

## Table of Contents

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Liu, KuanFen - #871 - PAMU 307 Choral Spectacular 2022 .....	1
IRA Activity Budget .....	5
IRA Additional file .....	7

# Application Summary

## Competition Details

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**Competition Title:** IRA Applications for 2021-2022

**Category:** Internal Funding

**Award Cycle:** 2021-2022

**Submission Deadline:** 11/12/2021 11:59 PM

## Application Information

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**Submitted By:** KuanFen Liu

**Application ID:** 871

**Application Title:** PAMU 307 Choral Spectacular 2022

**Date Submitted:** 03/20/2021 11:54 AM

## Personal Details

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**Applicant First Name:** KuanFen

**Applicant Last Name:** Liu

**Applicant Department:** Performing Arts

**Email Address:** KuanFen.Liu@csuci.edu

**Phone Number:** (805) 437-1685

**Additional Applicant Name:**

**Additional Applicant Email:**

**Additional Applicant Department:**

## Application Details

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### Proposal Title

PAMU 307 Choral Spectacular 2022

### Total Amount Request from IRA

9,460

### Brief Activity Description

The very popular annual Choral Spectacular performed by PAMU 307 University Chorus (the Chorus) will return with triumph and even more inclusiveness after the global pandemic forced the cancellation of performances in 2020 and 2021.

To join the campus effort of “Fostering a campus culture that advances inclusive excellence, and developing a collective understanding of equity and inclusion” set out by the President’s office; the Chorus has selected to perform A Child of Our Time – a secular oratorio by the British composer Michael Tippett (1905-1998). The intention of this year’s program is to promote an inclusive community in this increasingly divisive world through collective voices in singing and performing arts. The motivation behind the creation of A Child of Our Time was the shooting of a German diplomat (1938) in Paris by a young Polish Jew, made desperate by the Nazi persecution of his race in general and his family in particular. This led to one of the most terrible programs of Jews in Central-Europe – the infamous “Chrystal Night” of 9 November. Tippett’s oratorio deals with these incidents in the context of the experiences of oppressed people generally, and carries a strongly pacifist message of ultimate understanding and reconciliation. In the same program, the Chorus will also perform Lux aeterna (light eternal) by the National Medal of Arts recipient, Morten Lauridsen.

The success of the CI University Chorus’ annual Choral Spectacular Performances is evident in the high impact and extraordinary learning experience our students received; as well as through the resounding praise from the music and arts patrons in the community and the media coverages. Concerts are in full-length; students performing with the Chorus will be on stage for approximately two hours. Both performances in May are expected to fill to capacity of 1000 people in the audience. Among the audience will be students, faculty and staff members of CI as well as musicians, composers, and music patrons of Ventura and surrounding counties. I am requesting this IRA fund to hire a rehearsal accompanist for the duration of the spring 2022 semester and the professional Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra to bring the extraordinary learning experience to our students. Why do we need to hire a rehearsal accompanist? In preparation for the concerts, the need of a rehearsal accompanist for the weekly Monday night University Chorus rehearsal is crucial and required. The accompanist assists the instructor/conductor during each rehearsal by helping students to learn their music efficiently, running additional sectional rehearsals for different voice parts, and making rehearsal CDs for students to practice outside of designated rehearsals. The typical fee for hiring an accompanist for the duration of the service such as this project would be about \$3,960.00 (estimate 66 hours at \$60 per hour rate). Mrs. Linda Fern Fay is an outstanding musician who is versatile in various musical genres; she is also extremely helpful to students in and outside of classroom. She will go out of her way to accompany for various University Chorus performances both on and off campus.

About our performance collaborator – the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra (CHICO). CHICO 501(c)(3) is a community-based professional chamber orchestra. The mission of the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra is to enrich the cultural community of Ventura County by providing live performances of classical and contemporary music and by cultivating a strong youth outreach program. This mission will be achieved by presenting concerts with local professional musicians and musical ensembles, providing access to all independent of the ability to play, and by exposing the children of our community to the joy of music.

**Fund requested:**

- Accompanist fee: \$3,960. \$60/hour for approx. 66 hours
- Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra (50 musicians): \$5,000. Professional accompanying fee for three rehearsals and two performances

**Activity or Event Date**

05/1/2022

**List all classes that relate to proposal**

PA 101, PA 390, PA 391, PAMU 307, 100, 161, 261, 162, 262, 109, 309, 332, and 337. HIST 340

**Learning Outcomes & Relation to Course Offering**

The goal of this interdisciplinary and intercultural collaboration is for students to gain experiences that enhance their understanding of the function of music in history in ways that go beyond what each program offers on its own. Moreover, to join the effort of "Fostering a campus culture that advances inclusive excellence, and developing a collective understanding of equity and inclusion" through the form of performing arts.

While music students generally learn fundamentals such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamic expression, history students will study human experience, as well as communicating and analyzing historical interpretations and ideas. Bringing these fields together to explore the complexity of human expression will offer students an interdisciplinary perspective that will deepen their understandings and abilities in both in ways called for in CI GE Outcomes.

Serving CI's GE Outcomes, students will be better able to:

6.1 Convey how issues relevant to social, cultural, political, contemporary/historical, economic, educational, or psychological realities interact with each other.

6.2 Discuss how social sciences conceive and study human

6.3 Use social science methods to explain or predict individual and collective human behavior.

7.1 Integrate content, ideas, and approaches from various cultural perspectives.

7.2 Integrate content, ideas, and approaches from various disciplinary perspectives.

This interdisciplinary project will also benefit directly the following courses:

**PA courses:**

PA 101 Introduction to Performing Arts

PA 390 Events

PA 391 Production

**PAMU courses:**

307 University Chorus

306 Chamber Ensemble

161, 261, 361, 461 Music Fundamentals and Music Theory courses

162, 262 Aural Skills I & II

109, 309 Private Voice Lessons

100 Music Appreciation

332 World Music

337 Music in History

**History course:**

HIST 340 - Hist & Psychol of Nazi German (Golden Four GE areas: A1, A2, A3, B4)

**Is this activity off campus ?**

Yes

**Off Campus - Describe benefit brought back to campus**

The plan is to hold performances both on and off campus.

The University Chorus Choral Spectacular Concerts typically attract approximately 800 to 1000 people total in attendance. The audience will be from the campus community, Ventura County, and surrounding counties. University chorus advertises through the CI related Facebook groups and pages, the CI media department's electronic scrolling announcements on the screens across campus, the public affairs department via press releases, CI View, the Camarillo public access television, and print media like The Acorn, VC Reporter, Happening Magazine and VC Star.

Students, faculty, and staff from CI are invited and many attend the performances. Many of those audience members then are inspired to join the chorus or other musical groups/events which enriches campus life.

The CI University Chorus serves as an ambassador to the community by providing arts and entertainment in integrated and interdisciplinary performances; such activities help to broaden the university connection and attract potential students in Performing Arts and Liberal Arts programs.

**CSU Channel Islands  
IRA Proposed Budget**

**IRA Activity Budget (No Travel) - 2020-2021**

**SAMPLE**

Please layout in detail when various components of your plan will be completed in order to achieve key milestones. This information will be used to forecast the spending of IRA within the fiscal year.  
*PS: all purchases/services need to be received and billed to CI before June 30th to account for the current fiscal year or special arrangements will need to be made.*

**IRA Activity Title**  
Global Studies Capstone Global Awareness Event

**Name of Sponsor**  
Joe Smith

**Total Requested**  
\$\$  
\$2,160

**IRA Planning Budget Calendar 2020-2021**

Operating Expenses Budget	Comments/Notes	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Grand Total
Honoraria (Price set by CI)														\$ -
Honoraria (Price set by CI)														\$ -
Professional Svcs/ Speaker Fees (Price set by vendor)	Speaker fees for multiple speakers/organizations; fees set by us. We hope to bring 2-3 speakers.				\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00			\$ 1,800.00
Special Consultants (existing CI employees)														\$ -
Other Consultants /Other Professional Services														\$ -
Independent Contractor(s)														\$ -
Printing	Student posters and posters to advertise event				\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00			\$ 300.00
Advertising (such as in a magazine or publication)														\$ -
Copier Chargeback														\$ -
Event Signage (wayfinding on day of event)														\$ -
Event or Parking-related Staffing														\$ -
Rentals or Leases														\$ -
Promotional Items (with logo)														\$ -
Awards														\$ -
Registration- Conferences & Meetings														\$ -
Supplies & Services- Other														\$ -
Supplies & Services- Other														\$ -
Parking (please describe)	Parking passes for up to 5 speakers/visiting organization staff				\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00			\$ 60.00
Other (specify)														\$ -
Other (specify)														\$ -
<b>Total</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$ -	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,160.00

**CSU Channel Islands  
IRA Proposed Budget**

**IRA Activity Budget (No Travel) - 2021-2022**

**IRA Activity Title**                      **Name of Sponsor**                      **Total Requested**  
**PAMU 307 Choral Spectacular 2022**                      **KuanFen Liu**                      **\$9,460**

Please layout in detail when various components of your plan will be completed in order to achieve key milestones. This information will be use to forecast the spending of IRA within the fiscal year.

*PS: all purchases/services need to be received and billed to CI before June 30th to account for the current fiscal year or special arragments will need to be made.*

\*formulas will calculate totals

**IRA Planning Budget Calendar 2020-2021**

Operating Expenses Budget	Comments/Notes	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Grand Total
Honoraria (Price set by CI)														\$ -
Honoraria (Price set by CI)														\$ -
Professional Svcs/ Speaker Fees (Price set by vendor)	Performance and Weekly Rehearsal Accompanist , Linda Fern Fay: \$3,960/ Guest speaker on History of Holocaust: \$500								\$4,460.00					\$ 4,460.00
Special Consultants (existing CI employees)														\$ -
Other Consultants /Other Professional Services	Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra (50 professional musicians) for three rehearsals and two performances								\$ 5,000.00					\$ 5,000.00
Independent Contractor(s)														\$ -
Printing														\$ -
Advertising (such as in a magazine or publication)														\$ -
Copier Chargeback														\$ -
Event Signage (wayfinding on day of event)														\$ -
Event or Parking-related Staffing														\$ -
Rentals or Leases														\$ -
Promotional Items (with logo)														\$ -
Awards														\$ -
Registration- Conferences & Meetings														\$ -
Supplies & Services- Other														\$ -
Supplies & Services- Other														\$ -
Parking (please describe)														\$ -
Other (specify)														\$ -
Other (specify)														\$ -
* you can add lines to your budget by inserting lines here														\$ -
<b>Total</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,460.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,460.00



Proposal #  
\_\_1101\_\_

## Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: KUANFEN LIU

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: PERFORMING ARTSM - MUSIC

ACTIVITY TITLE: CHORAL SPECTACULAR 2019

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: 26 April and 28 April, 2019

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at [david.daniels@csuci.edu](mailto:david.daniels@csuci.edu) within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

### A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

#### (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

Choral Spectacular 2019 – *Choral Spectacular Goes to the Opera*. CSU Channel Islands University Chorus (University Chorus - PAMU 307) collaborated with Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra (CHICO) and the Pleasant Valley School District Chorus (PVSD Chorus) in two outstanding performances to approximately 1,000 audience members on Friday, 26 April and Sunday, 28 April.

In preparation for these performances, University Chorus spent the spring semester rehearsing and preparing concert repertoire with the wonderful assistance from Ms. Linda Fern Fay (Fern, IRA Funded) as the weekly rehearsal accompanist. The preparation includes additional sectional rehearsals and a Saturday choir retreat, which Fern played for all the sessions. Fern also played and recorded practice tracks for singers’ self-study outside of classroom.

As part of the preparation for the performances, the University Chorus also joined with the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra in three dress rehearsals. In these dress rehearsals, our students were able to work with the finest musicians in our region including studio musicians, principal musicians of various orchestras and a Grammy award winner who played the principal clarinet in the orchestra.

The hands-on and complete experience from weekly piano rehearsals to dress rehearsals and performances with a professional chamber orchestra was an exceptional and valuable experience for all the students who participated.



Among many highlights of this event, here are some examples:

1. Both performances were held at the new state of the art Performing Arts Center at the Rancho Campana High School. There were approximately 1,000 members in the audience. The performances received numerous standing ovations. The Camarillo Acorn celebrated the success of these performances with a section entitled “A Spectacular Night at the Opera.” The Camarillo Acorn has a circulation of over 26,000, and the unsolicited coverage was an outstanding publicity opportunity, promoting the Performing Arts program and our students.
2. CI students had the opportunity to collaborate with professionals from the LA Master Chorale and LA Opera, such as Mr. Joseph Lopez.
3. CI student, Miss. Caressa Suarez, also a student member of the University Chorus and my voice student, filled in for an ill singer, performing an opera aria during Choral Spectacular. Despite only having been given two-hour notice, her CI education allowed her to perform confidently and competently.

**Please see Supporting Documents for additional reports.**

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

The weekly rehearsals with the instructor and the accompanist provide knowledge, comprehension, and application of beginning, intermediate, and advanced skills in choral singing. In addition, through rehearsals and performances, students learn choral repertoire, and develop musicianship and performance skills.

Moreover, the musical literature studied and performed in this program included music from various time periods, composer, styles and languages. They were the most beloved opera choruses from the Western Music History. Students performed music by Richard Wagner, Bellini, Bizet, Puccini and Verdi. Through studying, rehearsing and performing these pieces, students not only gained knowledge and skills in performing arts, they were also benefited from the interdisciplinary learning in music, literature and languages.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

One of the many strengths of this activity is to be able to enrich students learning experience by providing them an outstanding accompanist during weekly rehearsals and the opportunity to work and perform with a professional chamber orchestra. These are the practical “hands-on” learning experience we want our students to have. We want our students to not only gain knowledge in classroom settings but also apply them in the real world – high impact learning.

Another example is to disseminate classical music to a broader audience and connect with music patrons in the community. Through such activity, our students also gained opportunity of

networking with professionals and patrons in the community. CI Performing Arts program and the university received positive recognition in our community.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

I wish we were able to bring such wonderful experience to campus. CI does not currently have a suitable indoor performance venue to accommodate such scale of presentation. It is our goal to keep pursuing the opportunity to establish such performance venue on campus to benefit and enrich our cultural community both on campus and at large. I am currently working on an IRA proposal to bring such extraordinary performance to campus in spring 2020.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

I think we have done our best to maximize the extraordinary experience we could bring to our students in our current capacity. To further our students' learning experience, I hope to bring Choral Spectacular 2020 – *Harmony of the World! United We Sing!* to our campus community and extend the collaboration with other faculty and students in appropriate disciplinary areas.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

I continue to discover how little exposure our students had prior to arriving CI and how important it was to open doors for them, guide them and inspire them to be seekers and look beyond their individual windows. I have also realized our community is hungry for high quality musical performances; especially those are done by the younger generation. Not only do they enjoy a good performance, they also wanted to support the next generations of college students. These two testimonies have made me more determined to continue bringing such opportunities to my students and to bridge the connections for their future success.

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

Please see the support documents (student reports) that are attached to the end of this report.

8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY (DO NOT INCLUDE ACCOUNTING STRINGS)

\$3,075.00 was paid to Ms. Linda Fern Fay for her service of weekly rehearsals (January 28<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>), and three dress rehearsals and two performances.

\$4,500.00 was paid to Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra (45 musicians) (501(c)(3)) for three dress rehearsals and two performances

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**B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:**



California State  
University

**INSTRUCTIONALLY  
RELATED  
ACTIVITIES**

**C H A N N E L  
I S L A N D S**

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

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**C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:**

Please embed 3-5 images in this document (or attach in .JPEG format) that demonstrate student participation with captions/title

Image 1: Choral Spectacular 2019 – *Choral Spectacular Goes to the Opera* Poster





Image 2: Report form Acorn (May 3, 2019)







California State  
University

**INSTRUCTIONALLY  
RELATED  
ACTIVITIES**

C H A N N E L  
I S L A N D S

Image 3: CI Students performing with CHICO (26 April, 2019)



**Image 4: Performance at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center – Front View (28 April, 2019)**





California State  
University

INSTRUCTIONALLY  
RELATED  
ACTIVITIES

C H A N N E L  
I S L A N D S

**Image #5: Pleasant Valley School District Chorus Joined in Performance singing selection from *Carmen* by G. Bizet.**





## Congratulations from the Community

Wonderful concert last night! > For keep-sake x



**Margaret Tolberg** <mtolberg@gmail.com>  
to me ▾

Sat, Apr 27, 2:53 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Hi, KuanFen,

Marc and I just loved the concert last night - great selection of opera choruses and arias, etc.! And, Nancy's commentary adds so much especially for the opera newbies in the house! Anyway, I didn't catch up with you last night and just wanted to tell you how much we enjoyed the concert. Have another great performance on Sunday!

Best,  
\*\*\*

Great job today, KuanFen! > For keep-sake x



**Deborah Fitzgibbons** <debfitzgibbons@aol.com>  
to me ▾

Sun, Apr 28, 8:30 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Hello, KuanFen. Just want you to know how much I enjoyed today's concert. Your outfit (on your FIT body), your hair, your earrings, all looked beautiful. You are always a delight to watch conduct. The orchestra has gotten better and better and was fantastic today. The venue at Rancho Campana looked MUCH more comfortable for the large choir and orchestra than, say, FUMC.

The choir did well, although I could not really hear them as well as I wished. (Although I was sitting in the second row, where I couldn't even SEE all of them. Perhaps I should have moved back.) Job well-done by the children's chorus and the adult chorus. Very unfortunate about Dianna's voice. She and Bob sat right in front of me.

I understand you had to replace your originally contracted tenor at a very late hour. (BIG shame on him!) However, J.J. Lopez was fabulous! "Nessun dorma" always makes me teary anyway, but J.J. was beyond a "local" talent. His biography was impressive and I hope he didn't cost you too much. I'm extremely glad to have heard him.

I particularly enjoyed the "Humming Chorus" and all the selections from Cavalleria Rusticana. The luscious strings of the Intermezzo were beautiful and I loved Kathleen McVicker's "Inneggiamo..." with the chorus. Although I am not an opera buff, I knew most of the pieces you selected. However, Cavalleria Rusticana was a delightful surprise for me.

Of course, Nancy Sieh was as lovely, gracious, informative and amusing as always. She really writes wonderful synopses for an audience who may be less than knowledgeable about opera (like me). It was good that her speaking voice recovered enough to do her narrative duties again.

Apologies for bothering you this morning. Both Alexa and I had looked in the "usual box" for the piano key. I'm sorry. Operator(s) error.

See you in church, KuanFen. My goodness, what you have done for music in Ventura County! You're a real gem!

Love,  
Deborah





California State  
Univer

# INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES CHANNEL

Concert ▶ For keep-sake ✕



**timdewitt** <timdewitt@prodigy.net>  
to me ▾

Sun, Apr 28, 8:57 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Brava, Kuan Fen!  
I just heard a snippet from your concert featuring JJ Lopes.  
Great sounding orchestra and fine conducting.  
Congratulations, it was great.  
I hope you and your family are well and that you have a great summer.  
Best,  
Tim

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Thank you so much!

Thank you for your support!

Thank you, you too!

↶ Reply

➦ Forward



**STEVE PERREN** <thepiv@sbcglobal.net>  
to me, Nancy, Mihalka, Henning, Miriam, Iesvielbig, ted.lucas, Bruce ▾

Mon, Apr 29, 12:43 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear Chicophiles:  
I attended yesterday's spectacular concert; an oft used word that has been drained of its meaning by overuse. Here It is justified and, if anything, falls short of the mark when singing the praises of this performance. The orchestra was rock solid. The chorus was excellent (we need more men). All the elements were in place. The audience was connected and involved - it is cheating to put kids in a concert. It worked. Invariably, singling out is viewed by those not identified as a negative. Not so. That said, kudos to the brass. Nancy's words delightfully enlighten and enrich. Kuanfen was in the moment and exciting.  
Thank you.

...

Wonderfull

Thank you!

Wow!



**Nancy Sieh** <nancy.sieh@sbcglobal.net>  
to me ▾

Fri, May 3, 2:02 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear KuanFen

I have been sadly negligent in praising the work of you and the orchestra at last weekend's concerts. You were wonderful I wish we had the safety podium already. Your energy really communicates to the players and the audience. Attendees were saying at intermission how much they love watching you. Someone told me that her daughter said she wanted to BE you when she grows up!

I particularly enjoyed seeing you front view for a change. You are so dramatic and expressive.

The orchestra sounded superbly resonant and fluid, precise and emotional. Great job. Such a joy to hear them. Congratulations

Love  
Nancy

Sent from my iPhone

## Samples of Student Concert Reports

### Report #1

I attended the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra, held at Rancho Campana Performing Arts center on friday the 26th. The performances I experienced included Lohengrin, the Prelude



to Act III "Bridal Chorus" by Richard Wagner, Vincenzo Bellini- Norma "Casta Diva", Giacomo Puccini- Madama Butterfly "Un bel di vedremo" and "Humming Chorus", another Puccini composition Turandot "Nessun dorma", and to end the first half Giuseppe Verdi- Il Trovatore "Anvil Chorus". After intermission the program continued with George Bizet- Carmen "Avec la grade montante" and "Les voici! Voici la quadrille!", next was Pietro Mascagni- Cavalleria Rusticana "Intermezzo", "Inneggiamo, il Signor non e morto" and "Voi lo sapete" , after was Giuseppe Verdi- Nabucco "Gli arredi festivi giu cadano infranti" and "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves", and lastly to finish the program, Giuseppe Verdi composition Aida "Triumphal March".

Richard Wagner was a German composer born in 1813 who at a young age became very interested in opera, but was much more interested in the dramatical part than the music. Wagner was kicked out of Germany but this lead Germany to anti-Semitism and socialism. He was well known for "leitmotifs" in where he describes the characters, places and objects through musical passages. Another composer whose composition was performed was Vincenzo Bellini an Italian composer who has long, flowing lines. Bellini was born in Sicily in 1801 to a musical family. His most popular and remembered opera was Norma. Moving on to Giuseppe Verdi who was an Italian composer in the 19th century. Verdi's composed Nabucco, the one you could say established him and brought demand. Verdi was well known for his music and his political reforms which bettered his homeland. Moving on to Giacomo Puccini who was born in Italy in 1858, was also inspired at a young age. Puccini's operas are emotional and truthful, as they are the most performed in the world. George Bizet a Paris native born in 1838 was born to a music oriented family. Bizet was a master in the piano at a young age and at age 9 was admitted to the Paris Conservatoire. In 1857 Bizet was awarded the Prix de Rome prize, a prize that gave him a 5 year study in Rome, Germany and Paris. After his sponsorship he began to compose, a composition that gained him popularity was Carmen. Lastly is Pietro Mascagni, of Italian origin , much like the other composers was not born into a music oriented family.

The soloist involved were Hana Chelberg in the opera Norma, which in my point of view was great but had somewhat a soft voice compared to the others. Dianna Burdick in Cio-Cio San, had a very strong voice that was complemented very well with the musical instruments. Joseph Lopez in the opera Calaf with a strong and powerful voice that meshed very well with the orchestra. Lastly was Kathleen McVicker in Santuzza.

In the opera Norma its was a dramatic opera which can be compared to an Italian Bel Canto opera where voice is heard throughout the opera and it could be a sort of "diva" singing. In "Nessun dorma" sung by Marcus Klotz as Calaf the dramatic effect was captured both by the orchestras and the soloist. The orchestra captured the tone by using certain instruments at certain times to convey drama or a more relaxing moment. I love the variation of instruments that orchestras provide, as for the orchestra I experienced I liked how the tuba would stand out in certain composition more than others along with the drums as well. Overall I was very pleased with my first experience at the Chamber Orchestra, I was not expecting to like it as much as I did. I am very happy I took the time to experience one.

**Report #2**



For my concert report, I attended a classical concert on April 26th, 2019 at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center that was a collaboration between the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra and Channel Islands Choral Association. The concert program consisted of various acts from nine different operas. The first opera highlighted was "Lohengrin" by Richard Wagner, which featured the two acts "Prelude to Act III" and "Bridal Chorus." Richard Wagner was born in Leipzig, Germany and lived from 1813 to 1883. He shifted the focus of opera from musical form to drama and emphasized the importance of continuity within the piece to create a build-up of dramatic power. "Lohengrin" started with a grand opening, shifting the melody to the low brass almost immediately, while the upper winds and strings played ostinato lines behind to contribute to the dramatic, slow build-up within "Prelude to Act III" - a common pattern in this piece. The second act, "Bridal Chorus," otherwise known as "Here comes the bride," followed a lighter theme, including a flute solo and upper-middle voices of the choir. The act contained many dynamic swells and a homophonic relationship between melodic and harmonic lines - the latter being very characteristic of the Romantic era. Throughout the entirety of "Lohengrin," Wagner remained very characteristic of his own style - never quite leaving any interruptions and engaging in relatively slow crescendos and decrescendos in a predictable manner.

The second opera to be included in the concert was "Norma," by Vincenzo Bellini, featuring the act "Casta Diva." Vincenzo Bellini lived from 1801 to 1835 and was known for his long melodic lines which created an "ebb and flow" feel. "Casta Diva" showcases this beautifully with a flowing flute solo and later a vocal solo by Hanna Chelberg playing Norma, both complemented by pizzicato lines in the lower strings and slow ostinato lines in the upper strings. The piece ends with a cadenza from the vocal soloist, showcasing the brilliance of her range and the "timeless" feel of both rhythm and meter, representative of the time period. Giacomo Puccini lived from 1858 to 1924 and composed the next two operas, "Madama Butterfly," featuring "Un bel di vedremo" and "Humming Chorus," and "Turandot," featuring "Nessun dorma." Puccini was born in Lucca, Italy, and was best known for his deeply emotional compositions, presenting characters torn away from their everyday lives - otherwise known as "verismo," which reflects two aspects of Romanticism in the 19th century: self-expression and the longing to communicate with passion. "Un bel di vedremo" features long, drawn-out lines from the vocal soloist Dianna Burdick playing Cio-Cio San, which reflect emotions of sorrow and hopelessness as the character is stranded from her homeland; the act ends on a major (happy) note to signify that hope is not dead. The next act, "Humming Chorus," contains a simple and light clarinet and vocal melody comprised of long, drawn out notes, while the upper string play pizzicato behind as a harmony. This act was much shorter than the others included, but had some really beautiful transitions as the piece shifted from an A to a B section. The act "Nessun dorma," part of opera "Turandot," featured vocal soloist Joseph Lopez as Calaf. This was my favorite act by far due to the strong, rich tone of the soloist and the swelling, almost dissonant harmony that lead to very grand moments. The supporting lines consisted of normal homophonic harmony with occasionally dissonant chords to create tension that would ultimately be released in the final climax.

Some of the next operas to be featured were "Carmen," by George Bizet, including the



acts "Avec la garde montante" and "Les voici! Voice la quadrille!" and "Cavalleria Rusticana," by Pietro Mascagni, showcasing the acts "Intermezzo," "Inneggiamo, il Signor non è morto," and "Voi lo sapete." Bizet and Mascagni are both known as "one-hit wonders" who unfortunately struggled financially and went underappreciated for most of their lives. Bizet, born in 1838 and died in 1875, was a piano prodigy and composed many works, with the best known being "L'Arlesienne Suite" and especially "Carmen." Mascagni lived from 1863 to 1945 and was born into a poor family who managed to save up enough to send him to a conservatory to study, resulting in the composition of "Cavalleria Rusticana." I really loved "Avec la garde montante" from "Carmen" for all sorts of reasons. This part of the opera is supposed to convey soliders entering a town and children mocking them playfully, with horns representing the marching soldiers in the beginning with a regal, grand entrance, and piccolos representing the children. At one point, actual children joined the choir on-stage and it was the most adorable thing. There were a lot of elements contributing to the playful atmosphere, such as the grace notes in the piccolo melody, the use of triangle, the "ta ta-ta ta" melody from the children, and even the ending, which had the same rhythm as to say "the end." "Intermezzo" from "Cavalleria Rusticana" exemplifies the passionate spirit that is so characteristic of the Romantic era very well. It's on the slower side and full of long, drawn out homophonic lines - later transitioning to polyphony with the entrance of the harp and string bass - and resolves nicely with the addition of upper winds on a major chord (who had to count out 46 measures at an astounding 54 beats per measure, only to play a single note - poor things). "Inneggiamo, il Signor non è morto" and "Voi lo sapete" both featured vocal soloist Kathleen McVicker as Santuzza. The former piece was a resurrection hymn for Easter Sunday, and that was well conveyed through the use of organ to open the piece, as well as the set-up by the choir for the soloist's entrance. Once the soloist entered, the piece shifted to polyphony as there were repeated moving lines echoed around the orchestra behind the soloist at first, and later supporting her directly. The ending recaps the entire piece, with a faster tempo and added allargando at the end to capture a truly grand ending. Giuseppe Verdi composed three of the operas showcased at the concert: "Il Trovatore," featuring "Anvil Chorus," "Nabucco," featuring the acts "Gli arredi festivi giù cadano infranti" and "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves," and "Aida," featuring "Triumphal March." Verdi lived from 1813 to 1901 and entered the world of opera with his composition, "Nabucco." He is known for richness in his works as well as unique modulations and has earned a special recognition for his contribution to music despite the many political reforms he lived through. "Gli arredi festivi giù cadano infranti" is immediately full of busy lines conveying desperation and anguish. There is a calm interlude by the choir, but a looming eighth-note line is repeated occasionally underneath. The ending is suddenly very loud and very grand, and repeats the same idea over and over, reminding me of certain pieces by Chopin in which the ending idea would be established and then repeated a lot to emphasize it. "Triumphal March" from "Aida" is supposed to be a victory march and it is very easy to envision that with the lone trumpet line it opens with; a melody is establish, repeated a few times, and then handed off to a second trumpet, with more layers being added gradually. There is a call and response section between the orchestra and choir, which follows the same pattern established earlier and later there is a fugue section and sudden change in mood; I thought this part had a really cool effect in person, as I could hear each instrument come in from around separate parts of the orchestra. Towards the end, the lines get



busier with scales and a gradual crescendo is applied, signifying the coming ending; this made for a predictable and very satisfying end to an overall outstanding performance.

### Report #3

Attending a live performance can enrich a person's mentality, emotions, and physical being. While attending the CI Chamber Orchestra performance I felt the mental stimulation, the emotions waving through, the chills rising on my skin from hearing the soloist passionately sing. The CI Chamber Orchestra performed on the 26 th of April 2019 at the Rancho Campana High School Theater. The performance was conducted by my favorite music Professor KuanFen Liu. It was spectacular to be able to attend the performance and take in the orchestra, chorus, and soloist. The orchestra has several instruments playing together that create a performance that would leave anyone in a euphoric trance. The instruments that stood out to me were the violin, cello, piccolo, bassoon, and harp. Viewing the CI Chamber Orchestra performing made me realize the extensive hard work that goes into getting the performance together and to sound amazing.

The starting piece "Lohengrin Act III" created by Richard Wagner. Born in Germany, Richard composer of Opera who loved drama. The piece began fast paced, dramatic, and high pitch. The violins seemed to be racing, with the triumph feeling of the trumpets playing in the background, yet at last that ah moment when all instruments come together playing such a joyful sound. Suddenly, transitions to a low pitch and slow place sound. Sounding like the violins, oboe and piccolo. Hearing the oboe and piccolo play had me imagining the music floating through air with such poise.

CI Choral Association's performance was beautiful and amazing. The way their voices came together in such a way, making it sound so peaceful and joyful. The CI Choral Association has organized chorus members to the following singing groups: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. The bass group sounded as if of their voices were coming from deep inside their soul. I was impressed when the children performed "Les voici from Carmen". They not only sang but gave a marching performance.

Finally, my favorite performance was by JJ Lopez's soloist accompanied by the orchestra. JJ Lopez performed "Nessun Dorma" by Giacomo Puccini. Giacomo was born in Lucca, Italy raised by a poor family, and fell in love with Opera. Every lyric hits the feeling of love, and the intensity of drama. Portraying the strength and emotions from the song was done incredibly well by JJ Lopez his performance was breathtaking. He pulled through with so much soul and emotion. It felt real, as if JJ was really singing to his love of his life. The powerful orchestra delivered a dramatic climax. Keeping up with the instruments played by the orchestra brought in that mental stimulation. Hearing JJ sing sent chills and feelings of love and despair. It brought light to a different scene that I, as an individual, haven't been too familiar with and will be attending more musical events. I enjoyed my night having the pleasure to attend. All performances by CI Chamber Orchestra were wonderful.



#### Report #4

I attended the Chorus Spectacular 2019! Presented by the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra and Choral Association on Friday, April 26, 2019 at 7:30 pm. KuanFen Liu was the artistic director and conductor for this production. There were two sopranos by the names of Diana Burdick and Hana Chelberg that performed. The single mezzo soprano was Kathleen Mckvicker and the only male vocal soloist was a tenor named Marcus Klotz. The Orchestra and chorus that were placed behind the instrumental group setup accompanied each other beautifully as well as stood out in their individual moments. The first violinist, who was a woman directly to the left of KuanFen was incredibly theatrical and a true pleasure to watch play throughout the whole concert.

The concert expressed many different themes with the varying pieces from war, to love, and what in some instances seemed to be quite dark. Regarding the vocal soloists throughout the night, they all showed distinguishing attributes that made them incredible performers. The first vocal soloist performed a very fast and what seemed to be the most complex or difficult solo act of the night. That song was called *Casta Diva* and was performed by Hana Chelberg. The term mentioned in class as “staccato” was the first thing that came to my mind while the amazing soprano somehow perfectly performed the very choppy and fast paced aria.

The following female vocal soloists were all amazing while performing their slower paced vocal pieces. Diana Burdick had such amazing projection while performing *Un bel vi vedremo* that I got the goosebumps within the first few moments. The timbre and power of her voice were incredibly appealing. My favorite solo vocalist of them all however, would have to be the male tenor who performed *Nessun Dorma*. Not only was the tenor showcasing incredible volume, even to the back of the building effortlessly but he showcased true “legato” as he was very clearly understood but also beautifully fluid.

I noticed a few techniques by the string instruments that were mentioned in the curriculum such as “pizzicato” that occurred during the performance. My Professor KuanFen was a true joy to watch conduct, as during the performance I kept reflecting on her telling us to count the down beats with our pencils. It is not every day that you get to see children come out to perform choir pieces during professional orchestral and choral performances. Not only did the children bring a lightness to the show but it brought a really beautiful touch to the over all end product of this wonderful performance.

Operas are often focused on the vocal soloists with instruments as support. This performance did an amazing job of showcasing the orchestra and human voices ability to both stand out and accompany each other leaving the audience loving it all equally. The Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra and Choir did the amazing composers of our past very proud.

#### Report # 5

On April 28, 2019, at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center in Camarillo, I had the pleasure to see Artistic Director conducted by Dr. KuanFen Lui, lead the Channel Islands





Chamber Orchestra. The program in the Choral Spectacular 2019 *Opera Choruses*, consisted of

Diana Burdick, Hana Chelberg, and Grace Kim as Sopranos as well as Kathleen McVicker, a Mezzo Soprano. Lastly, there was Marcus Klotz and JJ Lopez as Tenor. CSU Channel Island University Chorus Singers of the Pleasant Valley School District Chorus. The Narrator was Nancy Seih and Vocal Consultant was Linda Ottesen. As mentioned in the concert program, the composer's pieces performed included Richard Wagner, Vincenzo Bellini, Giacomo Puccini, Giuseppe Verdi, George Bizet, and Pietro Mascagni. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain the program because they had run out of them.

All composers mentioned were in the 19<sup>TH</sup> century. Richard Wagner (1813-1883) was a German composer, conductor, and theatre director. Best known for his operas in his era. He did want the opera to be known as "music dramas" and this is because he took his pieces to another level of dramatic heights. Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835) was an Italian composer whom surprisingly was admired by Wagner who doesn't admire anyone, but himself, as well as others such as, Chopin and Liszt. His pieces were based on the relationship between music and poetry, giving it the libretto. Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) was an Italian Opera composer and dominated the stage in the Italian Opera spectrum after Vincenzo Bellini. Giacomo Puccini (1858-1954) Italian composer was seen as the greatest composer of Italian Opera after Verdi. He gave exponent of operatic realism as well as, traditional romantic Opera. George Bize (1838-1875) French composer was in the Romantic Era, with the big and final hit of *Carmen*. Last but not least, Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945) is an Italian composer and conductor who ushered seismic movement in Italian dramatic music.



For all soloist, to me, they all had high and low pitches which made me be captured and

feel moved. First, Hana Chelberg sung Casta Diva from Norma, in the string family that was used are the violin, bass, cello and embracing the piano. The bass and the cello were being plucked while the violinists were using the bow. In the woodwind family, the flute came in after the string instruments started. A little into Ms. Chelberg's singing and the chorus singers come in last to join her. Before ending the first part of Casta Diva the melody was longer strokes because the dynamics were mellow, soft, and slow. For the second coming the melody had shorter phrases since it went with a big bang with possibly the usage of the brass family and if om not mistaken it was the trumpet. The dynamics are much louder and faster. Another, instrument that was very hard to see was in the percussion family. Grace Kim sung Un Bel Di Vedremo from Madama Butterfly, it starts with violins as dynamically soft and slow. The melody and rhythm notes are longer strokes. The instrument's joining Ms. Kim are the violin, bass, cello, flute, trumpet, and percussion, but the violin was mostly used. I was fascinated with her super high and long pitch and scale harmonized with I believe the flute and the percussion. I do want to mention that at the end of this piece after Ms. Kim steps out, the piano, harp, violin, and bass join with the chorus singers for a relaxing ending. Joseph Lopez (JJ) sung Nessun Dorma from Turandot, and the instruments that harmonize with the vocalist are the string family plus woodwind flute. He has a long scale and both high and low pitches, which makes it very beautiful and emotional. Lastly, Kathleen McVicker, sung Voi Lo Sepete, Mamma from Cavalleria Rusticana with the chorus of Regina Coeli and Innegiamo Il Signor from Cavalleria Rusticana. When the chorus at some point started singing with her it was difficult to hear her, but it gave it





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more of a dramatic sound. She had a nice tone to her voice had a soft, but in the middle pitch since, this was about a loved one feeling the pain and the betrayal of the cheating and lies.

Overall, as soloists or chorus singers harmonizing with the instruments gave a variety of sounds and experiences to me. Whether, short and long scales and pitches. Some varied with slow and others fast tempos. This was depending on the story behind the piece. Some made me feel calm while, others had me moving my hand and body. The one with the children had me smiling because it's amazing to see young ones perform. I really enjoyed the last two pieces because it is a way of showing solidarity as the narrator had mentioned. These last two are sacred because they are biblical context with standing together with the Jewish community. I had never gone to an Opera Chorus before and I am glad that I had the opportunity to do so. I may not know a lot of classical music and music before my time, but they are touching and moving.