



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Conductor, Nicholas McGegan

# About Music Academy of the West

*Communications Manager Tim Dougherty takes a few minutes to discuss the ongoing partnership between this venerable institution and the Lobero Theatre.*

*We look forward to a dynamic Summer Festival coming up June 15 – August 8!*

What is your title/role with the organization?

I contribute in a lot of ways as an editor and writer, but my responsibilities mainly involve media relations, publication management, and overseeing the Music Academy website.

Are you enjoying your role within the Music Academy of the West, and the larger Santa Barbara classical music scene?

I have a great job! My colleagues and I pride ourselves on presenting an annual classical music festival worthy of this community and the many outstanding musicians who come to the Academy each summer to study and perform.

What brought you to the Music Academy?

I was editing *Cal Poly Magazine*, commuting from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo five days a week, when I saw a posting for my

current position. I immediately pursued the opportunity, and eight years later here I am.

Tell us a little bit about the Music Academy of the West.

The Music Academy was founded in 1947 by a group of Southern California arts patrons and musicians, including the legendary soprano Lotte Lehmann and the famed conductor Otto Klemperer. After initially setting up shop at Cate School in Carpinteria, the Music Academy relocated to its current home, the former estate

How long has the Music Academy been performing at the Lobero Theatre?

The Music Academy's association with the Lobero Theatre extends back to the year of our founding, 1947. In fact, I believe the first event the Academy presented at The Lobero was a recital featuring none other than Lotte Lehmann in July of that year.

How was your experience last summer during your festival, and what do you think of the newly renovated Lobero?

**We want to provide our patrons with comfortable seating and generous sightlines, and we want to provide our performers with first-rate facilities. The Lobero delivers on all counts.**

of John Percival Jefferson, in 1951. Our principal programmatic offering is an eight-week Summer Festival, during which the Music Academy presents some 200 public events including orchestra concerts, chamber recitals, and a fully staged opera. This year's festival dates are June 15 to August 8.

What does an organization like the Music Academy look for when choosing a space to perform?

We generally look for venues that promise an optimal experience for patrons and performers alike.

We enjoyed an immensely successful 2014 season, and are very pleased with the new and improved Lobero. Our patrons especially like the roomier seats.

What's coming up from the Music Academy this season?

The coming season's guest conductors will include the effervescent Nicholas McGegan, who will perform at The Lobero. More details coming soon!