

Sustaining Notes

The Newsletter for Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra for Strings

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SJO News

Symphonie Jeunesse continues to operate as a non-profit organization even through the pandemic. As we have not been able to fundraise or offer concerts, we have experienced a big drop in revenue. The limited funds we have, and any donations we receive, go to preparing for our next season, as well as keeping us in a "holding pattern" for the present time.

We are grateful to receive donations from music-loving friends during this time. Anyone wishing to do so, can send any donation amount to Symphonie Jeunesse at P.O. Box 21077, San Bernardino CA 92406-1077, and they will receive a tax deduction for this year if received before Dec. 31, 2020. We thank you for your continued support.

Vivo Vocabulary

con gracia ~ (Spanish) gracefully
cantando ~ (Spanish) singing
cédez ~ (French) gradually slowing down
sec ~ (French) dry
langsam ~ (German) slow
lebhaft ~ (German) lively
schnell ~ (German) fast
espressivo ~ (Italian) expressive
giocoso ~ (Italian) playful, cheerful
mezzo ~ (Italian) half

Where Are They Now?

SJO Alumni Update

Ms. Dana Polley Cellist and Founding Member

Dana Polley just graduated in May 2020 from California State University, Fullerton with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology, with an emphasis in clinical movement science. She is currently in the process of applying to graduate schools to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Dana was principal cellist of SJO from 2008 to 2013. Advice she would give to her 16-year-old self: Life can be unpredictable and unfair, but music will always be there for you, no matter how rough the path gets.

Mrs. T.'s Listening List

Provided by Mr. Michael Tacchia

"4th Symphony (op.60 in B Flat)"

by Ludwig van Beethoven
(Dec. 17, 1770 - Mar. 26, 1827)

In honor of the 250th year since the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven I offer this little recollection of musical discovery...

As a sophomore at San Geronio High School, I had only begun to truly discover the wonderful world of music. I began formal piano lessons three years prior to high school and, taking advantage of the excellent school library, I checked out a biography of Beethoven. This book created in me a burning desire to learn something besides *Für Elise**. After reading that Beethoven had written nine symphonies, I was able to borrow a recording (LP** of course) of Leonard Bernstein conducting the famous 5th Symphony. Every kid knew the opening of the Beethoven 5th regardless of what musical interest he/she had.

Arriving home, I inadvertently put the record on side 2 - the Beethoven 4th Symphony (in B Flat Major). Expecting to hear the opening mighty four note motif when I set the needle down, I instead heard this very somber unison B flat in the wind instruments followed by six mournful notes in a descending pattern played by the strings. I was hooked. This somber opening eventually gave way to a jubilant and optimistic theme introduced by the cellos after which my musical destiny was fore ordained.

My recommendation to the young musicians of SJO is to explore the beauty of the Beethoven 4th Symphony (op.60 in B Flat) which is in four movements with a very humorous scherzo movement and a slow movement melody that will always remind me of the tune McDonalds used in the 1970's to the words "You deserve a break today..." Forgive me, Beethoven - and Happy Birthday! ~ Michael Tacchia

* "For Elise" who historians believe to have been a student for whom this little bagatelle was written. All SJO students will remember this tune from the animated feature 'Shrek'.

** LP's refer to 'Long-Play' records from pre-1980 years. The term 'long-play' was meant to distinguish 78 rpm records (revolutions per minute on a turntable) from the later 33 rpm records which could fit an entire symphony on one side of the record - ergo 'Long-Play'.

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Accent On

Dr. Mark Dust

SJO Photographer/Videographer

I have had the pleasure of documenting SJO performances and creating portraits for members since Season 7. What started as a senior photo session for the Ainsworth twins during an SJO performance at the Sturges Theatre soon morphed into a lasting relationship with the orchestra. I have started and stopped and started playing guitar for the last 30 years and I'm amazed at students' ability to play instruments and read music while doing so. Where you all tell stories and speak with your music, I tell stories and communicate via photographs.

I have been interested in photography since I was an early teen, but in those days film and developing the prints wasn't cheap and I was fonder of spending my yard mowing and car washing money on comic books and baseball cards. I didn't pick up a camera again until around 2013 and quickly found that I had an eye for composition. I dove in to learn all I could about the art form and to figure out my style.

I consider my photography a "creative distraction" because my day job is that of a Professor. I teach at Cal State Fullerton in the Dept. of Public Health. I have an Associate of Science degree in Psychology from Three Rivers Community College in Poplar Bluff, MO., a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, an MBA from Claremont Graduate University, and a Ph.D. in Health Promotion Sciences from CGU as well. I served in the U.S. Army from 2003-2007 as an Infantryman. In 2005 I deployed to Iraq and I spent a year in Baghdad as the machine gunner for my platoon leader. I sustained a few injuries and was medically discharged in 2007. That was when my family decided to stay in California instead of going back to Missouri. I have been married for almost 24 years and I have three children ages 23, 20, and 16. I miss taking your photos and I hope to see you all again soon!

~ Coda ~

We ought to make the moments notes
Of happy, glad Thanksgiving;
The hours and days a silent phrase
Of music we are living.
And so the theme should swell and grow
As weeks and months pass o'er us,
And rise sublime all this good time,
A grand Thanksgiving chorus.
From "Thanksgiving" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850 ~ 1919)

Best wishes to all of our families and friends
for a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!