

## Leroy Kromm

Music Director of the San Jose Symphonic Choir since 1985, Maestro Kromm received two Bachelor's degrees in Applied Music and Music Education, and a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Illinois, Urbana. He has achieved widespread recognition as a versatile conductor, soloist, pianist, and teacher. In addition to directing SJSC, he is a member of the collegiate voice staff at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and the Choir Director at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Saratoga.

Maestro Kromm specializes in oratorios of all eras, having performed most bass and baritone oratorio roles in concert throughout the United States and Europe. He has sung with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival, Anchorage Festival of Music, Carmel Bach Festival, and Midsummer Mozart under Maestro George Cleve. Among his numerous opera roles are the title roles in Mechem's *Tartuffe* and Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. He has also performed in musical theatre and one-act contemporary operas for PBS television. He has recorded on various labels including Harmonia Mundi and the Musical Heritage Society, and continues to serve as a clinician and consultant nationally in academia as well as in the film industry in Hollywood. A strong advocate for new music, he has worked closely with some of the most prominent composers of our day, including George Crumb, Lou Harrison, Jake Heggie, Kirk Mechem, Henry Mollicone, and Ned Rorem. Under Maestro Kromm's inspiring direction, SJSC has flourished and grown in size and musicianship. Notable recent performances include Handel's *Messiah* and the Bach *St. Matthew Passion*, both with period instruments, Britten's *War Requiem*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, and the world premieres of two masses by local composer Henry Mollicone.

**San Jose Symphonic Choir** is a volunteer choral society, dedicated to bringing to life large choral works with orchestral accompaniment in a series of choral concerts each season since 1924. Recent performances include Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*, Brahms' *German Requiem*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, Bach's *B minor Mass* and *St. Matthew Passion*, as well as Handel's *Messiah*. In addition to choral masterworks and contemporary pieces, the 100-voice Choir commissions and performs works by local composers, frequently those which focus attention on concerns and celebrations within our community. Performances include Henry Mollicone's *Misa de los Inmigrantes*, and the world premieres of Sondra Clark's *Requiem for Lost Children*, Craig Bohmler's *Sisters*, which honors San Jose and her sister cities, and Mollicone's *Beatitude Mass*. The Choir has sung with John Rutter at Carnegie Hall, with Maestro George Cleve and the Midsummer Mozart Festival Orchestra, and has toured extensively in the U.S., Europe, Russian, and Australia.