

1-18-2008

## Conservatory of Music and Pacific Symphony Team for American Frontier Concert Feb. 11

Chapman University Media Relations

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press\\_releases](http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press_releases)

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "Conservatory of Music and Pacific Symphony Team for American Frontier Concert Feb. 11" (2008). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. Paper 206.  
[http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press\\_releases/206](http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press_releases/206)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Chapman Press at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011 by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [laughtin@chapman.edu](mailto:laughtin@chapman.edu).



## Conservatory of Music and Pacific Symphony Team for American Frontier Concert Feb. 11

**ORANGE, Calif., Jan. 18, 2008** --Chapman University Conservatory of Music is pleased to announce a partnership with Orange Countys Pacific Symphony, one of the most respected arts organizations in Southern California, in a concert as part of PSO's prestigious 2008 American Composers Festival. The concert will feature the Chapman Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Music Director Daniel Alfred Wachs, with principal members of the Pacific Symphony in a concert titled "Portraits of the American Frontier" to be held on the Chapman University campus on Monday, February 11, 2008.

In addition to the Chapman Chamber Orchestra, the University Choir will perform under the direction of Professor Joseph Modica. Newly appointed director of keyboard studies Dr. Grace Fong will also perform.

The focal point of the concert will be the screening of the historic 1936 documentary by Pare Lorenz, *The Plow that Broke the Plains*, with original music by Virgil Thomson, conducted by Daniel Alfred Wachs, Music Director of Chapman University Orchestras.

A pre-concert lecture will be moderated by Joseph Horowitz, Artistic Advisor of the Pacific Symphonys American Composers Festival. Complementing this event will be an exhibition of photos taken in the 1930s by Horace Bristol, which served as inspiration for the John Ford movie "The Grapes of Wrath," based on John Steinbeck's novel. The exhibit will be on display in Chapmans Guggenheim Gallery during regular gallery hours, M-F 11am-4pm and Saturdays noon-5pm, through March 15.

*The concert is free to all Chapman students, faculty and staff. Admission to the "Grapes of Wrath" photography exhibition is also free.*

### **Tickets:**

General Admission Adult \$20, Non-Chapman Students - \$10, Chapman Students, Faculty and Staff - Free with ID

### **Orange Countys Pacific Symphony**

Founded in 1978, Orange Countys Pacific Symphony is now the third largest orchestra in California and the largest orchestra formed in the United States in the last 30 years. It has played a central role in the growth of the performing arts in Orange County.

The orchestra recently undertook its first European tour, with concerts in nine cities including Munich, Vienna, and Lucerne. Next fall, it moves into the new Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, designed by Cesar Pelli with acoustician Russell Johnson. *The Christian Science Monitor* has called the orchestras ongoing American Composers Festival an unprecedented

initiative to explore the impact of non-European sounds on Western music [which] marked the Symphony as a leader in contemporary classical music.

The orchestras primary venue is the Orange County Performing Arts Center. The Pacific Symphony also performs with the Pacific Chorale and serves as the pit orchestra for the Centers international ballet series.

Since 1987, the Pacific Symphony has offered summer outdoor concerts with pre-concert picnicking and fireworks at Verizon Wireless Amphitheater. These summer concerts draw more than 45,000 Southern Californians annually.

The Pacific Symphony is dedicated to education and community outreach, providing 20 different programs to serve Orange County residents. Its newest educational program, arts-X-press, was launched in August of 2001, and served 100 middle school students throughout Orange County during the initial year of the program. Developed by Music Director Carl St.Clair, his wife Susan, and the Symphonys Education Department to honor the memory of Cole Carsan St.Clair, arts-X-press immerses students in a week-long residential multi-arts program, in which they experience dance, drama, instrumental music, vocal music, and visual art. The program includes individual instruction, workshops, and field trips. The Symphony has since expanded the program to serve 150 students every summer.

The Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra develops the musical talents of gifted young instrumentalists through orchestral training and coaching sessions. The Pacific Symphonys Frieda Belinfante Class Act Program, sponsored by Howard F. Ahmanson Jr., is a free Adopt-a-School program that serves 40 elementary schools. It was named one of nine exemplary orchestra education programs in the nation by the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Symphony Orchestra League.

### **Chapman University College of Performing Arts**

The College of Performing Arts is the cultural and aesthetic center of Chapman University, bringing together the Conservatory of Music and the Departments of Art, Dance and Theatre. Emphasis is placed on scholarship, creativity, free expression and intellectual curiosity through both curricular offerings and a broad spectrum of cultural events. College of Performing Arts students have the opportunity to be part of special events such as Chapmans American Celebration, a Broadway-style musical revue that serves as the universitys largest annual fundraiser and is the largest annual fund-raising gala in Orange County.

The Conservatory of Music is one of the nations premiere music programs and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The music complex of Berteau and Oliphant Halls total more than 44,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities that serves 225 majors and 400 university students daily. The Conservatory has a rich tradition in the arts, with many of its graduates performing with major orchestras and opera houses throughout the United States and abroad. The Conservatory of Music is internationally recognized and offers students a conservatory experience within the environment of a liberal arts university. Faculty members are

nationally and internationally recognized performers, conductors, composers, and educators. Degree programs offered include the Bachelor of Arts in Music; Bachelor of Music in Composition, Performance, Conducting, Music Education (pre-certification) and Music Therapy.

### **Chapman Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra**

The Chapman Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra have received wide recognition for their outstanding performances and are considered to be among the finest university ensembles on the West Coast. The Chapman Orchestras received national recognition when presented with the coveted ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) award at the American Symphony Orchestra League Annual Conference for their performances of music by American composers.

In frequent demand for performances, the orchestras have performed at the Music Educators National, Divisional, State, and Southern Section Conferences and the Chamber Orchestra has been the featured performing ensemble for the CMEA (California Music Educators Association) Southern Section Conference. The Chamber Orchestra tours annually on the West Coast of the United States and has performed extensively on international tours in Europe, China, Hong Kong, and Japan.

Both ensembles provide students with the opportunity to participate in various workshops led by the Conservatory's Artist-in-Residence and Ensemble-in-Residence programs. In the 2007-2008 season, the California E.A.R. Unit will be providing workshops on performance techniques of contemporary music, while Ariana Ghez, Principal Oboe of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, will be hosting woodwind master classes, reed making sessions, and wind sectionals.

Daniel Alfred Wachs, Director of Instrumental Studies, conducts both the Chapman Symphony and Chamber Orchestras.

### **Chapman University Choir**

The 118-member University Choir is a select group chosen from students throughout the university, and is open to non-majors by audition. The choir is under the direction of professor Joseph Modica.

The Chapman University choral organizations have flourished over the last 30 years under the leadership of former director Dr. William Hall, now dean of the College of Performing Arts. An extensive tour of the Western United States highlights each year's schedule, while every two or three years, the ensemble travels and performs in Asia or Europe.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote, "They sing with singular simultaneity and lovely tone, cut off with absolute precision, and their fortes are as effortless and powerful as if one had merely applied an organ swell." The University Choir has also been featured on the soundtracks of motion pictures and can be seen in the movie *Sister Act II*.

## **Daniel Alfred Wachs**

Conductor and pianist Daniel Alfred Wachs is increasingly recognized as one of the few musicians of his generation successfully balancing the demands of a busy conducting and solo career. Recently, his performance with the Minnesota Orchestra proved a revelation, delivering a technically impeccable, emotionally powerful performance of two Mozart piano concertos and a pair of solo works (*St. Paul Pioneer Press*).

In the fall of 2006, Mr. Wachs was named Music Director and Director of Instrumental Studies of the Conservatory of Music at Chapman University. Concurrently, he serves as an Assistant Conductor of the National Orchestra of France in Paris under Kurt Masur; Mr. Wachs recent engagements include the French premiere of Bernsteins *Candide* at the Thtre du Chtelet (a co production with La Scala and ENO) and Britten's *Albert Herring* with Opera Chapman. He served as a juror for the 2007 ASCAP Foundation Rudolf Nissim Award in New York and as Assistant Conductor and Repetiteur for Cincinnati Opera during its 2007 Season. In February 2007, Mr. Wachs replaced Valery Gergiev at the Rotterdam Philharmonic. Upcoming engagements include a recital with tenor William Burden and as soloist with the Boca Raton Philharmonic.

Highlights of Mr. Wachs tenure as Assistant Conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra include a semi-staged performance of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (with the Minnesota Opera Chorus and James Sewell Ballet Company), as host and conductor of an evening of Mozart Symphonies, and various pops presentations.

During the 2004-05 Season, Mr. Wachs held the position of Artist in Residence at New York City Ballet, leading performances during the companys Balanchine Centennial as well as during the 50th Anniversary of *The Nutcracker*. He has guest-conducted such orchestras as the Auckland Philharmonia of New Zealand, The Fort Worth Symphony, the Florida West Coast Symphony and the National Symphony (as part of the National Conducting Institute.) As a soloist, he has performed in such venues as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Salle Padarewski in Lausanne, and at such festivals as Aspen, Music Academy of the West, Tanglewood and Verbier.

Born in 1976 and raised and educated in the United States, Israel and Europe, Mr. Wachs was auditioned by Zubin Mehta at the age of eight and began studies with Enrique Barenboim. He subsequently pursued studies at the Zrich Academy of Music and the North Carolina School of the Arts. Mr. Wachs holds a Bachelors degree in Piano from the Curtis Institute of Music and graduate degrees in piano and conducting from The Juilliard School. While at Juilliard, Mr. Wachs served as Music Director of the Swarthmore College Orchestra.

## **Joseph Horowitz**

Joseph Horowitz has served as Artistic Advisor to the Pacific Symphony beginning with the Aaron Copland festival of 2000-2001. A noted cultural historian, he is the author of six books dealing primarily with the history of classical music in the United States also the topic of a forthcoming book supported by fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National

Endowment for the Humanities. As Executive Director of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra in the 1990s, he was a pioneer in the exploration of new symphonic concert formats. Currently, he serves as Festival consultant and Humanities Coordinator of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and has also undertaken festival projects for many other American orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He has taught and lectured extensively throughout the United States. As director of an NEH National Education Project, he has written a book for young readers, *Dvorak and America: In Search of the New World*. He is also Artistic Director of the Post-Classical Ensemble of Washington, D.C., which he co-founded last season.

### **Curt Cacioppo**

Curt Cacioppo, whose music will be heard at the ACF Classics concerts as well as at Chapman University on February 11, is a leading contemporary composer of concert works inspired by Native American influences. He studied at Kent State University in his native Ohio, at New York University (where he earned a masters degree in musicology), and at Harvard (where his teachers included the eminent American composer Leon Kirchner). Since 1983, he has taught at Haverford College, where in addition to his activities as a professor of music he has offered a Native American Studies course since 1992. He also established the Native American Fund at Haverford, which supports campus visits by Native American performers and speakers, as well as research. His music has been performed by the Chicago Symphony, the Milwaukee Symphony, and the National Symphony, among other orchestras. His commissions include works for the Emerson String Quartet, American String Quartet, Moscow String Quartet, and the Quartetto di Venezia. In 1997 he received a lifetime achievement award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, who cited the rich language which he has fashioned, and the flexibility and range it gives him to express himself musically, emotionally, and spiritually."

### **Joseph Modica**

Joseph Modica is presently in his twelfth year of teaching. He is 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 five 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. He also serves on the faculty of 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 toured Italy, Australia, Hawaii, New York, Washington D.C., Florida and the Bahamas.

### **Grace Fong**

Pianist Grace Fong is Director of Keyboard Studies at Chapman Conservatory of Music. Praised

as a true musical colourist, an artist of rare eloquence and grace, Dr. Fong's performances have been hailed as positively magical with enormous style and taste. Her solo piano and chamber festivities have gained critical acclaim in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia, having performed in renowned concert venues such as Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Phillips Collection, and the Great Hall in Leeds, UK. Radio/television broadcasts have included British Broadcasting Company, WCLV-FM 104.9, KUSC 91.5 FM in Los Angeles, the Emerging Young Artists series in New York, and Performance Today on National Public Radio. Performances with orchestras have included the Halle Orchestra in the United Kingdom, Music Academy of the West Festival Orchestra, the Olympia Philharmonic Orchestra, The Shreveport Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony, the Musica de Camera Orchestra, the Los Angeles Debut Orchestra, and the Chamber Orchestra of Southwest Virginia, and the New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra.

Dr. Fong has been a prizewinner of various international competitions, including the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition 2006 in the United Kingdom; the 2007 Bosendorfer International Piano Competition; the 2006 San Antonio International Piano Competition, winning the award for Best Performance of a classical composition; and the 2006 Viardo International Piano Competition, winning the Iakhov Chernikhov Special Prize as well as the Viardo Special Prize. In the summer of 2005, Dr. Fong was a participant of the Twelfth Van Cliburn International Competition as well as the Cleveland International Piano Competition, where she won the Baroque Prize. First prizes include Gold Medalist at the 2003 Wideman International Piano Competition, winner of the 2002 Music Academy of the West Concerto Competition, winner of the 2002 Cleveland Institute of Music Concerto Competition, 1st Prize in the Los Angeles Liszt Competition, 1st Prize in the Edith Knox Performance Competition, and the Grand Prize in piano from the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts Talents Search (thereafter named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, presented a medallion by former President Clinton at the White House).

An enthusiastic supporter of the education of young musicians, Dr. Fong has been a frequent guest artist at festivals such as the New Hampshire Music Festival and the first Salt Spring Piano Festival. Before joining Chapman Conservatory of Music, Dr. Fong was lecturer at the Case Western Reserve University School of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Grace Fong continues to perform solo piano and chamber music regularly around the globe. *The Washington Post* remarked of her debut recital at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.: Fong played with an easy elegance. . . painting impressionistic landscapes with hardly any drips or smudges, Fong landed her notes gently on the ear like snowflakes.

Dr. Fong received her masters of music and doctorate of musical arts degrees at the Cleveland Institute of Music under the direction of Sergei Babayan, and there she was also awarded the Sadie Zellen and William Kurzban Prizes in piano. Her double major (B.M, B.S.) and minor were completed at the University of Southern California under John Perry, where she was awarded the USC Renaissance Scholar Prize. Upon graduation, Dr. Fong was named The USC Thornton School of Music Keyboard Departments Most Outstanding Student B.M. Former teachers include Paulina Drake, Norberto Cappone, and Louise Lepley.