

Sustaining Notes

The Newsletter for Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra for Strings

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SJO News

Happy Spring to all! We wish everyone good health and many good wishes in this season of renewal and hope. Behind the scenes we are quietly planning in order to bring SJO back to life as soon as we can! Hopefully this summer will give us the news we are waiting for. This April, we honor the following birthdays as well as the Spring holidays of Easter and Passover. Best wishes to Isabella O. on 4/1, Karen R. on 4/13 and especially Mrs. Tacchia on 4/16! Please share a birthday wish with her at mbernardel@gmail.com.

Where Are They Now?

SJO Alumni Update

My name is Tatiana Oropel and I joined SJO during its 2nd season. Although music is one of my greatest passions, I pursued degrees in economics and teaching English as a second language. I'm currently in Chile working towards my dream of opening a language institute for both children and adults. However, that doesn't mean that the lessons Mrs. T and SJO have taught me over the years haven't stuck around. Performing with SJO taught me the meaning of passion and how beautiful your achievements can be through hard work and dedication. In fact, I often bring my violin to class and teach English through music, which is a hit with the students.

The friendships, knowledge, and connections I made through SJO are irreplaceable and will last a lifetime. Those memories include camping tours and playing concerts at Disneyland as well!

So, no matter where life takes you, the lessons you learn from putting your heart into your music and working hard to create something beautiful with a second family like SJO, is priceless. If I could go back and play with all of you again, I would!



Accent On

Dr. Doug MacLaughlin SJO Guest Musician, Instructor, and Friend of the Orchestra

Doug's first instrument was the guitar, singing folk songs at the age of 10. In what was then junior high school he tried to join the orchestra, but discovered the guitar was not a standard instrument. The director said, "We need basses, learn to play that." It led to a couple of all-state orchestras in high school, and a trip to St. Louis for a Music Educators National Conference gala in 1958. By then he was playing a lot of jazz (mostly bebop), which continued through college. He majored in physics and came to Berkeley for graduate study where he auditioned for the orchestra. The TA for cello and bass was a cellist named Cathy Graff who, after Doug had struggled through the audition, said "Well, . . . okay". He got in, and . . . married Cathy seven years later. What took them so long? Cathy, now a professional cellist, went to Europe to study and work, and later (1966) Doug got a postdoctoral job in England. They reunited and were married there. After a second postdoc in Paris (a two-year working honeymoon) they returned to California. Doug, the amateur musician in the family, played in school orchestras (UC Riverside and Cal State San Bernardino) and the Riverside Symphony. In 2014 he joined the Claremont Symphony Orchestra and continues to play in the UCR campus orchestra.

Editor's note: Dr. MacLaughlin is a long-time friend and supporter of SJO. He made the Cambria Tour journey during Season 11 and has participated as an instructor in many workshops and rehearsals. He modestly omits mention of his long and dedicated life as a physicist and physics professor at UC Riverside. We are pleased to share his story.

Vivo Vocabulary

con moto ~ (It.) with movement; in a spirited manner

non troppo ~ (It.) without excess, not too much

rallentando ~ (It.) gradual slowing; holding back tempo

sempre ~ (It.) always; consistently

sforzando ~ (It.) played with prominent stress or accent followed by a sudden decrease in loudness

una corda ~ (It.) one string

Mrs. T.'s Listening List

As we "spring" forward into April, (one of my favorite months,) and begin to emerge from a year of hardship and loss during a pandemic, out from behind masks, we are finally able to begin to look forward once again to being able to play music together, (even if we are "one to a music stand.")

I want to lift your spirit with suggestions of musical depictions of Spring and of hopefulness with the following pieces. You may listen to all or choose one or two. I hope that these musical jewels will be of inspiration to you as we move into the renewal of springtime and togetherness.

Violin Sonata No. 5 in F major, op. 24 "Spring" by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

"Spring" from *The Four Seasons* La Primavera by Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Symphony No. 1, 'The Spring Symphony' by Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

On Hearing The First Cuckoo In Spring by Frederick Delius (1862-1934)

The Rite of Spring by Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

'To Spring' from *Lyric Pieces* by Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Appalachian Spring by Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

"Frühlingsstimmen" ("Voices of Spring"), op. 410 by Johann Strauss II (1825-1899)

"Frühlingsrauschen" ("Rustle of Spring") by Christian Sinding (1856-1941)

Symphonic Suite "Printemps" ("Spring") by Claude Debussy (1865-1918)

~ Coda ~

O turn, O turn and change
your course ~
In the valley spring blooms
forth!

~ A. Böttaer