

ROBERT ZELICKMAN IS RETIRING AFTER CONDUCTING HIS FINAL WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT

When he takes the stage at Mandeville Auditorium on June 4, Robert Zelickman will conduct the UC San Diego Wind Ensemble for the final time after leading the band for the past 23 years.

Zelickman, who is retiring in June, began teaching in the UC San Diego Department of Music in 1983 and has since mentored hundreds of students. He is also a first-call clarinetist who has performed and recorded with SONOR (the original new music ensemble in the music department), the San Diego Symphony, San Diego Opera, San Diego Chamber Orchestra (he was a member for 23 years), Starlight Opera, the Mexico City and Veracruz symphonies in the early eighties, and the Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble.

Known for his dry sense of humor, he smiles when one of his peers calls him “Bobby Z.,” after Bob Dylan a.k.a. Zimmerman. Zelickman is a gregarious teacher and performer who is popular with his students and peers.

“Robert is one of the truly fine musicians and performers I’ve had the pleasure of meeting and working with,” said soprano and emeritus music faculty Carol Plantamura, who performed with Zelickman in SONOR and in other settings.

“I remember Tom Nee [founding music faculty member and longtime La Jolla Symphony and Chorus conductor] coming into my office when I was chair and telling me he had gone to a Wind Ensemble concert and that Robert was a tiger! The first piece I performed with Robert was *Pierrot Lunaire*, conducted by Keith Humble with Jean Charles Francois on piano. Robert was always there with his elegant playing. His humility regarding what he does so well is touching.”

While some musicians specialize in one genre, Zelickman has eclectic interests. He has performed and recorded CDs such as *The Music of Will Ogdon*, *SONOR Ensemble Plays Steiger*, classical music, and dozens of traditional Yiddish songs with the Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble.

He said that the Wind Ensemble, essentially a class in performance and music history with a rehearsal once a week and a concert each quarter, explored music from all over the world, including great works from the classics, jazz and folk music as well as contemporary pieces composed by students and professionals. The group often featured prominent soloists from the San Diego community alongside talented students here at

UCSD. Bringing students and community members together in the shared experience of playing great works has been the most rewarding aspect of his work at UCSD, he said. In addition to the Wind Ensemble class, he taught courses on The Symphony and Jewish Music.

Zelickman is among the last faculty in the music department whose experiences date back to founding faculty composers such as Ogdon and Robert Erickson. He often premiered, performed and recorded music by Ogdon and Erickson as well as faculty including Pulitzer Prize-winner Roger Reynolds, Brian Ferneyhough and Joji Yuasa.

Students frequently took private clarinet lessons with Zelickman, learning both traditional techniques and methods of producing the unconventional sounds utilized in a variety of new and experimental music.

Born in Detroit and raised in the Los Angeles area, he began studying clarinet at 10 and has considered himself a musician ever since. He earned a BA in composition at UCLA and an MFA in performance at California Institute of the Arts where he studied with Michelle Zukovsky.

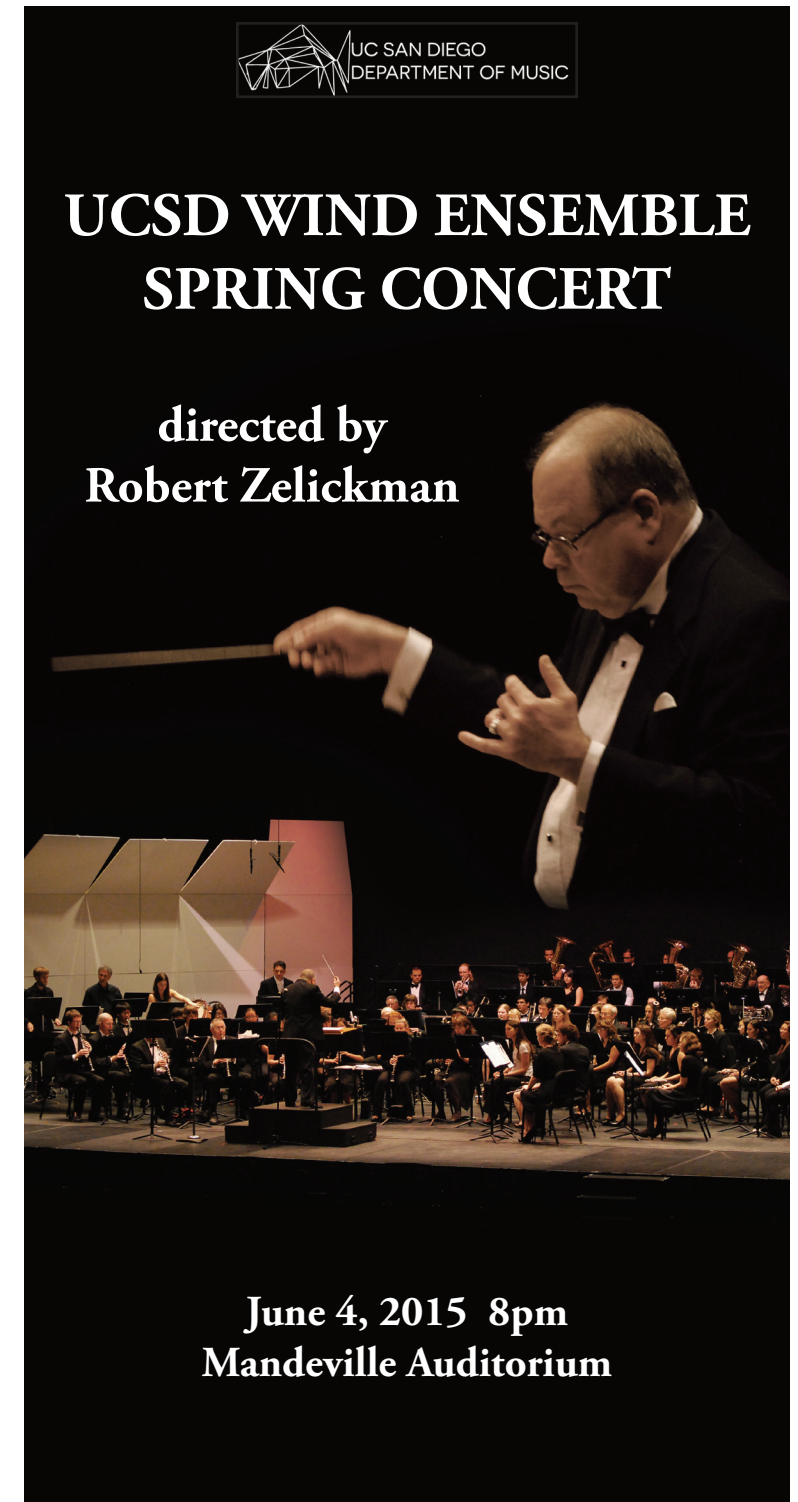
Zelickman has performed Klezmer in California and throughout the Southwest since 1986. In 1991, he and singer Deborah Davis formed the Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble. He said that “the music has a special place in my heart. I am at my freest when I play Klezmer. Perhaps it’s because the music’s soul is so approachable, so straight-from-the-heart. When I play it, I soar—I am in a different world. I can reach people and make them happy, and that’s enormously gratifying.”

He had been performing regularly with such Klezmer groups as Robboy’s Jewish Orchestra, Yale Strom’s Zmiros, and Zelickman’s Klezmer Ensemble until his group formed the nucleus of the Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble (which also included contrabassist Bertram Turetzky of the music faculty).

Zelickman met his wife Joan, a violinist, when they were both with the Mexico City Philharmonic. Their daughter Diane is a violinist in the Memphis Symphony.

In retirement, you probably will not find Zelickman on a cruise or a golf course or in a recliner watching sports. He said he plans to focus on performing chamber music with friends and coaching and conducting student groups around the country.

—Dirk Sutro



UC SAN DIEGO
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

UCSD WIND ENSEMBLE SPRING CONCERT

directed by
Robert Zelickman

June 4, 2015 8pm
Mandeville Auditorium

The poster features a photograph of conductor Robert Zelickman in a tuxedo, holding a baton and gesturing with his left hand, standing on a stage in front of the UCSD Wind Ensemble. The ensemble members are seated with their instruments, and the stage is lit with dramatic lighting.

BIOS

Robert Zelickman, clarinetist, is a Lecturer of Music at UC San Diego where he has taught since 1983. In addition to teaching clarinet and performing contemporary music, Robert conducts the UCSD Wind Ensemble and lectures on Jewish Music. Besides his duties at the University, Robert can be seen in many other venues throughout the community. He was a member of Orchestra Nova San Diego for 23 years and has performed with the San Diego Symphony and the San Diego Opera. Robert is also well known throughout California as the co-director of the Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble. Zelickman earned his BA at UCLA and a MFA at Cal Arts. He has studied with Hugo Raimondi, Michele Zukovsky and Ronald Rueben. Robert was Bass Clarinetist with the Mexico City Philharmonic (1978-1979) and the Vera Cruz Symphony (1980-1982).

An active performer of orchestral, chamber, and experimental music, horn player **Nicolee Kuester** recently completed international tours with the Ensemble Intercontemporain and the Orquesta de Baja California and has performed with the San Diego New Music Society, the Lucerne Festival Academy, and the Palimpsest Ensemble at UC San Diego. She has appeared with the San Diego Symphony, the San Diego Opera, and as a soloist with the La Jolla Symphony. This summer Nicolee is slated to perform at the Marlboro Music Festival and at the North Norway Arts Festival. She is a doctoral candidate in Contemporary Music Performance at UCSD and also holds degrees in horn performance and creative writing from Oberlin Conservatory.

PROGRAM

Peter Schmoll Overture Carl Maria Von Weber

Concerto for Horn No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 11
Richard Strauss

I. Allegro —
II. Andante
III. Rondo: Allegro
Nicolee Kuester, horn

Symphony No. 8, “Unfinished” Franz Schubert
I. Allegro moderato
II. Andante con moto

INTERMISSION

Prelude from *Die Meistersinger* Richard Wager

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80 Johannes Brahms

MUSICIANS

FLUTE
Valerie Chereskin
Victoria Hall (piccolo)
Sung Kang
Veronica Khauv
Anna Lebedeva
Mark Margolies
Jason Wu
Vivian Wu

SAXOPHONE
Aaron Graham (tenor)
Chris Gross (tenor)
Hsin Lan (alto)
Kristy Lanz (alto)
Joseph Lin (bari)
Cole Pendergrass (alto)
Diwarsh Vaishrav (alto)
Timothy Wang (alto)

OBOE
David Colborn
Melina Muñoz
Kathryn Ringrose

HORN
David Ryan
Barry Toombs
Tim Toombs
Jane Zwerneman

BASSOON
Ayako Ota
Katherine Rimpau
Jim Swift

TRUMPET
Samuel Flor
Molly Gerdes
Brian Marley
Hans Singh
Gabe Weiss

CLARINET
Lynne H. Crick
Jon Crick

Becca Czerny
Jenimarie Dahl
Alex Duran
Ana Friede
Anthony Fung
Stephanie Gates
Jim George (alto clarinet)
Jay Kahn
Adrian Kinnane (Eb clarinet)
Donald J. Kowal
Leland Lallier (bass cl.)
Aleksander Maricq (Eb cl.)
Ian Martin
Charlie Martyn
Sasha Mitrushina
Brandon Paulson
Melinda Schneider
Linda Thompson
Lisa Tulathimutte
Jackie Weiss

TROMBONE
Anthony Lopez
Timothy Ressler
Kirk Wang

EUPHONIUM
Thomas Butterweck
Dominick Maldonado

TUBA
Kenneth Earnest
Tim Fang
Mario Gaytan
Albert Nguyen
Joseph Teresi

PERCUSSION
Jong Hui Park
Jerry Quan
Siddhant Srinivas
Diuyansh Vaishnav