

A gala reception to welcome Edwin London

September 29, 1972

A gala reception to welcome Edwin London, new conductor of the La Jolla Civic-University Orchestra and visiting professor in the University of California, San Diego Department of Music, will be held at the home of Mr. Legler Benbough, 6340 Camino de la Costa, La Jolla, from 5-7 p.m., Friday, October 6.

Dr. London, distinguished conductor, composer and musician, has directed numerous outstanding orchestras, choruses and operas in Europe and the United States. As a performing musician, he has played principal French horn with the Orchestra Sinfonica de Venezuela. He has composed more than 50 serious works, including a symphony, two operas, and incidental music for theater and motion pictures. He has taught music at Tanglewood, Smith College, and most recently at the University of Illinois. He is replacing Tom Nee, who is on a year's leave to conduct the Minneapolis Civic Orchestra.

Included in the program for the evening are two performances of Brahms's Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52, to be presented at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. The waltzes, scored for two pianos and four singers, reflect the spirit of a Viennese ballroom, and were selected by Mrs. John (Louise) Spizizen, one of the pianists, as appropriate for the antique, candle-lit setting of the Benbough home. Mrs. Spizizen, who recently received her masters degree in music at UCSD, has performed extensively in the area both as pianist and harpsichordist.

Mrs. Marlin (Jerri Lee) Owen will play the second piano. She is a graduate of Gonzaga University and the University of Illinois. She has performed throughout the Midwest and is now on leave of absence from the faculty of Mankato State College in Minnesota.

Singers for the performance are Phoebe Simmons, soprano; Linda Vickerman, mezzo-soprano; Howard A. Crook, tenor, and Philip Larson, baritone.

Mrs. Simmons, who recently formed the "Simmons Chamber-Opera Players" with her husband Thomas, has studied at Cornell University, Chicago Conservatory of Music, in the Tanglewood Festival Opera Department, and is presently studying with George Trovillo. She has toured Europe with the Singing San Diegans and has extensive experience in music comedy and opera. She has performed with the La Jolla Civic-University Orchestra, San Diego Opera, UCSD Opera Studio, and the Starlight Opera.

Miss Vickerman received her bachelors and masters from Michigan State where she studied with Ethel Armeling and Gean Greenwell., and is presently working on a doctorate. She has performed extensively in opera, oratorio, and recitals, and is currently involved, as are Crook and Larson, with the Project for Music Experiment at UCSD, a Rockefeller Foundation-funded program to explore the field of experimental music.

Crook received his B.M. from Baldwin Wallace Conservatory in Berea, Ohio, and an M.M. from the University of Illinois. He has sung professionally in New York City in various oratorios and operas and has performed in the New York State Theatre and at Carnegie Hall. He is presently singing and performing mime with the University of California N4CE IV Program.

Larson, who received his masters from the University of Illinois in 1970, has performed many solo works and has participated in the performance of ten major opera works. He has performed professionally with the Choral Associates in New York City.

The endowment of chairs in the orchestra for talented amateur musicians will also be acknowledged at the reception. The first endowment was given for viola by Dr. Martin Kamen of the UCSD Department of Chemistry. The other endowments were donated in memory of Frank Pissaro, violinist with the orchestra for many years, and Maurice Roy, former concertmaster of the orchestra.

Mrs. DeWitt Hiram Merriam is honorary chairman of the reception, and Mrs. Harry Lee Smith is chairman. Helping with the d'oeuvres are Mmes. Saul Karlen, Verl E. Roberts, Fred G. Terrey and Donald Hazelton. Other assistants are Mmes. Willard Cudney and John Spizizen. Mmes. Norman Cooley, Gordon Sears, William McElroy, and Nicholas Alexander will act as hostesses for the event.

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