



June 12, 2016

Mr. Ron Hasse, Publisher
Mr. Frank Pine, Executive Editor
Orange County Register
625 N. Grand Avenue
Santa Ana CA 92701

Dear Mr. Hasse and Mr. Pine:

On June 1, I had the pleasure of hearing you both provide an overview of the approach you are pursuing as new leaders of the Orange County Register during the OC Business Council luncheon I attended.

You explained in detail your primary focus upon the local community as being essential to the success of a daily newspaper, and that you were firmly committed to that philosophy in managing the Register.

Imagine my complete and utter surprise when, barely a week later, you lay off Timothy Mangan, the Register's longtime, nationally-respected classical music writer and critic! That move created an instant tidal wave throughout Orange County's arts community.

Orange County has more than 600 arts and culture organizations, with at least 60 devoted to the presentation of classical music. This does not even include music programs in Orange County's 28 school districts. Classical music is an important part of the life of this community—for professionals, amateurs and students, for audiences, and—more importantly—for your readership.

The nonprofit arts community alone contributes half a Billion dollars to the local economy, and when you count the entire creative sector, there is more than an \$18 Billion impact (source: Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation's Otis Report on the Creative Economy). The arts keep kids in school, make them better students, contribute to gang prevention, prevent recidivism among past offenders, and build the creative workforce sought after by Orange County's major employers.

In other words, this is not some "inconsequential" beat that the Register should be jettisoning to save a few dollars.

As Orange County's official nonprofit arts council, Arts Orange County asks that you re-hire Tim Mangan now.

It is in the best interests of the community that you proclaimed you were committed to serving—and the best interests of the Orange County Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Stein", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard Stein
Executive Director