



Celebrity Series • Revelle Series • Discovery Series SummerFest La Jolla • Prodigy Series • Piano Series

SummerFest La Jolla 2000
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The La Jolla Chamber Music Society

Background and history of the organization

The La Jolla Chamber Music Society's core mission has been to present the world's finest musicians and ensembles. An impressive list of visiting artists includes Murray Perahia, Alfred Brendel, Pinchas Zukerman, Yo-Yo Ma, the Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, and Royal Philharmonic orchestras; and the London, Royal, Gewandhaus of Leipzig Symphony Orchestras. This level of musical excellence is presented by the Society in five distinctive series.

THE CELEBRITY SERIES

The Celebrity Series presents major orchestras and soloists in the 3,000-seat San Diego Civic Theatre. Exemplary of the world-renowned musicians that the Society presents are Emanuel Ax, Andras Schiff, Itzhak Perlman, Gil Shaham and Lynn Harrell.

THE REVELLE SERIES

Since 1968, the Society's reputation has been founded on its annual Revelle Series, bringing world-renowned soloists and ensembles to Sherwood Auditorium at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, located in La Jolla. The eminent ensembles included the Juilliard, Amadeus, Guarneri, Cleveland, Tokyo, and Emerson String Quartets. Designed for a knowledgeable and discriminating audience, the Revelle Series success has paved the way for the subsequent four series that serve the varied and growing musical needs of one of America's largest cities.

SUMMERFEST LA JOLLA

Now in its 15th season, SummerFest is the Society's internationally acclaimed chamber music festival under the artistic direction of David Finckel and Wu Han. More than a concert series, every August SummerFest presents an expansive three weeks of chamber music concerts held in the intimate 492-seat Sherwood Auditorium featuring internationally renowned musicians, multi-disciplinary lectures, round table discussions, the Workshop — a pro-

gram of daily coaching sessions for young chamber ensembles, family concerts, Composer and Visual Artist in Residence programs, new commissions, pre-concert talks, collaborative projects with the University of California at San Diego, and festive social events — all enhanced by the interactions of artists and audience.

Over their three seasons as Artistic Directors, David Finckel and Wu Han have gathered a roster of guests artists that have included violinists Ida and Ani Kavafian, Cho-Liang Lin and Kyoko Takezawa, violists Paul Neubauer, Cynthia Phelps and Toby Hoffman, cellists Carter Brey, Janos Starker and Gary Hoffman, pianists Menahem Pressler, Gary Graffman and Gilbert Kalish, and members of the Miami, St. Lawrence and Emerson String Quartets.

DISCOVERY SERIES

In 1991, the Society inaugurated a new outreach program, the Discovery Series, to address the urgent need for increased music education in San Diego's schools. Reaching more than 100,000 students since its inception, this vital Series offers a preview of the next generation of leading musicians and ensembles and also sponsors master classes, assemblies and performances that are free to San Diego-area school children.

PIANO SERIES

The Society's newest offering is the Piano Series, which brings world renowned pianists to the intimate confines of Sherwood Auditorium. In its 1998 premiere season, the Series presented four of the world's most distinguished pianists — Emanuel Ax, Arcadi Volodos, Hélène Grimaud and Joseph Kalichstein — to sold-out audiences, standing ovations and critical acclaim.

THE COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER

The Community Music Center provides at-risk children the opportunity to study and learn classical music. It is a nationally recognized program co-founded by current director, Joe Barry, in 1993. In 1999, the Society made a three-year commitment to the Community Music Center to provide complete funding as well as greater visibility for the program. By literally putting musical instruments in the hands of 100 full scholarship students, the Community Music Center has drawn families from the Barrio Logan area in Southeast San Diego together as a community.

The Community Music Center has been designated as a model program by the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture and has received national recognition by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. One exceptional feature of this program is the students who conscientiously take lessons for two years receive their musical instrument as a gift in a graduation ceremony.

LA JOLLA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY TIMELINE

PRE-HISTORY

- 1941-67** • The La Jolla Musical Arts Society, a professional orchestra under the direction of Nikolai Sokoloff and comprised of local musicians, performs in La Jolla. Ellen and Roger Revelle are founding members of the Board of Directors.
- 1959** • Sherwood Auditorium at the Museum of Contemporary Art is built. The University of California Regents are the first to present summer concerts there.

THE HISTORY OF THE LA JOLLA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

- 1968** • The La Jolla Chamber Players, made up solely of local musicians under conductor John Garvey, comes into existence in conjunction with The University of California at San Diego's Extension program. The Chamber Players performed contemporary small-ensemble music.
- 1970** • The La Jolla Chamber Orchestra becomes part of the new community organization. This evolution came out of a desire by the community to nurture a local orchestra. The programming was a mix of modern music, more established contemporary composers such as Bartók and Barber and the standard chamber orchestra repertoire.
- 1972-74** • The organization continued with locally produced orchestral concerts and added the presentation of internationally recognized musicians. Artists included cellist Gregor Piatigorsky, flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal, and the Juilliard and Guarneri String Quartets.
- 1975** • The organization enters into an ongoing support relationship with the Parker Foundation and becomes more business oriented at the foundation's suggestion. Rafael Durian replaces John Garvey as music director.
- 1976** • The organization changes its name to the La Jolla Chamber Music Society.
- 1977** • Peter Eros, music director of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra becomes the Society's music director and remains until 1982.
- 1978** • The Society hires its first full-time executive director, Sharon LeeMaster.
- 1982** • The Society determines it is no longer viable to maintain an orchestra and disbands it in order to focus on full-time presenting. The Society sponsors the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival in California (until 1985). Geoffrey Brookes replaces Sharon LeeMaster as executive director.
- 1983-86** • The Society's activities expand dramatically in response to community and board growth. Demand for high quality chamber music results in three concert and recital series: the Sherwood Series in La Jolla, the Old Globe Series in Balboa Park and the Society begins presenting the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra at the East County Performing Arts Center.

- 1986** • SummerFest La Jolla is born. Founder and artistic director, Heiichiro Ohyama brings the very finest local and international artists to Sherwood Auditorium for San Diego's own chamber music festival in August.
- 1987** • The Celebrity Series, which showcases the world's greatest soloists and orchestras at the Civic Theatre and Symphony Hall is founded.
- 1988** • During its 20th Anniversary Season, the Society begins the four-concert International Orchestra Series featuring the Saint Louis Symphony, the Moscow State Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic and London Symphony Orchestras. Neale Perl is appointed executive director.
- 1991** • The Discovery Series is launched to present "tomorrow's stars today." This educational outreach program offers music programs designed to enrich San Diego public school curriculum through artist residencies. The Society presents the Philadelphia Orchestra's first San Diego appearance in 15 years. The International Orchestra Series is incorporated into the Celebrity Series and features the Cleveland Orchestra.
- 1993** • The Society celebrates its 25th anniversary and the 25th Anniversary of the Sherwood Series. Celebratory concerts include galas with violinist/violist Pinchas Zukerman at Sherwood Auditorium and soprano Jessye Norman at the Civic Theatre.
- 1994-96** • Sherwood Auditorium is closed temporarily for renovation and expansion of the Museum of Contemporary Art. The Sherwood Series becomes "Sherwood at Parker" as La Jolla High School's Parker Auditorium becomes the home of Sherwood, Discovery and SummerFest La Jolla concerts for two seasons.
- 1996** • Jessye Norman makes a triumphant return to the Civic Theater for another successful gala performance.
- 1997** • The Society appoints cellist David Finckel and his wife, pianist Wu Han, as artistic directors of SummerFest La Jolla. The Prodigy Series, which showcases young musical geniuses at the exquisite Neurosciences Institute Auditorium, has its auspicious debut.
- 1998** • The Society presents the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra with Zubin Mehta in a gala celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. The Society inaugurates its sixth subscription series, the Piano Series featuring Emanuel Ax, Arcadi Volodos, Hélène Grimaud and Joseph Kalichstein. The series sells out on subscriptions (including on-stage seating) in just six weeks.

SummerFest La Jolla receives critical acclaim in the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, London Financial Times, The Strad Magazine and local press.

The Sherwood Series is renamed the Revelle Series to honor Ellen Revelle Eckis and her family — as well as her extraordinary \$500,000 gift to the Society's endowment.

The Society celebrates its anniversary with a joint 30th birthday concert and party with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center on October 5th at Sherwood Auditorium.

In recognition of their dedication and accomplishments on behalf of the La Jolla Chamber Music Society, Lois Kohn and Ellen Revelle Eckis are named "Honorary Directors" for life.

1999 • The Society made a three-year commitment to the Community Music Center to provide financial stability, as well as greater visibility for the nationally recognized program.

The music of the La Jolla Chamber Music Society's SummerFest was brought to life in "Festival America: SummerFest La Jolla," a 30-minute documentary by the Emmy-award winning Public Television producer Peter Marshall. Station manager/co-producer Cynthia Geary and Marshall produced the documentary on SummerFest La Jolla as part of a WNVT-proposed special 4-part series titled "Festival America," which would focus on arts festivals throughout America. The film was broadcast on PBS member stations across the country.

SummerFest commissioned "Couple," a new work by Bruce Adolphe. This duo for cello and piano was the first work produced through SummerFest's new commissioning project, and was given its World Premiere by David Finckel and Wu Han on August 17 at SummerFest '99.

SummerFest enjoyed a new collaboration with the University Art Gallery at the University of California, San Diego. A Visual Artist-in-residence program was created for the music festival, the first of its kind in the nation, and included an exhibition featuring over thirty paintings of Caio Fonseca, Visual Artist-in-Residence for SummerFest '99.

A new series of Evening Explorations was held at the University Art Gallery. Bruce Adolphe, SummerFest's Composer-in-Residence combined lecture and performance to delve into the powerful relationships between art, music and the sciences with guests Caio Fonseca and Dr. Antonio Damasio, author of *Descartes Error*.

A series of SummerFest '99 performances were taped by and are airing locally on UCSD TV reaching over one million viewers.

An unprecedented number of SummerFest '99 performances were aired on NPR's "Performance Today" reaching 15 million listeners.