



Musical Notes



The Symphony League of Santa Cruz County Newsletter

2010-2011 Season Number 6

League Info: membership@slscc.org

April 21, 2011

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This is Jennifer Hines, alto, one of the four Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus soloists for Beethoven's Ode to Joy. More on page 3.

President's Message

by Gene Wright, President



Dear Symphony Leaguers,

All of a sudden it's spring and our symphonic season is quickly coming to a climactic end. On April 30 or May 1 you will thrill to Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, "Ode to Joy," to conclude the regular season performances. Also, our final *Preview* will be held on Friday, April 29 for members and their guests. However, your League Board of Directors has determined that we can no longer take our traditional summer break if we are to keep up with the classical music desires of an ever-growing community demand. Instead, we will continue to meet monthly to better plan for next season's fund raising efforts and add activities to increase our income base. Two additional major events will be held between now and next season: Our first Co-ed Fun Golf Tournament, *Chip In For The Symphony*, will tee off on Friday, June 10th; and a *Rare Chair Affair* is in the planning stages for mid-summer. We are also enjoying a series of 20/20 events that are very popular with our membership and friends, and just keep streaming in. All of these efforts require the support and volunteer time of the membership, so as information becomes available, please respond in every way you can. With a growing cadre of more than 200 we should never lack for financial and volunteer support.

Other spring League activities include our annual election of board members and officers. You will soon receive in the mail an official ballot on which you are asked to mark your votes and return to the Nominating Committee. Along with the ballot you will receive a *Volunteer Preference Survey*, which provides you with the opportunity to choose among the various activities offered by the League. It is vitally important that you return these documents by the prescribed date. Then on Friday, June 24th we will gather together at our annual Membership Meeting and End 'O Season Party where we will thank the outgoing board members, welcome in the new, and most importantly reveal our annual contribution to the Symphony Association. Feasting, fellowship, fun and beverage consumption is also on the agenda.

Thank you for your continuing and generous support of the Santa Cruz County Symphony.

Gene Wright



Let's Party!

Upcoming 20/20 Fundraisers

- Saturday May 14: **Progressive Dinner** (pg 6)
- Saturday July 23: **Summer BBQ**



Journey Down the Nile



Our *Journey Down the Nile* event held at the First Congregational Church on April 2 was a sellout.

Top Row: Frank & Kate Miller, Gail & Bill Mowatt, Mary Jo & Fred Dunn-Ruiz, Mary Akin & Owen Brown, and Donna Large & Gene Wright.

Bottom Row: Mary Ann & Russell Hobbs, Sheila & Clyde Vaughn, Nancy & Jack Mead, Peter & Mary Ann Orr, and Ron & Elsie Staley.

Symphony Preview #4

Friday, April 29 • 4 pm • Santa Cruz Auditorium

The final preview of the season is set for 4 pm, April 29, at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

As always, the Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus, directed by Cheryl Anderson will join our orchestra for the season's final performance. Members of the chorus will be on hand at the preview to sing selections from "Ode to Joy," the final movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Maestro John Larry Granger will be on hand to fill us in on the background and history of Beethoven's masterpiece.

Of course we'll have our food and wine reception catered by League members. You can help make this an extra-special event by bringing one of your great Hors d'oeuvres that everybody raves about.

EarlyBird Special

We can better plan our Previews if we know who's coming as soon as possible.

As an incentive to sign up early, reserve by Monday, April 25 and you will be automatically entered into the drawing for a special prize.

Preview Order Form

Please reserve ____ seats for Preview #4 for:

Phone: _____

@ \$15 per person, I am enclosing \$_____ payable to the S.C.C. Symphony League.

___ **YES**, I'd be delighted to help out by bringing an Hors d'oeuvre to share.

___ I'm bringing a first-time complimentary guest.

Reserve Now, here's how:

- 1) Cut out and mail the form to: Bill & Gail Mowatt
1700K Escalona Dr. • Santa Cruz, CA, 95060, or
- 2) Sign up online at slscc.org, or
- 3) call (831) 425-7772

Concert #4: Ode to Joy

Santa Cruz Civic: Saturday, April 30, 8 pm • Mello Center Watsonville: Sunday, May 1, 2 pm

Beethoven Symphony No. 9 “Choral” Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus



Considered to be one of his masterpieces, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 in D minor was commissioned by the Philharmonic Society of London in 1817 and completed in 1824. It was the first instance of a major composer using voices in a symphony. The words, sung by four soloists and a chorus, were taken from Ode to Joy, a poem written by Friedrich Schiller in 1785. Lasting more than an hour, the Ninth was an exceptionally long symphony for its time. The work, without the words, has been adapted for use as the *European Anthem*.

The Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus, since 1991 led by Cheryl Anderson, has performed at many venues in the U.S. including Carnegie Hall in New York and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and in many locations around the world including Austria, Eastern Europe, Germany, Italy, Ireland and Spain.

Ode to Joy Soloists:

Anja Strauss, soprano

Jennifer Hines, alto

Scott Ramsay, tenor

Eugene Brancoveanu, baritone



Cynthia Kilian GRI, SRES
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A Preview to Beethoven

by Ann Haley

Ludwig van Beethoven must have been the most enigmatic composer of the 19th Century, although Franz Liszt may have been a close second. Beethoven was very dramatic, temperamental, with a strangely Kafkaesque tendency toward life’s near misses. His personal romances remained unrequited. Even a letter he wrote to his “Beloved” (found by his poet friend, Schiller) was never mailed. The circumstances of its writing prevented its receipt by the intended addressee, who remains unknown to this day: Beethoven was to vacate his apartment the following day, and he had to catch the next post in minutes; he did not. Meanwhile, he poured out his heart to an unknown woman. The balance of his life was quite tragic: he was totally deaf by the time he wrote his greatest work, the 9th Symphony; he was sole protector of his fatherless nephew Karl, who tried to kill himself. Beethoven also often considered suicide.

He wrote the 9th because of his rekindled faith in the brotherhood of man and his belief in the ultimate success of the liberal revolutions taking place throughout Europe and the New World. Both he and Schiller were terribly disappointed when Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor. But still Beethoven wrote his Ode to Joy based on Schiller’s optimistic, idealistic words.

Receiving much criticism when first performed, the 9th eventually won great acclaim. It was simply too romantic for its time. It was possibly a precursor to the avant-garde string quintets Beethoven wrote later in his life, and which one musician described as “psychologically very dangerous.” A more complex individual probably never lived.

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Review of Concert #3, Decadent Delights

by Ann Haley

We were treated to a wonderful variety of composers' music on March 26 and 27—musical works possibly appearing together on one program for the first time. Percy Grainger's music, from the early 20th Century, followed by Liszt and Rimsky-Korsakov from the Romantic period, reversed the chronology. Grainger's Nutshell suite sparked the program with music I had never heard before. The orchestra played it with much wit and vitality, and really got our juices flowing. The suite began with a delightful train station "humlet," and ended with the robust "Gum Suckers' March." Congratulations to Larry Granger for bringing this too-little known work to us.

Adam Neiman appeared to play the first of Franz Liszt's two very difficult piano concertos. The first featured a brief triangle-piano duet that has not been used often in music history. I thought it was truly charming, and the entire work, of course, was true to Liszt's very daring style of composition. There were no breaks between movements in either work, as the composer intended. A brief intermission separated the two demanding concertos.

Neiman was very much in command of these pieces. He simply rolled up his sleeves and appeared relaxed as he prepared his hands on the keys and covered the keyboard with incredible speed, strength, and accuracy. Liszt's original intent in these concertos was to be the soloist, and as he was the most popular and outstanding pianist of his day, he reserved the best parts for himself. However, the orchestra had an interesting and contrasting role and certainly was not relegated to the background in either work. A very pleasing piano-cello duet carried a dreamy theme in the 2nd Concerto. Both works ended with a virtuoso finale by all players. The audience showed its tremendous appreciation, as it always does when treated to such wonderful performances.

The final work, Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol, demonstrated the composer's noteworthy command of orchestration. Light and capricious, it made good use of the harp and percussion instruments, but also balanced each section of the orchestra so that the instruments sounded their best. This familiar music is redolent of the composer's famous "Scheherazade." For a very clear explanation of music orchestration, I suggest reading Rimsky-Korsakov's "Principles of Orchestration," published in 1888. It is still as timely as it was then.

Musical Notes

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Pianist Robert Bowman



Program: Bach's Partita #2, Beethoven Sonata #21 in C Major, Op. 53, Chopin Nocturnes and Scherzo in B Flat Minor.

Where: Aptos Home of John Orlando

When: Sunday, June 5, 2 pm.

Donation: \$30-\$75

Call 831.688-1518 or joorland@gmail.com

Pianist Soheil Nasser



Program: Hormoz Farhat Bagatelles (CA premiere), Beethoven Hammerklavier Sonata, Chopin Fantasie in F Minor.

Where: Cabrillo College Music Recital Hall, Aptos

When: Sunday, Oct. 9, 3 pm.

Donation: \$16-\$25

Call 831.688-1518 or joorland@gmail.com

Editor's Corner



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

Journey Down The Nile Photos

Jim Hobbs, brother of Russ, took dozens of photos of our sold out annual gala. I've included a few on page 2.

You can see them all on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/43j8ygv>.

Chip In For The Symphony

Our new major fundraiser, a co-ed golf tournament, is coming up soon, on June 10, to be exact. Committee chair Bill Mowatt is working around 20 hours a day on the project, but we need your help to make this event a success. See the next column for details.

Progressive Dinner

The League's 20/20 group, which organizes casual and informal fundraisers, has scheduled a progressive dinner party with a Greek theme for Saturday, May 14. It takes place at three relatively close together homes in the Seascape area of Aptos. See page 6 for details.

Meet Two New Members and a Musician

Musical Notes ace reporter Gail Mowatt has outdone herself. In this issue, she introduces us to two new League members (page 7) plus orchestra member Michael Cushing (page 6) who will be playing 1st chair alto trombone for next weekend's performance of Beethoven's 9th.

A Preview to Beethoven

Ann Haley fills us in on perspectives that most of us probably didn't know about Beethoven on the 9th (page 3) and provides an insightful recap of last month's Decadent Delights concerts on page 4.

Thanks for reading Musical Notes.

Harry Domash
editor@slscc.org



Jerold O'Brien

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Golfer Alert! Chip In For the Symphony

- DeLaveaga Golf Course, Santa Cruz
- Over \$2,000 prizes and awards



On Friday, June 10, the Symphony League is hosting a brand new fund raising event: "Chip in for the Symphony," a co-ed golf tournament.

We've planned this fun tournament to appeal to golfers of all ages, both beginner and experienced.

Using a "Shotgun" start, all foursomes begin playing at the same time, so there's no waiting around to start. It's a "Scramble" format. After everybody in a foursome tees off, the members decide which ball is in the best position, and then all players hit their second shot from that spot. Same thing for ensuing shots.

The entry fee, \$135 per person, includes green fee, cart, and a "Goodie Bag." Register as a foursome and the fee drops to \$125.00 per person. Dinner (6 pm) costs \$35 and each player (or volunteer) may bring one paying guest.

We need you to make this event a success. You can volunteer to help run the tournament, donate to the event, or most important, **recruit a foursome to play**. If you're not a golfer, tell your friends and encourage them to play.

Questions: Bill Mowatt (831) 425-7772 (h) or, (831)246-1618 (cell)

YES, I want to: would like to help: (check all that apply),

1. Volunteer to help _____
2. Donate to the event. _____
3. Play in the tournament _____

Your name _____

Play as a single ___ \$135

Play as a foursome (\$125/player) ___ \$500.00

Name of partners (foursome):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Dinners: Player (@\$35) _____ Guests @ \$35 _____

Sign up online (slscc.org) or make checks payable to SLSCC and mail to Bill Mowatt • 1700K Escalona Dr. • Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Total _____

Be prepared to have fun!

Meet a Musician: Michael Cushing

by Gail Mowatt



one-year-old daughter Abigail.

He starts with balancing instruments, the trombone and its earlier version, the sackbut. But each instrument comes in several sizes, so Michael often “doubles” by playing not just tenor trombone but alto and bass trombones, and not just sackbut but alto and tenor sackbuts. The trombone is his instrument for performances with the symphony, West Bay Opera, and Foothill Musical Theatre. He plays sackbut with early music groups specializing in Italian music of the early 17th century including Whole Noyse, Gabreli West, and the San Francisco Bach choir. He says, “In the last three weeks I’ve had to perform on five different horns!”

Michael is a stay-at home dad to Abigail at his home in Mountain View, so his practice time is a juggling act. While he finds his new role rewarding, he says, “I used to think that playing a three hour opera was difficult, but caring for an infant is like playing three operas back to back with no intermission!” He practices

only while Abigail naps. He describes his routine: “I juggle the demands of the given week and whatever else is coming up. I split the time between practicing fundamentals, and etudes and preparing specific repertoire for upcoming concerts.” Abigail probably thinks trombone music is a normal background for sleep.

What have Michael and his wife Kim planned for Abigail’s music education? Says Michael, “Abby gets excited about music and dancing. She loves “playing” the piano, and has a few little two or three note ditties she likes to sing.” Michael and Kim would be pleased if Abby decided to perform as an avocation, but if she decides to pursue performing as a career, he says, “I would make certain that she understands the amount of dedication required to make that dream a reality.”

Michael considers himself fortunate as a child. He says his parents “were very supportive, and I encountered none of the resistance that some young people face when wanting to make a career in the arts.” He began playing in middle school, and finished his training in graduate school at Yale with legendary teacher John Swallow.

Be sure to watch for and listen to Michael playing 1st chair alto trombone for the Ninth Symphony. Even when playing his horn he is in fine balance, as he explains, “The trombone is versatile. We are called upon to be comical, brash, overwhelming or noble—sometimes changing between these roles very quickly. In the modern symphony, the trombone often takes a secondary supporting role, but when it is time for us to take charge, there’s no stopping us!”

You're Invited to an Evening of Greek Delights

a Symphony League Fundraiser

You're
Invited

Saturday May 14, 2011 6:00 P.M.

A progressive dinner party, all served within six blocks of each other in Aptos!

Start with appetizers at the home of Joni & Graham Stokes.

Meander down to the home of Sheila & Clyde Vaughn for a delicious entrée.

Then, settle in to the home of Vicki & Rodger Wasson for dessert and entertainment.

\$25 per person donation to the Symphony League

Reserve your space by calling Sheila at 831-662-8908



OPA!

Meet New League Members

by Gail Mowatt

Introducing Craig and Dusty Miller



Both Millers are retired and dedicated collectors. They have over 100 toasters on display in their restored Victorian home and hundreds more in boxes. As serious collectors, they belong to The International Toaster Collectors' Organization and attend yearly conventions. Their oldest toaster is the first model from GE introduced in 1906. But that's not all they collect. Craig also has hundreds of toy trains. When he told me that, I could hear Dusty's voice in the background saying, "Thousands." His favorite is one he had as a boy, lost, but then replaced: a Lionel Santa Fe diesel from the 1940's.

The Millers often go to the Cupertino Square Shopping Center where they can run trains along with other collectors on a large track layout to the delight of passers-by. I am already looking forward to the Christmas train display Craig is in charge of at the Museum of Art and History.

Dusty and Craig joined the League with Life Long Learners and are enjoying the education they receive at the Previews. Craig has a couple of favorite compositions: The 1812 Overture and Pictures at an Exhibition. Dusty, who was given her nickname by her mother many years ago, loves Beethoven and choral music, so she's really looking forward to our last concert! We are glad to welcome them to the League!

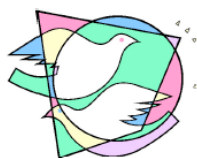
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Meet Lylian Pressel

Though she has only lived in Santa Cruz for a few months, Lylian is already active in the community. She is taking a class in Ikebana, volunteering at the Shop in the Arboretum and just starting to get involved with a group in Marina called Institute for Canine Studies. The goal of the group is to learn how to train service dogs for many different roles.



Lylian, an avid dog lover who is partial to Golden Retrievers, plans to train her daughter's Golden to go to libraries to encourage children to read. She's done it before in Ventura where she lived for 34 years after leaving her home in Switzerland as a young woman "for adventure." She had considered all the countries of Europe and wanted to try the US. It seems to have worked! Lylian is a fan of opera and will be going to New York to see Il Trovatore in April; in the meantime, she settles for opera broadcasts at Cinema 9.

Welcome, Lylian. Now we want to get you just as involved with the activities of the Symphony League!

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

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Do your friends a Classical Music Favor!

