

## FRIENDS AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

Gordon J. Van De Water

It was a comfortably warm evening at the Bowl on July 25 as we paid attention to some exciting music giving the entire audience epic sonic thrills. We were listening to the music of Ottorino Respighi, with *The Fountains of Rome*, composed almost 100 years ago in 1916, and *The Pines of Rome* that followed in 1924 and which is probably his best known work. Did you know that the twittering of a nightingale in the third section was actually a recording since Respighi realized that no combination of instrumentation could achieve the effect he was after? The final section of this 1924 piece, the “Pines along the Appian Way”, is an exciting conclusion reminding one of the marching of Roman legions with its rhythmic repetition of trumpets and crashing cymbals. The Los Angeles Philharmonic was conducted by Rafael Frunbeck de Burgos.

Before hearing the main course we were treated to the piano wizardry of Jean-Yves Thibaudet who amazed the audience with his skill at playing a fantastic array of notes composed by Franz Liszt. It was the *Totendanz*, (the Dance of Death) a devilish work to perform. After he completed the fingering gymnastics required, the audience gave him a roaring and well-deserved applause.

Forty of the Friends were treated to an evening to long remember. It was an opportunity to meet new people and renew old acquaintances as we rode in the comfortable bus through heavy Los Angeles traffic. The conversation continued as we munched through the victuals brought to or purchased at the Bowl.

Special thanks to Supervisor Knabe who made it all possible. A glorious evening!!

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