

TerriAnn in Torrance

Torrance Symphony



By TerriAnn Ferren

Have you ever been to a symphony concert? Webster tells us that a symphony is "... an extended composition for full orchestra, having several (usually four) movements related in subject, but varying in form and execution." Last year, Itzhak Perlman, violin virtuoso, conductor and master instructor/teacher, performed at the Los Angeles Community College. On that evening, Mr. Perlman stopped the concert to instruct, ever so gently, the novices in the audience from applauding between movements because it was most distracting. I am sure those who heard the concert that night will not soon forget that you only applaud at the end!

For 26 years, our own Torrance Symphony has tackled many a difficult composers' works to rave reviews and accolades. In the early 1990s, Peggy Dowell had the vision to create a symphony orchestra in the city of Torrance and spearheaded the move to make that dream a reality. I recently spoke with board of directors officer Dr. Howard Korman, who shared with me that in the early years of the Torrance Symphony Association, concerts were held at Torrance High School Auditorium. Today, the James Armstrong Theatre is home to our own Torrance Symphony. Wilson Park is the site of

Torrance Symphony Photo by Bob Young.

the symphony's Concerts in the Park, held on the fourth Sunday in August (this year on August 28), hosted by the City of Torrance. Maestro Forrester originally led the Torrance Symphony, but since around 1995 Frank Paul Fetta has served as music director and conductor.

Maestro Fetta is the principal conductor not only of the Torrance Symphony Orchestra, but also for the Redlands Bowl Music Festival Symphony Orchestra, the Culver City Symphony and the Marina del Rey Summer Symphony. In addition, Maestro Fetta is the principal conductor of the Nevada Opera Theatre and the Loren Zachary International Voice Competition. Maestro Fetta has collaborated with many other musicians, including Beverly Sills, Judy Collins, Amy Irving, Michael J. Fox, Linda Wang, Julian Lloyd Webber, Cybill Shepherd, Dudley Moore, Cathy Rigby, and many more. The City of Torrance Cultural Arts Commission honored Maestro Fetta in 2004 with the Excellence in Arts Award for Music. The City is truly fortunate to have a conductor with the background and prestige of Maestro Frank Fetta.

Although the Torrance Symphony has had

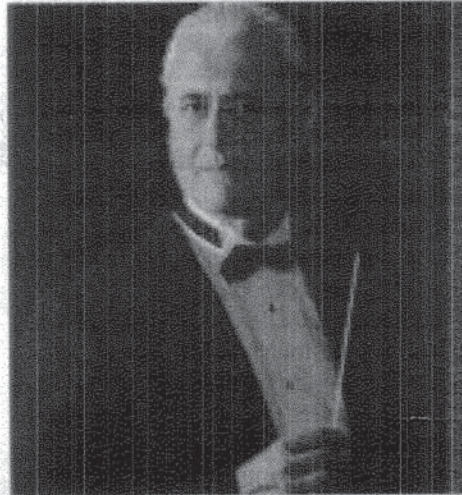
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wonderful seasons in the past, the 2010/2011 season promises to be even more ambitious and diverse. Beginning on January 15, the Torrance Symphony and the Taiwanese United Fund will join together to present Taiwan Night Concert, which will feature the works of Professor Tyzen Hsiao. This remarkable performance will be at 8 p.m., and \$10 tickets may be purchased in advanced or on the day of the concert. This truly will be an evening to remember since the renowned Hsiao will be in the audience as his *1947 Overture and Requiem di Formosa* and *The Beautiful Land* will be performed, along with selections from Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite*. Can you imagine anything more special than hearing and experiencing this marvelous concert close by at the James Armstrong Theatre?

The Symphony will have a FUNdraiser on February 12, so be ready with your poodle skirt and slicked-back hair or love beads and tie-dyed t-shirt for a trip back to the 1950s/'60s with the Wonderelles. They will take us back in time with songs like "Johnny Angel," "Mustang Sally," and "Proud Mary," as this high-energy group will have you moving out of your seat and dancing into the aisles of the Ken Miller Auditorium. All this high-energy singing and dancing with refreshments included is only \$30 and part of the annual FUNdraiser for the Symphony.

Although many of us associate March with basketball and March Madness, the Symphony will be hosting its own March Musical Madness Concert on March 19 in the James Armstrong Theatre at 8 p.m.

Are you a young musician? Would you like to compete with other talented young artists residing in Southern California? The Torrance Symphony has an opportunity for you! Since 1996, with a generous donation by John Bramhall, the Torrance Symphony has been encouraging young musicians from seven- to 25-years-old to participate in the Concerto Competition for Young Artists. Awards are provided in three categories: junior (14-years-old and younger), intermediate (15- to 18-years-old), and senior (19- to 25-years-old). Winners are given the opportunity to perform with the Symphony under the direction of Maestro Fetta. This year



Maestro Frank Fetta Photo by Joey Ikemoto.

the finalists for the Young Artists Concerto Competition will be featured in the May 21 concert FUNdraiser Symphony Idol at the James Armstrong Theatre at 8 p.m. Where else could young, talented musicians have the opportunity to perform with a large orchestra? The winners for 2010 are pianist Sichen Ma, violinist Mayumi Kanagawa, and pianist Jay Choi, who will be featured in concerts throughout this season. This competition truly reflects the mission of the Torrance Symphony which is "to enhance the community's cultural growth by promoting the appreciation of fine music through symphony concerts of high artistic quality, educational music programs for children, and opportunities for emerging and young artists."

Victor Hugo said, "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent." Music sets the mood, sets the action, and can remind us of a special person, place or time. Whether you remember to wait to applaud until the fourth movement or not, enjoy the music whenever you have the opportunity and take in a concert by our own Torrance Symphony Orchestra because it provides a phenomenal opportunity to experience one of the most beautiful bodies of music right in our own town.

If you would like more information on concerts and on how to become a friend of the Torrance Symphony Association, please call Dr. Howard Korman at 310-373-2442, or access www.torrancesymphony.org.