



Musical Notes



The Symphony League of Santa Cruz County Newsletter

2010-2011 Season Number 2

November 17, 2010

Highlights

- Candlelight Home Tour Details** 2
A lot going on. Here's a rundown.
- Ask the Conductor** 3
Maestro John Larry Granger answers your questions
- Jon Nakamatsu Recital Review** 6
Ann Haley's take on a very exciting musical event.
- Meet a Musician: Astrid Huala** 6
Gail Mowatt introduces us to a Symphony violinist. Wow!

Candlelight Home Tour



The 25th Annual Candlelight Home Tour is set for Friday & Saturday, December 3 & 4, from 4 pm to 8 pm each day.

Don't miss the Gala Celebration Party 4 pm to 7 pm, Friday, December 3.

Order Online: slscc.org

President's Message

by Gene Wright, President



It seems as though autumn has just arrived and here we are heading too quickly into winter. However, the best way to settle into the season is to begin with our 25th Annual Candlelight Home Tour. By now you should have received your invitation packet with everything you need to know to make this event our

first successful endeavor of the year. Each Leaguer is expected to facilitate the sale, auction off, give as a gift or however you choose, to see that the four tickets included in your packet turns into revenue for the event. If you should need more tickets, just contact Mary Ann Hobbs.

Some other exciting projects are underway as we speak. Angela Clark and her committee are right on top of our annual spring event, which this year is a "Journey Down the Nile," and promises to be more fun than a barrel of mummies. Harry Domash is developing a series of events called 20/20 Nights, the format of which he will be introducing to you very soon. We are once again in the business of selling the ever popular "You're Invited" coupon books which are now available, and make great stocking stuffers. Bill Mowatt and his followers are busy creating a new event for late spring which promises to be great fun and profit-

able. It is a co-ed, best ball golf tournament to be held at DeLaveaga Golf Course, complete with mini competitions and a banquet. You will be receiving details on all these events as time passes, but you might want to think of how you can participate. No event can have too many volunteers.

Our next concert performances, entitled "Strictly Classical," seems like a long way off, but January is really not that far away. To hear Boyce, Beethoven and Mozart all in the same program is pretty exciting in itself. We will, of course, have our second Preview on Friday, January 28th, so mark your calendar. It's going to be more than special.

On behalf of your Board of Directors I'm pleased to wish you all the happiest of holidays and to extend our heartfelt thanks for your continuing support of the Santa Cruz County Symphony.

January 29/30 Concert



The Pacific Trio plays Beethoven's Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano. Meet the trio at the Preview on January 28.

Home Tour Gets a New Look

The 25th Annual Candlelight Home Tour

Home Tour At a Glance

Celebration Party

4 pm to 7 pm, Friday, December 3

Basket Boutique & Jewelry Sale

4 pm to 8 pm, Friday & Saturday December 3 & 4

Home Tour

4 pm to 8 pm, Friday & Saturday, Dec. 3 & 4

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Symphony League's Holiday Home Tour, and to celebrate that event, we're giving the Home Tour a brand new look.



*Spanish Revival Style House
Darling House on West Cliff Drive*

This year, the homes will be decorated for the holidays, and the tours, scheduled for 4 pm to 8 pm on both Friday and Saturday, December 3 & 4, will have a candlelight theme. Reflective signs will make the homes easy to find and luminaries will light the pathways from parking to the homes. But there's much more.

Gala Kickoff

The event kicks off with a Gala Celebration starting at 4 pm on Friday, December 3 at Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall. Santa Cruz Mayor Mike Rotkin and Symphony President Owen Brown will be on hand to help us honor League Past Presidents and past Home Tour Chairpersons. Our current president, Gene Wright, will be the MC. There will be music, Champagne, appetizers, jewelry table and a silent auction. This is an event that you won't want to miss.



*Beachfront Contemporary Condo
East Cliff Drive*

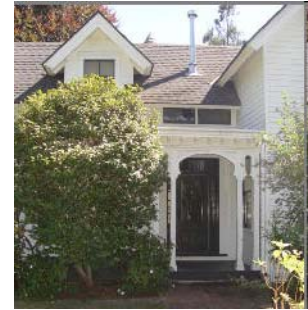
There's even more happening at the Darling House on both days. There will be a Basket Boutique, jewelry

and Christmas item sales, and of course, the Toffee Lady will be there.

The cost is \$25 for the two-day tour, including the Basket Boutique and other events at the Darling House, or \$45 for the two-day tour plus the Anniversary Celebration. There will also be an opportunity drawing with tickets selling for \$5 each, or six for \$25. The opportunity drawing grand prize is a 4' 6" Christmas tree decorated with antique mercury glass ornaments, and with mystery gifts under the tree.

Purchase tickets online at www.slsc.org, by calling Kate Miller at (831) 425-3532 or at these fine stores:

- Zinnia's in Scotts Valley
- Bookworks in Aptos
- Corralitos Market
- Annieglass in Santa Cruz
- Wild Rose in Watsonville
- Palace Arts in Santa Cruz and Capitola
- Sweets in the Nude Furniture in Soquel
- Alladin Nursery in Watsonville
- Home Consignment Showplace in Watsonville.



*Historic Victorian
East Lake Avenue*



*Martinelle District Colonial
Brewington Avenue*



*Oceanview Contemporary
Seacliff Drive*

Trinity Presbyterian Church is located at 620 Melrose Avenue in Santa Cruz.

Chairs Mary Ann Hobbs and Peggy Minier are looking forward to a large contingent of volunteers to make this project a huge success. Please contact any them to be a part of what promises to be an outstanding community event.

Order Tickets Online: slsc.org

Ask The Conductor

Maestro John Larry Granger answers questions submitted by League Members.



Q. When hiring a soloist, does the soloist have a say in choosing the piece that he or she will play.

A. Yes, we would pick a selection that the soloist feels comfortable playing.

Q. What if a soloist wants to play a selection that the orchestra has played before, how much time must pass before you repeat a piece?

A. Generally, we want to wait at least six years before repeating a selection.

Q. Is playing skill the most important attribute of a good soloist?

A. While playing skill is important, it's also important that the soloist pays attention to what the orchestra is doing. A good soloist coordinates his or her playing with the orchestra.

Q. Who decides on the selections for a particular program?

A. Working with an advisory committee appointed by the Board, I choose the soloists and select the music to be featured, and then present my choices to the Board for final approval.

Q. What about other management decisions such as hiring staff, policies, and the like?

Q. Three people, the Music Director (conductor), the Symphony Board President and the Executive Director make those decisions together.

Q. Do most symphonies follow a similar decision making approach?

A. They used to, but now, some orchestras have made the executive director the primary decision maker.

Q. Is that a good thing, or bad thing, in your view?

A. Because of their job description, executive directors must worry more about finances than artistic quality. Thus, some might be tempted to program mainly familiar pieces to draw bigger audiences.

Send your questions for the Conductor to editor@slscc.org.

"Is it Spring Yet?"



photo: Norma Domash
Maria Nesheim sorting through donated items.

That's the name of one of the 21 gift baskets that Vicki Wasson's Basket Brigade put together for the boutique Candlelight Home Tour fundraising events set for 4 pm to 7 pm Friday and Saturday evenings at the Darling House.

Recognizing that when it comes to putting together gift baskets, "everyone could use some help," Vicki recently organized two Basket Brigade Parties to help donors assemble their gift baskets.

The response was overwhelming. According to Vicki, dozens of League members and others either donated items, showed up to help assemble the baskets, or both.



photo: Norma Domash
Joni Nuttall, Ann Kimmey, and Vicki Wasson's back.

"Is It Spring Yet?" That cleverly named basket includes tulip bulbs, daffodil bulbs, gardening tools and other goodies. It's one of two gardening baskets that Vicki's crew put together. Here are more examples.

How to Throw a Great Italian Dinner: everything you need; food, tools, wine, and more to put on an Italian dinner that your guests will talk about for years to come.

Self-Indulging Basket: Gift Certificate for Facial at a spa, plus many pampering items.

Special Sunday Brunch: Lemon blueberry pancake mix, blueberry syrup, scone mix, strawberry-rhubarb conserve, and much more.



Grandma & Me Baking Kit:

This lovely kit for making gingerbread people includes everything you need, even a child's apron.

Special Event Planned
Chip In For The Symphony League Golf Tournament

Save the Date: Friday, June 10



“Chip In For The Symphony League Golf Tournament,” a co-ed fun-filled tournament, has been set for June 10, 2011 at DeLaveaga Golf Course in Santa Cruz..



Calling golfers of all skill levels. “Chip In For The Symphony” will be a relaxed, social event where priority number one is having a good time.

We’re still in the planning stage, but so far, the prize categories include:

- Closest to the Pin: for each of the five par three holes
- Par Three Challenge: mini-tournament for the combined par three holes
- Longest Drive: for two holes each
- Hole in One: Spectacular prize planned

Best Foursome: foursome with the lowest overall “Best Ball” score.

The prizes will be distributed at the after-tournament dinner at the DeLaveaga Lodge.

Steering Committee

Steering Committee members Mary Ann Hobbs, Mary Ann Orr, Connie Adams, Clyde Vaughn, Peggy Minier, Bill Mowatt, Jack and Pilar Kopecky, Harry and Norma Domash, Fred Dunn-Ruiz, and Richard Pool are hard at work formulating plans for obtaining sponsors and for enticing golfers to participate. Our goals are to 1) promote the Symphony, 2) raise money for the Symphony, and 3) have a lot of fun.

Call Bill Mowatt at (821)246-1618 (c) or (831)425-7772 (h) if you have any questions such as, “How do you play Best Ball?”

Scramble/Best Ball Format



“Best Ball” is a four person scramble allowing everyone to enjoy the game. After a foursome tees off, the group decides who has the best lie, and everyone else picks up their ball (unless it ends up in the poison oak or arroyo) and hits their second shot from the “Best Ball” lie. This continues, including putting until someone holes out. Each member of the foursome with the best overall score takes home a prize.

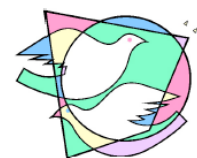
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Celebrating, Honoring, Remembering

A very important function of our League is to act as a depository for funds donated in celebration, honor, remembrances or simply gifts directed toward support of the Symphony. This is a way to remember others, and at the same time, benefit the symphony.

Recent donations include:

- In memory of Al Herman by Vickie & Dan Rutan
- In memory of Mac McGuire by Jan Hadley
- Gift to League by Roger Knache



slscc.org

Editor's Corner



Welcome to the second edition of Musical Notes for the 2010-2011 season.

Home Tour

This issue features our new Candlelight Home Tour, which is set for 4 pm to 8 pm on Friday and Saturday, December 3 & 4. See page two for details on the tour, as well as for the kickoff event, the Gala Celebration on Friday, and for the Basket Boutique, which takes place on both evenings.

Vicki Wasson's Basket Brigade

Speaking of the Basket Boutique, it couldn't have happened without Vicki Wasson's Basket Brigade. See page three for details.

Meet a Musician

We're introducing a new feature, conceived and written by Gail Mowatt. It's called "Meet a Musician." Gail's idea is to give us a way to get to know orchestra players, going beyond the usual barebones résumé. She certainly succeeds with her in-depth interview of violinist Astrid Huala. Check it out on page 7.

More Coming From Gail Mowatt



*M. Notes reporter
Gail Mowatt*

Gail is also busy interviewing new League members, which is a big job, since we have 15 or so. Gail tells me that she plans on having it all ready in time for our next issue, due out in mid-January.

Nakamatsu Recital Review

If you missed the Jon Nakamatsu recital at Cabrillo College, new Musical Notes contributor Ann Haley has written a wonderful review of the event. Check it out on page 6. Hopefully, we're featuring more of Ann Haley's writings in future issues.

Writers Wanted

If you want to contribute articles to Musical Notes, contact me at editor@slscc.org. That's the only way that you'll gain entry to our wild and crazy press parties.

Order Tickets/Donate on Website

Now you can order tickets to League events, such as the Home Tour, or simply donate to the League on our website: slscc.org.

Thanks for reading Musical Notes.

Harry Domash
editor@slscc.org

John Larry Granger Conducts "The Nutcracker"

The Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre will present the holiday magic of **THE NUTCRACKER** for the eighth time at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.



Artistic Directors Robert Kelley and Diane Cypher will stage an enchanting production, with choreography by Robert Kelley and featuring more than 80 Santa Cruz dancers and children plus guest artists Melody Herrera, principal dancer with Houston Ballet, and Lucien Postlewaite, principal dancer with Seattle's Pacific Northwest Ballet.

Tchaikovsky's classic score will be played by a 55-piece symphony orchestra conducted by Santa Cruz Symphony maestro John Larry Granger.

Performances are Friday (8:00 pm), Saturday (1:00 pm & 4:30 pm) and Sunday, December 17-19, 2010 (1:00 pm & 4:30 pm), all at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium (307 Church Street).

Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$44 and can be purchased online (SantaCruzTickets.com), by phone (831.420.5260), or at the Civic Box Office.

Invitation From Lifelong Learners

Free to League Members

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSC, (a.k.a. Lifelong Learners), invites League members to attend "Opera Talk," a series of talks and discussions, led by UCSC Emeriti faculty John Dizikes and Miriam Ellis, about the operas presented by the Metropolitan Opera's "Met Live in HD" series playing at the Regent Theater on Pacific Avenue in Santa Cruz. Here's the schedule for the remaining four operas.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opera</u>
December 8	Don Carlo
February 23	Iphogenie en Tauride
April 6	Le Comte Ory
April 20	Capriccio

Opera Talk meets on Wednesdays from 11 am to 1 pm. To reserve your spot, or for more information, email editor@slscc.org, or call Harry Domash at 831.685-1932.

Jon Nakamatsu's Sparkling Benefit Recital

by Ann Haley



Virtuoso pianist Jon Nakamatsu's October 30th benefit recital for the Santa Cruz County Symphony consisted of well-chosen pieces from the Classical and Romantic periods.

They were works by Clementi, Schumann, Liszt, and Chopin that we seldom have an opportunity to hear. His beautiful rendering of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, which is very well known, made it a welcome treat.

Nakamatsu graciously acknowledged that the Cabrillo recital hall was the finest in northern California. The acoustics thrilled the audience, who received his performance with thunderous applause and a standing ovation after every piece.

Music is so natural to this pianist that it seems to flow effortlessly from his fingers. His perfect control of dynamics allows him to play the softest pianissimo I have ever heard. He demonstrated his teaching background by describing Schumann's lesser known 13-sketch work "Butterflies". Everyone in the audience retained the music motifs he mentioned in his introduction, following where he was in the music.

Franz Liszt's three sonatas and Chopin's Grande Polanaise Brillante in E Flat were resoundingly received by the audience, which absolutely adored his performance. Their enthusiastic ovation caused Nakamatsu to relent and play one, then two, and even three encores.

The last encore was Mendelssohn's Rondo Capriccioso, which is a lively romp through the most wonderfully melodic passages, consisting of delightful humor and surprising elements of jazz. More thunderous applause followed.

Eventually we had to let him go. It was just too good to last.

We are blessed to have such treasures as our musicians and the sponsors who generously support them.

Symphony League Website
slscc.org



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About

The Symphony League newsletter, Musical Notes, is published approximately eight times per year to inform members of League activities and of opportunities to serve the Santa Cruz County Symphony.

Symphony 2010-2011 Season

Remaining Concerts

#2: Strictly Classical • January 29/30

BOYCE: Symphony No. 5

BEETHOVEN: Triple Concerto

Pacific Trio, Pianist, Cellist, Violinist

MOZART: Symphony No. 39

#3: Decadent Delights • March 26/27

GRAINGER: In a Nutshell

LISZT: Piano Concerto Nos. 1 & 2

Adam Neiman, Pianist

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: Capriccio Espagnol

#4: Ode to Joy • April 30/May 1

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 9 "Choral"

Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus

Family Concert

Rhythms of Life • March 6

BERNSTEIN

PECK

ELIZONDO

SAINT-SAENS

SOUSA

Meet a Musician: Astrid Huala

by Gail Mowatt



For the last 20 years, audiences of the Santa Cruz Symphony could look forward to seeing Astrid in the first violin section. She would be playing her 1976 Antonino Cavalazzi violin made in Ravenna, Italy. Astrid, who lives with her husband in Felton, was born in

Salzburg, Austria, and immigrated to Southern California at the age of two. Over the years she has traveled to and from Austria and Germany including many summers spent with family there. She began playing violin at 9 while attending public school in Long Beach. During her time at Santa Cruz High School, she studied with the former Santa Cruz Symphony concertmaster, Danish violinist Harald Hauge.

While at UCSC, she continued to study violin with Heiichiro Ohyama, who later became the principal violist and assistant conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Other teachers have included Roy Malan, Jeremy Cohen and Mariko Smiley.



Advertising Opportunities

Are you in business? If so, you win two ways by advertising in Musical Notes. Since the League's only function is to raise funds for the Symphony, you are helping to support an important cultural resource. Also, you are reaching affluent and like-minded consumers who are eager to do business with other Symphony supporters.

Advertising for the entire season's newsletters costs only \$100 for a full-page ad, \$75 for 1/2 page, \$50 for 1/4 page, or \$25 for a business card sized ad. Contact editor@slscc.org for more info.

In addition to playing with the symphony, Astrid teaches 30 students weekly at her Santa Cruz and Felton studios. She also teaches violin at Pacific Elementary School in Davenport and practices in the mornings whenever her schedule permits. Since the mid 1980s she has been performing at weddings and other events throughout the Bay area with The Rose Quartet. When I asked her what music is most frequently requested at weddings, I wasn't surprised when she said, "Pachelbel's Canon." Though she's played the piece hundreds of times, she admits that when she hears it played, she can see why people like it. A perfect gag gift for another string quartet musician, she said, would be a CD comprised solely of different versions of the Canon!

Astrid's interest in the arts doesn't stop with music. She has spent many years studying modern and ballroom dance. She is an avid hiker, gardener, and skilled in graphic design. That interest extends to floral design. In fact, I purchased one of her beautiful succulent dish gardens which are for sale at the Cabrillo Farmer's Market and farmer's markets in Monterey and Carmel.

We are lucky to have such a well-rounded artist performing for us!



Gift baskets lined up and ready for the Basket Boutique



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Do Your Friends a Classic Favor. . .



Introduce them to the rich musical heritage of the Santa Cruz County Symphony.

Treat them to a performance and encourage them to become season ticket holders.

Expose them to the joys and benefits of Symphony League volunteerism.

Do your friends a Classical Music Favor!

