

## Thomas Nee directs the New Hampshire Summer Music Festival

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THOMAS NEE. CONDUCTOR FOR LA JOLLA CIVIC/UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA, DIRECTS THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL -- SINCE 1960

A few miles north on Route 93 from Concord, New Hampshire, three towns with the quaint New England names of Gilford, Plymouth and Centre Harbor (which is nowhere near the ocean), house an annual summer music festival which brings to its audiences a first-rate classical music program.

For the past 30 years, Thomas Nee, who directs the La Jolla University/Civic Orchestra, has been musical director for this popular country festival that invites such stellar names as Gustavo Romero (appearing Aug. 16 & 17) and award-winning prodigy Scott Yoo, who has dazzled critics with his mastery of the violin.

The concerts take place in community auditoriums: Silver Hall at Plymouth, or in the Middle High School in Gilford. This year the acclaimed Montclair String Quartet whom Musical America claims are "young talents to watch," appeared on two separate dates for the festival's chamber music offering. The group also performed at the UCSD campus, in 1989.

Nee's experience directing community orchestras has taken him from Shreveport, Louisiana to Bakersfield, California, and to community orchestras across the United States. He has studied under Antal Dorati (Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra) and has worked with composers Stefan Wolpe and John Cage. With composer Dominick Argento he co-founded the Minnesota Opera Company, which performed on the Guthrie Theatre's stage.

Under Nee, the La Jolla Civic has taken a distinct turn toward music of the 20th Century. His audiences are not surprised or dismayed when they see works on the program by such names as Arnold Schonberg, Ernst Krenek, or UCSD's Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Roger Reynolds. Known for his intrepid programming, Nee considers 20th Century music "the music of our time."

Next year will be Nee's 70th birthday celebration and his 24th year as director of the La Jolla Civic. He is a UCSD faculty member who teaches courses in new music, aesthetics in music, conducting and music theory. He also directs UCSD's new music ensemble, SONAR. Two years ago the ensemble was invited to perform at the world-famous new music festival in Darmstadt, where their performance was highly acclaimed and prompted a return engagement.

The La Jolla Civic/University Orchestra will begin its season playing at the Mandeville Auditorium, on September 22 and 23, with a program of Hayden and Mozart. For information telephone 534-4637.

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