



Clef Notes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

SCENES FROM OUR MAY 2008 ARTISTS OF THE FUTURE PERFORMANCE



(Top) Young soloists acknowledge audience after receiving award plaques from Deborah Aitken (left), Chair of Artists of the Future Competition, and Gail Mellert (right), President of MTAC South Bay Branch.

(Soloists, clockwise from upper left) MTAC Artists of the Future Monica Stephany Liu, Jessie Chen, Ji Min Lee, Ellie Dunbar. (Photos by Peter Coffee)

COMING OCTOBER 24 AMERICAN COMPOSERS CONCERT

FEATURING JOHN CATHER, Trumpet Soloist

The October 24, 2008 concert will celebrate the upcoming presidential election in November by saluting American composers. Mr. Cather will perform as soloist in James Covell's Concerto for Trumpet.



John Cather plays as a freelance artist throughout Southern California and is a regular artist for numerous bands and orchestras, including several of his own groups. He specializes in Renaissance and Baroque music as played on authentic instruments including the Baroque trumpet, cornetto, and sackbut. He began playing with the Beach Cities Symphony in 1974 and last soloed with the orchestra in 2004 in the Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra by Alexander Arutunian.

Mr. Cather started playing trumpet at age seven. He was first taught by his father and mentor, George Cather, who was an accomplished trombone player and music teacher, and also one of the founding members of the Beach Cities Symphony. John later studied with the late James Stamp; Juilliard professor Raymond Mase; Dr. Edward Tarr of Basel, Switzerland; and Donald Green, Ralph Sauer, and Jeffrey Reynolds of the L.A. Philharmonic among others. He is active in the recording and film industries and teaches brass instruments at home and at a Long Beach studio. He also teaches at schools, workshops, and clinics.

WE MAKE THE MUSIC—AND THE NEWS

HONORS ABROAD

One of our long-time orchestra violinists, Grigore Nica, was honored in June, in his native Bucharest, Romania, by the Composers Society of Romania. The event was in honor of his seventieth birthday and was called "Seventieth Anniversary Portrait."

While Nica was in Bucharest to receive his award, some of his compositions, both live and on CDs, were heard on national television and radio, and a special event honoring him was held at the National Museum, once the home of the famous Romanian composer George Enescu. The chamber music event, attended by over 200, began with musicologists speaking about Nica's life, musical history, and the style and quality of his compositions. The internationally famous string quartet Florilegium performed his Quartet No. 2.

On the home front, Grigore Nica, now a U.S. citizen, has been a violinist with the BCSO since 1990, and his work entitled Five Movements for Symphony and Orchestra was premièred by the Symphony in 1996. Another of his works, Celebration, was played in 1998 in honor of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of our charter member Robert Peterson and his wife, Ada Belle. Other works premièred by the symphony include Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in 2000, and Elegia for Violin and Orchestra in 2004.

Nica is currently composing for a prestigious event—the Romanian Annual New Music Festival to be held in 2009. These days, composing continues to occupy most of his time.



CELLIST TUGS HEARTSTRINGS

On most Sundays, Doctor Sophia Momand-Bunker, a cellist with the BCSO, can be found administering much-needed medical assistance to the homeless of Los Angeles. The Iranian-born physician has been doing this for the past five years, fulfilling her promise to God for helping her get through medical school.

Dr. Momand-Bunker is the staff physician at California State University, Dominguez Hills, but on her day off her patients are much more varied than the students she regularly treats. For her Sunday mission, she very often enlists the aid of her husband, computer scientist Steve Bunker, and their college-age sons Adam and Amin—both former football players. Together they take two carloads of supplies (mostly donated items) to a street corner where she sets up a makeshift station and commences distributing random items, from shave cream and soap to cereal and water bottles.

She also dispenses medical help, encouragement, compassion, and a caring touch. The medical assistance she renders—a bandage, a dose of Tylenol, an ointment, a few stitches—

only scrapes the surface of what those on Skid Row need. She refers the seriously ill or injured to nearby free health clinics.

Dr. Momand-Bunker's work on the streets is largely inspired by her Muslim faith, which requires adherents to perform volunteer work or donate money to charitable causes. She is also loosely affiliated with a Muslim-based charity group that feeds the homeless on Skid Row once a month.

Sophia Momand started with the BCSO in the 1970s, then under the direction of Louis Palange. College, post-graduate studies, marriage, and family interrupted her participation for awhile, but she is now back in the cello section as Sophia Momand-Bunker.

MERCY MISSION TO IRAQ

James Lee, an engineer and formerly a clarinetist in the BCSO and a member of the Board of Directors, left Southern California for an engineering teaching post at the Naval Academy. Early this year, he was assigned to Iraq for a project to upgrade a hospital in Haditha in the Anwar Province, funded by the U.S. "Upgrade" is an understatement for a building that lacked a functioning laundry and kitchen, which were destroyed by a suicide bombing in 2005. The building also lacked windows, air conditioning and heating, not to mention missing or inadequate fire alarms, intercoms, water filtration system, and power generators.

Lt. Commander James Lee, USN, as the officer in charge of the Army Corps of Engineers in the region of Anwar, and a handful of other high-ranking Americans, made it their personal goal to see that the dilapidated hospital is >>



THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY
BARRY BRISK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

presents
SALUTE TO AMERICAN COMPOSERS

featuring
JOHN CATHER
TRUMPET SOLOIST

in a performance of
Concerto for Trumpet by James Covell

also featuring
American Salute by Morton Gould
A Memory of Marianne by Matt Doran
Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo by Aaron Copland

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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.beachcitysymphony.org

repaired and expanded. Haditha Hospital is the only hospital in a region of 150,000 people. The closest alternatives are in Jordan and Syria.

The problems include not only the bureaucratic task of funding (\$4 million has been authorized, but another \$8 million is requested), but also the bureaucracy, tribal sheiks, and government leaders in Iraq. The group charged with the rebuilding of Haditha Hospital hope to at least see the groundbreaking of the project before they leave Iraq for the United States and return to civilian life.

Lt. Commander James Lee was awarded a Defense Meritorious Service Award, authorized by the Secretary of Defense, for his work on the Haditha project.

IN MEMORIAM

Composer Matt Doran and daughter Marianne, who died in 2006. *A Memory of Marianne*, which will be performed at our October 24 concert, had its world première with the Oregon Sinfonietta in 2007. The Beach Cities Symphony played Dr. Doran's *Merry Overture* at the November concert of the 2001-02 season.



HE MADE IT!

Jack Tsu (pictured at right), a long-time BCSA member, flew 10,000 miles to run with the Olympic Torch for less than 100 feet. "It was worth it," said Jack, who was born in China.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY
mark your calendars for the
remaining performances of our
59th CONCERT SEASON

Friday, January 23, 2009

Claude Debussy: Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun
Gustav Mahler: Songs of a Wayfarer
Erin Wood, soprano soloist
César Franck: Symphony in D Minor

Friday, March 20, 2009

Ludwig van Beethoven: Prometheus Overture
Frederic Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1
Sylvia Ho, piano soloist
Carl Nielsen: Symphony No. 2: "The Four Temperaments"

Friday, May 22, 2009

Emmanuel Chabrier: España
MTAC Artists of the Future
Modest Mussorgsky: Night on Bald Mountain

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

John Delaney & Jean Chamberlain
Anne & Ray Destabelle Winona Dickey-Horowitz
Michi Dohzen Louis C. Kilgore
Carl Kirnbauer Wen Q. Liu
Beatriz Ramirez Richard Shaffer
Esther & Ed Swanson Peggy Taggart
Tao Will

Thank you for supporting our organization!

Beach Cities Symphony News information: 310-379-9725, 310-539-4649,
or www.BeachCitiesSymphony.org
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To receive email reminders of upcoming concerts, send a blank e-mail to
BeachCitiesSymphony-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
Change of address: www.bcsmailupdate@yahoogroups.com

ARE YOU A CURRENT MEMBER?

Please look at the mailing label. If there is a 2008-09 designation, you are a member for the new season. If 2008-09 does not appear, it is time for you to renew your membership.

MAY 2008 PRIZE WINNERS

In the members' raffle at our May concert, the CDs donated by Borders Books and Music in Torrance were won by Dr. Geraldo N. Felando of San Pedro and Steve Peterson of Hermosa Beach. The floral arrangement by Lily's Flowers and Gifts in Torrance was won by Mary Haag of Torrance. In the general raffle, Bassim Wahhab of San Luis Obispo won the two tickets to Disneyland. Frank Miles of Torrance won the gift certificate for dinner for two at the Second City Bistro in El Segundo.

SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

The BCSA Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the seven finalists among the applicants for the \$500 Scholarship to be awarded at the October 24, 2008 concert.

Jessie Chen—Violin
Teacher: Elmer Su

Ellie Dunbar—Violin
Teacher: Gail Mellert

Jonathan Galbreath—Clarinet
Teacher: Mr. Bancroft

Mimi Jung—Violin
Teacher: Roberto Cani

Jeff Mohan—Bassoon
Teacher: Melody Millett

Isabella Sanchez—Flute
Teacher: Maria Jaque

Hannah Swayze—French Horn
Teacher: Tony Bancroft

The BCSA also wishes to thank all the music teachers who encouraged young music students to apply for the scholarship. The scholarship committee was impressed with the caliber and professionalism of all the applicants. This couldn't have happened without you.

