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Alumni Recital

Josepjh Modica

Thomas Cuffari

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Chapman University
Conservatory of Music

Presents

An Alumni Recital

Joseph Modica '95, conductor

Featuring

Thomas Cuffari '96, piano

Chapman University
Salmon Recital Hall
Wednesday, March 5, 2008
8:00pm

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Doctor of Musical Arts Degree with a major in Choral Music
University of Southern California

Program:

Symphony no. 35, K. 385, "Haffner"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Allegro con spirito

Andante

Minuet and Trio

Presto

Piano Concerto in A Minor, op. 54

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Allegro affettuoso

Intermezzo

Allegro vivace

Joseph Modica is presently the Interim Director of Choral Activities at Chapman University, where he conducts the University Choir, University Singers, teaches conducting and choral methods. He has held adjunct teaching positions at Biola University and Chapman University. Mr. Modica has earned a Bachelor of Music degree in conducting from Chapman University, a Master of Music degree from California State University Long Beach, and is currently studying toward the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Music at the University of Southern California. Mr. Modica is formerly the Director of Choral Activities at Mater Dei High School, and he taught for 5 years at Redlands East Valley High School. His choirs consistently received superior ratings at festivals and competitions and have been heard at two CMEA State Conferences. Mr. Modica is active in many professional organizations such as ACDA, MENC, and SCVA, and enjoys serving as a clinician and adjudicator throughout California. He has studied conducting with William Hall, William Dehning, Jonathan Talberg, Larry Livingston, Lynn Bielefelt and Magen Solomon. Mr. Modica is also the artistic director of the Festival Choir at the Idyllwild Summer Arts Camp, and taught for five years at the Summer Fine Arts Camp at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. His choirs have sung in Italy, Australia, Hawaii, New York, Washington D.C., Florida and the Bahamas. Tonight's concert represents his final recital for the Doctorate of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Southern California.

Thomas Cuffari is known for his passionate interpretations and versatility. A New York native, Thomas was born in New Rochelle and began playing the piano at age 5. His love of the piano has led him to many adventures in the world of music and brought demand for his talents as both a soloist and collaborator.

Thomas is a member of the Scarborough Trio (flute, bassoon, piano). With the Trio he has been a two-time feature on WQXR's "Young Artists Showcase" with Bob Sherman. They have appeared on several live radio broadcasts as well, including the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series on Chicago's WFMT, and WXXI's "Live at Hochstein" in Rochester, NY. Scarborough Trio was awarded the Silver Medal at the 2004 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition at Notre Dame University. In February 2003, the trio gave their professional debut concert at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall as winners of the Artists International NY Jury Debut Award.

Thomas graduated from Chapman University in 1996 where he earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance studying with Dr. Joseph Matthews. He completed his Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance at Manhattan School of Music as a student of Sarah Davis Buechner. He is currently on the piano faculty at Concordia College Conservatory in Bronxville, NY. Upcoming engagements include performances in New York, Connecticut and a tour of the Florida Keys.

Upcoming Events at the Conservatory of Music:

Friday, April 4

Invitational Concert Choir Festival
3pm, Memorial Auditorium

April 11-13

Opera Chapman
presents

Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicci*

April 11 & 12, 8pm; April 13, 3pm
Chapman University Memorial Auditorium

May 3

Scholund Scholarship Concert

Beethoven, *Choral Fantasy, op. 80*

Dr. Grace Fong, piano

Mozart, *Missa in c, k. 427 "The Great Mass"*

(completed and edited by Robert Levin)

Special Thanks:

Larry Livingston

Svitlana Fiorito

Norm Major, Major Productions

Chapman University Conservatory of Music

Rick Christopherson

Teren Shaffer

Members of the Chapman Chamber Orchestra

And mostly – Tiffany and Jeremy Modica