OS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE



AND SINFONIA OF LOS ANGELES JOHN CURRIE • MUSIC DIRECTOR

ROGER WAGNER, FOUNDER AND MUSIC DIRECTOR LAUREATE

Sunday, March 1, 1987 at 8:00 p.m.

BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

JOHN CURRIE, Conductor MICHAEL ZEAROTT, Pianist MARY RAWCLIFFE, Soprano JANET SMITH, Mezzo-soprano THOMAS RANDLE, Tenor THOMAS WILCOX, Baritone STUART CANIN, Concertmaster

Egmont Overture Opus 84

Meeresstile und glückliche Fahrt (Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage) Opus 112

Choral Fantasia Opus 80

INTERMISSION

Mass in C

Kyrie Gloria Credo Sanctus Agnus dei

Flowers by Flower View Gardens

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CONDUCTOR'S NOTE by John Currie

When you study a mature Beethoven work with a view to conducting it, there often merges a sub-plot, a heroic drama beneath the notes. In the case of the Egmont overture, there is, of course, nothing hidden about its theatrical association, but, as so often with Beethoven, he writes into the music a large drama ending in a state of buoyant and, for me, extremely moving optimism. Thus in this overture he remoulds the accepted Viennese overture form (slow-fast) to create a wonderfully dramatic three-part structure (slow-fast-faster). The two basic themes are heard immediately in the first section. It is not fanciful to describe them as a representing masculine heroism and defiance on the one hand, and feminine softness and persuasion on the other. In the central fast section both types are developed side by side until the climax (and resolution) in the fastest section - a typical Beethoven "glory march". Such fastmoving bursts of triumph and hope are a strong Beethoven feature and it does not surprise that these are the places, in other works, where words appear: the Choral Fantasy, the Ninth Symphony. These outbursts stike me as highly excited optimistic statements about individual human heroism and about mankind generally.

The second work in our program is a rare and wonderful curiosity. Beethoven's least successful genre was the song or short choral piece, and yet here is a short descriptive work of the highest quality and inspiration from his mature period. Like Egmont, the starting point was texts by Goethe, and Beethoven here produced the sort of poetic descriptive music which we find in certain of the piano works but seldom in his choral-symphonic works. The becalmed ship is depicted in a sustained Adagio, reminding of what has been described as the "star-gazing" quality of certain slow movements in the string quartets and the piano sonatas. Dry plucked notes depict windlessness and there are two Beethovian outbursts at the work 'Weite' (distance). The 'gluckliche' section begins with the merest rustle of a breeze rising from the depths of the cellos through the upper strings to the flute; soon the trumpets and drums are declaring the joyful speed of the ship, and the voices are urging even more speed. The swiftness is arrested twice as for a longing gaze at the distant land, before the music dashes on to its abrupt, happy conclusion.

The word fantasy normally implies a free, possibly improvisatory approach, and the Choral Fantasy is no exception. In fact you will see from the accompanying historical note that Beethoven did indeed improvise the introductory piano section at the first performance. But basically the architecture of the piece is that of the classical overture (slow-fast). The opening slow section could be the cadenza of an unwritten piano concerto. The faster section, called "finale", settles to a melody which is quite close to the famous tune from the finale of the Ninth Symphony. As in that extraordinary work, Beethoven concludes the underlying drama with voices and words. This is probably the first instance of a romantic formula which was to appear again and again in works as various as Liszt's "Faust" Symphony, Busoni's Piano Concerto, and Mahler's Second Symphony. The Choral Fantasy is the delightful precursor of them all, the voices finally joining with piano and orchestra in double-speed fanfares declaring the glory of Man and his Art. As in Egmont or the very end of the Ninth Symphony, this is the fast-moving, triumphant, and optimistic Beethoven.

It is good that the music-loving public is beginning to appreciate the genius of the late Masses of Haydn with their close integration of soloists and chorus and virtuosic string writing. Here two years before the death of his teacher Haydn, Beethoven takes up his pen within that rich Viennese tradition. The Mass in C emerges as a work of great individuality and power, no mere copy of Haydn's fine models.

KYRIE

The whole text of the traditional Greek prayer is incorporated in one rounded symphonic movement, opening and closing calmly. Somehow, although the Haydn influence is strong, the movement has a grand sweep, with sudden Beethovian contrasts and accents.

GLORIA

The Gloria opens with fast string passages accompanying the words, like Haydn. But these rushing string scales have the unmistakable energy of the later master. The mood, but not the tempo, changes as the tenor soloist introduces the words 'gratias agimus', each of his phrases warmly affirmed by the chorus. In a perfect transition, the music darkens to F minor, and a throbbing string accomapniment with the contralto soloist introduces 'Qui Tollis'. The same solemn tempo remain for the majestic 'Qui sedes'. The quiet, penitent ending is shattered by the strong 'Quoniam' theme, mainly on wind instruments. The bass voices introduce the fugue which had become the standard formula for the words 'Cum sancto spiritu', enlivened later by fast violin figures. The vivacious, happy 'Amen' is typical.

CREDO

The Credo begins quietly, breaking out suddenly at the ninth measure - yet another touch of Beethoven's love of dramatic contrast. The strong downward leaps at "Deum de Deo' have that hammering quality which pervades so many passages in his later works, a sort of rhetorical insistence that God (and Man) must hear. The key and tempo now change - exquisitely, with a little downward arpeggio of the clarinet - for 'Et incarnatus est' and the darker 'Crucifixus' with its puzzling setting of the name Pontius Pilate. 'Et resurrexit', suddenly in the bright key of D major, sweeps us through to a quiet pause on 'mortuorum' and a strong Germanic fugue ('Et vitam venturi ... Amen) brings the Creed to its victorius conclusion.

SANCTUS

Solemn wind chords (Mozart's Magic Flute and Masonic pieces spring to mind) introduce unaccompanied voices, and later the drum-beats which were a feature of earlier Sanctus settings. 'Pleni sunt coeli' is a joyful outburst, a vigorous melodic fragment which seems to leap in the air. The 'Osanna' has its own calmer theme. "Benedictus', traditionally the area in which the solo voices are featured more prominently, moves without transition from the bright A major ending of 'Osanna' to a darker, richer F major: an extended movement for the full ensemble. There is a scale and grandeur here which is unique among late Viennese masses. 'Osanna' returns.

AGNUS DEI

In a dark dramatic C minor, this movement repeatedly builds from throbbing wind or string chords to great cries of 'Agnus Dei'. A beautiful solo clarinet paragraph leads to an isolated, unaccompanied 'dona' for the solo voices, and Beethoven, still using the prayerful words, slips gently into a swift Allegro. Only the strange stuttering of 'miserere' disturbs the celebratory mood. Suddenly, only a few measures from the end the tempo is cut in half and we are miraculously within the beautiful Andante which opened the whole work. This calm, unspectacular ending is a masterstroke of structure and expression.

HISTORICAL NOTES by Richard H. Trame, S.J., Ph.D. Loyola Marymount University

The four works of Beethoven presented in this program provide an interesting and microcosmic study of the Master's mature style during the productive middle period of his life. The order of their presentation belies their sequence of origin. The earliest composition is the *Mass in C*, Opus 86 (1807), followed by the *Choral Fantasia*, Opus 80 (1808) the *Egmont Overture*, Opus 84 (1809-10) and finally *A Calm Sea and a Prosperous Voyage*, Opus 112 (1814-15).

In 1809 the new and successful impresario of the Court Theater Joseph Hartl decided to stage Schiller's William Tell and Goethe's Egmont. Beethoven appears to have initially desired to set Tell, but accepted the commission to do the incidental music for Egmont. Not only did he accept this commission to pay tribute to "the first among German poets," but because the drama itself undoubtedly stirred his Flemish blood. he could also give voice to his patriotic opposition to the Napoleonic occupation of Vienna in 1809. The music premiered at the Theater three weeks after the play commenced, June 15, 1810.

Egmont tells of the Spanish Duke of Alva's betrayal in 1568 of the Flemish Count Egmont. Trusting in the knowledge of his loyalty to King Philip II and his prestige as a Knight of the Golden Fleece, Egmont emerges at Alva's command from the security of his Brussel's castle. His companion William the Silent prudently remained safely behind. Alva siezes and imprisons Egmont. in his dungeon on his last night his beloved Klaerchen appears to him extending to him the crown of victory. His execution next day signals the triumphant rise to revolt of the people of the Netherlands against Spanish overlordship.

Beethoven's superb dramatic overture "pours out music alight with genius" in which he has with tremendous concentration projected the whole of the drama's heroic struggle and spiritual thrust. As one commentator remarks: the Overture is "certainly the most important musical work ever inspired by Goethe." Beethoven encompasses with his illustrative music the heavy handed Spanish oppression, the irrepressible longings of the Dutch for freedom, the galantry of Egmont, the despair of imprisonment, and with the finality of his death the fervid rise of the populus.

During July of 1812 Beethoven met Goethe at Teplitz for the first time. The poet expressed his views of Beethoven with perception. "A more self-contained, energetic, sincere artist I never saw...His talent amazed me; unfortunately his is an utterly untamed personality who is not altogether in the wrong in holding the world to be detestable."

In 1814 Beethoven selected two poems of Goethe combining them into a single choral work. This he dedicated to "the immortal Goethe with greatest respect." In 1823 after the work had been published Beethoven "bringing myself again to your notice" sent it to Goethe. "The two poems," Beethoven observed in his letter, "seemed to me, owing to the contrast between them, very suitable for the expression of this contrast through music. I should greatly like to know whether my harmony is well suited to yours."

Tovey has rightly observed that the English title "A Calm Sea..." misses the point and suggest rather the poor landlubber's requirement for a prosperous voyage. Rather, he notes, Goethe's little pair of contrasting poems deals with the oppression and terror felt on a sailing ship long becalmed, and the joy and relief when the wind arises. Beethoven's music succeeds in the first part in portraying that deathly terrible silence, that enormous expanse in which not a ripple stirs. When at last the winds rustle and rise, the music becomes simple and jubilant.

Shin Kojima interestingly notes that A Calm Sea and a Prosperous Voyage "is the only choral song of Beethoven to have retained its original freshness."

December 22, 1808 must have retained bitter-sweet memories for Beethoven. On that harsh cold night in the Theater an der Wien he had prepared what even for the musically voracious Viennese was to prove a long and somewhat disastrous Akademie concert. Premiered in their first public performance that evening were the Fifth and Sixth Symphonies, the Fourth Piano Concerto the aria "Ah Perfido," two "hymns" i.e. the Gloria and Sanctus from the Mass in C, and the Choral Fantasia.

When the Finale of the Fifth Symphony would have furnished a highly suitable ending for the whole concert, Beethoven felt it would come at a time when the audience might from sheer weariness not appreciate its impact. Since he was soloist in the Concerto, he produced an experimental work to end the concert, utilizing an idea which had occupied his mind since 1800 of concluding an orchestral work with words.

The Choral Fantasia consists of an introductory piano fantasy, variations for piano and orchestra using the melody of his song of 1797 "Gegenliebe," and a concluding chorus for which the poet Christian Kuffner hurriedly furnished the words. The choral melody clearly foreshadowed the music of the Ode to Joy in the Ninth Symphony.

So new was the work to be played that night that the sheets of music provided the instrumentalists and singers were still ink wet. Obviously rehearsal preparation was minimal. Beethoven improvised the piano Introduction. The orchestra sufficiently fouled up its timing in the last section because of Beethoven's garbled instructions that he angrily had it stop and recommence the section. Later a repentant Beethoven apologized to the indignant musicians.

We do not know how closely the early published *Choral Fantasia* or Breitkopf's version of 1811 approximate the 1808 premier performance. Much to Beethoven's anger Breitkopf without asking his leave dedicated it to Maximilian Joseph, King of Bavaria.

Each year since 1796 Prince Nicholas Esterhazy feted his wife Princess Hermenagilda's birthday at High Mass in the Berg Church of Eisenstadt Palace with a



Chalk drawing of Beethoven by Stephan Decker at the time of the premiere of the Ninth Symphony

newly composed Mass. Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) had produced his six greatest masterpieces in the genre each year between 1796 and 1802. Between 1802 and 1806 the Prince's Kappelmeister Hummell seems to have furnished the festive Masses. Probably at old Haydn's suggestion Esterhazy commissioned Beethoven in the spring of 1807 to produce the Mass in C Major to be sung September 13, 1807.

In late July Beethoven wrote the Prince from Baden that the finished Mass would be delivered to him August 20. "This will leave plenty of time to have it performed on the nameday of her Serene Highness, the Princess." Perhaps the sentiments Beethoven expressed to the Prince indicate something of his true attitude toward the commission. "May I add that I shall deliver the Mass to you with great trepidation since you, Serene Highness, are accustomed to having the inimitable masterpieces of the great Haydn performed for you."

There is considerable speculation as a result of Schindler's observations on the occasion of the performance, judged by some to be inaccurate, about the reception Prince Esterhazy gave the *Mass in C*. That worthy having feasted on the glories of Haydn's Masses — "accustomed" to them as Beethoven had written — appeared non-plussed, to say the least, or even shocked at the individuality displayed in Beethoven's work. "Herr Beethoven, what is this we have here?"

As J. Merill Knapp observes in his study of the Mass, Beethoven certainly followed the precedent set by Haydn in the structuring of the Mass in C, in the symphonic dimensions with which he imbued it, in the integration of the quartet, choir, and orchestra. The essential structure is the traditional Haydn-Viennese division into five movements. The first three movements (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo) were as Haydn had done subdivided into three interior movements, fast, slow, fast. Haydn's and Beethoven's "methods may be the same, but," says Knapp, "the musical texture is different...It is Beethoven's individual musical language within a conventional framework that has struck their (the commentator's) attention and not the structure itself, which was rooted in the liturgy and the past...His own mark of unity both within and between movements gave the Mass in C its true Beethoven stamp."

Much to Beethoven's frustration Breitkopf refused until 1812 to publish the Mass. We have noted that parts were sung at the December, 1808 concert. Church music was not in demand, observed the publisher when Beethoven attempted to force his hand by threatening to withhold other more marketable works from publication. German words were provided the published version to make it palatable to the Protestant North. When it was finally published, Beethoven dedicated it to Prince Kinsky who had annually for some time contributed 1800 florins to the annuity of 4000 florins given Beethoven by his princely patrons.

Let us conclude with Knapp's summary judgment of the *Mass in* C: "This Mass, then, is mature, percipient Beethoven, bringing to bear on one of Christianity's most familiar texts the full force of his personality and creative genius. It is spiritually religious...It breathes a spirit of prayer and mystical being that come from the inner Beethoven. Whereas it really belongs in a church for a celebration of the Mass, it also reaches outside to humanity at large."

Texts

Meeresstille Und Gluckliche Fahrt Tiefe Stille herrscht im Wasser. ohne Regung ruht das Meer, und bekümmert sieht der Schiffer glatte Fläche rings umher. Keine Luft von keiner Seite! Todes Stille fürchterlich! In der ungeheuern Weite reget keine Welle sich.

Die Nebel zerreissen, der Himmel ist helle, und Aeolus löset das ängstliche Band. Es säuseln die Winde, es nührt sich der Schiffer. Geschwinde! Geschwinde! Es theilt sich die Welle, es naht sich die Ferne; Schon seh' ich das Land! (Goethe)

Choral Fantasia

Schmeichelnd hold und lieblich klingen unsers Lebens Harmonien, und dem Schönheitssinn

entschwingen Blumen sich, die ewig blüh'n. Fried' und Freude gleiten freundlich wie der Wellen Wechselspiel; was sich drängte rauh und

feindlich, ordnet sich zu Hochgefühl. Wenn der Töne Zauberwalten

und des Wortes Weihe spricht, muss sich herrliches gestalten,

Nacht und Stürme werden Licht, äussre Ruhe, inn're Wonne herrschen für den Glücklichen. Doch der Künste Frühlingssonne

lässt aus beiden Licht

entstehn, grosses, das in's Herz gedrungen,

blüht dann neu und schön empor, hat ein Geist sich aufgeschwungen,

hall't ihm stets ein

Geisterchor.

Nehmt denn hin, ihr schönen Seelen, froh die Gaben schöner Kunst,

wenn sich Lieb' und Kraft vermählen, lohnt den Menschen Göttergunst. (Christian Kuffner)

Mass in C

Kyrie Kýrie, eléison Christe, eléison Kýrie, eleison

Gloria

Glória in excelsis Deo Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis Laudámus te Benedicimus te Adomímus te Glorificamus te Grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam Dómine Deus, Rex caeléstis Deus Pater omnipotens L-12

Calm Sea and Fortunate Journey Deep stillness governs the water, without motion, the ocean is silent, and, troubled, the sailor sees the smooth surfaces round about. No air from any direction! Terrible, deathly stillness! In the vast distance not a wave stirs. The clouds break up, the sky is clear, And Aeolus releases the fearful band of mariners. The winds whistle, the sailor stirs, Swift! Swift! The wave parts, the distance nears; I already see the land! (trans: D. Rivinus)

Flatteringly appealing and lovely do our life's harmonies sound, and flowers which bloom everlastingly spring forth from this sense of beauty. Peace and joy glide along in a friendly way like the waves' ever-changing play; whatever forces itself on the world in a rough and unfriendly manner reorders itself into ecstasy. When the magic of life's harmonies rules and speaks the consecrating word, marvelous states of mind must take form, night and storms become light, outward stillness, inward bliss encompass the lucky ones. Indeed, the "springtime sun" of this art allows light to "shine" from both stillness and bliss, greatness that has pierced the heart. blooms, new and beautiful, if a genius soars, his creativity is forever reflected in the artistic voices of kindred spirits. Therefore, you beautiful souls, joyfully take the gifts of this magnificent art, when love and strength are wedded mankind is rewarded with the favor of the gods.

(trans: D. Rivinus)

Lord, have mercy Christ, have mercy Lord, have mercy

Glory to God in the highest And on earth peace to men of good will We praise you We bless you We adore you We glorify you We give you thanks for your great glory O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty

Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris Qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis Qui tollis peccáta mundi, súscipe deprecationem nostram Qui sedes ad déxteram Patris, miserére nobis Quoniam tu solus Sanctus Tu solus Dóminus Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe Cum Sancto Spiritu in glória Dei Patris. Amen

Credo

Credo in unum Deum Patreum omnipoténtem, factórem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum, Filium Dei Unigenitum Et ex Patre natum ante ómnia saecula

Deum de Deo

- Lumen de lúmine
- Deum verum de Deo vero

Génitum, non factu, consubstantialem Patri; per quem ómnia facta sunt

Qui propter nos hómines et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis

Et incarnátus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine: Et homo factus est.

Crucifixus étiam pro nobis: sub Póntio Piláto passus et sepúltus est

Et resurréxit tértia die, secúndum Scriptúras

Et asclendit in caelum: sedet ad déxteram Patris

Etiferum ventúrus est cum glória, judicáre vivos et mórtuos; cujus regni non erit finis

Et in Spiritum Sanctum Dóminum et vivificantem Qui ex Patre Filioque procedit

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adorátur et conglorificátur

Qui locútus est per Prophétas Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam EccleConfiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatórum

Et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum And I look for the resurrection

Et vitam ventúri saeculi. Amen.

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus Deus Sabaoth Pleni sunt caeli et terra glória tua

Hosánna in excelsis Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini Hosánna in excelsis

Agnus dei Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: Miserére nobis

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: Miserére nobis

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: Dona nobis pacem

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us You who take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us For you only are holy You only are the Lord You only, O Jesus Christ, are most high Together with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen

I believe in one God The Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all

things visible and invisible And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God

- Born of the Father before all ages
- God of God
- Light of Light True God of true God
- Begotten, not made, consub-stantial with the Father; by whom all things were made
- Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary; and was made man

- He was also crucified for us suffered under Pontius Pilate and was buried
- And on the third day he arose again according to the Scriptures
- He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father
- And he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; and of his kindom there shall be no end And in the Holy Spirit, the
- Lord and Giver of Life
- Who proceeds from the Father and the Son
- Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified
- Who spoke by the Prophets And in one, holy, Catholic and
- Apostolic Church I confess one baptism for the remission of sins
- of the dead And the life of the world to come.

Amen.

- Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Sabaoth Heaven and earth are filled with your glory Hosanna in the highest Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest
- Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world,
- have mercy on us Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us Lamb of God, you who take
- away the sins of the world, grant us peace

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE PERSONNEL

Marilyn Eginton

SOPRANO

Sally Anderson Samela Aird Beasom Nicole Brunel Joan Beaumier Kelly Calhoun Pam Chapin Sara Chason Martha Cown Donna Cox Mary Daval Jeanne Davenport **Diane Demetras** Rhonda Dillon Denise Dumeyer Pamela Erven Claire Gordon Barbara Hancock **Rose Harris** Julia Hurn Won-Jung Kim Cathy Larsen Nancy Milions Phoebe O'Brien Marilou Petrone Marti Pia Holly-Shaw Price Sherrill Sajak Linda Sauer **Peggy Scheeper** Sue Scott **Bonnie Smith Christine Sorenson** Sarah Stokes Kathryn Stukas **Christine Sudderth** Nancy von Oeyen Sara Willard **Tina Youngstrom Diana** Zaslove

ALTO

Natalie Beck Helen Birch Sarah Bloxham Aleta Braxton Donna Covert Charlotte de Windt

BASS

Lenard Berglund

Sally Etcheto Nancy Fontana Michelle Fournier **Catherine Guard** Laurie Gurman Mary Hinshaw **Bridgid Kinney** Helen Leneman Eileen Holt Sara Conway-Jones Joan Keesey Mary Martin Joanna Medawar Nancy O'Brien Joyce Paxson Halo Priest Carol Reich Chervl Roach Lori Turner **Iennifer** Williams Barbara Wilson Hanna Yaqub

TENOR

James Beaumier Chris Bowman Augustine Castagnola Paul Gibson Jody Golightly Alex Guerrero **Robert Gurnee** Tim Johnson Charles Lane Tim Leon Larry Minton Bill Nazarro Keith Paulson Jay Pearce Kirk Prather Marshall Ramirez David Rivinus George Scott Maurice Staples George Sterne **Thomas Trent** Scott Whitaker **Robert Stribling**

Andy Black David Chang Fred Colman Fred Crum Kevin Dalbey David Darling Mark Davis Phillip Dorfman Albert Eddy Steve Fraider John Gingrich Kevin Greenhaw Paul Hinshaw Thomas Kao Kerry Katz Craig Kingsbury Ed Levy Roger Lindbeck Bob McCormac Lee Oliver Jim Raycroft William Roberts David Schnell **Robert Seibold** William Struebing **David Theriault** Burman Timberlake Don Whitsitt **Richard Williams**

SINFONIA OF LOS ANGELES

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\$27.50, \$22.00, \$16.50, \$11.00



JOHN CURRIE was born in Scotland and first studied conducting at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music where he garnered many awards. Since then his work with choruses and orchestras has become internationally recognized. In recent years he has appeared as guest conductor with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Israel Sinfonietta, The National Orchestra of Belgium and the Scottish National Orchestra.

Mr. Currie has also earned a high reputation as a chorus master, working with Carlo Maria Giulini, Zubin Mehta, Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Muti and Sir George Solti, with orchestras ranging from the Israel Philharmonic to the Chicago Symphony. He has been chorus master of both the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and the Scottish National Orchestra Chorus. In 1981 he founded The Scottish Chorus which has appeared in Belgium, Israel and in Italy, including La Scala, Milan. Earlier, in 1968, he founded The John Currie Singers and Orchestra, with whom he conducted numerous world premieres. In opera he has conducted Dido and Aeneas, Savitri, Orfeo, all with Dame Janet Baker in the title roles, and Mozart's Don Giovanni and Idomeneo. In May, 1986, at the Perth Festival, Mr. Currie was highly acclaimed for a new production of Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro which he conducted, produced and translated.

1986-87 is the debut season of John Currie in his new position as Music Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale and Sinfonia of Los Angeles.



JEAN REDPATH, one of the world's great folksingers, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and graduated from Edinburgh University. She taught in the Middletown, Connecticut school system and at Wesleyan University from 1971 to 1976 and has given summer seminars in Scottish song and ballads at Stirling University in Scotland since 1979.

Recognized in her native land as the foremost interpreter of Scottish traditional music, she appears regularly at the Edinburgh Festival and has toured for the Scottish Arts Council. In 1977 she was one of only four performers commanded to appear before the royal family at Edinburgh Castle during the Queen's jubilee.

Miss Redpath's busy schedule includes recording sessions, international concert tours and radio and television appearances. Since the mid-1970s she has focused much of her L-14

About the Artists

attention on recording the songs of Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland. The first five of a projected twenty volumes of all 323 Burns' songs have already been produced and have received superlative reviews.

Familiar on Scottish radio and television, Miss Redpath was the host of the BBC-TV series "Ballad Folk" and has appeared on "How to Be Celtic" and "Jean Redpath," a personal series for Scottish BBC-TV. U.S. audiences know her from appearances on Robert J. Lurtsema's "Morning Pro Musica" on Boston Public Radio and on Garrison Keiller's "A Prairie Home Companion" on American Public Radio.

After living in the United States for 15 years, Miss Redpath returned to establish residency in Leven, Scotland in 1976.



MICHAEL ZEAROTT has been acclaimed by Saturday Review as one of America's most brilliant young conductor/pianists. He earned a Ph.D in composition at UCLA and conducted the New York Philharmonic in Lincoln Center as first prize winner of the Mitropoulos International Conducting Competition.

Mr. Zearott made his European debut in "Les Concerts du Palais Princier" in Monaco with violinist Zito Francescatti at the invitation of Prince Rainier.

He has been pianist for the Heifetz Master Class and has toured the United States with the chorales of Roger Wagner and Robert Shaw. Other piano background includes work with Alexander Karnbach, Bernard Comsky, Gyorgy Sandor, Leo Smit and Jakob Gimpel. He studied accompaniment with Emanuel Bay and Gwendolyn Kildofsky.

Mr. Zearott has been assistant conductor of the Atlanta Symphony and associate conductor of l'Orchestre National de Monte Carlo. He is currently music director of NOVA Concerts in Long Beach, and formerly held that post at the Ojai Festival and the Los Angeles Guild Opera. He has been guest conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, California Chamber Symphony, Glendale Symphony, Fresno Philharmonic and others in both New York and Europe.



Soprano MARY RAWCLIFFE is a member of the voice faculty at UCLA and the recipient of a California Arts Council Touring Grant for 1987-88. She has performed music of Bach,

Vaughan-Williams and Vivaldi with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and music of Schwanter, Stock and Kraft with the Philharmonic's New Music Group. Ms. Rawcliffe has been a member of the of the Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Roger Wagner Chorale.

Educated at Lawrence Conservatory in Wisconsin and the University of Illinois, she also has studied internationally with such teachers as Martial Singher and Pierra Bernac.

Ms. Rawcliffe has performed many times with Early Music Specialist Christopher Hogwood and the L.A. Philharmonic, including the *Messiah* that was part of the Olympic Arts Festival in summer 1984. In the same festival she was asked by Sir Colin Davis to cover the role of Queen of the Night in the Royal Opera's performances of *The Magic Flute*. Other festival appearances include the Hollywood Bowl, Ojao, Tanglewood and San Luis Obispo Mozart festivals.

In May she will make her debut at the Bethlehem Bach Festival in Pennsylvania.



Mezzo-soprano **JANET SMITH** is a soughtafter soloist, especially noted for her musically sensitive and intelligent interpretations of the oratorio repertoire. The vast list of oratorios she has performed numbers over fifty, ranging from the Bach *B Minor Mass* and Handel *Messiah* to the Beethoven *Missa Solemnis* and Verdi *Requiem*.

Ms. Smith has appeared as guest soloist across the country with the Indianapolis Symphony, Utah Symphony, Anchorage Basically Bach Festival, El Paso Pro Musica, Oklahoma Symphony and others.

Her frequent Southern California appearances have included performances with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Pasadena Symphony, San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, Pacific Symphony, Glendale Symphony and San Diego Master Chorale.

A member of the widely acclaimed Los Angeles Vocal Arts Ensemble, Ms. Smith can be heard on an Angel Label recording, "A Little Sondheim Music" as well as two Nonesuch label recordings, Rossini's "Sins of My Old Age" and Brahms' "Liebeslieder Waltzes."

Ms. Smith's operatic roles have included that of Florence Pike in Britten's Albert Herring, Baba in Menotti's The Medium, Arnalta in Monteverdi's L'Incoronatione di Poppea, Marcellina in Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro and Rachel in the world premiere of Eugene Zador's Yehu.

Ms. Smith is currently a member of the music faculty at Chapman College, Orange, California.

Tenor **THOMAS RANDLE** had early training in conducting, theory and composition and later was awarded a scholarship to study voice at the University of Southern California, where his teachers included Michael Sell and Gwendolyn Koldofsky. He continued with summer



and master classes in Germany under Aldo Baldin and Kurt Equiluz.

Increasingly in demand as a soloist in the United States and Europe, Mr. Randle has been critically acclaimed for his performances of traditional and contemporary music. Appearances include those with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and their New Music Group, the Los Angeles Chamber orchestra, the New Mexico Symphony, the Long Beach Symphony, Back-Collegium Stuttgart and Kammerorchester Baden-Wurttemberg under such conductors as Helmuth Rilling, Margaret Hillis, Eric Ericson, Murray Sidlin and Sir Michael Tippett. The versatility of his voice has produced a repertoire that encompasses nearly every style of lieder, chamber music, oratorio and opera from early Baroque to the twentieth century.

Mr. Randle has been especially noted for his interpretation of the music of J.S. Bach and has sung for Bach festivals in California, Oregon, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico, as well as the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival. European appearances include the J.S. Bach Sommerakademie and the prestigious "Internationales Musikfest Stuttgart."



A native of Toledo, Ohio, baritone **THOMAS WILCOX** received his bachelor's degree from Wheaton College and completed extensive graduate work at the University of Southern California.

In 1980, he was awarded first prize at the Dutch International singing competition in s'hertogenbosch, Netherlands. He has been a finalist in the Gold-Award for Singers in London, England, the Munich International Singing Competition and the Young Concert Artists Competition in New York City.

Mr. Wilcox also is the recipient of a Martha Baird Rockerfeller Fellowship award and the William Matheus Sullivan Foundation Grant. His performances have included the Bach Passions, Walton's Belshazzar's Feast, Brahms' Requiem and Elijah, with such organizations as The Los Angeles Master Chorale, San Diego Symphony, William Hall Chorale and the Pasadena Chamber Orchestra.

Most recently, he was soloist with the LAMC in the 1986 Messiah Sing-Along.

STUART CANIN, concertmaster, was also concertmaster of the San Francisco Symphony from 1970 to 1980. He was born in New York City where he studied the violin with famed pedagogue, Ivan Galamian.



In 1959 he was the winner of the highly coveted First Prize of the Paganini International Violin Competition in Genoa, Italy. He recently returned from Italy where he had been invited by the Italian government to give a series of recitals as part of the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Niccolo Paganini. He has also been honored by his native city, New York, with its highest cultural award, the Handel Medal, in recognition of his musical achievements. Isaac Stern and Beverly Sills have also been recipients of this award.

As concertmaster of the San Francisco Symphony under Seiji Ozawa, Canin was featured as soloist with the orchestra on numerous occasions, including concerts in Moscow, Leningrad, Berlin, and Tokyo. As a recitalist, and as soloist with other major European and American orchestras, Canin has concertized extensively throughout the two continents.

Before joining the San Francisco Symphony, Canin was concertmaster and violin soloist of the Chamber Symphony of Philadelphia. He has also served as concertmaster of the Casals Festival orchestra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City, and the San Francisco Opera.

For many years Canin was a chamber music artist with the Aspen Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado. In addition, he has participated in the Spoleto Festival in Spoleto, Italy, and Charleston, S.C., and the Sante Fe Chamber Music Festival.

He has served as professor of violin at prestigious conservatories in this country and abroad, among them the Oberlin Conservatory and the Musikhochschule in Freiberg, Germany.

At present he pursues an active concert career as well as being on the faculty of the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is also a member of the Artist Faculty of the Summer Music Festival of the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California. The LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE AND SINFONIA OF LOS ANGELES has been a resident company of the Music Center since its founding in 1964 by Roger Wagner, together with the late Z. Wayne Griffin and the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Wagner's pioneering efforts gave Los Angeles a unique reputation as the first major city in the country to support its own professional resident chorus in a regular annual series of choral programs. The Master Chorale presented its first concert at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in January, 1965, with a performance of Bach's B Minor Mass. In addition to performing its own concert series, the Master Chorale also appears regularly in joint performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, both in the orchestra's annual series at the Music Center and in the Philharmonic's summer series at the Hollywood Bowl. In 1973, the Chorale appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Presidential Inauguration concert at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In 1974, the Chorale undertook a 15 day tour of major Soviet cities, under the U.S. State Department's cultural exchange program with Russia. In summer of 1984, the Chorale participated in three programs during Olympic Arts Week at Hollywood Bowl, preceding the opening ceremonies of the XXIIIrd Games of the Olympiad. In the fall of 1985, the Master Chorale was selected as choral ensemble for ten performances with the Deutsche Opera of West Berlin during its engagement at the Music Center. This past spring, the Master Chorale joined the Philharmonic on their East Coast tour to New York's Carnegie Hall and Philadelphia's Academy of Music where they performed Britten's Spring Symphony with André Previn. In the fall of 1986, the Master Chorale became the official chorus for the inaugural season of the Los Angeles Music Center Opera, participating in productions of Verdi's Otello, Puccini's Madama Butterfly and Handel's Alcina. John Currie of Edinburgh, Scotland became the Chorale's second Music Director in September 1986, succeeding Roger Wagner, who became Music Director Laureate. Seventeen guest conductors have led the Master Chorale since its founding and during these years the Chorale has performed a broad range of repertoire including virtually all the masterpieces of choral-orchestral literature, as well as several world premieres and important contemporary choral scores.



HANDEL: Messiah

Saturday, April 18, 1987 at 8:00 p.m.

The extraordinary *Messiah*, performed with forces similar to those used on the very first occasion in Dublin, Ireland. Mr. Currie will lead the Master Chorale and Sinfonia of Los Angeles with soloists Andrea Matthews, Soprano; Christine Cairns, Mezzo-soprano; Paul Johnson, Tenor; and Richard Cowan, Baritone.

\$27.50, \$22.00, \$16.50, \$11.00

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Twenty two years ago the Los Angeles Master Chorale Associates was formed as the support group for the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the resident choral company that was formed at the opening of the Music Center: twenty two years of traditions, wonderful friendships and beautiful music. Please join us as one of a growing number of friendly, enthusiastic music lovers by becoming a member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale Associates.

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Sincerely,

Tania McKnight President Los Angeles Master Chorale Associates

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