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Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No. 2 in D Major Choral Fantasy Wellington's Victory

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Handel
The Messiah Sing
Clairemont Lutheran Church
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Profiles



Virginia Eskin has performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Europe, and Israel. In addition to concerto performances with orchestras such as the San Francisco, Louisville, New Hampshire, and Utah Symphonies, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Boston Classical, the Boston Pops, and the Israel Sinfonietta, she has performed with the Muir, Sarasota, and Portland String

Quartets and with members of the Guarneri Quartet. She is well-known for her many appearances at the Newport Music Festival (RI) and as a recitalist and chamber player at the Monadnock Music Festival (NH). Ms. Eskin has a number of recordings to her credit, many by American composers and by women, on the Northeastern, Leonardo, Genesis, Musical Heritage, Channel Classical, Koch International, and Cambria Labels.

She is a member of the adjunct faculty of Northeastern University, where she teaches undergraduate courses, and is a frequent guest on college campuses, bringing lectures and performances to Harvard, Kenyon, Georgia State, the University of Alabama, Bowdoin, Goucher, Wesleyan, the University of Washington and the American College in Athens. She appears regularly as co-host and performer on National Public Radio's "A Note to You."

Thomas Nee



Thomas Nee, one of the founders of UCSD's music department, became music director upon La Jolla Symphony founder Peter Nicoloff's departure (1967) and remains director of the orchestra today. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Nee also studied at the University of Vienna and the Austrian State Academy in Vienna. He served as the assistant conductor of Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra under Antal Dorati and recently retired as the director of the New Hampshire Music Festival.

David Chase

Choral Conductor, David Chase has performed with the Robert Shaw Festival Chamber Chorus in Souillac, France, and was a fellow in the Melodius Accord Fellowship with Alice Parker in New York. A graduate of Ohio State University, Chase received his doctorate at the University of Michigan. In addition to his duties as La Jolla Symphony Chorus Choral Director, he currently serves on the



Faculty of Palomar College, where he teaches music literature and theory. He also holds a lecturer apppointment with the UCSD Department of Music.

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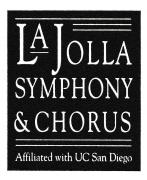
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Thomas Nee, Music Director David Chase, Choral Director

ALL-BEETHOVEN FANTASY CONCERT Saturday, September 30, 1995, 8 P.M. Sunday, October 1, 1995, 3 P.M. Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD

Three Military Marches

No. 1 in F Major, WoO 18 No. 2 in F Major, WoO 19 Zapfenstreich, WoO 20

Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Opus 36

Adagio molto: Allegro con brio Larghetto Scherzo: Allegro

Allegro: molto

INTERMISSION

Piano Sonata in F-sharp Major, Opus 78

Adagio cantabile; Allegro ma non troppo Allegro assai

Virginia Eskin, Pianist

Choral Fantasy in C Minor, Opus 80

Virginia Eskin, Pianist The La Jolla Symphony Chorus

Wellington's Victory, Opus 91

Battle Victory Symphony

About the Concert

Notes By Eric Bromberger

Three Military Marches

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Born December 16, 1770, Bonn Died March 26, 1827, Vienna

In the spring of 1809 Napoleon's armies laid siege to Vienna and occupied the city for six months. Most of Vienna's nobility fled, and Beethoven--who remained behind--took refuge during the bombardment in a cellar and kept a pillow clasped over his ears. With foreign troops walking the streets and the sound of distant cannons echoing above the city, a warrior spirit was very much in the air that year, and it appeared in Beethoven's music in quite different ways. That spirit inflames one of Beethoven's finest works, the "Emperor" Concerto, composed in the first part of 1809; the unusual grandeur and sweep of this music led Alfred Einstein to describe it as "the apotheosis of the military concept" in music. At another extreme, Beethoven also composed three brief marches for military band, and these marches open this concert.

The three marches remained in manuscript for over a decade, and Beethoven did not get around to publishing them until 1823, when he was composing the *Ninth Symphony*. At that time, he referred to them as "Turkish music," a sort of spirited and exotic music full of the sound of drums and cymbals that had a vogue in Vienna during the late eighteenth century (Mozart's opera *Abduction from the Seraglio* and his "Turkish" Violin Concerto incorporate some of these sounds). Beethoven called all three marches by the name he gave the last--Zapfenstreich-- which translates as "tattoo," a form of military signal summoning troops back to their barracks at night.

Musically, all are in the duple meter one expects in a march, and all are in two strains, though the final march has a trio section. The first of the marches did double service for the composer, who dedicated it to Archduke Anton of Vienna, older brother of Beethoven's pupil Archduke Rudolph: it was performed during the summer of 1810 at ceremonies marking the birthday of Empress Maria Ludovika, when it was used as the music for a carousel. As a result, Beethoven, with perhaps a hint of deprecation, spoke of this march as "horse music."

Choral Fantasy in C Minor, Opus 80

On December 22, 1808, Beethoven presented one of the strangest and most remarkable concerts ever given. The program consisted of the premiere performances of the Fourth and Fifth Symphonies, the first public performance of the Fourth Piano Concerto, various movements from the Mass in C Major, and an aria. Apparently Beethoven felt that this was not enough music, so he hurriedly composed the Choral Fantasy as the concluding work. The concert lasted a very long time, the weather in Vienna three days before Christmas was freezing, and one of Beethoven's friends who stayed for the entire concert offered this devastating assessment "There we sat from 6:30 till 10:30 in the most bitter cold, and found by experience that one might have too much even of a good thing."

The Choral Fantasy is a very strange piece of music. It opens with a long section for piano alone; Beethoven had not written this out in time for the first performance and simply extemporized it at the piano. The orchestra enters, and there follows a set of variations on a theme Beethoven had written over ten years earlier. Listeners will quickly detect a kinship between this theme and the main theme of the finale of his Ninth Symphony, which would not be composed until 1824. The chorus enters only in the final minutes of the Choral Fantasy. Its anonymous text is full of flowery praise for the power of music and the arts to inspire mankind, and the combination of solo piano, chorus, and orchestra is meant to mirror the fusion of all arts.

A curious hybrid, the *Choral Fantasy* looks several directions at once. The quasi-improvisational piano part at the begining looks back to the style of playing that had helped Beethoven establish his reputation when he arrived in Vienna ixteen years earlier in 1792. But the choice of an inspirational-almost ecstatic-text for chorus and orchestra and the use of the same theme looks *ahead* sixteen years to one of the great achievements of Beethoven's final years, the *Ninth Symphony*.

Choral Fantasy

Schmeicheind hold und lieblich klingen Unsers Lebens Harmonien, Und dem Schonheitssinn entschwingen Blumen sich, die ewig bluhn, Fried' und Freude gleiten freundlich Wie der Wellen Wechselspiel; Was sich drangte rauh und feindlich, Ordnet sich zu Hochgefuhl.

Wenn der Tone Zauber walten Und des Wortes Weihe spricht, Muss sich Heerliches gestalten, Nacht und Sturme werden Light, Auss're Ruhe, inn're Wonne Herrschen fur den Glucklichen. Doch der Kunste Fruhlingssonne Lasst aus beiden Licht entstehn.

Grosses, das in's Herz gedrungen, Bluht dann neu und schon empor, Hat ein Geist sich aufgeschwungen, Hall't ihm stets ein Geisterchor. Nehmt denn hin, ihr schonen Seelen, Froh die Gaben schoner Kunst Wenn sich Lieb' und Kraft vermahlen, Lohnt dem Menschen Gotter-Gunst Beguiling, sweet and lovely is the resonance
Of our life's harmonies,
And awareness of beauty begets
Flowers which bloom eternally.
Peace and joy move in concord
Like the rhythm of waves;
All that is alien and uncouth

When the magical sound holds sway And the sacred import is clear, Beauty is necessarily formed, Night and tempest turned to light. Peace without and bliss within Reign for the lucky one. Yet the spring sunshine of the arts Draws light from both.

The greatness which permeates the heart Blooms again with fresh beauty. When the spirit exalts, A spirit chorus reverberates for ever. Then take with joy, o noble spirits, The gifts of high art When love and power unite, Almighty grace endows mankind.

Wellington's Victory, Opus 91

Like many other Europeans, Beethoven changed his opinion of Napoleon a number of times. When Napoleon seemed the champion of human rights and political reform, Beethoven had planned to dedicate the "Eroica" Symphony to him, but when Napoleon declared himself emperor in 1804 Beethoven angrily ripped the title page from the manuscript of the symphony and blotted Napoleon's name off it. Beethoven's views became even more sour when Napoleon's troops shelled and occupied Vienna in 1809, yet in 1823--two years after Napoleon's death--Beethoven was willing to express a grudging admiration for him.

In the fall of 1813, Beethoven's friend Johann Nepomuk Maelzel, inventor of the metronome, came to him with a sketch of a piece of music celebrating the victory of the English forces under Wellington over French forces at Vittoria in Spain on June 21 of that year (and *not* the victory of Wellington over Napoleon at Waterloo, which would not take place until 1814). Caught up in the enthusiasm over Napoleon's defeat, Beethoven completed and orchestrated the music that became known as *Wellington's Victory*. There remains some uncertainty about how much of the score each composer was responsible for.

At its premiere on December 8, 1813, in a concert that included the premiere of the Seventh Symphony, Wellington's Victory was a smashing success with the Viennese audience, also ready to enjoy Napoleon's defeats. The music was repeated frequently, and these performances brought Beethoven much fame and a great deal of money. It is ironic that this pot-boiler (no other word quite describes it) should have been so successful. Seduced by the acclaim and the income, Beethoven cranked out several similar works--cantatas and choral pieces on patriotic themes, ironically much influenced by French styles in music--that he hoped would bring him similar success. After several pieces in this manner (all now mercifully forgotten), Beethoven recognized the sterility of the style and abandoned it.

Musically, Wellington's Victory is no better than it has any right to be, but it has proven popular on festive occasions, particularly in the sort of presentation that includes uniformed troops, cannons, and fireworks. The music begins with drumrolls and fanfares from the opposing armies: Rule, Britannia for the English and Malbrouck's s'en va-t-en guerre for the French (this tune is known, less gloriously, in its English version as The Bear Went over the Mountain). These exchanges go on for some time before the rousing battle is joined, the French are defeated, and their fanfare tune, now quiet and rather crestfallen, slinks off in a minor key. There follows the longest section, the Victory Symphony, which offers some fugal treatment of God Save the King before the triumphant conclusion.

Wellington's Victory represents a very particular kind of program music: the depiction of a battle using the national music of the respective armies. As such, it is the spiritual father of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, which celebrates another victory over Napoleon, and Shostakovich's "Leningrad" Symphony, in which Russian music casts out the music of the Nazi invaders.

Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Opus 36

Beethoven liked to get away from Vienna during the summer, and in April 1802 he took rooms in the village of Heiligenstadt, which had fields and forests where he could take long walks. Beethoven remained there a long time, not returning to the city until October, but his lengthy stay had nothing to do with the beauty of the setting. That summer the composer finally had to face the dark truth that his hearing was failing, that there was no hope, and that he would eventually go deaf; evidence suggests that he considered suicide that summer. Yet from these depths, Beethoven wrote some of his most genial music, a fact that should warn us not to make easy connections between a creator's life and his art. Chief among the works that he completed that despairing summer was the *Symphony No. 2 in D Major*, as sunny a piece of music as he ever wrote.

Historians have been unanimous in finding Beethoven's first two symphonies conservative, but to contemporary listeners the Second Symphony sounded audacious enough. After the premiere in Vienna on April 5, 1803, a reviewer complained that "the first symphony is better than the [second] because it is developed with a lightness and is less forced, while in the second the striving for the new and surprising is already more apparent." That critic makes an acute point: while the Second Symphony remains very much in the mold of the symphonies of Mozart and Haydn, it represents clear progress beyond the limits of Beethoven's well-behaved First Symphony. These advances are evident in its span (some performances of the Second stretch to nearly forty minutes), its bright sonority (Beethoven chooses D major, a particularly resonant key for the strings), and its atmosphere of non-stop energy. The Second Symphony may take the form of an eighteenth-century symphony, but there surely are "new and surprising" elements throughout this buoyant score.

The slow introduction begins with a great explosion: the orchestra has a unison D, marked fortissimo, and then moves through an unexpected range of keys, its rhythms growing increasingly animated as it proceeds. At the Allegro con brio, Beethoven introduced as his main theme a figure that seems almost consciously athematic: there is nothing melodic about this figure for lower strings that rushes ahead, curving around a sixteenth note turn as it goes. Yet built into this simple figure is a vast amount of energy, and much of the development 'will grow out of the turn. The second subject, innocent and goodnatured, arrives in the wind band. Beethoven develops both these ideas, but the turn-figure dominates the movement, including a muttering, ominous modulation for strings at the end of the development (was this one of the places that bothered that early critic?). The movement drives to a wonderful climax, the sound of trumpets stinging through a splendid mass of orchestral sound, and the turn-figure propels the music to a close on the same unison D that opened the movement.

The second movement, *Larghetto*, is not really a slow movement in the traditional sense, but a moderately-paced sonata-form movement built on a profusion of themes. Beethoven develops these lyric ideas at luxurious length--this is the longest movement in the symphony. The *Scherzo* erupts

with another unison D, and out of this explosion leap three-note salvos. Beethoven seems unusually alert here to *where* these sounds are coming from: the three-note cannonades jump up from all over the orchestra. By contrast, the trio brings a gentle tune, but the remarkable thing about both scherzo and trio is that each opening statement is quite brief, while the second strains are long and take the music through unexpected harmonic excursions.

The finale opens with an abrupt flourish. Yet from this brief figure Beethoven generates most of the last movement, deriving much of the music from the flourish's opening F#-G slide and its concluding drop of a fifth. Full of boundless energy and good spirits, this rondo offers a flowing second theme for lower strings (Beethoven marks it *dolce*) and a genial tune for woodwinds over chirping string accompaniment. But the opening flourish always returns to whip this movement forward and to give the music its almost manic character, and the symphony drives to a conclusion that is--one last time--a ringing D for full orchestra.

Piano Sonata in F-sharp Major, Opus 78

Like the marches that opened this program, the *Piano Sonata in F-sharp Major* dates from 1809, but Beethoven completed it in October, when the French occupation was nearing an end. It had been four years since he wrote his last piano sonata, the dramatic "Appassionata" Sonata of 1805, and to mark his return to the form Beethoven composed a sonata that could hardly be more different. Everything about the Sonata in F-sharp Major is original: it is extremely brief (nine minutes long), it is in only two movements, and its gentle mood is far from the conflict that drives the "Appassionata." Beethoven dedicated it to his friend the Countess Therese von Brunswick, whose husband Franz had received the dedication of the "Appassionata."

The opening movement has a brief slow introduction that establishes the sonata's gentle character: Beethoven specifies that it should be *Adagio cantabile*. And when the movement eases forward at the *Allegro ma non troppo* on a chordal main theme the mood remains calm; at three different points in this movement Beethoven reminds the pianist that the playing should be *dolce*. Even the development, which moves briefly into a minor key, is unconflicted, and Beethoven generates some lovely sounds with rippling passagework in the piano's ringing upper register. He asks for a repeat of both exposition and development, and the movement closes on a cadence built of fragments of the main theme.

Less than three minutes long, the concluding *Allegro vivace* is a sort of rondo based on two alternating themes: the strongly-inflected figure at the opening and a pattern of non-stop sixteenth-notes, Beethoven moves fluidly between these ideas, and this pleasing movement is over almost before one knows it.

Beethoven was quite fond of this sonata, perhaps because it was so different from his others. It remained one of his favorites throughout his life, and to the pianist Carl Czerny he once exclaimed: "People always talk about the *C-sharp Minor Sonata* (the "Moonlight"]. I have written far better things. The *F sharp Major Sonata* is something very different!"

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BEETHOVEN

Sextet Opus 71

Adagio; Allegro Adagio Menuetto Rondo

Sue Collado (Clarinet)
Steven Shields (Clarinet)
Thomas Schubert
(Bassoon)
Karen Park (French Horn)
Scott Avenal (French Horn)

Serenade, Opus 25

Entrata, allegro
Tempo ordinario d'un
Minuetto
Allegro scherzando vivace
Adagio; Allegro vivace
disinvolto

Joanna Spratt (Flute) Tom Alexander (Violin) Loie Flood (Viola)

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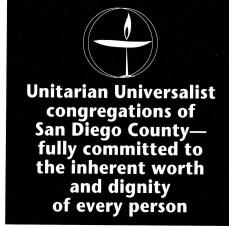
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