

# SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

## Find Your Music™ HISTORY

### CHANGING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC

The San Diego Symphony Orchestra performed its first concert on December 6, 1910. In the 100-plus years since its inception, the SDSO has become one of the leading orchestras in the United States and was designated a Tier 1 Orchestra by the League of American Orchestras in 2010. It is committed to providing musical experiences of superior quality for the greater San Diego community and beyond. Through a rich mixture of innovative and educational programming designed to appeal to all ages and cultures, the Symphony makes music an integral part of the cultural and intellectual fabric of Southern California, valued by and relevant to all its residents. The Orchestra offers wide range of concert experiences and performs more than 140 concerts each year. The SDSO's performances at the Jacobs Music Center and beyond include:

- Jacobs Masterworks offers traditional classical repertoire and features guest artists such as Joshua Bell, Lang Lang and Gil Shaham.
- City Lights features popular guest artists such as Audra McDonald, Kenny G and Michael Feinstein.
- Family Concerts feature family-friendly concerts and an opportunity to expose children to classical music.
- The Fox Theatre Film Series shows classic Silent Films and contemporary favorites. The Hall's built-in, mighty Fox Theatre Organ accompanies the classics of the Silent Film Era projected above by period carbon-arc projectors.
- Jazz @ The Jacobs brings together the finest local and international artists of modern jazz music at the Jacobs Music Center.
- The Chamber Music Series presented at the Auditorium at TSRI and other venues that brings together world-class performers and musicians of the Orchestra for intimate musical encounters.
- Each summer, the Orchestra presents an outdoor Bayside Summer Nights season at Embarcadero Marina Park South, mixing classical favorites and pop music on San Diego's picturesque waterfront.

### **Our Home**

Historic Copley Symphony Hall inside the Jacobs Music Center is regarded as one of the finest classical music venues on the West Coast. Originally built in 1929 as The Fox Theatre, this lush movie palace style hall became the property of the SDSO in 1984. The beauty and majesty of this historic hall added to the stature and artistic growth of SDSO. On October 11, 2013, the complex consisting of Copley Symphony Hall, the newly renovated lobbies, the backstage areas, the Grosvenor Family Musicians' Center and the Symphony administrative offices was officially named the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Music Center.

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### **Late 20th Century History**

Many renowned conductors have been the SDSO's music director, including Earl Bernard Murray, David Atherton and Yoav Talmi. Robert Shaw was music director of the Symphony from 1953-58. In 1983, Orchestra's then composer-in-residence, Bernard Rands, won the Pulitzer Prize, furthering the outstanding reputation of SDSO. In 1992, the Orchestra commemorated the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing with a televised concert in Mexico's Chichen Itza ruins. In the 1980s and 1990s, labor and cash flow problems led to several season stoppages and even to bankruptcy. Late in the 1990s, however, the orchestra recovered and, with the aid of significant gifts, began playing under the leadership of the former assistant conductor, Jung Ho Pak. In 1998, the SDSO revived with a tour of the West Coast with Andrea Bocelli.

### **The Gift**

On January 14, 2002, the SDSO celebrated the announcement of the single largest donation ever made to a Symphony Orchestra, totaling \$120 million. This pledged gift was generously given by Joan and Irwin Jacobs, solidifying a sustained period of stability for the orchestra marked by what has now been more than 15 straight years of balanced budgets. At the time of the gift, The New York Times declared the SDSO was "placed firmly on the nation's musical landscape" as a result of this news

### **The Music Director**

Internationally acclaimed conductor Rafael Payare will become the orchestra's next music director with a four-year contract that begins on July 1, 2019. Payare will debut at the San Diego podium in his new role January 2019, when he kicks off the fourth annual San Diego Symphony January festival. As the San Diego Symphony's music director, Payare will succeed Maestro Jahja Ling, whose tenure began in 2004-05 and culminated in the 2016-17 season. Beginning in the 2019-20 season, Payare will conduct the Symphony for 10 weeks each season including performances in the Bayside Summer Nights series at the orchestra's summer home.

### **The Tour**

The San Diego Symphony Orchestra made history on October 29, 2013 with its first appearance ever at New York's Carnegie Hall, performing a sold-out concert with pianist Lang Lang under the baton of Jahja Ling. A subsequent China Friendship Tour took the orchestra through concert dates in Shanghai, Yantai (San Diego's "Sister City") and Beijing November 1-11.

### **The Book**

The full authoritative history of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra can be found in San Diego Symphony: From Overture to Encore by Symphony Archivist Dr. Melvin G. Goldzband.