

May 28, 2017

Dear Maestro Ling,

The musicians would like to thank you for your passion and dedication to making great music. Thank you for building and sustaining the San Diego Symphony over the last 13 years. The orchestra has achieved an exceptional artistic standard under your direction and you have helped to bring the San Diego Symphony to the forefront of our industry. We have shared many highlights together including our first tour to China and our unforgettable concert at Carnegie Hall!

To commemorate this landmark concert today, one of our musicians took this iconic album cover of "Sibelius Second Symphony" with your mentor, Leonard Bernstein, and created this special version to pay tribute to your "Great Performance" with the San Diego Symphony. The musicians have signed it on the back.

You have often mentioned your deep respect and appreciation for the mentors in your life. With that in mind, we have selected this gift to acknowledge your tenure as Music Director: a vintage limited edition Montblanc Fountain Pen, made to commemorate Leonard Bernstein.

This pen is symbolic as it was created to honor an unforgettable career. Details that are on the pen - the music and lyrics to "Maria" from "Westside Story" which are engraved on the gold plated cap ring, and the stylish treble clef clip and nib - pay homage to your work with us to create a common artistic goal.

As Bernstein was an inspiration to you, you have inspired us, and we know that you will continue to have a wonderful future as a great mentor to many other musicians.

As the longest tenured Music Director in the history of the San Diego Symphony, you have made a huge impact on shaping the ensemble. You have taken 82 individual musicians and turned us into one artistic family with a unified sound and spirit. We wish you success in your future endeavors and look forward to seeing you back on stage with us in your new role as Conductor Laureate.

Thank you and congratulations!

38477



Great Performances



CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED RECORDINGS OF THE BASIC REPERTOIRE

“Ling gives an extrovert performance with a most impressive finale ... The playing is fine and the recording vivid. ~ *Gramophone*”

SIBELIUS SECOND

SYMPHONY IN D MAJOR, OP. 43



**JAHJA LING
SAN DIEGO
SYMPHONY**