

# The Nature of Things

# 2014-2015 Concert Series

Inspired by *de rerum natura* by Lucretius, a poet of the 1st century BC



STEVEN SCHICK, Music Director DAVID CHASE, Choral Director

# ...on the nature of sensation and thought

**NOVEMBER 8-9, 2014** 

Steven Schick & David Chase conduct

**Nathan Davis** 

a Sound, uttered WORLD PREMIERE

**Gustav Mahler** 

Symphony No. 5

#### Guest artist: red fish blue fish

Two works of sharp contrast open our 60th anniversary season. The world premiere of Nathan Davis' a Sound, uttered, scored for chorus and 4 percussionists, draws text from a unique collaboration between composer and chorus on the origin and meaning of language. We conclude with one of Mahler's mightiest and most popular symphonies. The Fifth opens with a grief-stricken funeral march, lifts out of that darkness to dance with cosmic energy, and concludes in a blaze of triumph.

# ...on the nature of the democratic *impulse* and the *effacement* of obstacles

# **DECEMBER 13-14, 2014**

Steven Schick conducts

William Grant Still Afro-American Symphony
Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No. 9

In December 1989 Leonard Bernstein led an international orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* on the ruins of the Berlin Wall, which had just been demolished. We mark the 25th anniversary of that historic concert with a performance of the same music. The concert opens with a different declaration of freedom: William Grant Still's *Afro-American Symphony* of 1930 was the first significant symphony by an African-American composer. Nearly a century later, it remains a compelling piece of music.

# ...on the nature of reflection

# FEBRUARY 7-8, 2015

Steven Schick conducts

Osvaldo Golijov

Chinary Ung

Carl Nielsen

Azul

Khse Buon

Symphony No. 4 "Inextinguishable"

#### Guest artist: Maya Beiser, cello

Local audiences will recall Maya Beiser's splendid performances of the Elgar *Cello Concerto* with the La Jolla Symphony in 2007. She returns to play two works: Golijov's *Azul*, a cello concerto written for Yo-Yo Ma, and *Khse Buon* by UCSD composer Chinary Ung, a piece for unaccompanied cello written in response to tragic events in the composer's native Cambodia. The concert concludes with Nielsen's "*Inextinguishable*" *Symphony*, an earthshaking statement of faith in life composed during the darkest days of World War I.

# ...on the nature of renewal

## MARCH 14-15, 2015

Steven Schick conducts

#### **Hector Berlioz**

#### Requiem

Berlioz's *Grand messe des morts* is one of the most fabulous pieces of music ever conceived. Berlioz composed it for performance in the vast Les Invalides in Paris, and he conceived it as an example of what he called "architectural music." It was, in fact, an early example of quadraphonic music, for Berlioz wrote it for an ideal orchestra of 200 players, a chorus of 600, and four brass bands stationed in the corners of the hall surrounding the audience. For all its ear-splitting spectacle, the *Requiem* also offers some of Berlioz's most heartfelt music.

# ...on the nature of the space between us all

MAY 2-3, 2015

Christopher Rountree conducts

Leonard Bernstein Yeung-ping Chen Charles Ives Symphony No. 1 "Jeremiah" THOMAS NEE COMMISSION

Symphony No. 2

Guest conductor Christopher Rountree, director and conductor of wild Up, an experimental classical ensemble, leads a unique American program. Bernstein's dramatic First Symphony was written while he was still in his twenties, and voted outstanding new classical work its debut year by the New York Music Critics Circle. Yeung-ping Chen will compose what is truly a twenty-first century work, a "tele-concerto" in which the orchestra will be in Mandeville and the soloists will "appear" with the orchestra via the Internet. Ives' popular Second Symphony fuses the great European symphony with popular American tunes.

## ...on the nature of utterance

JUNE 6-7, 2015

David Chase conducts

Peter Tchaikovsky Ionathan Dove Violin Concerto
There Was a Child
WEST COAST PREMIERE

#### Guest artist: Annelle Gregory, violin

Choral Director David Chase leads our season-ending concerts. Annelle Gregory, winner of the 2012 Young Artists Competition, plays Tchaikovsky's great concerto, one of the most difficult ever written for the violin. *There Was a Child*, composed by Jonathan Dove in 2009, is a grand cantata in the spirit of Benjamin Britten and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Composed as a tribute to a young man who had died tragically, rather than dwelling in darkness, Dove's oratorio inspires and uplifts. Setting texts by English and American poets, it is scored for soprano and tenor soloists, children's choir, chorus, and orchestra.

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Make a donation with your subscription and become a supporter too! Ticket sales only cover one-third of our expenses. For the balance, we rely on the generosity of donors like you.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Save these dates in 2014-2015

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GALA Christmas Messiah Sing Young Artists Winners Recital October 11, 2014 December 7, 2014 February 15, 2015

Call for details: 858-534-4637

Mail or Fax this Form by **June 13, 2014**La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, UCSD 0361, 9500 Gilman Drive,
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