

SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

San Diego Symphony performed its first concert on December 6, 1910 in the Grand Ballroom of the then-new U.S. Grant Hotel. Now, 100 years later, the San Diego Symphony has grown into one of the top orchestras in the country both artistically and financially. With a current budget of \$18 million, the San Diego Symphony is now placed in the Tier 1 category as ranked by the League of American Orchestras.

The San Diego Symphony owes a deep debt of gratitude to Joan and Irwin Jacobs for their extraordinary generosity, kindness and friendship. Their support and vision has overwhelmingly contributed to making the San Diego Symphony a vital and vibrant part of San Diego's arts and cultural community and a source of continuing civic pride for all San Diegans.

Artistic

Q. How many musicians are there in the San Diego Symphony?

A. There are 80 full-time, contracted San Diego Symphony musicians. However, depending on the particular piece of music being performed, you may see more musicians on stage. These musicians are also auditioned and hired on a case-by-case basis. You may also see fewer musicians if the particular piece of music calls for less than the full complement.

Q. How are the musicians selected?

A. Musicians are selected through a rigorous audition process which is comprised of an orchestra committee and the music director. Open positions are rare. When an audition is held, it is common to have 100 to 150 musicians competing for the open position.

Q. Where have the musicians received their training?

A. Many San Diego Symphony musicians come from all over the United States, and some even from different countries in the world. Many of our musicians have studied at the top universities and music schools in the United States including The Juilliard School, Eastman School of Music and Curtis Institute of Music.

Q. Are the musicians able to pursue other interests?

A. In addition to rehearsals and performances, all of our musicians are required to perform a number of educational outreach services per year. In addition, many of our musicians serve as faculty members at local colleges and universities including University of California San Diego, San Diego State University and Point Loma Nazarene College. A number of musicians also have their own students and teach private lessons. In addition, several musicians have outside musical endeavors such as Art of Elán, Strings by the Sea, Luscious Noise and Camera Lucida and perform at other San Diego concert venues.

Q. Where else do San Diego Symphony musicians perform?

A. San Diego Symphony serves as the pit orchestra for all San Diego Opera productions throughout its international season at the Civic Theatre. Among other arts organizations, San Diego Symphony musicians also appear with La Jolla Music Society/SummerFest, Orchestra Nova and Mainly Mozart performing at the Balboa Theatre, Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD and the Sherwood Auditorium in La Jolla.

Q. What is the age range of the musicians?

A. The age of the musicians ranges from mid-20s to late-70s.

Q. How many different types of concerts does the San Diego Symphony perform?

A. San Diego Symphony performs from October through May, downtown at Copley Symphony Hall and offers the following music series: Jacobs Masterworks (classical), Winter Pops, Symphony Exposed, Family Festival and Young People's Concerts. From late June through early September, the San Diego Symphony performs the Summer Pops at its outdoor venue on the waterfront downtown, Embarcadero Marina Park South. San Diego Symphony performs more than 100 concerts a year.

Q. Who is the San Diego Symphony's music director?

A. San Diego Symphony's music director is Jahja Ling, who is responsible for the artistic planning of the Symphony's classical series. Mr. Ling is in his sixth season as music director of the San Diego Symphony. His current contract runs through 2012. Born in Jakarta, Indonesia of Chinese descent, Mr. Ling is an American citizen. He received his master's degree at The Juilliard School. He studied orchestral conducting at the Yale School of Music where he received his doctor of musical arts degree. Mr. Ling has conducted major symphony orchestras throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Previously, Mr. Ling served as resident conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra for 17 years and as its Blossom Festival director for six seasons. Mr. Ling resides in Bonita, California with his wife, concert pianist, Jessie Chang, and their two daughters, Priscilla and Stephanie.

Q. Who is the Pops conductor?

A. San Diego Symphony's principal pops conductor is Marvin Hamlisch, who has won three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony and three Golden Globe Awards. His groundbreaking show, A Chorus Line, received the Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Hamlisch was the musical director and arranger of Barbra Streisand's 1994 concert tour of the United States and Great Britain as well as of the television special, Barbra Streisand: The Concert (for which he received two of his Emmys). Mr. Hamlisch also holds the position of principal pops conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Seattle Symphony. Mr. Hamlisch appears on the podium in San Diego four times a year: three times during the Winter Pops and once during the Summer Pops.

Q. Who conducts the Summer Pops?

A. San Diego Symphony's principal Summer pops conductor is Matthew Garbutt. Mr. Garbutt has been with the San Diego Symphony for nearly 30 years. He is a familiar face to San Diego audiences and has also led many of the educational and family concerts throughout the years. When not on the podium, Mr. Garbutt also serves as the principal tuba player of the San Diego Symphony. Mr. Garbutt has also been interim music director of the San Diego Youth Symphony and conductor of the Kidz Arts Festival. He and his wife, Carol, and their family have lived in San Diego for many years.

Q. Who is the assistant conductor?

A. San Diego Symphony's assistant conductor is Philip Mann, who has conducted selected Jacobs Masterworks, Symphony Exposed, Winter Pops and Family Festival concerts along with Young People's Concerts, Kinder Konzerts and other special programs. Mr. Mann will continue with the San Diego Symphony throughout its centennial season conducting the Family Festival Series, Young People's Concerts and the Side-by-Side collaborative concert with San Diego youth orchestras. Mr. Mann was a recent member of the American Conducting Fellows Program, a national program developed and managed by the League of American Orchestras. Mr. Mann was recently appointed music director of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

Board of Directors, Musicians and Staff

Q. Does the San Diego Symphony have a board of directors?

A. Yes, the Symphony currently has 45 members on its board of directors, which is comprised of various community and business leaders. These include members of San Diego's legal and financial community along with small business owners, principals from large business, local entrepreneurs and philanthropic supporters.

Q. How many people does the San Diego Symphony employ?

A. In addition to the 80 full-time musicians, there are 38 members of the administrative staff, which includes administration, artistic, development, education, facilities, finance, human resources, information systems, marketing and public relations and production. The cost of putting on a concert also includes salaries and fees for the music director, guest artists, stage crew, house management and maintenance.

Copley Symphony Hall: Home of the San Diego Symphony (formerly the Fox Theatre)

Q. Where does the San Diego Symphony perform?

A. San Diego Symphony performs at Copley Symphony Hall in downtown San Diego. Symphony Hall is located at Seventh Avenue and B Street within the Symphony Towers office complex. San Diego Symphony also performs its Summer Pops Series at its outdoor venue on San Diego's waterfront: Embarcadero Marina Park South, located behind the San Diego Convention Center, adjacent to the Marriott Hotel Marina.

Q. How many seats does Symphony Hall have?

A. The Hall has 2,231 seats including handicapped seating both on the main floor and upper level. Seating is divided into various section including orchestra, Grand Tier, mezzanine and balcony. The Hall also includes a patron elevator to reach the upper lobby.

Q. Has Copley Symphony Hall always been the home of the San Diego Symphony?

A. No, Symphony Hall was built in 1929 as a movie palace and was known as the Fox Theatre, a well known San Diego landmark. In its early days, "The Fox" also featured added stage shows, and then it eventually became a venue for touring Broadway shows until 1984. Subsequently, the Fox Theatre was renamed Copley Symphony Hall as a result of a donation by the late Helen Copley, whose family owned the morning newspaper, *The San Diego Union* and the evening *Tribune*, now *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Q. Since the Hall was built as a movie palace, how has it been adapted into a concert hall?

A. Since 1984-85 when the Fox Theatre became Copley Symphony Hall through 1999, the venue has been continually refurbished. This includes installing a shell to surround the orchestra, stage risers, an adjustable ceiling and a stage floor made of Brazilian cherry wood, all adding to the quality of the sound. Most recently in 2008-09, a state-of-the-art digital sound and lighting system was installed further enhancing the experience of attending a symphony concert. All of these improvements were installed by the acoustical experts, Akustiks. In addition, these improvements add to the Hall's marketability as a rental venue.

Q. Does the San Diego Symphony own Copley Symphony Hall?

A. In the mid-1990s, the Symphony's ownership of Copley Symphony Hall was in jeopardy. Mr. Lawrence B. (Larry) Robinson stepped forward to acquire and preserve the Hall for the Symphony's future. In early 2010, Mr. Robinson transferred the title and deed to the San Diego Symphony, which now owns the hall outright.

Q. Have there been any other improvements made to the Hall?

A. Two years ago, longtime San Diegans and Symphony supporters, the Grosvenor Family, made a significant donation to renovate the antiquated musicians' lounge, which is located directly under the stage. The result is the state-of-the-art Grosvenor Family Musicians Center which includes a new musicians' lounge, dressing rooms, locker rooms and soundproof practice rooms where musicians can rehearse privately. Joan and Irwin Jacobs are responsible for the Jacobs Administrative Center, an architectural gem above Symphony Hall that houses the Symphony's administrative offices. The Jacobs' are also responsible for the Hall's balcony handrails and upper and lower lobby refurbishments. Copley Symphony Hall is ADA-compliant.

Q. Before Copley Symphony Hall, where did the San Diego Symphony perform?

A. The San Diego Symphony performed in a variety of venues including the Grand Ballroom of the US Grant Hotel where the Symphony gave its very first performance on December 6, 1910. Other venues have included the Spreckels Theatre, San Diego High School Russ Auditorium, Hoover High School Auditorium, Ford Bowl in Balboa Park and the Civic Theatre. Summer Pops venues include San Diego State University Amphitheatre, Hospitality Point at Mission Bay, Navy Pier and the current, Embarcadero Marina Park South.

Joan and Irwin Jacobs' Gift, San Diego Symphony Budget

Q. When did the San Diego Symphony receive the gift from Joan and Irwin Jacobs?

A. The gift was given in January 2002.

Q. What was the amount of the gift and how is allocated?

A. The amount of the gift was \$120 million; however, the San Diego Symphony did not receive this amount in its entirety when the gift was given. The gift is allocated as follows:

- 1.) The first \$50 million is given to the Symphony's endowment fund—not the operating fund—in increments of \$5 million each year for 10 years.
- 2.) The next \$50 million of the gift is a bequest that will be received into the endowment fund after the Jacobs' pass away.
- 3.) The last \$20 million is given to the Symphony's operating fund in increments of \$2 million each year for 10 years, commencing in 2003.

Q. Does the Symphony have access to the endowment fund for its annual operating fund?

A. The San Diego Symphony Foundation manages the endowment for the San Diego Symphony. In this capacity, the Foundation's board of directors determines the amount of financial support that the endowment can provide to the Symphony annually. The yearly disbursement from the endowment funds is based upon the performance of the portfolio's investments.

Q. How much are the ticket prices to attend a Symphony concert?

A. The Symphony offers a variety of ticket prices to serve a wide range of audiences. For our Young People's Concerts and student rush tickets, the prices are \$5 and \$10, respectively. Family Festivals range from \$10 to \$25. Symphony Exposed is a flat rate of \$20. Summer Pops range from \$17-\$75; Winter Pops tickets are \$20 to \$85 and our classical series, the Jacobs' Masterworks range in price \$20-\$93.

Q. Do ticket prices cover the cost of the Symphony's expenses?

A. No, they do not. The Symphony must rely on both tickets sales and donated income from individuals, corporations, government entities and foundations and for-profit companies in order to operate. Ticket prices and other operating revenue only cover approximately \$0.38 on the dollar while \$0.62 on the dollar must be received in donations. Therefore, it is essential that the Symphony reach out to the community and continue its ongoing annual fundraising campaigns that include both individual and corporate support.

Q. How much is the base annual salary of a musician?

A. The base or starting annual salary of a musician in 2010 is approximately \$57,000. Many musicians earn more than that amount based on their experience, length of service and position in their respective sections, be it principal or section player.

Q. What is the San Diego Symphony's annual budget?

A. The current budget is approximately \$18 million placing the San Diego Symphony in the Tier I category along with the top orchestras in the country as ranked by the League of American Orchestras. Through its artistry, leadership and reputation, the San Diego Symphony is able to attract the finest guest artists performing with symphony orchestras today.