



Clef Notes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

JANUARY CONCERT TO BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND ANLI LIN TONG PERFORMS GERSHWIN

'TIS THE SEASON WRAPPERS ENCORE AT TARGET

BCSA members assisted at the Torrance Target store in Target's yearly practice of wrapping purchases for special needs youth and senior citizens. The BCSA "wrap group" was accompanied by musicians from the orchestra who entertained the shoppers with Christmas carols. BCSA members help at this special Target event each December as a means of thanking Target in Torrance for its continuing generosity in supporting the Symphony's final concert of the season which features young artists of the future.



Wrap Session Musicians (top):
Violinists: Joanne Satterburg, Margaret McWilliams.
String Bass: Bob Scott. Clarinet: Mary Mok.
Not shown: Grace Van Dusen, Violinist.

The Wrappers (bottom) (left to right)
Anna Jung, Pat Chavez, Ada Belle Peterson, Bill Malcolm.
Cheering section in rear: Ruth MacFarlane



Anli Lin Tong
Piano Soloist

The Beach Cities Symphony is proud to feature Anli Lin Tong as soloist for the January 2008 concert. Ms. Tong will lend her artistry to bring the beauty and magic of music to our audience, and to benefit the newly-launched Beach Cities Symphony Young Instrumentalist Scholarship Fund. Ms. Tong will be performing George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Born in Taiwan, Ms. Tong was first recognized as a special talent at the age of nine, when she won first prize in a nationally-televised piano competition of over 200 contestants. That same year, she met Mieczyslaw Munz, a Polish pianist on the faculties of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School, whose love of lychee nuts had brought him to Taiwan. The two were separated by seven decades in age and by the barriers of language, culture, and nationality. Yet when Anli was brought to play for him that summer, they understood each other through music. Munz offered her a scholarship to Juilliard, thereby changing the direction of her life and career. She arrived in New York, a non-English speaking child, clutching her favorite doll, and became the youngest pupil in Munz's class. Ms. Tong went on to receive her Bachelor and Master of Music in Piano Performance from Juilliard. Later studies included master classes at the Salzburg Mozarteum and doctoral studies on full scholarship at UCLA.

Ms. Tong's concert performances have taken her to three continents on the stages of such venues as the Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center, the Taipei Symphony Hall, the Bordeaux Opera House, and the Getty Center in Los Angeles. As a concerto soloist, she has appeared with the Taiwan

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REMEMBERING NORMA GASS

By Bob Peterson

It was 1950, and as the Beach Cities Symphony was being organized, violin player Norma Gass became our first Concertmaster. She and others played an important part in the orchestra's formative years. She held that position for several years. At our fiftieth Anniversary Concert in 1999, Norma and I were honored as the two remaining performing charter members of the orchestra. She had long ago become a first violin section member. Her ability and loyalty to the orchestra were obvious to all, and her attendance at concerts was regular. She called it her orchestra and we all agreed to this description.

Norma Gass passed away October 20, 2007, and the January 25, 2008, Beach Cities Symphony concert is being dedicated to her memory. Retiring from the orchestra in 2001, she has since lived in Camarillo, California, near her daughter Pam Price. Another daughter, Karen Gregerson, lives in Ahwahnee, California. She is survived by four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Norma was 93 when she died.

Years ago, due to an accident her violin was smashed. Insurance paid for its reassembly and restoration. I remember her saying it was a special violin bought for her by her parents.

When asked how the restored violin played, she remarked, "I really believe it plays and sounds even better than before!"

Over the years, when asked if she missed her years as concertmaster, she would always answer, "No, I feel much better being a member of the violin section." She was responsible for bringing many of our orchestra's supporters to our concerts, urging neighbors, family and others to attend. She was always an important contributor to the orchestra and its concerts.

Among her colleagues, Norma was well liked and considered an important asset to the first violin section. She had several good friends in the orchestra over the years. Since she left the orchestra, she occasionally attended concerts though it was a great distance to travel.

This organization grew because of people like Norma, and her legacy will continue long into the future. We thank her and her family for all their support and are privileged to perform this January 2008, concert in her memory.

Anli Lin Tong, continued from page one

Symphony Orchestra in the National Arts Festival, the Chinese Fine Arts Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the Bratislava Chamber Orchestra, the Livic Chamber Orchestra, and the Beach Cities Symphony.

Ms. Tong was invited to perform with the Burbank Philharmonic under the baton of Maestro Steven Kerstein at the July 4th Spectacular at the Starlight Bowl, which drew an audience of thousands who gave a standing ovation following her performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. "It was a tremendously moving experience for me to be invited to perform...in an ALL AMERICAN program—with fireworks and all—it marked 'a moment of arrival,' for me, to become a true American."

Anli Tong has been generous in giving of her time and talents to benefit many worthy causes, including raising funds for earthquake victims in Taiwan and for a medical clinic in Mexico. She has been influential in creating forums for young people to learn and appreciate classical music. She masterminded the lectures for our young audience, and she is on the committee to finalize the details of the recently-created BCSA Scholarship Fund.

The January concert marks Ms. Tong's third solo performance with the Beach Cities Symphony. She played a Mozart concerto in 2000, a Chopin concerto in 2004, and now she will play Gershwin. In her own words, she has gone "from Mozart to Tin Pan Alley."

SCENES FROM OUR OCTOBER CONCERT



Concertmaster and Soloist Rebecca Rutkowski

Mahler soloists Nancy O'Brien and Rhonda Dillon



Photos by Peter Coffee

THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY
BARRY BRISK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

presents

ANLI LIN TONG

PIANO SOLOIST

in a performance of

Rhapsody in Blue
by George Gershwin

Also featuring

Ballet Music from Faust by Charles Gounod

Pavane for a Dead Princess by Maurice Ravel

Nutcracker Suite by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

**This Concert Will Be Dedicated to the Memory of Norma Gass,
Violinist and Charter Member of the BCSA**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

Marsee Auditorium, El Camino College • Crenshaw Blvd. at Redondo Beach Blvd.

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING

concert time: 8:15 P.M. pre-concert lecture: 7:30 P.M.

Information: (310) 539-4649 or (310) 379-9725 • www.beachcitiessymphony.org

BCSA LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In the recent past, friends and relatives of the Beach Cities Symphony's former members have donated sums of money to be used for furthering the education in and appreciation of classical music by young musicians. The original bequest was from the Billyanna Niland Trust in memory of Viola Niland. A generous donation to the fund came to us in honor of Elaine Hunter, one of the founders of the BCSA, who was a violinist with the orchestra. Most recent donations have been in memory of Norma Gass, also a violinist, who was one of the charter members of the orchestra.

The BCSA has set up a scholarship fund to dispense funds yearly to support deserving middle school music students. Area music teachers and local middle school music teachers will be asked to submit names and recommendations of possible candidates. The applicants will be given an

interview and audition. The first of these winners will be announced at the opening concert of the 2008-2009 Season.

All donations and raffle earnings at our January 25, 2008, concert will benefit the BCSA scholarship fund. Our soloist for the evening, Anli Lin Tong, has enthusiastically supported the establishment of the scholarship fund, the furtherance of music appreciation and education for our young audience, and this benefit concert.

We thank you for all your past support and hope you will generously assist the BCSA in helping our deserving young musicians. This is an exciting new opportunity for the BCSA to enhance music education and support in the community.

Information and application instructions for the scholarship will be available on our web site at BeachCitiesSymphony.org in the near future.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

remaining concerts of the
2007-2008 SEASON

April 4, 2008

Gabriel Fauré: Pavane
Max Bruch: Violin Concerto in G minor
Roberto Cani, violin soloist
Robert Schumann: Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

May 23, 2008

Hector Berlioz: "Festivities at the Capulets,"
from *Romeo and Juliet*
MTAC Artists of the Future soloists—to be announced
Richard Wagner: Prelude from *Die Meistersinger*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Agnes & Phil (*last name withheld at members' request*)

Don & Mary Crum

Louise Fenn

Dr. Dan Fleischman

Al Gibbs

Gloria Holguin

Hakimeh B. Kadivar

Leroy Keranen

Mr. & Mrs. George Miseyko

Floyd Newburn

Palos Verdes Engineering Corp.

Adrienne & John Schugel Henry & Jenny Yang

Thank you for supporting our organization!



October Concert Artists Take a Bow: *El Camino College Symphony Orchestra*
Director Dr. Dane Teter, Maestro Barry Brisk, ECC Chorale and Concert Choir
Director Dr. Joanna Nachef, Alto Soloist Nancy O'Brien, Soprano Soloist Rhonda
Dillon, and Beach Cities Symphony Concertmaster and Soloist Rebecca Rutkowski.

OCTOBER 2007 PRIZE WINNERS

In the members' raffle at our October 26 concert, the CDs donated by Borders Books and Music in Torrance were won by Don Peplirski of Torrance and C.N. Tsu of Manhattan Beach. The floral arrangement by Lily's Flowers and Gifts in Torrance was won by Nancy Means of Torrance. In the general raffle, Irwin Baker of Rancho Palos Verdes won the Surprise Basket from the Gifted Basket in Manhattan Beach. Dennis Kendig of West Los Angeles won the gift certificate for dinner for two at the Second City Bistro in El Segundo

Beach Cities Symphony News information: 310-379-9725, 310-539-4649, or www.BeachCitiesSymphony.org

Editors: Pat Chavez, Margaret McWilliams

Graphics: David Schwartz

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Change of address: www.bcsmailupdate@yahoo.com

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