Superstar violinist Midori opens 2014-15 UCSD Concert Season

BY LONNIE BURSTEIN HEWITT

On Oct. 1, UC San Diego's fall concert season will be off to a start with superstar violinist Midori performing a selection of "new music" pieces in a recital with her frequent collaborator, Turkish-American pianist Özgür Aydin. Born in Osaka in 1971, Midori began playing the violin at age 3, gave her first public performance at 6, and made her U.S. concert debut at 11 with Zubin Mehta and the New York Philharmonic. Even as a child, she was known for her ability to communicate the underlying emotional quality of every piece of music she played.

Early on, when asked how she was able to put so much expression into a Mozart piece she had just performed, she answered: "I think of a dear, dead dog."

These days, Midori, now in her 32nd year of performing, has many more things to think about. Besides touring extensively worldwide, she is a Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of Southern California, has a guest professorship at Japan’s Soai University, and spends a great deal of time bringing music to underserved populations, with organizations like “Midori & Friends,” a nonprofit she founded when she was 20.

"The source of all architectural strength is the straight line, the arch, the cube, and the circle."
— Irving Gill

This 2014 photo of Betham Arch at The Bishop’s School is included in La Jolla Historical Society’s ‘The Irving Gill Photographic Project’ exhibit. Gill designed several historic buildings around town, including some at Bishop’s.

SEE IRVING GILL, B10
**FROM IRVING GILL, B1**

First, Gill was a progressive figure during his time in La Jolla and the greater San Diego area.

Second, he’s now more appreciated as a proponent of early modern style, which also included Rudolph Schindler and Frank Lloyd Wright, and eventually, led to the mid-century modern movement. “His ideas still inform contemporary society,” Fox said.

Gill was born near Syracuse, New York to Quaker parents. The son of a farmer and carpenter, he never attended college or had a formal architectural education, but developed an early interest in landscape and building design and worked as a gardener and draftsman.

He moved to Chicago, eventually joining the firm of Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan (father of the American skyscraper). There, he also worked with Frank Lloyd Wright and was introduced to modern design and materials. After the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, builders preferred more fireproof materials, such as concrete, which later became a favorite of Gill’s.

At 23, Gill moved to San Diego and set up his own architectural office in the downtown area.

At first, his style was an eclectic one, reflecting what was popular at the time, including Tudor Revival and Arts and Crafts/Prairie School.

But Gill had a passion for simplicity and a vision of how houses and buildings should reflect their landscape and be enjoyed by their residents.

This image from ‘The Irving Gill Photographic Project’ exhibit superimposes the Hotel Cabrillo (circa 1908) with what is today La Valencia Hotel (2014). CONTEMPORARY IMAGE BY PHILIPP SCHOLZ RITTERMANN, HISTORIC VIEW FROM SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER ARCHIVES

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He loved the beauty of California's skies, canyons, rolling hills and the old California missions, whose simple lines, natural colors and graceful arches blended with the surrounding countryside.

He designed his houses to be easy to clean (no ornamentation to catch dust) and to take maximum advantage of sunlight and outdoor views with skylights and integrated gardens and courtyards.

Overall Gill designed and created more than 100 houses, churches, buildings and other projects throughout San Diego and Los Angeles counties, many of which are still standing.

In La Jolla, these include early buildings at The Bishop's School, Ellen Browning Scripps' home (now the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego), La Jolla Woman's Club and La Jolla Recreation Center, which will be 100 years old next year.

The three photographers who focused on Gill's work for the exhibit — Philipp Scholz Rittermann, Suda House and John Durant — are all fine art photographers from San Diego. "We wanted a creative approach from a fresh perspective," Fox said. "We didn't just want to send them out, but to interpret Gill's philosophy on a deep level. Nor did we want to restrict them. We let them choose their own sites."

The three photographers chose three very different approaches.

Scholz Rittermann is a “time traveler,” according to Arthur Ollman, professor of art history at SDSU, who wrote the introduction to the exhibit's catalog. For the exhibit, Scholz Rittermann created 13 pieces by photographing seven Gill buildings (or sites) and then superimposing transparencies of old images over his new ones. The result is that “the new is seen through an older window in time,” Ollman writes.

Suda House photographed two buildings in La Jolla focusing on archways, shadows and foliage in 12 black and white pieces. "Her manner of working is one that Gill would have deeply respected. It echoes his sense of purity and close observation,” Ollman writes.

John Durant tells stories with his eight photographs of eight Gill buildings. Each photograph features a person who has in some way interacted with or been influenced by the building — as an architect, landscaper, writer or surfboard designer.

Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, poses in front of the Americanization School in Oceanside (now Crown Heights Resource Center), designed by master architect Irving Gill in 1931. **JOHN DURANT**

**Related Event**

**La Jolla Modern Home Tour**, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. In connection with the exhibit, the La Jolla Historical Society will host a self-guided tour of three modern homes (not designed by Gill), as well as the chance to see the Irving Gill exhibit. $25 LJHS members, $35 general public.