Caltech Students Visit the Symphony on a field trip with Music 140: The Great Orchestras

CONNIE ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

It’s that time of term again! A busload of students headed downtown to Disney Concert Hall a few weekends ago for an afternoon of Ravel and Stravinsky. Music classes are open to all regardless of music background, so the experience of attending this concert was widely varied among the group, but universally the engaging experience of live music was appreciated over searching up YouTube recordings.

I highly recommend pursuing music classes during your time here, especially because of these trips to the symphony. With peers alongside, the experience was an interesting adventure. The Disney Concert Hall itself is a crazy maze to explore ahead of the concert. In the central cavity, a towering abstract organ heads up the curving hall. Later, the mysterious geometry was reinforced during the performance with several offstage horn contributions. I wasn’t the only one looking around for the source of the sound, wondering if I was crazy.

The Disney Concert Hall from the outside is a tangle of stories—something like a multi-layered high curved steel sheets forming a facade. The outer layer encloses a space that is a fractal-like representation of the audience members trickling from the inner hallways to the outdoor exitfolding. Stairways winding up and around through the facade led up to views of the surrounding area, and even a view down into the room where a pre-concert lecture was happening. The heat of the day drove me back inside, where the sweeping architectural style maintained itself in broad staircases and an asymmetric lobby. The acoustics of the hall were, of course, fantastic: every note was clear, as was every snuffle and program shuffle from the audience. Perhaps that irks some people; I appreciated it as a part of the experience of live music.

When Ivan battles Koschei, the Firebird’s magical music forces Koschei’s monsters to dance the famed Infernal Dance until they collapse. Free of this danger, the Firebird leads Ivan to the soul-carrying egg that he then destroys.

Stravinsky uses mysterious scales to represent the mythical creatures to contrast diatonic scales for more earthly, human characters; this distinction was the easiest to follow throughout the ballet. The Infernal Dance was easily distinguished due to its intense vigor, and the theme of the Firebird surfaced frequently throughout the performance. Habits of orchestral performances are fascinating to observe. String players wave their bows to an applause. Woodwind players speed-clean their instruments in the middle of the performance. The conductor appears to hold the orchestra in his direct control, except when he doesn’t; at one point, Pablo Heras-Casado conducting ceased movement all together as Javier Perianes took control on piano. Though unexpected, these observations felt logical, and contributed significantly to the personal feeling of live music. Knowing these tidbits will no doubt serve to represent my extensive expertise in orchestral music at some theoretical cocktail party in my future.

A large percentage of my classical music listening is taken up purely by The Ride of the Valkyries (unfortunately Professor Neeman has contributed to this). A handful of musical techniques took control on piano. Though I learned later that what appeared to be an upright piano sharing the stage with a grand piano was actually a keyboard-operated set of chimes called a celesta. A huge slapping sound played practically below my feet startled me out of my chair more than once. The string section suddenly joined the percussion, with bows acting as mallets against their strings.

I watched the first half, the Ravel, from behind the orchestra. The percussion was strong, and unfortunately the piano solo was weakened from this vantage point. It was a perfect place to feel the intimate communication between the conductor and the orchestra. He guided them along with enthusiasm, except when he shared the lead with the piano.

A kindly usher offered me the opportunity to see the Stravinsky from a different place in the hall, facing the orchestra up on a balcony. The change in balance was notable, but not huge. This new vantage point permitted full view of the performers, including a few of the guillotine horn players who entered for a short period in front of the organist’s bench above the orchestra.

Music classes here at Caltech will teach you the details about the history and the significance of Ravel and Stravinsky in the past and the present; that’s not my goal here. I hope that I have demonstrated that the experience of music is important and exciting. Attending a live concert, the details of the venue and the performers affect you and your experience of the music. Listening to a recording is an incredible way to share musical feeling across time and space, but music is fundamentally a social art.
The Caltech Y Column serves to inform students of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. The list is compiled by Katherine Guo from information given by the Caltech Y and its student leaders.

Founded by students in 1916, the Y was organized to provide extracurricular activities planned and implemented by students as an opportunity to learn leadership and discover themselves. The mission of today’s Y remains the same—to provide opportunities that will prepare students to become engaged and active members of the world. The Y seeks to broaden students’ worldviews, raise social, ethical, and cultural awareness through teamwork, community engagement, and leadership. More information about the Caltech Y and its programs can be found at https://caltechy.org. The office is located at 505 S. Wilson Avenue.

Ongoing and past programs hosted by the Caltech Y:
1. Alternative Spring Breaks: Peru, Costa Rica, New York, Yemen, San Diego, San Francisco
3. Experience LA: Lakers game, Next to Normal musical, Norton Simon Museum trip
4. RISE Tutoring program (an afterschool math and science-focused tutoring program that serves public school students between grades 9 and 12)

Upcoming Events
1. Caltech Y Community Service and Advocacy Fair
   - Friday | November 4th | 12:00 - 1:00 PM
   - Join us on San Pasqual walk and take the opportunity to find out about some of the many opportunities for community service and advocacy and find out how to get involved.
   - Talk with some of the groups represented and get a FREE BUBA and/or SANDWICH while supplies last. For every volunteer who speaks with you, you will receive a raffle ticket. Collect 5 raffle tickets to trade in for a free boba or sandwich! Over 20 organizations from the Pasadena area will be present. Both on-campus and off-campus organizations will be highlighted.

2. Kids Reading to Succeed
   - Saturday | November 6th | 8:30 - 11:00 AM
   - 505 E. Villa Street & Jackson Elementary Kids Reading to Succeed (KRS) works with the youth of Pasadena to encourage a love of reading and to improve literacy skills. The first hour (9:00 to 10:00) focuses on individualized and targeted reading, in which a volunteer is paired with a student who is encouraged to read aloud from a book chosen from the KRS library. Volunteers consistently ask questions of the students to gauge reading comprehension. The second hour of our program (10:00 to 11:00) is the interactive and fun presentation based on the monthly theme. For more info and to RSVP visit Kayva Sreedhar at kayva@caltech.edu.

3. Devil's Punchbowl Day Hike
   - Sunday | November 6th | 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
   - Cost: $5
   - Transportation is provided, but spaces are limited. To sign-up visit: https://goo.gl/forms/0G5kxyxooex0erW2
   - Join the Caltech Y-Outdoors on a day hike at Devil’s Punchbowl. This moderate hike offers the chance to see for yourself how the ground is impacted in spectacular ways by one of the world’s most active seismic zones.
   - Hidden on the northeastern range of the San Gabriels – far away from us city slickers – the otherworldly high desert is slowly being ripped and bent into odd angles by the tearing of the San Andreas and Punchbowl Faults, with the resulting canyons further eroded by the wind and water from 8000+ ft. peaks right to its south. Modernluker.com
   - This 7.5-mile hike with approximately 6000 ft. of elevation gain is of moderate difficulty.
   - Volunteers will need self-identified Veterans to consistently ask questions of the students to gauge reading comprehension. The second hour of our program (10:00 to 11:00) is the interactive and fun presentation based on the monthly theme. For more info and to RSVP visit Kayva Sreedhar at kayva@caltech.edu.

4. Save 20% on tickets to A Cinderella Christmas at the Pasadena Playhouse!
   - December 8th, 2016 - Jan 8th, 2017
   - The Caltech Y has partnered with the Pasadena Playhouse to bring you a 20% discount on tickets to the Panto performance of A Cinderella Christmas at the Pasadena Playhouse.
   - Panto at The Playhouse, now in its fifth year, has become a “must-do” holiday tradition for California residents. A Cinderella Christmas is the latest Holiday Spectacular presented by The Pasadena Playhouse and Lythgoe Family Panto in the style of the traditional British Panto. A Panto is interactive holiday fun for all ages, and the timeless tale of Cinderella will feature comedy, magic, dancers from ‘So You Think You Can Dance’ and contemporary music from Meghan Trainor to Justin Timberlake. Save 20% on tickets with the code: CaltechY
   - http://pasadenaplayhouse.org/
   - Cinderella

5. The TECH
   - Every Wednesday | 5:30 – 8:00 PM
   - Highland Park
   - Volunteer at Hathaway Sycamore, a group that supports local underprivileged but motivated high school students. There are a variety of ages and subjects being tutored. The service trip includes about an hour of travel time and 1.5 hours of tutoring. Transportation is included. For more info and to RSVP email Sherwood Richers at shericho@tapir.caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.

6. Pasadena LEARNS
   - Every Friday | 3:30 - 5:00 PM
   - Pasadena Come volunteer at Madison and Jackson Elementary School! We are partnered with the Pasadena LEARNS program and work with their Science Olympiad team or do regular tutoring along with occasional hands-on science experiments. Transportation is provided. For more information and to RSVP, contact azhai@caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.

Beyond the Y
1. Volunteering with PCC
   - The Veteran students at PCC would appreciate a little extra support to prepare themselves for their civilian and academic careers. Having been out of school for several years creates special challenges that you can help them overcome.
   - An hour or two per week could be a huge boost!
   - How can you help? One-on-one tutoring sessions with self-identified Veteran students.
   - When do you Need me? Right now!

Where? Caltech Campus or at PCC’s Veterans Resource Center

Time of Day? Flexible - To be arranged between Tutor and Student

How can I get started? Call or e-mail the Volunteer Coordinator below, or go to the PCC Veterans Resource Center website. See link: http://www.pasadena.edu/academics/support/veterans-services/become-a-tutor.php

Contact the volunteer coordinator for more info:
   - Urte H. Barker: urtebarker@gmail.com
   - 626-379-7471

2. Volunteering with the Pasadena Kidspace Museum
   - December 26th - 31st | Pasadena
   - From Monday, December 26th to Friday, December 30th, Kidspace is hosting a day full of snowy fun, with real snow for guests to play in, and winter themed activities throughout the museum. On Saturday, December 31st, we are hosting our annual “Noon Year’s Eve” event to celebrate the end of 2016.
   - Please see the dates and details below: SNOW DAYS
   - DATES: December 26th through December 30th
   - TIMES: December 26th & 27th & 30th - 10am-3pm; December 28th, 29th, 30th – 8:30am-5pm
   - *12 volunteers are needed each day to help guests create snowflake crowns, explore the water cycle, make magnetic ice skating figurines, and play in real snow!
   - NOON YEAR’S EVE: DATE: December 31st
   - TIME: 4pm-5pm
   - *12 volunteers are needed to help guest create snowflake crowns, explore the water cycle, make magnetic ice skating figurines, and play in real snow!

3. Save the Date
   - The Blue Plate – Seas of Life: Coral Seas
   - Saturday, December 10, 2016 | 10:00 AM

Journey to the polar extremes of the planet: the Arctic and the Antarctic – lands locked in ice for most of the year.

A BBC/Discovery Channel/NHK co-production in association with the CBC.

Call campus x 4652 for information.

Caltech Students $5 Free Parking
Caltech’s Beckman Auditorium
www.events.caltech.edu

Discussion Leader: Alistair Hayden
Caltech graduate student in Geological & Planetary Sciences
Fall Term Workshops - Caltech Counseling Center
counseling.caltech.edu

CATALYST
A 3-workshop series to cope better with stress.
Section D starts Mon Oct 31, 4:00 - 5:00
Section E starts Mon Nov 7, 2:00 - 3:00
All in Sherman Fairchild Library 229

SPARK
A 3-workshop series to stop procrastinating and avoiding work.
Next Section TBA; see website for details
Sherman Fairchild Library 231

REFRESH
A 1-hour workshop to get better sleep.
Section A: Wed Nov 30, 12:00 - 1:00
2nd Floor, Winnett

EMOTION LAB
A 3-workshop series to identify, regulate, & communicate your emotions.
Section A starts Tue Nov 1, 4:00 - 5:00
Sherman Fairchild Library 229

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Late rally falls short for volleyball at Chapman

Orange, Calif. (Oct. 22, 2016) – Freshman Alexa Lauinger keyed a late Caltech volleyball rally that fell just short at Chapman University on Saturday afternoon.

The Panthers took the first two sets with ease, 25-8 and 24-13, although the Beavers showed some signs of life with a 7-6 advantage in the second set ended. Caltech rode the momentum to a 5-2 lead to start the third set thanks to four kills, including three straight to break a 2-2 tie. A Panthers kill and pair of attack errors tied the set again at 3-3, after which Chapman rallied off six unanswered points to surge ahead 11-6 and extended the margin to eight at 18-10.

Lauinger notched a kill to take over the serve and kept it for three more points to halve the deficit. The Panthers scored three straight on two kills and an ace, but then committed four attack errors to allow the Beavers to pull back within three at 23-21. A Panther kill and Beaver error brought the hosts within two points of clinching the match, but Caltech made one final stand, scoring three straight points on a kill by freshman Lauren Li, ace by freshman Ellie Walker and a Chapman attack error to make it 25-23. A Panthers kill and ace finally sealed the victory for Chapman.

Lauinger led the Beavers with five kills and 12 digs, while Li added four kills and nine digs.

Senior Suzannah Osekowsky, sophomore Claudia Canamas and Walker smashed two kills apiece, with Li and Osekowsky combining on a block.

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Men’s soccer first half lead erased at Chapman

Orange, Calif. (Oct. 24, 2016) – An early goal by senior Schaeffer Reed gave Caltech men’s soccer a 1-0 halftime lead, but host Chapman University rallied in the second half to record a 2-1 victory on Monday night.

Reed rose up to head in a free kick by sophomore Jack Banaszak to stake the Beavers to the 1-0 lead in the 14th minute. Senior J.D. Feist immediately was called upon to make a pair of saves and went on to record a total of six in the shutout first half. Chapman finally equalized in the 52nd minute, although the Beavers showed some signs of life with a 7-6 advantage in the second set ended. Caltech rode the momentum to a 5-2 lead to start the third set thanks to four kills, including three straight to break a 2-2 tie. A Panthers kill and pair of attack errors tied the set again at 3-3, after which Chapman rallied off six unanswered points to surge ahead 11-6 and extended the margin to eight at 18-10.

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ASCIT Minutes
Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for 30 October 2016. Taken by Alice Zhai.
Officers Present: Andrew Montequin, Tim Liu, Bobby Sanchez, Sakthi Vetrivel, Kalyn Chang, Robin Brown, Alice Zhai
Call to Order: 3:55pm

President’s Report (Andrew):
- IHC Chair, ASCIT president, and ASCIT social director will meet with Deans about end of rotation party

Officer’s Reports:
V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Tim):
- Will meet with deans about overloading this week
- Will meet with Core Curriculum Steering Committee about pass/fail policies

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Bobby):
- IHC will meet with the diversity center on Tuesday about integrating CCD with the houses

Director of Operations (Sakthi):
- Sorting out issues for yearbook funding

Treasurer (Kalyn):
- Club Funding Day happened on Sunday, October 30th

Social Director (Robin):
- Movie night for Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them on November 18th
- Big I is happening on February 11th

Secretary (Alice):
- Nothing to report

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30pm

The California Tech

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VICE PROVOST’S OFFICE HOURS
Vice Provost, Chief Diversity Officer, and Professor of English, Cindy Weinstein, offers weekly office hours. This is an opportunity for undergraduate, graduate students, and postdocs to meet and discuss topics pertaining to the Council on Undergraduate Education; Caltech accreditation; the Staff and Faculty Consultation Center; Student-Faculty Programs; the Center for Teaching, Learning and Outreach; the Caltech Diversity Center; and the Libraries. There are four 15-minute appointments available per hour. Please sign up in Parsons-Gates room 104, or call the Vice Provost’s Office at ext. 6339.

Fall term hours: 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 7
Tuesday, Nov. 22
Wednesday, Nov. 30
Thursday, Dec. 8
Tuesday, Dec. 13

Join the Meditation MOB!
Tuesdays, 12:00 - 12:50
Want to learn more about mindfulness meditation? It’s a great way to improve your attention and to become more grounded in the present moment.

There’s no religious component. We use secular, evidence-based meditation techniques.

We meet in the small room just off the lounge in Winnett. All students are welcome, from total beginners to more experienced meditators.

Mailing list and MP3 archive: counseling.caltech.edu/students/meditation
“In Loving Memory of Moore’s Stone Volute (1995-2007).”

ANDREW MONTEQUIN
ASCIT President

For those of you who ever have had the need or occasional desire to take the path between Schlinger and the Beckman Behavioral Biology labs, you’ve probably noticed the peculiar benches along the way. The three benches, forming three sides of a box that juts out from the concrete walkway, are oriented to face a single tree planted in the middle of a small, concrete-walled courtyard. While many benches on campus have plaques that list the donors of the bench, you can’t find any such markers here. In fact, it wasn’t until about six months ago that I found any indication of why the benches might be there when I noticed a new sign on the wall inscribed with the words “Moore’s Stone Volute.” If you are anything like me, those three words probably didn’t ring any bells the first time you read them. A quick Google search of that phrase brought me to the first result, an official Caltech event page from 2007 with the header “POSTPONED: Moore’s Stone Volute Farewell” and a brief paragraph describing the volute and why it deserved a farewell. “Construction of the new Schlinger Laboratory for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, to be situated between Noyes and Beckman Behavioral Biology Laboratories, begins later this year. The building will replace Moore’s Stone Volute, the site-specific sculpture installed by artist Hamrol in 1995. Hamrol designed each of his pieces with its setting in mind, and in the case of the volute, the downward swoop of its arms frames the distant San Gabriel Mountains. Because of this, and because the flagstones from which the sculpture is composed will break upon deconstruction, the work cannot be moved.” Included on the website is a picture of the volute itself, a crescent-shaped stone structure with a keyhole-shaped grass lawn in its center. In the background, you can even make out the familiar landscape of the San Pasqual Walk behind Gates. Further down the page is an announcement that “Lloyd Hamrol would be speaking at the event and, most importantly, there is a notice indicating that “the event will take place at the Stone Volute itself.”

Revisiting the Google search results, I found links to several online archives of public art that document this sculpture. Pictures from every angle show the Stone Volute in its full glory, some of them with a random passerby helping put its size in perspective. Sitting in such a high-traffic area on campus, this sloping public art installation of stone reconfirmed Caltech’s physical closeness to the nearby mountains, providing any member of the community with a peak they could conquer, or a grotto they could retreat to. A Los Angeles Times article about the sculpture captured some of Hamrol’s own thoughts on its demolition, with him noting that “it certainly wakes one up to the fragile nature of things that seem permanent in public spaces.” He went on to note that “work in public spaces doesn’t come with the sense of inviolacy that you see in museums or in private collections — Don’t go past this railing. Don’t get too close.” Despite the need to demolish his sculpture to make room for the construction of Schlinger, Hamrol seemed grateful for the time it had on a campus. During his emotional last visit to the sculpture immediately before its demolition, he observed that “it was never vandalized. It looked as good three weeks ago as it did 12 years ago when it was installed.” While Moore’s Stone Volute is unfortunately no longer with us, Hamrol has certainly left his mark on the region. Many of his sculptures still exist in public spaces across Los Angeles, and just over a month ago the Pasadena Museum of California Art (less than two miles away from campus) debuted a new exhibit titled “a sky in the palm of a hand,” a collaboration between Hamrol and painter Joan Perlman.

If, by this point in my article, you still think I’m making all of this up for the purpose of churn out a Tech article during midterms, you can go watch the short video online titled “The Making and Unmaking of Moore’s Stone Volute.” The 12-minute home video includes footage of the sculpture being constructed and subsequently demolished to the tune of Radiohead’s “How to Disappear Completely.” Fortunately, public art has not disappeared completely from Caltech. Over the course of the next week, I will award 10 points to anybody who can prove that they visited “Perception” and go points for anyone who remains to “Scattered Light.”

**OPINION**

**OCTOBER 31, 2016**

**“In Loving Memory of Moore’s Stone Volute (1995-2007).”**

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**NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR FOR THE FEYNMAN TEACHING PRIZE!!!**

Here’s your chance to nominate your favorite professor for the 2016-17 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching! You have from now until December 15, 2016 to submit your nomination package to the Provost’s Office to honor a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching. The Feynman Prize is made possible through the generosity of Ione and Robert E. Paradise, with additional contributions from an anonymous local couple. Nominations for the Feynman Teaching Prize are welcome from faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and alumni. All professorial faculty of the Institute are eligible. The prize consists of a cash award of $3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual salary of the awardee. A letter of nomination and detailed supporting material, including, but not limited to, a curriculum vitae, course syllabus or description, and supporting recommendation letters should be emailed to kkerbs@caltech.edu or directed to the Feynman Prize Selection Committee, Office of the Provost, Mail Code 206-31, at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 91125. Nomination packages are due by December 15, 2016. Additional information including guidelines for the prize and FAQ may be found at http://provost.caltech.edu/FeynmanTeachingPrize. Further information can also be obtained from Karen Kerbs (626-395-6039; kkerbs@caltech.edu) in the Provost’s Office.

**Crossword**

Across
1. Remain
2. Ease off
10. Roster
14. Roofing material
15. Come up
16. Small island
17. Flying bird
18. Welcome
19. Midday
20. Redline
21. Entwrayway
22. Attack from all sides
23. Lassitude
25. Currency unit
27. Ancient Chinese dynasty
28. Pottery material
29. Stray
32. Religious song
33. Small cut of meat
35. Wheel shaft
37. Center of rotation
38. Garment
39. Stench
40. Fruit machine
41. Carbonated drink
42. Part of a church
43. Small barrel
44. Difficult
45. Singing pair
46. Circular
48. Patio

52. A skilled practice
54. Mineral
55. Prohibit
56. Harangue
57. Upsurge
59. Renown
60. Assistant
61. Musical instrument
62. Detail
63. Narrow secluded valley
64. Sharp end
65. Depend

Down
1. A static photograph
2. Shinbone
3. Extraterrestrial
4. Affirmative
5. Liman
6. Mistake
7. Layer
8. Voluntary
9. Domestic animal companion
10. Woven fabric
11. Triangle with two equal sides
12. Plum
13. Portable shelter
21. Two-fold
22. Alove
24. Demon or spirit
25. Plant life in a particular region
26. Eccastic
28. Youngster
30. Highland fling
31. Garden tool
32. Lloyd
33. Wheel shaft
34. Boundary between the US and Mexico
35. Combination of musical notes
36. Earlier
38. Read metrically
39. Halo
44. Small shelter
45. Respectable
47. Frequently
48. Beethoven
49. Diminish
50. Cad-chewing
53. Foe
52. Sleep rugged rock or cliff
53. Track
54. Magicians or sorcerors
55. Resplendent times
57. Concession given to mollify
58. Argument in favor
59. Evergreen tree

61. -http://puzzlechoice.com
Monday Punday

This picture represents a common phrase, title, or person.

Think you know the answer? Take a guess at mondaypunday.com/184

Answers to current crossword (pg 7)

- http://puzzlechoice.com