

**Music from Poland ... Choral Director David Chase**

It must have been 1966 or '67 when I was first drawn into Polish music by the ultimate "driveway moment." Driving in my green VW bug—a direct-import, the only state-of-the-art component of which was its wonderful Blaupunkt radio—I had tuned into the midst of a work of gripping power: layers of chant-like voices building dissonant clusters of 12-tone chords that nearly sucked the breath out of me. I pulled into my driveway and listened, spellbound, as the clusters built and built and finally exploded into a D major triad. What had changed my way of hearing music, I learned from the announcer, was the *Stabat Mater* of Krystof Penderecki, the unaccompanied choral movement of his huge and revolutionary work, *The St. Luke Passion*.



Years later I would conduct La Jolla Symphony Chorus in that *Stabat Mater*, in Sherwood Auditorium. And after that, I would meet a new faculty colleague at Palomar College, Dr. Peter Gach, who had lived and studied in Poland. He was a consummate proponent of Fryderyk Chopin and he also championed the music of Karol Szymanowski, the 20<sup>th</sup> century composer who had greatly enriched Polish music with his own interpretation of its national character.

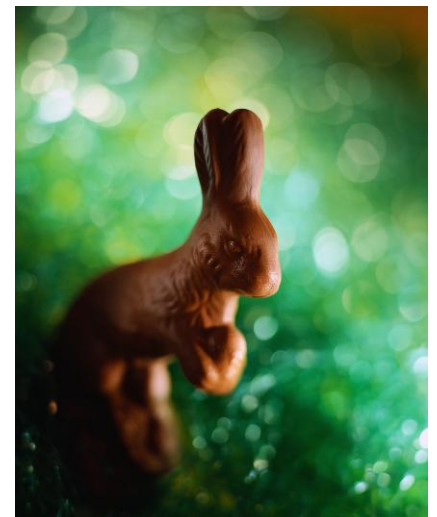
Two other experiences have led to the present performance: A 2001 chorus tour of Poland and the subsequent guest conducting of our chorus and orchestra by the exciting young conductor from Białystok, Marcin Nałęcz-Niesiołowski. The accompanying article by Beda Farrell chronicles the tour adventures. What Marcin brought to us was Szymanowski's choral masterpiece, the *Stabat Mater*, which concludes our present program.

All of this history seems to lead explicitly to our present program of Music from Poland.

Our concert begins with a brief new work of Penderecki – not the dissonant music of the '60s, but the burnished, autumnal style of his later years, here applied to the baroque form, the *Chaconne*. It was written in memory of his friend, Pope John Paul II. We follow that with two important works of Szymanowski, both among his last large compositions. Peter Gach plays the *Sinfonia Concertante*, which the composer himself played all over Europe, but was dedicated to his great friend, Arthur Rubenstein. It's full of *mazurka* themes and references to the folk music of the Tatra Mountains, which he especially loved. But is also absolute music informed by brilliant impressionistic orchestration.

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Finally the chorus joins the orchestra and our soloists in the *Stabat Mater*. It is an utterly unique composition, clearly Szymanowski's response to Jankowski's highly-charged Polish version of the *Stabat Mater*, itself one of the most dramatic texts in the Christian Tradition. The choral writing is a highly original combination of archaic techniques, which he learned from studying pre-sixteenth-century choral music, and modern ideas that he learned in Paris from his Impressionist colleagues.

There is an unusual arch to this concert: It begins with the elegiac *Chaconne* and ends with the lamentations of the *Stabat Mater*, surrounding a colorful and exciting *Concertante*. This gives the overall program a certain dark, luminous quality. I hope it represents something of the Polish soul.



## Voices from America and music from Poland ... Beda Farrell

In July 2001, Choral Director David Chase, a 44-member chamber chorus and 11-member string ensemble traveled to central Europe, making the fifth concert tour for singers and second for string players. As representatives of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, our musicians shared some beautiful music of the Americas with the people of the Czech Republic and Poland.

We derived great pleasure in presenting our "Voices from America" concerts in Prague and Třeboň in the Czech Republic; and in Wrocław, Kraków and Warsaw, Poland. Each concert was different and exciting...from no electricity in a mausoleum chapel in Třeboň, to intermittent electricity (we overloaded circuit breakers in Wrocław's St. Mary Magdalene Cathedral), to marvelous concert halls and our final concert in a gothic style church in the center of the former Warsaw ghetto. In addition we, and our families, saw marvelous sights and met some wonderful people along the way.

Audiences loved hearing the music of North and South America, and showed their appreciation with loud applause for the musicians and huge bouquets for Maestro Chase. We truly felt like the official Cultural Ambassadors of San Diego as proclaimed by then Mayor Dick Murphy and the San Diego City Council. With enthusiastic assistance from local San Diego residents and LJS&C patrons Dr. Zofia Dziewanowska and Dr. Jerzy Barankiewicz, we also became ambassadors of the San Diego-Warsaw and Mazovia Province Sister Society.



Through their efforts we made a special connection with the people of Poland.

The high point of our tour came in Warsaw where we were fêted by the Mazovia Province Governor's staff and by Sister City representatives from the city of Warsaw. Our final performance was in front of 1,400 people in the St. Augustine Church. There was standing room only inside the church, the lobby was filled, and those who couldn't fit into the lobby stood outside in the rain to hear our concert!

It was through our musical connections in Poland that we brought the talented, young conductor Marcin Nałęcz-Niesiołowski to San Diego the following year, where he conducted the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus in outstanding performances of Polish and Russian composers. This is a small world indeed, especially when the love of good music brings us together. In Mandeville Auditorium this weekend we share with you the music of Poland once again, with the music of Penderecki and Szymanowski, conducted by David Chase and featuring Polish-American pianist Peter Gach, and wish you miłego posłuchania! (Pleasant listening!)



## Contributors:

Barbara Peisch, Editor

David Chase

Beda Farrell

Anita Ihan

Sharon Jones

Wendy L Patrick

Tom Peisch

Satomi Saito

Diane Salisbury

Mary Ellen Walther



## News from the Executive Director... Diane Salisbury

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert of our Young Artists Competition was like "old home week," with many familiar faces. The concert, held in the Conrad Prebys Concert Hall, was a treat -- from Bridget Dolkas' (our former concertmaster) violin duet with Nancy Coade, to Monica Abrego singing with Mariachi Garibaldi (joined by Bridget and Nancy and then baritone Gregorio Gonzales in a surprise encore). Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped the Competition and the Anniversary Concert weekend go so smoothly. Photos of the concert and VIP reception are at <http://www.lajollasympphony.com/concerts/yac.php>. Special thanks go to one of our volunteer photographers, Bill Dean, for so beautifully capturing the festivities. Bill's photos have also ended up on our brochure and concert postcards this season, and been picked up by the *San Diego Union Tribune* and *La Jolla Light* in their coverage of LJS&C.

### Arctic Ocean Adventure

Hopefully you've all heard by now of the fabulous opportunity bassoonist Jim Swift (and SIO research oceanographer) has made available to the LJS&C in appreciation for a substantial donation. The 38-day trip aboard the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker Healy is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The *La Jolla Light* is doing a story on Jim and this opportunity for an early March issue. Read more in this issue of *Tutti*. And pass along the word to all who might be able to take advantage of this offer, or call me for more details at (858) 822-3774.

### Bits and Pieces...

The Board of Directors will hold its biennial retreat in April. Twenty-four guests including board members, ensemble members and patrons will gather for a day of creative brainstorming to put together the organization's strategic plan to guide leadership over the next couple of years. A report of highlights will be in a future issue of *Tutti*.

We have a part-time grant writer working with us through the end of the year to boost our foundation and corporate support. Nine grants have been submitted and are pending review, and several more are in the works. We're keeping our fingers crossed that this additional effort will increase this area of financial support for what we do.



## Summary of Board of Directors meeting ... Wendy L. Patrick

The Board of Directors met on February 2, 2009. The following are some of the highlights:

- We have 589 subscribers.
- Annual fund: we brought in more than our expected \$5k budget this year.
- Upcoming wine tasting fundraiser is April 24, 2010.
- Gala will be tentatively set for October 16, 2010. Regarding the venue, the Hyatt Aventine is a venue under consideration in addition to the Westgate.
- The *Mass* was a huge success financially, and the *Messiah* Sing earned more than expected.
- The Board unanimously selected a Vice President, Walt Desmond.
- We approved our 2010-2011 performance season.
- The next board meeting will be Tuesday evening, March 9, 2010.



You can view *Tutti* online!

You can download this and previous issues of *Tutti* from:

[www.peisch.com/tutti](http://www.peisch.com/tutti)



## Member Spotlight

For the rest of this season, I'll be focusing on the violin section.

### Wendy L. Patrick

Wendy was previously featured in *Tutti* in the November, 2006 issue, which can be viewed at <http://peisch.com/tutti/Tutti-2006-11.pdf>.

Some things have changed since that bio. Wendy has since been named by her peers as one of the Top Ten criminal attorneys in San Diego by the *San Diego Daily Transcript*. She is also a management professor at San Diego State University. Wendy is the secretary on our board of directors.

In her spare time, Wendy plays the electric violin professionally with a rock band, performing locally and in Hollywood. She also holds a purple belt in Shorin-Ryu karate. But her true passion in life is Bible study. She holds a Master of Divinity degree *summa cum laude* from Bethel Seminary San Diego where she was awarded the Excellence in Preaching Award and the Zondervan Biblical Languages Award.



## Need to contact the LJS&CA?

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## Anita Ihan's new baby

Soprano Anita Ihan has given birth to Lyra Anrong Ip-Collins. Lyra was born on January 27. (The same birthday as Mozart!) Anita describes her as a "little peanut" as she was only 5 lbs. 6 oz. at birth. But she's just as strong as a heavier, full-term baby!



Anita with Lyra



Little Lyra



## Article watch

### From Beda Farrell:

*BBC - Gomp/Arts, Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

"40 wild birds play a Gibson Les Paul guitar"

Posted by Will Gompertz

The film is of an installation by a contemporary French artist called Celeste Boursier-Mougenot.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/willgompertz/2010/02/40\\_wild\\_birds\\_play\\_a\\_gibson\\_le.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/willgompertz/2010/02/40_wild_birds_play_a_gibson_le.html)



### From Sharon Jones:

*Proceedings of the 7th Triennial Conference of European Society for the Cognitive Sciences of Music (ESCOM 2009)*

"Evidence for Strong Immediate Well-being Effects of Choral Singing  
– With More Enjoyment for Women than for Men"

By Maria Sandgren

[https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/bitstream/handle/123456789/20916/urn\\_nbn\\_fi\\_jyu-2009411317.pdf?sequence=1](https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/bitstream/handle/123456789/20916/urn_nbn_fi_jyu-2009411317.pdf?sequence=1)

*The Age, June 30, 2003*

"When the body takes note – New research has hailed singing as a tonic for mind and body"

By Amanda Tattum

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/06/30/1056825324256.html>

*The Associated Press, February 21, 2010*

"Research finds brain link for words, music ability"

By Randolph E. Schmid

<http://www.mydesert.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201002210300/LIFESTYLES03/2210310>



### From Mary Ellen Walter:

*Singer Network - A service of Chorus America*

"The choral warm-ups of Robert Shaw – when warm-ups become more than just vocalization"

By Pamela Elrod

<http://www.singernetwork.org/bettersinging/detail.aspx?cid=f131ac22-0576-44a3-8a31-f762a6d649db>

## The LJS&CA Board

(ensemble reps in bold)

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Wendy L. Patrick, Secretary (orchestra)

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Culture.PL

"Karol Szymanowski"

[http://www.culture.pl/en/culture/artykuly/os\\_szymanowski\\_karol](http://www.culture.pl/en/culture/artykuly/os_szymanowski_karol)

This is a biography of Karol Szymanowski, composer of two of the three pieces we'll be performing this concert.



**From Satomi Saito:**

San Diego.com, Tuesday, February 9, 2010

"San Diego Arts – La Jolla Symphony: American Accents – Wu Man is a dish for the gods"

By Christian Hertzog

<http://www.sandiego.com/arts/la-jolla-symphony-american-accents>

Christian Hertzog also mentioned our upcoming concert in his review of the Szymanowski Quartet in the Mainly Mozart Festival.

<http://www.sandiego.com/arts/mainly-mozart-spotlight-series-2010-syzmanowski-quartet>



**From Tom Peisch:**

San Diego Union-Tribune, Sunday, February 7, 2010

"Community Orchestrators – The San Diego Symphony is broadening its reach as it prepares to celebrate its centennial season"

By James Chute

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/feb/07/san-diego-symphony-broadening-its-reach/>

The San Diego Union-Tribune, Sunday February 7, 2010

"Opera Diary – If it's Tuesday, this must be..."

By Priti Gandhi

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/feb/07/if-its-tuesday-must-be/>

This is a continuation of Priti's column.



If you find an interesting, music-related article or Web site, send the information about it to me at [barbara@peisch.com](mailto:barbara@peisch.com). For Web sites, send me a link to the site. For articles, you may either send a link to the article or just the name and date of the publication, along with the title of the article, and I can find it online. You may also hand me the article during rehearsal or mail it to me at:

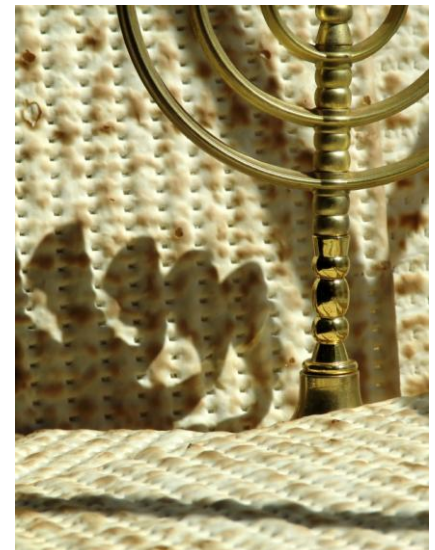
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**Have some news to report?**

**Let the editor know!**

**[barbara@peisch.com](mailto:barbara@peisch.com)**





## **Join Jim Swift on an Arctic Ocean Research Cruise aboard the US Icebreaker Healy & Benefit LJS&C!**

Sail as a working volunteer - a full science participant - on a summer 2010 Arctic Ocean research cruise on the large polar science icebreaker USCGC Healy with SIO oceanographer Jim Swift! Experience the front lines of ocean climate research first hand as we work north from Bering Strait into the Arctic Ocean sea ice pack. Do something wonderful for the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus while assisting the UCSD Scripps Institution of Oceanography with climate research, and enjoy the experience of a lifetime!

Jim - a Research Oceanographer at SIO and second bassoonist in the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus orchestra - is leading a group of four technical specialists from SIO on a 38-day Arctic Ocean research cruise June 12-July 22, 2010. The work is one component of a NASA-funded study, led by Dr. Kevin Arrigo (Stanford), relating to changes in the biological and physical oceanography of the region north of Alaska.

There will be several science teams on board. Jim and his team will be measuring the temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients via an electronic profiling instrument and by taking and analyzing water samples. The volunteer will work as a full participant, side-by-side with Jim every day preparing the equipment, running the casts, keeping records, drawing water samples, and assisting the other teams.

This unique opportunity is being offered by Jim in appreciation for a substantial donation to LJS&C (the bidding starts at \$15,000). Jim is available to meet and discuss trip details with all bidders. The trip is equally open and suitable for a female or a male, 18 years of age or older. There is no upper age limit, and the work will be only as physically demanding as one chooses, but the participant must be in reasonable physical condition. The bidder/donor can choose to send someone else, but Jim Swift will interview and must approve whoever participates at sea. For more information or to place a bid, contact LJS&C Executive Director Diane Salisbury at 858-822-3774 or [dsalisbury@lajollasympphony.com](mailto:dsalisbury@lajollasympphony.com). The bidding will close on March 22, 2010.





Photos from Jim's previous Arctic missions on Healy.

