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Midway through Mainly Mozart

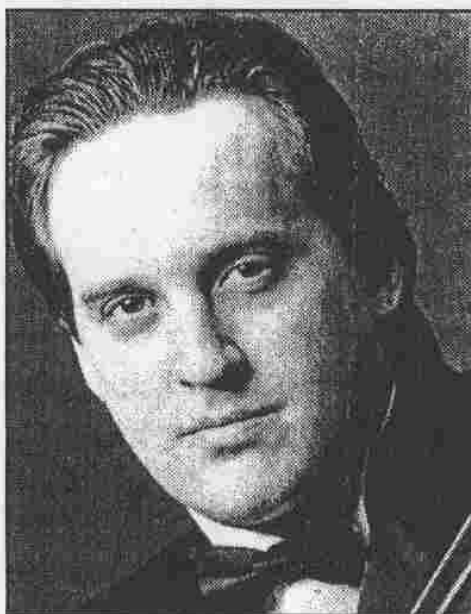
By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE
Village News

The 15th annual Mainly Mozart Festival presented a phenomenally satisfying mid-festival week that culminated in an orchestral program Saturday night (June 14) at the Spreckels Theatre. Even at midpoint it is safe to say the 2003 festival is the best ever, with individual musicians, the orchestra, and maestro/founder David Atherton all in fine fettle.

Chalk one up for meticulous programming: The Wednesday Neurosciences recital by the Festival Ensemble ended with Beethoven's youthful Septet in E-Flat Major, Opus 20, played by ensemble members. It is melodic, syncopated and lively, with horn player Jerry Folsom obviously enjoying violinist William Preucil's playing to the point of elation.

Friday evening, same locale, the exuberant Jacques Thibaud String Trio began its program with Beethoven's also youthful Serenade in D Major for String Trio, Opus 8, providing continuity of feeling and the knowledge that someone was purposefully strumming the strings of one's soul.

If that seems a bit effusive, so be it. Pile upon this feeling Atherton's conducting of Wagner's Ziegfried Idyll Wednesday, the Thibaud Trio's Friday playing with flutist Timothy Day of Mozart's Flute Quartet in D Major, K.285 and Sat-



Cellist Ronald Thomas will play June 22 at the close of the Mainly Mozart Festival at the Neurosciences, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive.

urday's knockout Festival Orchestra program, and you have some idea of the reasons for elation at week's end.

Soulful indeed was Carlo Tortolano's playing of the alphorn in Leopold Mozart's Sinfonia Pastorella in G Major for Alphorn and Orchestra. This ancient instrument, made of wood, fascinates cows (its original purpose was to call them) and humans alike. Also on Saturday's program: a divine playing of Schubert's Symphony No. 1 in D Major, K.82.

Remaining Mainly Mozart Festival concerts are as follows:

• 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 18 at

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the Spreckels Theatre (121 Broadway), the Festival Orchestra with flutist Timothy Day and pianist Jon Kimura Parker perform works by Boyce, Mozart, Stravinsky and Mozart

• 8 p.m. Saturday, June 21 at the Spreckels Theatre, the Festival Orchestra, David Atherton conductor, bass Timothy Pitts and pianist Christopher O'Riley play works by Salieri, Mozart, Dittersdorf and Mozart

• 2 p.m. Sunday, June 22 at U.S. Grant Hotel (326 Broadway), Calico Winds ensemble performs works by Mozart, Miranda, Berio, Bach, Arrieu, Hindemith and Chadwick

• 8 p.m. Sunday, June 22 at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), violinist Andres Cardenes, cellist Ronald Thomas and pianist Christopher O'Riley play Mozart, Kodaly and Beethoven

For tickets and information call (619) 239-0100 or go to www.mainlymozart.org.