can be misleading, and Holst's intentions in this work need to be understood carefully. Though each movement has the name of one of the seven known planets (Holst eliminated Earth, and Pluto was not discovered until 1930, eleven years after the first performance), Holst was not interested in depicting the planets themselves. Listeners should not expect an aural depiction of the frosty, windswept deserts of Mars or of the sun-baked surface of Mercury—this is emphatically not a Grand Canyon Suite or La Mer of outer space. Instead, Holst was interested in the names of the planets and the associations that went with them. But rather than being drawn to the mythological meanings of those names, Holst turned to their astrological associations. Only in certain cases do the mythological and astrological meanings agree (Mars and Mercury), and in some other cases they differ sharply. Jupiter, for example, was the king of the Roman gods, but he becomes for Holst simply "The Bringer of Jollity"; Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, becomes "The Mystic." The physical planets themselves supply only the loosest sort of unity to this massive work; Holst's daughter Imogen noted that once her father began to compose a work, "he let the music have its way with him."

When he began composing The Planets, Holst was convinced that he would never be able to arrange a performance, so rather than feeling constrained by the limits of a normal symphony orchestra, he added many unusual instruments: he wrote for an ideal orchestra rather than for the one he thought he might have. The Planets calls for an orchestra of four flutes, two piccolos, alto flute in G, three oboes, bass oboe, english horn, three clarinets, bass clarinet, three bassoons, contrabassoon, six horns, four trumpets, three trombones, tenor tuba, bass tuba, two harps, celeste, organ, six timpani, a massive percussion battery (triangle, side drum, tambourine, cymbals, bass drum, gong, bells, glockenspiel, and xylophone), plus the usual strings. And then, much to the composer's pleasure and surprise. Balfour Gardiner, a wealthy patron of the arts, learned of this score and arranged a private run-through with a professional orchestra. On September 29, 1918, Holst heard this music come to life for the first time.

Mars, the Bringer of War An insistent 5/4 meter, tapped out by the wood of the bows, opens Mars and continues throughout, either clicking lightly in the background or hammering full-blast into the listener's consciousness. Trumpet calls announce the arrival of the god of war, and his violence saturates this entire movement, rising to the massive chords that bring the movement to its grinding close. Many early listeners believed that this movement depicted World War I, but Holst noted that he began Mars during the early summer of 1914 and had it complete before the guns began to sound that August, so this music is neither descriptive nor prophetic.

Venus, the Bringer of Peace Venus—pure, cool, and precise—brings complete contrast, a draught of clear water after the fire and smoke of the opening movement; silvery violin solos contribute to this movement's mood of calm.

Mercury, the Winged Messenger Though Mercury is placed third in the suite, it was the last movement to be composed and is—musically—the most complex. Mercury is a scherzo, and its complexities rise from the fact that Holst mixes his rhythms and tonalities daringly: in this movement, for example, the first and second violin sections play in different keys. While complex, the movement is also a lot of fun, with its portrait of the messenger whirling and swirling on his rapid way.

Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity Though his subject is nominally the king of the gods, Holst is a good deal more earthbound in his intentions here, describing his Jupiter as "one of those jolly fat people who enjoy life." The movement is in rondo form, and right at the center comes a stately melody

that has become a virtual symbol of English pomp and ceremony (Holst later used this tune to set the text "I Vow to Thee, My Country"). A charming story: at the first runthrough of *The Planets*, the cleaning-women in the hall were so struck by this theme that they set aside their mops and buckets and began to dance.

Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age This movement, Holst's own favorite, opens with eerie, empty chords and soon leads to madly-tolling bells that signal the passage of time, but a noble chorale for trombones (Holst's own instrument) establishes a mood of acceptance and serenity.

Uranus, the Magician One of the most brilliant sections of the suite, Uranus has been compared to *The Sorcerer's Apprentice,* though Holst did not know Dukas' music when he wrote *The Planets.* Here is a portrait of a musician going through all his tricks. The movement opens with a four-note motto that will recur in many forms; near the end, the magician vanishes in a puff of smoke, the four-note motto thunders out, and the music ends in silent mystery.

Neptune, the Mystic Like Mars, Neptune is in 5/4, but spiritually it is far removed from the violence of the opening movement. Holst takes an artistic risk here, choosing to end quietly after all the brilliance that has preceded this last movement. Mysterious and icy swirls of sound hover at the edge of this solar system, and the orehestra remains at a pianissimo dynamic throughout. At the end, a six-part women's chorus sings a wordless text offstage, repeating the final measure until, in Holst's words, "the sound is lost in the distance" and the audience is left at the silent edge of infinite space.

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