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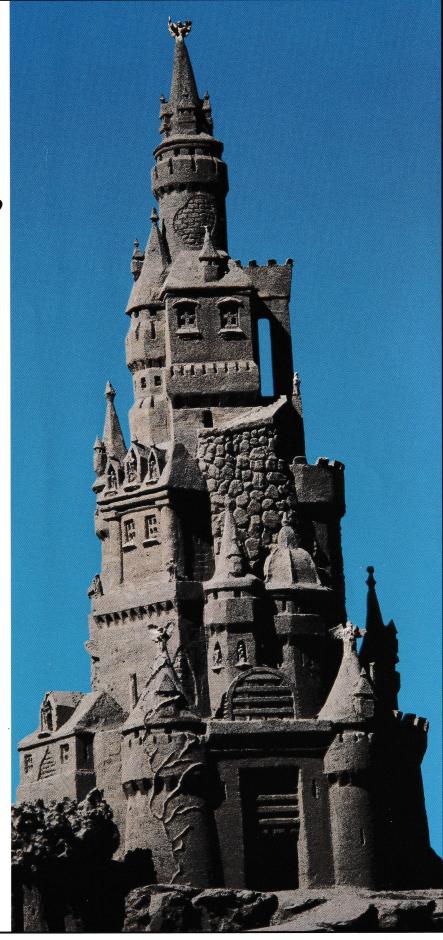
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Steven Schick, Music Director **David Chase**, Choral Director

PERSPECTIVE

Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD Saturday, March 14, 2009, 8_{PM} Sunday, March 15, 2009, 3_{PM}

David Chase conducting

HOLST

Three Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda

Hymn to the Dawn Hymn to the Waters Hymn to the Vena

Elena Mashkoutseva, harp

DEBUSSY

La damoiselle élue (The Blessed Damozel)

Poem by D.G.Rossetti, translated into French by Gabriel Sarrazin

Mary Jaeb, soprano Janelle DeStefano, mezzo soprano

Intermission

STRAVINSKY Oedipus Rex

After Sophocles. Libretto by Jean Cocteau, translated into Latin by J. Danielou

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Oedipus, king of Thebes, Chad Frisque, tenor Jocasta, his wife and mother, Martha Jane Howe, contralto Creon, Jocasta's brother, Lóránt Najbauer, bass-baritone Tiresias, soothsayer, Philip Larson, bass-baritone Shepherd, Warren Hoffer, tenor Messenger, Walter Du Melle, bass Narrator, Kenneth Bell

> Supertitle design and production by Beda Farrell Masks by Mark Adams



Major funding provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.



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We gratefully acknowledge

Michael & Nancy Kaehr
for underwriting this concert.

FROM THE CONDUCTOR



Stillness...and Perspective

This concert in the "DNA of Music" series is to provide the "Perspective" strand of our DNA, and I think that that perspective is to be found in the essential stillness of the works—the stillness that allows

deeper thought, and deeper feeling.

Of course, the pairing of the two major works on this program provides a wealth of contrasts: an all-female cast for the Debussy versus a nearly all-male cast (save for the mighty Jocasta) in the Stravinsky; the ideal of eternal love versus the tragedy of human failings; a work inspired by a graceful painting of a beautiful woman versus a work best visualized in the immutable stone masks of the ancient Greeks; a lush, post-romantic orchestration versus the crisp, cool tones of Stravinsky's neo-classic period.

But something very important unites these apparent opposites. Underlying much of the seemingly disparate art of the early twentieth century is an assumption that more might be learned in stillness than in the roiling emotionalism that had characterized the previous generations. This purposeful stasis is found in the nature of both the works in our program. The Rossetti Damozel poem is a still-life painting of medieval love; the Latin language setting of the Oedipus tragedy, by Stravinsky's own description, provides a "static representation" of the concept of tragedy.

Both works are structured with a narrator whose job is less to advance the action and more to contain it. In *La Damoiselle*, the mezzo-soprano and the chorus paint the picture of the maiden and her celestial situation in every detail, even before she utters her first words. (Words that are inevitably separated from the music around them by a moment of *silence*.) In *Oedipus* the role of the Narrator is—almost annoyingly!— to stop the action and explain what the audience will experience before it happens. This is the part of the objectification of the tragedy, which, like Bertolt Brecht's "alienation" concept, is to give us the *perspective* to observe the tragedy as it unfolds, rather than to be swept up in an emotional ride of the story.

Debussy's score reflects the breathless inaction of the painting with a kind of floating harmony. The beautiful maiden—the so-called *ange-femme*—is dramatic precisely because she is filled with inner action, with unspoken passion. This fascinated Debussy, whose one great opera, *Pelleas*, epitomized this concept of inner action.

continued next page

DAVID CHASE

conductor

Conductor of the La Jolla Symphony Chorus since 1973, David 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 rarely performed works. Major projects have included the world premiere and CRI recording of Henry Brant's Western Springs, a KPBS-TV broadcast of La Jolla Symphony and Chorus' first performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor, and the American premiere of Boojum! by composer Martin Wesley-Smith.

Dr. Chase is a graduate of 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. He has been on the music faculty at Palomar College in San Marcos, California, since 1973. In addition to his academic and choral duties, he has performed and recorded with the Robert Shaw Festival Chamber Chorus in Souillac, France, and at Carnegie Hall. He also has been a fellow in the Melodious Accord Fellowship with Alice Parker in New York City. His compositions are published by Shawnee Press and Concordia Music Publishers.

David Chase and members of the chorus have made four European tours, were the first western choir to perform in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, and more recently central Mexico.

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Stravinsky has much more storyline and many more characters to portray. But the characterizations have the flat surface of a cubist painting — angular and brash but mostly static. That is why the climactic section, when the chorus describes the death of Jocasta and the blinding of Oedipus, is so effective. Its fast, tumbling rhythm is a shock after so much staunch monumentality.

It seems that these elements of stasis actually allow us an opportunity to add the visual to our interpretation. This concert offers some visual elements that most musical concerts do not, but it is still a concert rather than a theatrical performance. The visual elements are also "still-life" rather than dramatic representation.

There is one more work on this program—the three small *Hymns from the Rig Veda*. I looked for a piece that might introduce an exotic quietness and create the appropriate atmosphere before the Debussy begins. These three miniatures with harp and women's voices produce a crystalline mood that I hope will draw the line between the outer, everyday world and the world of this concert.

That line is necessary, of course, because our everyday world keeps running faster and faster. The music on this program reverses all that. It is the stillness that brings us into this alternative world. And it may bring us *perspective*.

PROGRAM NOTES

BY ERIC BROMBERGER

Three Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda, Opus 26 GUSTAV HOLST
Born September 21, 1874, Cheltenham
Died May 25, 1934, London



While in his early twenties and still a student at the Royal College of Music, Gustav Holst became interested in Hindu literature and philosophy, and he enrolled in Sanskrit courses at University College, London so that he might make his own translations from the *Mahabharata* and the *Rig Veda*. The influence of Hindu thought was strong

on Holst's compositions during the first years of the twentieth century, when he produced the operas *Sita* (1906) and *Savitri* (1908) and four sets of choral hymns on his own translations of texts from the *Rig Veda* (1908-12).

The *Rig Veda* is the earliest of the Vedas, the four sacred books of the Hindus. That title means literally "stanzas of praise," and the *Rig Veda*, which dates from about 2500 B.C., consists of 1028 prayers and hymns in verse. Holst translated and set 23 hymns from the *Rig Veda*, dividing them into four groups. Three of the groups are for mixed chorus and orchestra, but the third—a collection of four brief hymns—is scored for female chorus and harp. That is a very concise ensemble, and it makes for a distinctive, shimmering sonority in these settings. This concert opens with three of Holst's four settings for female chorus and harp. ■

Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda

By Gustav Holst Third Group

I. Hymn to the Dawn

Hear our hymn O Goddess, Rich in wealth and wisdom, Ever young yet ancient, True to Law Eternal.
Wak'ner of the songbirds, Ensign of th' Eternal, Draw thou near O Fair one, In thy radiant Chariot
Bring to her your off'ring, Humbly bow before her, Raise your songs of welcome, As she comes in splendour.

II. Hymn to the Waters

Flowing from the firmament Forth to the ocean, Healing all in earth and air, Never halting. Indra, Lord of Heav'n formed their courses, Indra's mighty laws can never be broken. Cleansing waters flow ye on, hasten and help us. Lo, in the waters, dwelleth One, Knower of all on earth and sea, Whose dread command no man may shun, Varuna, sovran Lord is He. Onward ye waters onward Cleansing waters, flow ye on, Hasten and help us. Dance in the bright beams of the Cleansing waters, flow ye on, Hasten and help us.

Obey the ruler of the sky Who dug the path for you to run. Flowing from the firmament Forth to the ocean, Healing all in earth and air, never halting. Indra, Lord of Heav'n formed their courses, Indra's mighty laws can never be broken. Cleansing waters flow ye on. Hasten and help us.

III. Hymn to Vena

Vena comes born of light, He drives the many colour'd clouds onward Here, where the sunlight and the waters mingle Our songs float up and caress the newborn infant Vena comes.

The child of cloud and mist appeareth on the ridge of the sky, He shines on the summit of creation
The hosts proclaim the glory of our Common Father
Vena comes.

He hath come to the bosom of his beloved.
Smiling on him, She beareth him to highest heav'n.
With yearning heart On thee we gaze,
O gold-wing'd messenger of mighty Gods.
Wise men see him in their libations
As the sacrifice mounts to the eternal heights,
Mingling with our solemn chant.
He stands erect in highest heav'n,
Clad in noble raiment,
Arm'd with shining weapons,
Hurling light to the farthest region,
Rejoicing in his radiant splendour

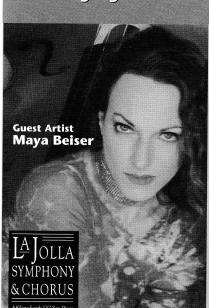


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Mary Jaeb

Mary Jaeb began her career singing gospel and sacred music. As a classical singer, she has performed with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Central City Opera in

Colorado, Natchez Opera Festival, Colorado Lyric Opera, San Diego Young Artists Symphony and La Jolla Symphony and Chorus. Operatic roles have included Abigail in The Crucible, Hanna in The Merry Widow, and Despina in Cosi Fan Tutte. In concert, Ms. Jaeb has performed the Lord Nelson Mass by Haydn, The Christmas Oratorio by Saint-Saens, Mass in D Minor by Haydn, Gloria by Poulenc, The Creation by Haydn, Symphony No. 3 by Gorecki, and The Coronation Mass by Mozart. Ms. Jaeb holds a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Colorado. She is a Metropolitan Opera Regional Finalist and Denver Lyric Opera Guild Finalist. She currently resides in Vista, and she teaches at Palomar College.



Janelle DeStefano mezzo-soprano

Janelle DeStefano has performed with Ash Lawn Opera Festival, Opera Festival of New Jersey, Lyric Theatre of Santa Cruz, Jarvis

Zarzuela Festival in Napa, and San Diego Opera. A member of the San Diego Opera Ensemble from 2002-2005, she sang the role of Cinderella in an English adaptation of Rossini's La Cenerentola, and appeared as both Third Lady and Papagena in Mozart's The Magic Flute. In 2004, Ms. DeStefano made her San Diego Opera debut as the Second Handmaiden in Turandot. Recent operatic roles include Romeo in I Capuletti e i Montecchi, Mrs. Winemiller in Summer and Smoke, and Lucretia in The Rape of Lucretia. On the concert stage, she has performed such works as Bach's Magnificat, Vivaldi's Magnificat, Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem, Bach's B-minor Mass and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Ms. DeStefano is currently working on a doctor of musical arts at USC.

La damoiselle élue CLAUDE DEBUSSY Born August 22, 1862, Saint-Germain-en-Laye Died March 25, 1918, Paris



In 1884 Debussy—then 22 years old—won the coveted Prix de Rome, a prize that gave young French composers the opportunity to study in Rome. Most young French composers were desperate to win that prize, but Debussy, a very difficult young man, hated Rome and resented the time he had to spend away from Paris—he spent the minimal possible amount of time in residence at the Villa Medici in the years 1885-

86. One of the requirements of the Prix de Rome was that the winners were to send back to the French Academy a series of *envois*, works composed in Rome that showed their progress. Debussy, never one to put up with rules, made life difficult for the Academy. He wrote three works for chorus and orchestra, and two of these mysteriously vanished: the score to *Printemps* (for wordless chorus and orchestra) was burned "accidentally" in a fire at the printer's shop, while the score to *Zuleima* was "lost." Some feel that the young composer, dissatisfied with his own work and reluctant to have it seen, destroyed the scores himself. But one of these pieces did survive: in 1887-88 Debussy composed *La damoiselle élue*, a work that shows the young composer under several distinct influences.

The first influence is obvious in his choice of text, for Debussy chose to set Dante-Gabriel Rossetti's *The Blessed Damozel*. Rossetti (1828-1882)—a poet, painter, and translator—was part of the Pre-Raphaelite movement in England, a group of artists who emphasized (among other things) the sensual, medieval, and erotic. Rossetti's poem, which he initially drafted in 1847 at age 19, tells of a beautiful young woman ("damozel" is an archaism for "damsel") in heaven who looks down from high above and longs for her lover, still on earth. Surrounded by happy pairs of lovers, she imagines his arrival in heaven and their joyful reunion, but the poem ends with the lover still on earth and the woman weeping tears of loneliness. Rossetti intended *The Blessed Damozel* as a sequel or counterpart to Edgar Alan Poe's *The Raven*, which had appeared in 1845. Said Rossetti: "I saw that Poe had done the utmost possible to do with the grief of the lover on earth, and I determined to reverse the conditions, and give utterance to the yearning of the loved one in heaven."

If Rossetti's eroticism is one influence on this music, another is Wagner's *Parsifal*, which Debussy saw at Bayreuth while working on this music. Wagner's influence is both musical and moral. Many critics have shown how themes in Debussy's score are virtually "lifted" from Wagner's opera, but even more important is the opera's emphasis on sacred love, denial, and the sublime. An early critic in *Figaro* missed the point when he called Debussy's score "very sensual and decadent" and said "this subcutaneous injection may possibly produce dangerous eruptions among the small fry of the future." There is nothing decadent about this score, and Debussy's deft fusion of Rossetti's lush eroticism with Wagner's emphasis on the sacred produces lovely music, subdued in color and almost chaste in expression.

Debussy scores this music, which he described as a poème lyrique, for contralto narrator, soprano (who sings the part of the Damozel), women's chorus, and orchestra. The French translation, by Gabriel Sarrazin, shortens Rosetti's original poem somewhat, and particularly remarkable is the writing for the women's chorus, with its "pure" textures and intentionally "simple" sound. After an orchestral introduction depicting the calm of heaven, the contralto narrator sets the scene for the long aria of the soprano, whose gentle music is interrupted from time to time by the women's chorus as *La damoiselle élue* makes its way to the almost rapt concluding chords.

The Blessed Damozel

By Claude Debussy

The blessed damozel lean'd out
From the gold bar of Heaven;
Her eyes were deeper than the depth
Of waters still'd at even;
She had three lilies in her hand,
And the stars in her hair were seven.

Her robe, ungirt from clasp to hem, No wrought flowers did adorn, But a white rose of Mary's gift, For service meetly worn; Her hair that lay along her back Was yellow like ripe corn.

Her seem'd she scarce had been a day One of God's choristers; The wonder was not yet quite gone From that still look of hers; Albeit, to them she left, her day Had counted as ten years.

(To one, it is ten years of years. ...Yet now, and in this place, Surely she lean'd o'er me—her hair Fell all about my face...
Nothing: the autumn-fall of leaves.
The whole year sets apace.)

It was the rampart of God's house
That she was standing on;
By God built over the sheer depth
The which is Space begun;
So high, that looking downward thence
She scarce could see the sun.

It lies in Heaven, across the flood Of ether, as a bridge. Beneath, the tides of day and night With flame and darkness ridge The void, as low as where this earth Spins like a fretful midge.

Around her, lovers, newly met 'Mid deathless love's acclaims, Spoke evermore among themselves Their heart-remember'd names; And the souls mounting up to God Went by her like thin flames.

And still she bow'd herself and stoop'd Out of the circling charm;
Until her bosom must have made
The bar she lean'd on warm,
And the lilies lay as if asleep
Along her bended arm.

From the fix'd place of Heaven she saw
Time like a pulse shake fierce
Through all the worlds. Her gaze still strove
Within the gulf to pierce
Its path; and now she spoke as when
The stars sang in their spheres.

The sun was gone now; the curl'd moon Was like a little feather
Fluttering far down the gulf; and now She spoke through the still weather.
Her voice was like the voice the stars Had when they sang together.

(Ah sweet! Even now, in that bird's song, Strove not her accents there, Fain to be hearken'd? When those bells Possess'd the mid-day air, Strove not her steps to reach my side Down all the echoing stair?)

"I wish that he were come to me, For he will come," she said. "Have I not pray'd in Heaven?—on earth, Lord, Lord, has he not pray'd? Are not two prayers a perfect strength? And shall I feel afraid?

"When round his head the aureole clings, And he is cloth'd in white, I'll take his hand and go with him To the deep wells of light; As unto a stream we will step down, And bathe there in God's sight.

"We two will stand beside that shrine, Occult, withheld, untrod, Whose lamps are stirr'd continually With prayer sent up to God; And see our old prayers, granted, melt Each like a little cloud.

"We two will lie i' the shadow of That living mystic tree Within whose secret growth the Dove Is sometimes felt to be, While every leaf that His plumes touch Saith His Name audibly.

"And I myself will teach to him,
I myself, lying so,
The songs I sing here; which his voice
Shall pause in, hush'd and slow,
And find some knowledge at each pause,
Or some new thing to know."

(Alas! We two, we two, thou say'st!
Yea, one wast thou with me
That once of old. But shall God lift
To endless unity
The soul whose likeness with thy soul
was but its love for thee?)

"We two," she said, "will seek the groves Where the lady Mary is, With her five handmaidens, whose names Are five sweet symphonies, Cecily, Gertrude, Magdalen, Margaret and Rosalys.

"Circlewise sit they, with bound locks And foreheads garlanded; Into the fine cloth white like flame Weaving the golden thread, To fashion the birth-robes for them Who are just born, being dead.

"He shall fear, haply, and be dumb: Then will I lay my cheek To his, and tell about our love, Not once abash'd or weak: And the dear Mother will approve My pride, and let me speak.

"Herself shall bring us, hand in hand,
To Him round whom all souls
Kneel, the clear-rang'd unnumber'd heads
Bow'd with their aureoles:
And angels meeting us shall sing
To their citherns and citoles.

"There will I ask of Christ the Lord Thus much for him and me:— Only to live as once on earth With Love,—only to be, As then awhile, for ever now Together, I and he."

She gaz'd and listen'd and then said, Less sad of speech than mild,— "All this is when he comes." She ceas'd. The light thrill'd towards her, fill'd With angels in strong level flight. Her eyes pray'd, and she smil'd.

(I saw her smile.) But soon their path Was vague in distant spheres: And then she cast her arms along The golden barriers, And laid her face between her hands, And wept. (I heard her tears.)

—Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Note: The poem was revised for publication in The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine in 1856, and again before its appearance in Poems, 1870. Thirty years after its first appearance Rossetti told Hall Caine that he had written "The Blessed Damozel" as a sequel to Poe's "The Raven" (published in 1845): "I saw that Poe had done the utmost it was possible to do with the grief of the lover on earth, and so determined to reverse the conditions, and give utterance to the yearning of the loved one in heaven." Rossetti's early study of Dante, especially the Paradiso, has influenced the general conception and many of the details of the poem. http://www.library.utoronto.ca/utel/rp/poems/rossettg2.html

About La Jolla Symphony & Chorus

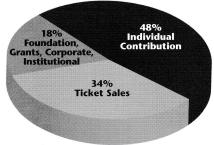
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- LJS&C is a volunteer ensemble comprised of community members from all walks of life: scientists, lawyers, engineers, homemakers, students, and teachers, as well as professional musicians.
- LJS&C was founded in 1954 in the village of La Jolla by Peter Nicoloff, a conductor who assembled a small group of non-professional musicians "just for fun" and coducted them in what was modestly called an open rehearsal. Over the next half century, the organization grew to over 200 orchestra and chorus members.
- LJS&C became an affiliate of the UCSD Music Department under the direction of Thomas Nee in 1967 when the new campus opened. Concerts were split between Sherwood Auditorium and Revelle cafeteria on campus until Mandeville Auditorium opened in 1975.
- The Chorus has toured and performed in Poland,
 Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Canada,

- and Mexico, and was proclaimed official cultural ambassador of San Diego in 2003 when it was the first Western chorus to perform in Bhutan.
- LJS&C has performed over 800 concerts in San Diego County and Baja California, premiered new works, commissioned pieces and made recordings.
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Oedipus Rex IGOR STRAVINSKY Born June 17, 1882, Oranienbaum Died April 6, 1971, New York City



By the early 1920s Stravinsky felt the need for new directions. He had burst to fame in 1910-13 with the great Russian ballets (*Firebird*, *Petrushka*, *Rite of Spring*) composed for Diaghilev's productions in Paris with the Ballets Russes. During World War I Stravinsky had composed primarily for small ensem-

bles, and after the war he had begun to develop a new style based on music and practices of the past. Now, as he entered his forties, he wanted to return to the stage and to the grand manner, noting that for at least five years "I had been aware of the need to compose a large-scale dramatic work." But Stravinsky's interests had evolved far from the Russian subjects of his famous ballets, and at this point he wished for a subject with a certain "monumentality." For his "largescale dramatic work," Stravinsky chose one of the icons of Western Civilization (and one of his own favorite works), Sophocles' Oedipus Rex. He asked French playwright Jean Cocteau to prepare a libretto in French, and after several revisions this was translated into Latin by the Abbé Jean Daniélou. Stravinsky wanted a language with an "incantatory element" in its sound, and he felt this in Latin, but not in the original Greek, so this most Greek of tragedies is here presented in Latin. Stravinsky composed Oedipus Rex in Nice, beginning the score in January 1926 and completing it in March 1927. The orchestration was finished on May 10, barely in time for the premiere three weeks later.

Stravinsky's score describes *Oedipus Rex* as an "Opera-Oratorio in Two Acts after Sophocles," and that hybrid description is a key to his conception. Because he was working with a very familiar story, Stravinsky did not feel the need to compose a dramatic re-creation of that story. Instead, he noted that "I wished to leave the play, as play, behind, thinking by this to distill the dramatic essence and to free myself for a greater degree of focus on purely musical dramatization." He conceived *Oedipus Rex* as a "static representation," a "still life" that emphasizes the passivity of the characters and their helplessness before fate.

Stravinsky gives his music-drama that "static" quality in several ways. He and Cocteau created a narrator, clothed in modern evening dress, who would describe the action of each scene in advance as a way of refreshing the audience's memory. The all-male chorus would be seated throughout, their faces hidden by cowls. Each of the principal characters would wear a mask and stand on a platform of a different height. They would not move but would be individually illuminated as they sang.

The first performance took place in Paris on May 30, 1927, at a concert given in honor of the twentieth anniversary of Diaghilev's presentations in Paris. Stravinsky had planned to give *Oedipus Rex* to Diaghilev as a birthday present, but unfortunately Diaghilev did not much care for the music or its topic—he called it "un cadeau très macabre" ("a very macabre present"). At the initial performance, where it was framed by opulent ballet scores by Stravinsky, *Oedipus Rex* was a failure with both audience and critics, who found it grim

and uncommunicative, particularly when surrounded by colorful ballet music. Its reputation improved during subsequent performances, especially those which staged it as an opera. Some of these productions infuriated Stravinsky, but others were effective, and despite the composer's desire for a "static representation," *Oedipus Rex* is today occasionally staged in the opera house with costumes, scenery, and action. At the present concerts it is presented as an oratorio, but with some effort to duplicate Stravinsky's original staging: narrator and soloists will be positioned on platforms, Greek masks (designed and built for this production) will overlook the stage, and the men's chorus will wear white skull-caps and white-face.

The action of Sophocles' play is generally familiar, and the narrator's concise summary of each scene makes the progress of the story easy to follow, leaving listeners free to concentrate on Stravinsky's "purely musical dramatization." This is remarkable for its economy. There are only six characters, and while Oedipus Rex calls for a large orchestra, Stravinsky uses it with great skill. Some highlights: textures in this score are often lean, making the contrast with full orchestral outbursts all the more effective. One of the most characteristic sounds of Oedipus Rex is the 6/8 tread of bass instruments (timpani, harp, piano, low strings)—this steady, quiet pulse reflects the inescapable presence of implacable fate. Act I concludes with a resounding Gloria in praise of Queen Jocasta; Stravinsky liked this Gloria so much that he used it again at the beginning of Act II. Jocasta's near-hysterical denunciation of oracles in Act II ("Oracula mentiuntur") is set to a wildly-dancing 12/8 that put some early critics' teeth very firmly on edge; Stravinsky described this dance as a "mortuary tarantella." The news of Jocasta's death is announced to the accompaniment of a very stark sound: blazing fanfares from four trumpets. At the very end, as Oedipus is driven away, the orchestra is gradually stripped away until only the steady 6/8 pulse is left—this musical symbol of fate finally draws Oedipus Rex into silence. Listeners will discover their own favorite moments of "musical dramatization" in this score, which has been described by Stravinsky's biographer Eric Walter White as "the first masterpiece of his neo-classical period." ■





Chad Frisque

Chad Frisque is happy to return to La Jolla Symphony and Chorus in the title role of *Oedipus*. First heard with LJS&C in 2007 as the The Recitánt in Berlioz' *L'Enfance du Christ*, Mr. Frisque has since filled his time with private en-

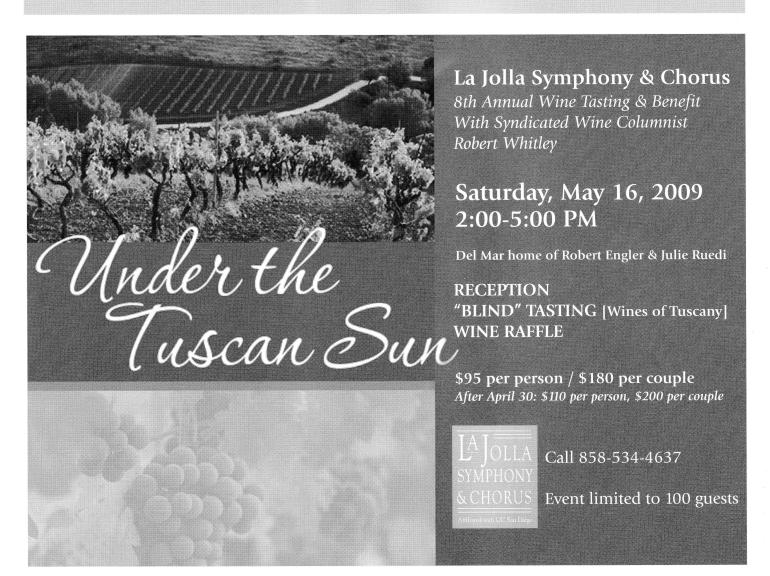
gagements on the West Coast. A past member of the San Diego Opera Ensemble, recent roles have included First Soldier/Student in Des McAnuff's praised staging of Alban Berg's Wozzeck, The Herold in Don Carlo, and Giuseppe in La Traviata. Seen in such productions as Falstaff with Opera Omaha, Pirates of Penzance with the Denver Symphony, and Peter Grimes with Los Angeles Opera, Mr. Frisque makes San Diego his permanent home and has worked with such companies as San Diego Opera, San Diego Lyric and San Diego Festival Chorus. Comfortable on both the opera and concert stages, Chad has sung tenor soloist in Bach's Magnificat, Die Weihnacht's Oratorium and The Messiah, among others.



Martha Jane Howe

Martha Jane Howe has performed more than 100 roles with numerous opera companies and symphony orchestras throughout the U.S., Canada and Austria, specializing in 20th century repertoire. The 2008/09 season will bring Mussorgsky's Songs and

Dances of Death with the Grossmont Symphony Orchestra plus a return to San Diego Opera in Rigoletto, adding to the chain of roles previously performed with the company. She has performed Lulu and L'Incoronazione di Poppea with the San Francisco Opera, Shostakovch's The Nose with Santa Fe Opera, The Consul and Poppea at the Kennedy Center, and Rake's Progress, Elektra and Der Fliegende Holländer with Canadian Opera. During five seasons with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, she performed in the world premiere of William Bolcom's McTeague, Prokofiev's The Gambler, plus Elektra, Die Walküre, Die Verkaufte Braut, La Sonnambula, and the Ring cycle conducted by Zubin Mehta. Ms. Howe made her Los Angeles Opera debut in Faust and sang Herodias in Salome with the Arizona Opera.





Lóránt Najbauer bass-baritone

Lóránt Najbauer recently graduated from UCSD with a bachelor's in economics and a minor in music. He has sung the role of Figaro in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Don Alfonso in scenes from Mozart's *Cosi fan Tutte,* both with UCSD Opera Ensemble. He

has performed the role of the Boyar in San Diego Opera's *Boris Godunov* as well as the Third Priest in *The Magic Flute*. Mr. Najbauer has participated in several summer opera programs including the American Institute of Music in Graz program, the Bükk Baroque Music Festival in Hungary and the Aestas Musica Baroque Festival in Croatia. His awards from vocal competitions include first place in the Virginia Hawk Vocal Scholarship, Musical Merit Foundation and H.B. Goodlin Scholarship Competition; second place in the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Young Artists Competition; and third place in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Western Regional Finals. He is a member of the San Diego Opera Chorus and currently studies in Europe under Schultz Katalin.



Walter Du Melle

bass

Walter Du Melle engages audiences with his wide range of operatic and concert repertoire. His operatic repertoire includes more than 50 roles with companies and festivals throughout the country and in Tijuana. Mr. Du Melle's oratorio repertoire includes

Messiah and Acis and Galatea (Handel), L'Enfance du Christ and Roméo et Juliette (Berlioz), Requiem (Mozart & Fauré), The Soldier's Tale and Mass (Stravinsky), The Christmas Oratorio (Saint-Saëns) and several Bach cantatas. In 2008 he sang the role of William Jennings Bryant in Chelsea Opera's production of The Ballad of Baby Doe and made solo appearances in the New York debut of Bernstein's The White House Cantata with the Collegiate Chorale at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Recent local engagements include Sulpice and Usher in Lyric Opera San Diego's Daughter of the Regiment and Trial by Jury, respectively, and the premiere of the Reveles/Montgomery setting of Rumpelstiltskin. In December 2008, he sang the bass solos in LJS&C's Messiah Sing. Upcoming engagements include Prince Joachim in Lyric Opera's presentation of Oscar Straus' Waltz Dream.

Warren Hoffer

tenor

Warren Hoffer has been an active performer internationally as a specialist in art song and ora-

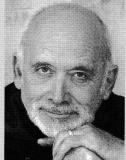
torio, with music ranging from the sixteenth century to the present. He has sung with the Pittsburgh, Hartford, Portland, Lubbock, Las Vegas, and Phoenix Symphony orchestras, Buffalo Philharmonic, and the Orchestra of Santa Fe. During his military service Mr. Hoffer was a soloist with the U.S. Army



Philip Larson bass-baritone

Philip Larson studied at the University of Illinois and received a degree in vocal performance. He was a founding member of the "Extended Vocal Techniques Ensemble," one of the first groups dedicated to the performance of vocal music featuring ex-

tended techniques. The quartet performed throughout the U.S., Europe and Canada. In 1977 Mr. Larson, with Edwin Harkins, founded [THE], a composing/performing duo that performed at Music Today in Tokyo, Paris Autumn Festival, the Darmstadt Ferienkurse, the Inter-Society for the Electronic Arts in Rotterdam, the Suzuki Theater Festival in Japan, the New Music America Festival in Chicago and PICA in Perth, Australia. They have collaborated with John Cage, Toru Takemitsu, Anthony Braxton, and media artist Vibeke Sorenson. As a concert soloist Mr. Larson has performed in New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Paris, Tokyo, Munich, Lisbon, Cleveland, Bukarest and Warsaw appearing with Ensemble Intercontemporain, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Handel and Haydn Society, Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, red fish blue fish percussion ensemble, and Speculum Musicae. In addition Mr. Larson has, for many years, sung early music and continues today in performances with the Early Music Ensemble of San Diego. Mr. Larson is professor of music at the University of California San Diego. His recordings include the works of Iannis Xenakis, Anthony Davis, Roger Reynolds, and Chaya Czernowin.



Kenneth Bell

Kenneth Bell's "multi-faceted" musical career began as a French hornist in Oklahoma, continued as a student in voice and conducting at Westminster Choir College to instructor at the Armed Forces School of Music and 20 years in vocal performance in New

York City and worldwide. He has sung over 60 leading roles in opera and performed with the Waverly Consort for seven years. Mr. Bell resides in Vista, CA with his wife, Dianne, and has been bass staff singer with La Jolla Symphony Chorus under Dr. David Chase for 16 years, and assistant conductor for 12 years. "I enjoy tremendously working with LJSC, helping with details of music and diction, and performing occasionally as narrator."

Chorus, Washington, D.C. He has premiered new vocal works as a member of the Center for the Creative and Performing Arts (Buffalo, NY), a group organized by the composer-conductor Lukas Foss. Mr. Hoffer has appeared at the New Hampshire Music Festival, Santa Fe Bach Festival, Park City International Chamber Music Festival, Buffalo Bach Festival, and the Flagstaff Summer Festival. Mr. Hoffer is emeritis professor of music at Arizona State University.

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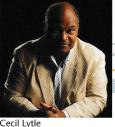
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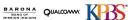
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