

SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

The San Diego Symphony performed its first concert on December 6, 1910. In the 100-plus years since its inception, the San Diego Symphony 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 San Diego Symphony recently celebrated their 100th anniversary, the first California orchestra to reach this milestone.

The Symphony offers wide range of concert experiences and performs over 100 concerts each year. The San Diego Symphony performances include the Jacobs Masterworks series with music director Jahja Ling, offering traditional classical repertoire and featuring such recent guest artists as Horacio Gutierrez, Joshua Bell, Lang Lang and Gil Shaham; the City Lights series, featuring principal pops conductor Marvin Hamlisch and popular guest artists such as Jennifer Holliday, Michael Feinstein, Peter Cetera, Bill Conti and Brian Stokes Mitchell ; the Family Festival, featuring family-friendly concerts; and the Symphony Exposé, a fascinating series of concerts that examine classical works from entertaining and thought-provoking angles.

Each summer, from July through September, the Symphony presents an outdoor Summer Pops season at Embarcadero Marina Park South, mixing classical favorites and pop music in a festive, outdoor atmosphere on San Diego's picturesque waterfront, all under the baton of Matthew Garbutt, principal Summer Pops conductor. Recent Summer Pops guest artists have included Frankie Valli, Chris Botti, Aaron Neville, LeAnn Rimes, Kool & The Gang, Frank Sinatra Jr., Dionne Warwick, Wynonna and Burt Bacharach.

Historic Copley Symphony Hall, home of the San Diego Symphony, is regarded as one of the finest classical music venues on the West Coast. Originally built in 1929 as The Fox Theatre, a premiere movie house, this lush movie palace style hall became the property of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra Association in 1984. The beauty and majesty of this historic hall has added to the stature and artistic growth of San Diego Symphony.

Many renowned conductors have held the position of music director of San Diego Symphony, including Earl Bernard Murray, David Atherton and Yoav Talmi. Robert Shaw was music director of the Symphony from 1953-1958.

In 1983, San Diego Symphony's then composer-in-residence, Bernard Rands, won the Pulitzer Prize, furthering the outstanding reputation of San Diego Symphony. In 1992, the Symphony

commemorated the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing with a televised concert in Mexico's Chichen Itza ruins. In 1998 the Symphony toured the west coast with Andrea Bocelli.

On January 14, 2002, the San Diego Symphony 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 12 straight years of balanced budgets. *The New York Times* declared the San Diego Symphony "placed firmly on the nation's musical landscape" as a result of this news. After a world-wide search, conductor Jahja Ling of the Cleveland Orchestra and Cleveland Orchestra Blossom Festival became the current music director of the San Diego Symphony beginning in the 2004-05 season.