

## PAT FRANCIS, VIOLIN



Violinist Pat Francis has been in the San Diego Symphony 53 years, longer than any other San Diego Symphony musician. She is a proud graduate of San Diego's Hoover High School, and she received a BA in music and teaching credentials from San Diego State University. Her teachers were Henry Kolar, Concertmaster San Diego Symphony (1959-61) and Gilbert Bach of SDSU.

During her long career, Pat Frances has been: Concert Mistress, Hoover High School Orchestra; Member of San Diego Youth Symphony (Walter Peterson); Concert Mistress, Civic Youth Orchestra (Daniel Lewis). She taught music K-7 La Mesa Spring Valley School District for 10 years and played her first concert with the San Diego Symphony in August 1955 with Ferde Grofé as guest conductor. Pat joined the San

Diego Symphony in 1957, and has also performed with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra and the San Diego Opera. She has been Assistant Librarian for the San Diego Symphony and Librarian for the San Diego Chamber Orchestra.

Among Pat Francis' many accomplishments, she: Wrote a grant to enhance the study of guitars in the La Mesa Spring Valley School District; Was able to purchase enough guitars for every 4<sup>th</sup> grade student to receive 9 lessons; Introduced the first vocal festival in La Mesa School District; Initiated the successful fundraiser "Symphony Sunday" at the Civic Theatre. Pat Francis has been: Orchestra social chairperson for 3 years; Member of the Symphony Cookbook committee; Liaison to the Orchestra Auxiliary Council's Docent Program for Young Peoples Concert; Orchestra Coach for Helix High School. She helped to originate the Symphony's "Meet A Musician" program.

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### ***Getting to know Pat Francis...***

#### **Q: How did you choose your instrument?**

A: A boyfriend of my mother made violins and gave her one as a parting gift. When I was 6, she decided I should play something, so she chose violin lessons for me.

#### **Q: What are three of your favorite movies?**

A: *The Sound of Music*, *Grease*, *The Phantom of the Opera*

#### **Q: What good book have you read most recently?**

A: Ken Follett's *Night Over Water*

**Q: What is your choice for dining in San Diego?**

A: The Melting Pot (great fondue)

**Q: Where you find me on a Saturday night if I'm not performing with the Symphony?**

A: Playing "Mexican Train," a domino game, with our neighbors.

**Q: What is your favorite San Diego Symphony memory?**

A: The rehearsal and concert with comedian Danny Kaye (October 1977).