



Jahja Ling and the San Diego Symphony

resident conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra for 17 years, and as artistic director of its acclaimed Blossom Festival for six years.

Last summer, Ling conducted five concerts before tens of thousands in Cleveland and Berlin. Beginning in June, before an audience of 10,000 at Berlin's O2 World, he conducted the Schleswig-Holstein Symphony Orchestra and a cadre of 50 young pianists ages 7-12. They played Schubert, Beethoven and Brahms in honor of Lang Lang's 30th birthday.

Ling's summer also included a concert in Cleveland's Public Square before 40,000 people, followed by the July 1 opening of the Blossom Festival. On July 7, he conducted Ax, who played Mozart beautifully despite the 101-degree heat. He then conducted a program at Tanglewood in Massachusetts to celebrate Tanglewood's 75th anniversary, returning to Cleveland's Severance Hall for a "fantastic" concert with competition winners and the

Cleveland Orchestra. The following day, he conducted Gil Shaham in the Beethoven Concerto No. 5.

"That was my amazing summer," Ling says. "Five concerts before 75,000 people—about the number who attend an entire season here from October to May."

SDS recently achieved Tier 1 status, an important feat for Ling. "If you don't get exposure outside San Diego, you can stay Tier 1 forever, but only you are going to know. It's important that we continue to make recordings, eventually do radio and television broadcasts and ultimately tour, playing in Carnegie Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, the Vienna Musikverein and the great halls in Asia.

"These are the things we must aim for in the future. It can't come overnight. When [Georg] Solti brought the Chicago [Symphony] back from its first European tour, they got a ticker-tape parade from Mayor Daley. From that time forward Orchestra Hall was sold out." >CONTINUED ON PAGE 54