

Monday Evening Concerts of Los Angeles to play at UCSD Gym

October 30, 1969

Monday Evening Concerts of Los Angeles, one of the oldest concert-producing organizations in that city, will appear in San Diego for the first time at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 15, in the Gymnasium of the University of California, San Diego.

Leonard Stein, noted pianist and conductor and one of the founding members of MEC, will direct the ensemble in a performance of Gyorgy Ligeti's two theater pieces, "Aventures" (1962) and "Nouvelles Aventures" (1962-65) for three singers and seven instrumentalists. Also on the program will be "Rhapsodies for Marimba, Vibraphone and Percussion" (1968) by Karl Kohn, performed by Kenneth Watson, and Pierre Boulez' "Sonatine for Flute and Piano" (1954), performed by Sheridan Stokes and Leonard Stein.

This Monday Evening Concerts Ensemble II presentation is tri-sponsored by the UCSD Department of Music, the Associated Students Program Board and the Committee for Arts and Lectures.

Monday Evening Concerts, now in their 32nd season, has a repertory that reaches from the Middle Ages to the Now, linking the avant-garde of Machaut to that of Stockhausen. Since the 1940's, composers such as Schoenberg, Stravinsky and Krenek have supported the concerts, and the large number of guest composer-performers includes Cowell, Cage, Copland, Foss, Kirchner, Berio, Wuorinen, Reynolds, Subotnick and others.

"The distinguished record of Monday Evening Concerts in presenting high quality performances of the most important new music and of encouraging the understanding of new musical ideas within a wider musical context is probably unmatched anywhere in the world," wrote Eric Salzman on the occasion of NEC's Hunter College program in New York last December.

The MEC performers are drawn from the great talent pool that serves the Los Angeles Philharmonic, local universities and colleges, community orchestras, film and TV studios, dozens of chamber music ensembles and even rock and jazz groups.

The three singers, Esther Martinez, Priscilla Abraham and William Feuerstein, were the singer-speakers in the performance of "Aventures" in 1968, and they have participated in many other Monday Evening Concerts as well. All three are soloists with the Gregg Smith Singers, with whom they have recorded the music of Ives and Gabrieli and, most recently, Schubert's "Miriam's Song of Triumph," in which Miss Martinez sings the solo part.

Included in the group of instrumentalists are: Kenneth Watson, percussionist, one of Hollywood's "conpleat" musicians whose record of performances at MEC lists the names of no fewer than 27 contemporary composers; flutist Sheridan Stokes, another "conpleat" musician, is active in the recording studios, concert halls and jazz salons and has, for several years, been investigating the capabilities of the flutes in the production of the "special effects" that have become a part of the vocabulary in the newest music; Ralph Pyle, hornist, has played regularly in the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Hollywood Bowl orchestras.

Peter Hewitt, pianist, has given many memorable performances at MEC of sonatas by Stravinsky, Sessions, Ives, the complete Debussy Etudes, music by Copland and Ruggles, and numerous works from the classical repertoire; Emmet Sargeant, cellist, began his career in the Philadelphia Symphony, and in recent years, he has

twice rejoined that orchestra for their European and Japanese tours; harpsichordist Anita Priest is the organist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and also plays the piano, harmonium and celeste; double bassist Rand Forbes is the youngest member of the ensemble and is in much demand by rock and jazz groups.

Stage director Monty Landis has also been a producer, actor and comedian. He has been nominated twice for Emmy Awards and won one for his work in the "Laugh-In Special." He is currently acting in the film, "Myra Breckenridge."

General admission for the concert is \$3.00. Tickets may be purchased at the UCSD Box Office in the lobby of Urey Hall.