

2019-2020 Concert Series

LA JOLLA
SYMPHONY
& CHORUS

Affiliated with UC San Diego

STEVEN SCHICK
Music Director

RUBEN VALENZUELA
Choral Director

November 2-3, 2019 *Steven Schick, conductor*

Gioachino Rossini *Overture to William Tell*
Florence Price *Violin Concerto No. 1*
Bela Bartok *Concerto for Orchestra*

Soloist: Peter Clarke, violin

Our 65th season opens with some very familiar music—Rossini's *William Tell Overture*—and some less familiar music: co-concertmaster Peter Clarke is soloist in the *First Violin Concerto* of Florence Price, a prolific African-American composer from the 1930-1950s whose *Second Violin Concerto* was one of the highlights of last season. The concert concludes with Bartók's great *Concerto for Orchestra*. Written by a frail composer during the depths of the Second World War, it is a ringing statement of faith in life—and a supreme test for every orchestra that performs it.

December 7-8, 2019 *Steven Schick, conductor*

Celeste Oram *Thomas Nee Commission*
Robert Schumann *Violin Concerto*
John Adams *Harmonium*

Soloists: Keir GoGwilt, violin

Keir GoGwilt, who dazzled in Thomas Adès' *Violin Concerto* two seasons ago, returns with another unfamiliar (and very different) piece, the *Violin Concerto* of Robert Schumann, one of that doomed composer's final works. The La Jolla Symphony



Chorus joins the orchestra for the work that launched John Adams' career: *Harmonium* sets texts by John Donne and Emily Dickinson, and its premiere in 1981 announced the arrival of a major composer. Celeste Oram, this year's Nee Commission winner, continues our tradition of melding music and visual art.

February 8-9, 2020 *Steven Schick, conductor*

Anahita Abbasi *Brenda and Steven Schick Commission*
Johannes Brahms *Symphony No. 3*
Michael Pisaro *Concerto for Amplified Percussion
& Orchestra*

Soloist: Greg Stuart, percussion

Brahms' mighty *Third Symphony* manages also to be his most intimate and—some would say—his most beautiful symphony. The La Jolla Symphony has not played it for over a quarter of a century—come, listen fresh, and rediscover the wonders of this glorious music. We premiere two commissioned works: a new piece by emerging Iranian composer Anahita Abbasi, known for her electric and electro-acoustic works; and Michael Pisaro's *Concerto for Amplified Percussion*, featuring extraordinary percussionist and frequent Pisaro collaborator Greg Stuart.

March 14-15, 2020

Steven Schick and Michael Gerdes, conductors

Benjamin Britten *War Requiem*

*Guest artists: Ariana Strahl, soprano; John Buffet, baritone;
John Russell, tenor; boys choir, San Diego Master Chorale*

The cathedral in Coventry, bombed into rubble during the Battle of Britain, lay in ruins for years afterward. For its rebuilding in 1961, Benjamin Britten composed his *War Requiem*, which splices the poetry of Wilfred Owen—who was killed in World War I—



into the Requiem Mass for the Dead. The *War Requiem* was an instant classic (200,000 copies of the recording sold in the year after its premiere), and it remains an overwhelming experience. And a gigantic undertaking: the San Diego Master Chorale joins us for this work, which calls for three soloists, boys choir, massive chorus, two orchestras, and two conductors.

FREE BONUS EVENT



Photo: Bill Dean

Young People's Concert

November 1, 2019 (7:00-8:00 p.m.)

Mandeville Auditorium

Steven Schick, conductor

A family-favorite, this entertaining introduction to the symphony will feature Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, with commentary from the stage by Steven Schick and Q&A with our young audience. *Reservations required.*

May 2-3, 2020

Sameer Patel, guest conductor

Claude Debussy	<i>Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune</i>
Lili Boulanger	<i>D'un matin de printemps</i>
Anton Webern	<i>Six Pieces for Orchestra, Op. 6</i>
Toru Takemitsu	<i>Requiem</i>
Arthur Honegger	<i>Symphony No. 3</i>

Guest conductor Sameer Patel returns with works from France, Austria, Japan, and Switzerland in a program that shows the many currents that shaped music in the early twentieth century. Both Debussy and Lili Boulanger died in March 1918: his *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* may be the most revolutionary music ever written, and her gentle evocation of a spring morning shows the promise of what might have been, had she not died at 24. Webern's *Six Pieces for Orchestra* are supremely disciplined and expressive music, as is Toru Takemitsu's *Requiem for Strings*, proclaimed "a masterpiece" by Stravinsky. The concert concludes with Honegger's moving "Symphonie Liturgique", a search for faith in the aftermath of World War II.

June 6-7, 2020

Ruben Valenzuela, conductor

John Adams	<i>The Chairman Dances</i>
Felix Mendelssohn	<i>Violin Concerto</i>
Gioachino Rossini	<i>Stabat Mater</i>

Guest artists: *Ayrton Coehlo Pisco, violin (2018 Young Artists Winner); vocal soloists TBA*

Our season began with Rossini, and it concludes with Rossini: his rarely heard (and somewhat operatic) *Stabat Mater* for four



soloists, chorus, and orchestra. The concert opens with a foxtrot for orchestra that John Adams originally intended to include in his opera *Nixon in China*, and our Young Artist Competition winner, Ayrton Coehlo Pisco, performs what is probably the most famous piece ever written for violin, Felix Mendelssohn's evergreen *Violin Concerto*.

THE 2019-2020 CONCERT SERIES IS PERFORMED IN MANDEVILLE AUDITORIUM, UC SAN DIEGO. Programs and artists subject to change without notice. Ticket sales are final. Single tickets go on sale in late August 2019.

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Save these dates in 2019-20!

GALA 2019—Sept. 28 *65th Anniversary!*

Christmas "Messiah" Community Sing—Dec. 15

Young Artists Competition—Jan. 2020

Young Artists Winners Recital—Feb. 2020

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Mail or Fax This Form by **June 28, 2019**

La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, UCSD 0361

9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0361

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Ticket Office is open Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm
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