

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DEAR FRIENDS,

Without question Jahja Ling's legacy as Music Director of the San Diego Symphony will be felt for decades to come. So many adjectives come to mind when thinking of Jahja's tenure here. Of all of them the word "steadfast" rises above them.

We all know of Jahja's integrity, devotion and drive to make the San Diego Symphony Orchestra a fine-tuned instrument that has a cohesive and voluptuous sound and technical brilliance. He devoted himself to this orchestra above all others, and carefully created season after season of music that would showcase the orchestra's strengths.

As we look at the programs of his final season as Music Director we see the very heart of the music that Jahja Ling embraced – Brahms, Sibelius, Mahler and Bruckner. With each choice we see his desire to reach toward the profound in music, to attempt to touch something that is rooted deeply in the human spirit and extends to the infinite and divine.

In building the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, Jahja Ling was adept at selecting the very finest players from an international palette. With every appointment the orchestra continued its upward trajectory, and the appointment of so many members of the orchestra will without doubt be his most lasting legacy. Coming together from a wide range of backgrounds, our San Diego Symphony musicians represent the best that life offers – dedication, excellence and a sincere desire to work together to create something lasting.

Music exists in time. You cannot touch it. You cannot save it. As soon as a note is played it begins to disappear. It is therefore precious. Music exists for all of us, and its temporal nature means we come together to enjoy its power for the fleeting moments that it exists. After the final note it remains only in our memories until the next time the score is opened and the music begins again.

I speak on behalf of so many people – musicians and audience alike – to express our profound gratitude to Jahja Ling for his devotion to his role as Music Director of the San Diego Symphony, and for creating so many magical musical moments in our lives, which we will continue to experience well into the future because of his stewardship in these 13 years.

Sincerely,



Martha A. Gilmer
Chief Executive Officer



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