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The Inaugural Conference of the Haydn Society of California March 20–30, 2003

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Jane O'Donnell

**The Inaugural Conference of the Haydn Society
of California, March 29–30, 2003**

The establishment of the Haydn Society of California (HSC) in March 2003 brings to fourteen the number of such organizations worldwide associated with the International Joseph Haydn Foundation Eisenstadt and the Haydn Festival Eisenstadt, Austria. The purpose of the HSC is to encourage the performance and research of Haydn and his music and to serve as a focal point for publicizing California concerts and events that relate to Haydn. Through the use of its website, the Society also serves to publicize national and international conferences, festivals, and concerts dedicated to the work of Haydn and the Austrian culture from which he came.

The inaugural conference of the HSC, held March 29–30, 2003 at Scripps College in Claremont, California, was organized by Jane O'Donnell (Scripps College), Kathleen Lamkin (University of LaVerne) and Michael Deane Lamkin (Scripps College). More than eighty registrants listened to papers, lecture demonstrations, and performances given by music scholars and performers from across the United States and the United Kingdom. Of the nine formal papers covering topics in cultural studies, performance issues and source materials, three are reproduced in this current volume. The conference also included three musical performances, two of which presented various chamber works of Haydn including a piano trio, string quartet, partsongs, and a solo cantata. Haydn's "Schöpfungsmesse" was performed with full orchestra, chorus and soloists on Sunday during the morning service at the Claremont United Church of Christ, Congregational.

In his keynote address, Dr. Walter Reicher, Artistic Director of the Haydn Festival Eisenstadt, Austria, focused on the activities of the Haydn Foundation and Festival as well as the current status of Haydn scholarship and performance in Eisenstadt. Dr. Don V Moses, founding Director of the Summer Academy in Eisenstadt (known in the USA as the Classical Music Festival), spoke at the conference luncheon about his vision of bringing musicians to

Austria to study and perform the works of Haydn and other classical composers in the places where they were originally performed.¹ Official documents establishing the relationship of the HSC with the Haydn Festspiele were brought from Eisenstadt and signed by Dr. Walter Reicher, Dr. Jane O'Donnell, executive director of the HSC, and Dr. Michael Lamkin, dean of the faculty at Scripps College at the conference dinner Saturday evening.

¹ The Classical Music Festival, which occurs every summer in Eisenstadt, has provided those experiences for American and European musicians for over 25 years and is now under the direction of Michael Deane Lamkin, who serves as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.