

Rafael Druian appointed as Professor of Music at UCSD

February 19, 1974

Rafael Druian, violin virtuoso and present concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, has accepted an appointment as Professor of Music at the University of California, San Diego it has been announced by UCSD Chancellor William McElroy.

The appointment is effective September, 1974. Druian has conducted a highly successful chamber music institute for the past three summers on the UCSD campus. As a permanent member of the Department of Music he will, in addition to his performing capacity, conduct a resident student chamber orchestra and offer courses in "The Art of the Concertmaster."

Druian's arrival on the UCSD campus will coincide with the opening of the \$5.2 million Mandeville Center for the Arts designed to house the Departments of Drama, Visual Arts and Music. With the opening of the Center, which includes a 900-seat theater/auditorium, UCSD will inaugurate a major program in chamber music and orchestral performance.

Druian's expertise and long professional career is one of the most comprehensive and detailed of any violin virtuoso in the United States. He served as concertmaster of the Minneapolis and Dallas Orchestras and for nine seasons with the Cleveland Orchestra under the Late George Szell. He joined the New York Philharmonic as concertmaster in 1971 after serving as Associate Dean of the Music School at the California Institute of the Arts and as music director for the Young Musicians Foundation, a resident company of the Music Center in Los Angeles.

He has made numerous recordings of 20th-century violin pieces and of chamber works including four Mozart sonatas for violin and piano with Szell as pianist.

Druian, born in Vologda, Russia, came to the United States at the age of 10 after two years in Cuba. Through the recommendation of Leopold Stokowski he attended the Curtis Institute where he studied violin with Lea Luboshutz and Efrem Zimbalist.

In Addition to his professional career, Druian has long been associated with University education. As a teacher, he believes that one must concentrate both on the player's physical possibilities and the possibilities of the instrument.

Bowing, vibrato, and the quality of sound are largely matters of hearing, muscle control and coordination. He believes that the greatest players do these things correctly and instinctively; others need guidance and that is where the modern teacher comes in.

Druian's desire is to make solid musicians rather than the technically perfect soloist; musicians versed in contemporary music as well as the classical repertoire.

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