

# CABRILLO Festival's Acoustically Excellent San Juan Bautista Concert

It is quite difficult to separate Mahler the symphonist from Mahler the song composer and the "Five Ruckert Songs" bring into balance this peculiar dualism. A further summation of this idea may be found in a brief preface to the published miniature scores where Richard Specht writes, "Mahler's songs are the key to his symphonic works."

Mahler's five songs were highlighted by the gifted mezzo soprano Jan DeGaetani, who performed with great feeling and clarity in the Cabrillo Music Festival's acoustically excellent Mission San Juan Bautista concert Sunday evening.

The text of the songs are five poems by Friedrich Ruckert (1788-1866), a translator of Oriental poetry and

linguist who had command of some 30 languages.

Conductor Dennis Russell Davies immediately captured the intense, undeniably Mahler orchestral woodwind textures and characterized this post-Romantic presence throughout the five songs.

Mozart's last work, the "Requiem Mass in D Minor, K. 626" was left unfinished at his death. It is written that Mozart's friend and pupil Franz Xavier Sussmayer completed the work using whatever sketches and means available to him at that time.

At any rate, the Requiem contains prominent, baroque compositional elements.

In the "Kyrie," complete with its double fugue, Mozart employed a subject that had been used by two

previous baroque composers of great significance: J.S. Bach and Handel.

Thomas Paul's solo with French horn accompaniment was a memorable moment during the "Dies irae."

The sequential choral outbursts of "Dies irae" and "Rex tremendae" displayed Dennis Russell Davies' ability to combine and balance both vocal and orchestral components in an equally devout, equally profound musical manner.

Both compositions were warmly received by the large audience who attended the evening San Juan Bautista concert.

— JOSEF SEKON