

THE SANTA BARBARA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES THEIR EXCITING 2011-2012 SEASON AT THE LOBERO THEATER

The Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra is pleased to announce their exciting new programs for the upcoming 34th season. Maestro Heiichiro Ohyama and SBCO will be performing some of the finest gems of the repertoire with five of the world's most prominent musicians as guest artists all on the stage of the beautiful Lobero Theater in Santa Barbara. The SBCO Chamber Players have a performance scheduled for February 21, 2012, and SBCO's Supper Club before every concert will make your musical outing to the Lobero a complete and wonderful evening out! Please visit www.sbco.org or call (805)966-2441 for more information. Call the Lobero Box Office at (805)963-0761 for tickets!

Concert One: Maestro Mozart!

The season begins on October 18, 2011, with **Maestro Mozart!**, a program celebrating the music W.A. Mozart on the 220th anniversary of the composer's death. Maestro Ohyama has programmed overtures from four of Mozart's best-loved operas (*The Marriage of Figaro*, *Idomeneo*, *The Impresario*, and *Don Giovanni*), Mozart's *Symphony No. 35*, the "*Haffner*," and his *Piano concerto No. 23, K. 488 in A Major* with dynamic pianist **Lucille Chung**. This program is somewhat in keeping with the Viennese debut of his 35th symphony, when Mozart ordered the concert program to perform the first three movements of the "*Haffner*," interjected several additional of his works, and then finished the concert with the last movement of the symphony.

Making her Santa Barbara debut will be impressive Canadian-born pianist Lucille Chung who graduated from both the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School by the age of 20. Following her further education in Salzburg and Weimar, she progressed to an amazing career of solo engagements with the top orchestras of the world including the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Moscow Virtuosi. In recital, Ms. Chung has played in many of the great halls, among them: Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. In addition to her extensive performing and recording career, Ms. Chung is the Artistic Co-Director of the Joaquin Achucarro Foundation, speaks six languages fluently, and is married to pianist Alessio Bax who will be performing with SBCO in December.

Concert Two: Bizet, Beethoven, and Bax

The second concert, **Bizet, Beethoven, and Bax**, takes place on December 13, 2011, with vibrant pianist **Alessio Bax** performing Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5 "The Emperor"*. Maestro Ohyama has also programmed Georges Bizet's brilliant *First Symphony in C Major*. Mr. Bax returns for his third performance with SBCO in Beethoven's rousing "*Emperor*" Concerto. Mr. Bax delighted SBCO audiences last May

with his performance of Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 27* at the Lobero. Of Bax's work, *El Tiempo* in Spain said "(he is) a complete artist, powerful and subtle, a master in all fields" and *Gramophone* "Editor's Choice" said "his playing quivers with an almost hypnotic intensity." Mr. Bax is married to the dynamic pianist, Lucille Chung, who performed with SBCO in October 2011.

This program is one of historical "firsts" and "lasts." Bizet's *Symphony in C Major* was written while the composer just seventeen years old studying at the Conservatoire de Paris. It was never published or even performed in his lifetime, however after its 1935 debut in Switzerland, the symphony was instantly recognized as a masterpiece and quickly became part of the orchestral repertoire.

There are a few legends of surrounding Beethoven's "*Emperor*" *Concerto*, about the circumstances that it was written, Beethoven's reaction to the bombardment of Vienna during the time of the concerto's composition, but perhaps the most moving is the true story about Beethoven's performance of the work. Maestro Beethoven had been suffering with his hearing loss, and it was making his performances increasingly difficult. After the unsuccessful performance of his "*Emperor*," Beethoven was so distressed that he never performed in public again.

Concert Three: Beethoven's Thirds

The Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra presents **Beethoven's Thirds** on February 21, 2012. An all Beethoven program, featuring *Symphony No. 3, the "Eroica"* and *Piano Concerto No. 3*, this performance will mark the Santa Barbara debut of legendary pianist **Tong-II Han**. Mr. Han (b. 1942 in Korea) has had an amazing international soloist career, performing with the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the London Philharmonic, and many others. Mr. Han performed at the White House during President Kennedy's term and was also a guest on Steve Allen's hit TV show *I've Got a Secret*.

One of Beethoven's most exciting works, the *Third Symphony, "Eroica"* was dedicated and then famously *un-dedicated* to Napoleon Bonaparte when Beethoven discovered the advancing general, whom he had once admired, had boldly claimed himself Emperor of France. It is also quite famous for its pensive and deeply emotional second movement the *Marche Funebre*, which has been performed at the memorial services of many international cultural and political figures.

Beethoven was not only a brilliant composer but also quite an accomplished pianist and conductor and was on the podium at the premiere of the "*Eroica*" and soloist at the premiere of his *Third Piano Concerto*. His friend, Ignaz von Seyfried, who turned pages at the debut of the piano concerto, wrote that in the score there were "many empty pages" and that Beethoven was performing the work by memory, with only

“Egyptian hieroglyphics wholly unintelligible to me scribbled down to serve as clues for him.”

Concert Four: Staples Center Stage!

On April 3, 2012, the **Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra** presents **Staples Center Stage!** showcasing former SBCO concertmaster Sheryl Staples who will return to the Lobero stage to perform Mozart’s *Violin Concerto No. 5 in A, “The Turkish.”* Ms. Staples, who is currently the Principal Associate Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, has appeared as a soloist with more than forty orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Ms. Staples performs on one of the world’s great instruments, a Guarneri del Gesu, circa 1728.

SBCO will also perform Mozart’s *Adagio and Fugue, K. 546 in C minor*. The work was transcribed from a *Fugue for Two Pianos*, which was written after the composer had extensively studied the contrapuntal style of Bach. Tchaikovsky’s romantic romp around Europe, the dramatic *Souvenir de Florence*, will complete SBCO’s fourth concert with enchanting melodies that could only come from the Russian master.

Concert Five: Arunjuez to Italia!

The Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra presents **Arunjuez to Italia!** as the final exciting concert of the 2011-2012 season with internationally renowned guitarist Jason Vieaux. Mr. Vieaux, who will be performing Joaquin Rodrigo’s remarkable *Concierto de Arunjuez*, has won critical acclaim from *The New York Times* in 2010 as one of the “youngest stars of the guitar world,” the *Buffalo News* called his technique “flawless,” and *Soundboard Magazine* called his performance “close to perfection.”

Opening the program will be Ottorino Respighi’s beautiful *Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 3*. As a musicologist, Respighi was particularly penchant for the music of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, and based many of his works on music from this time. The *Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 3* is no exception: the work, written for strings alone, is based on several works including a lute piece by Jean-Baptiste Besard, and a work for Baroque guitar by Ludovico Roncalli.

Mendelssohn’s vivacious *Symphony No. 4, “The Italian”* will complete this great SBCO season at the Lobero Theater. It was written while Mendelssohn was on the Italian leg of his European tour. The ebullient first movement brings visions of riding through Tuscan fields contrasting with the more somber second movement, while the third and fourth movements are dance based, featuring a Minuet in the third and two vibrant Italian dances, the Roman Saltarello and the Neapolitan Tarantella in the fourth.

About Heiichiro Ohyama:

Maestro Ohyama started his career inside the orchestra, one of his posts being a thirteen-year stint as Principal Violist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Maestro Carlo Maria Guilini. In 1986, he was appointed Assistant Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Maestro Andre Previn. In addition to being the Music Director and Conductor of SBCO since 1983, he has conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, the San Diego Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the New York Chamber Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Kyoto Symphony among many other international orchestras. He is also currently Music Director of the Nagasaki Music Festival in Japan, Artistic Director of the CHANEL Pygmalion Chamber Music Series and is a member of The Chamber Players.

Maestro Ohyama was Professor of Music at the University of California, from 1973 – 2002, was awarded the Fukuoka City Cultural Prize in 2005, and in 2008, the government of Japan recognized Maestro Ohyama with the Outstanding Performance Award. Maestro Ohyama has been heard frequently on the radio and television and has recorded for the CBS, Evica (Japan), Nonesuch, Philips, RCA, and Stereophile labels.

About SBCO:

The Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, conducted by **Maestro Heiichiro Ohyama**, is comprised of some of the best and hardest-working musicians from Southern California. Many of our musicians perform with the top California and world orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Opera, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Pacific Symphony, the New West Symphony, the Pasadena Symphony, and the Santa Barbara Symphony. They also participate in the recording and movie studio orchestras in Hollywood, have active chamber music groups, and teach studios at both the private and collegiate levels. Dedicated to their craft and their conductor, many of our musicians have performed with SBCO for over a decade, some for over two decades, and some even travel from out of state to work with Maestro Ohyama and the orchestra due to the consistently challenging and exciting experiences that they share.

The Supper Club:

The **SBCO Supper Club** will take place again this season! We invite you to join us for a lovely hot supper buffet served in the beautiful Lobero Courtyard. The food and beverage service start at 6 pm - plenty of time to enjoy the evening meal before strolling to the theater entrance in time for the curtain!

Visit www.sbco.org or call (805) 966-2441 for more information.