



Musical Notes



The Symphony League of Santa Cruz County Newsletter

2010-2011 Season Number 3

January 19, 2011

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Two viewing areas; one for serious fans, one for . .
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Principal percussionist reveals three epiphanies.

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.

Order Online: slscc.org

President's Message

by Gene Wright, President



Best wishes for a happy belated new year to Symphony Leaguers everywhere. It's hard to believe we are looking forward to the final six months of 2010-2011, but here we are. After kicking off our fund raising efforts with our Annual Holiday Home Tour and a smattering of smaller efforts, we are looking

forward to a lot of activity to wind down the year.

There will be several 20/20 programs that Harry Domash and his committee are planning that are designed to amuse and amaze us throughout the spring; Angela Clark and Company are finalizing our huge spring gala "Journey Down the Nile" which promises to be another extravaganza extraordinaire; and in late spring Bill Mowatt and his blue ribbon committee are planning a co-ed golf tournament that is loaded with fun and frolic for everyone. So stay tuned and watch Musical Notes for the latest developments.

We will also be looking forward to our highly acclaimed Preview events where it is always a pleasure to meet our soloists and enjoy Maestro Larry Granger's comments on the current performances. While you're there be sure to thank Gail and Bill Mowatt for their efforts in putting together these wonderful pre-symphony experiences for us.

It's always a pleasure to actually meet a stated goal and we have exceeded one this year in terms of membership development. Last year, then President Frank Miller set a membership goal of 200, and we are now above that mark and still growing. We owe Frank and Membership Chair Connie Adams a big thank you for the vision and effort in meeting that goal.

The unfriendly economy is still placing hazards in our road leading to the support of our Symphony and its many valuable programs. I'm extending to you a reminder that our sole purpose in existence is to ensure a high level of support in this area. Please participate in every way possible to make this a banner year for our organization, our musicians and our community educational programs.

Gene Wright

You're Invited

Let's Party!

20/20 Group Upcoming Fundraisers

- Sunday Feb 6: **Super Bowl Party**
- Friday March 11: **Dancing Keys**, Cathy Parisie and Elizabeth Bunch, pianos, Joe Parisie, clarinet.
- Sunday May 7: **Kentucky Derby Party**

See page 2 for details.



School Visit Docents Needed

by Catherine Gill, Symphony Youth & Family Program

Would you like to help bring the joy and excitement of symphonic music to young people in our community? If so, consider volunteering to be a docent for the Youth and Family program. Each year, the symphony invites all local elementary schools, both public and private, to sign up for a free concert for fourth and fifth graders at either the Civic or Mello. This year, forty schools responded.

A crucial part of this program occurs before the concerts, and this is where you can help. Individual musicians from our orchestra make classroom visits to the participating schools, and give a musical presentation, demonstrating with their instruments and giving the children information about what they'll be hearing. We need docents to accompany and introduce the musicians to the children. You don't need teaching experience or musical training.

If you're interested, call the Symphony office at 462-0553. You will be invited to attend the training program for docents at the Civic, from 10 to noon on February 2. You will be able to sign up for a school to visit at that time. The school visits occur from February 15-18, and February 22-25. Typically, a docent makes one school visit lasting about one hour.

A Wedding Designed Just For You

REV. CLYDE VAUGHN

831-212-1052

CVFAAD@COMCAST.NET

WWW.WEDDINGSWITHREVCLYDE.COM



Cookie Exchange



Sheila Vaughn's Cookie Exchange, a 20/20 fundraiser, drew 13 people with very little notice on December 16. The party was a great success and by all accounts, will likely happen again next

year, but maybe in multiple locations.

Youth Concert Hosts Needed

by Lee Dufus, Symphony V.P. Marketing

Hosts serve as greeters and ushers for the two sets of Youth Concerts, which are scheduled during the mornings of Monday, February 28, at the Civic Auditorium, and Tuesday, March 1, at the Mello Center. Two one-hour concerts occur, back-to-back at each venue. Hosts seat arriving groups of students and their teachers and chaperones efficiently and safely in both venues. Host training occurs prior to each set of concerts.

You Can Host a 20/20 Party

8-20 people/\$20 contribution to League

20/20 offers you a way to raise money for the Symphony in the comfort of your own home.

It's easy! Simply host a party for eight to 20 people with any theme that appeals to you: wine tasting, trivia, charades, watch a sporting event on TV—you name it.

Invite your friends as well as League members. Each guest contributes \$20 to the League. Food is potluck and the 20/20 group supplies wine and other drinks.

Why not host a 20/20 party at your home? We have plenty of ideas. Contact Harry Domash at (831) 685-1932 or by e-mail at editor@slscc.org.

Upcoming 20/20 Parties

All require \$20/person contribution to the Symphony League

- Sunday, February 6. **Super Bowl Party** at the Hobbs' residence. Two viewing rooms; one for serious fans and the other for those who want to party. Sign up online, call Peggy Minier at 425-8178, or email mhobbs8854@aol.com.
- Friday, March 11. A musical evening of **Dancing Keys** with **Cathy Parisie**, piano, **Elizabeth Bunch**, piano, and **Joe Parisie**, clarinet, at the home of Lee & Emily Duffus. Details to come.
- Sunday, May 7. **Kentucky Derby Party** at the home of Mary Ann Hobbs and possibly other locations. Details to come.

Concert #2: Strictly Classical

Santa Cruz Civic: Saturday, January 29, 8 pm • Mello Center Watsonville: Sunday, January 30

Boyce Symphony No. 5



Sometimes called the “English Bach,” William Boyce (1711-1779) is considered by many to be one of the most important English-born 18th Century composers. Originally an organist, deafness forced him to abandon that career in favor of composing. The Baroque style

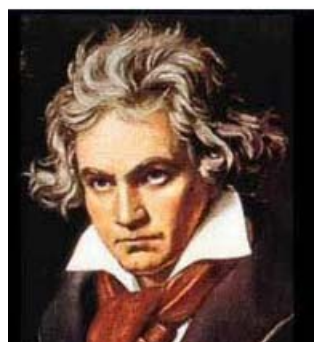
Symphony No. 5 is one of eight symphonies Boyce published in 1760.

Mozart Symphony No. 39



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791). The 39th was the first of three symphonies that Mozart composed in the summer of 1788, shortly after his opera, Don Giovanni, was greeted with a lukewarm reception at its Vienna premiere. Those were Mozart’s last symphonies and it isn’t known if Mozart ever heard the 39th performed.

Beethoven “Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano”



Ludwig van Beethoven’s Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano in C major, Op. 56, more commonly known as the Triple Concerto, was composed in 1803, but wasn’t performed in public until 1808, when it premiered at the summer “Augarten” concerts

in Vienna. It is the only concerto Beethoven (1770-1827) composed for more than one solo instrument.



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“Chip In For the Symphony” Update

The League’s first-ever co-ed golf tournament, “Chip In For the Symphony,” has been set for Friday, June 10. Putting together a golf tournament, especially a new one, is no small task. But Bill Mowatt and his committee are up to the task. When Musical Notes asked how plans were progressing, Mowatt responded with this report.



The Symphony League Golf Tournament Steering Committee met Thursday, January 13th at Mary Ann Hobbs home. The spirited and creative group included Mary Ann, Fred Dunn-Ruiz, Peggy Minier, Connie Adams, Bill Mowatt, new League member Richard Pool, and advisor Don Schmitz. The meeting focused on strategies for soliciting at least two major Event Sponsors (\$2,000 each), and individual Hole Sponsors (\$200 each). Sheila Vaughn and Mary Ann Hobbs developed a worksheet to help committee members keep track of contacts with potential sponsors. The next committee meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, February 10th at a location to be determined.

Since acquiring sponsors is key to making the tournament a moneymaker for the League, that is priority number one for the committee. Contact Bill Mowatt at (831) 425-7772 or bgmowatt10@cruzio.com if you want to help or to suggest potential sponsors.



THE SYMPHONY LEAGUE'S GRANDEST EVENT OF THE YEAR!

“JOURNEY DOWN THE NILE”

**April 2, 2011 • 5:00 PM • First Congregational Church Hall • High Street • Santa Cruz
Crocodile Tears Martini Bar • Silver Mountain Vineyards Wine Bar • Hors d'Oeuvres
Dinner • Silent & Live Auctions • Dancing to a Live Band • Traditional Belly Dancing**

Cost \$95 per person • All Inclusive • Information: Angela Clark: (831) 423-2749

Begin planning your Egyptian attire! (or semi-formal attire).

Tickets and invitations will be mailed soon. Reserve your table of 8 for this spectacular event!

Symphony Preview #2

Friday, January 28 • 4 pm • Santa Cruz Auditorium

The second preview of the season is set for 4 pm, January 28, at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

This preview will be extra special because you'll hear guest soloists “The Pacific Trio” in the intimate Preview atmosphere. Maestro John Larry Granger will be on hand to fill us in on the concert selections.

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.

Reserve online, by phone at (831) 425-7772. or cut out and mail the form to: Bill & Gail Mowatt
1700K Escalona Dr. • Santa Cruz, CA, 95060

Order Online: slscc.org

**Auction Items Needed for
“Journey Down the Nile”**

Here's a partial list of auction items needed for the League's most important fundraiser of the year: art, dishes, crystal, silver, antiques, collectibles, textiles, memorabilia, jewelry, etc.

If you have a favorite restaurant and can request a dinner gift certificate, we will be glad to write up a letter for you to give to them.

We also need theme baskets. If you have the contents, but don't want to assemble a basket, call Angela and the committee will do the assembly..

To donate, call Angela Clark: 423-2749; Ola Monaghan: 423-7347; or Marie Tomasi: 430-9643. **Thank you** for helping make this event a complete success!

Preview Order Form

Please reserve ____ seats for Preview #2 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 Hor d'oeuvre to share.

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:

- *Honoring Mary Ann Orr from Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sperow*
- *In memory of Al Herman from Peggy Crocker*
- *In memory of Al Herman from Dan & Vickie Rutan*
- *In memory of Al Herman from Peggy Minier*
- *In Memory of Marge Christmann from Jan Hadley*
- *In Memory of Marge Christmann from Joanna Hildebrandt*
- *In Memory of Marge Christmann from Peggy Minier*
- *In memory of Mac McGuire from Jan Hadley*
- *Gift to League by Pat & Dan Wimberly (from Idaho)*

Editor's Corner



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

Meet New Members

As League President Gene Wright mentioned in his page 1 column, the League has many new members. Musical Notes ace reporter Gail Mowatt has been busy interviewing them and in this issue Gail introduces us to eight new members.



M. Notes reporter
Gail Mowatt

Meet a Musician

Gail also interviewed Symphony principal percussionist and personnel manager Norman Peck for this issue. I don't know what Gail and/or Norman were smoking when they did the interview, but it has to be one of the all time best musician interviews ever. Probably, Rolling Stone is next for Gail. The interview is on page 7.

Super Bowl Party

The Super Bowl is February 6 and the League's first ever Super Bowl party, a fundraiser, will take place at the Hobbs' residence. Details on page 2. By the way, the event is sponsored by the League's 20/20 committee. The purpose of the committee is to plan casual fundraisers in peoples' homes. Parties generally target anywhere from eight to 20 guests, and each guest is expected to donate \$20 to the League. Parties are potluck and wine and other drinks are donated by sponsors, so all the money collected goes to the League. I'm the chair of the committee. Contact me at editor@slscc.org with questions or suggestions.

Getting Our Email?

We e-mailed information about the January 28 Preview. If you didn't receive it, we may not have your correct email address. If so, send me your address and I'll update our files.

Order Tickets Online

You can order tickets 24/7 to all League events online at slscc.org. You can also donate to the League via our website.

Thanks for reading Musical Notes.

Harry Domash
editor@slscc.org

Order Tickets Online: slscc.org

Meet New League Members

by Gail Mowatt

Introducing a Playful Pair, Ed and Susan Hutton

I say playful for a good reason: they met working at an amusement park and have made a career out of helping people have fun! Ed is retired from serving as Executive VP at the Boardwalk and has consulted with the Winchester Mystery House and Roaring Camp. To help finance his college at SJSU, he worked as a guard at Frontier Village in San Jose and there met Susan, another employee. From then on it was a fun career for each with Susan working in cash control, operations and marketing at the Boardwalk and still working at Roaring Camp.



The Huttons came from musical backgrounds with Susan playing piano and Ed marching in the LA Junior Police Band playing clarinet and sax. The all-boy band even marched in the Rose Bowl parade, but after junior high, Ed developed an interest in cars and girls, so gave up his musical efforts. Both are interested in learning more about symphonic music, and particularly enjoyed the first preview. Said Ed, "We were much better prepared to enjoy the concert." Susan especially enjoyed the piano soloist and both appreciated great seats at the Civic to view the percussion which was working overtime on The Planets.

These new members understand fund-raising as well as having fun; they have served on other community boards and already picked up a basket for the home tour boutique. Three cheers for the Huttons!



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Meet New League Members

by Gail Mowatt

Say Hello to Ray and Marian Disperati

The Symphony Interest Group of Lifelong Learners inspired these two new members to join our league. Marian comes from a musical family; she played baritone horn in a family whose members played piano, marimba, trombone, and trumpet. It's not surprising that her favorite symphony family is the brass which wowed her in *The Planets*. Ray has broad musical interests including rock and roll, big band and jazz, particularly George Shearing. He prefers overtures to concertos and likes many of Gershwin's compositions. The Disperatis have lived in Scotts Valley for 33 years and Ray has retired from Lockheed. Both are interested in photography and travel, and Ray volunteers as a track coach for children from ages 7-13 through the Santa Cruz Track Club. Marian is interested current events, reading, theater, and all the arts. She herself paints in acrylics and water color. What a great addition they will be to our group!

Introducing Jan Fincher

After living in Santa Cruz for 33 years and now retired from her careers as dental hygienist and realtor, Jan is excited about exploring new musical interests in jazz and classical. She sang with the Cabrillo Folk Choir last year reprising a career of singing in high school and college. She comes from a singing family; her father once played secondary roles in opera such as a soldier in *Aida*. When Jan lived in New Orleans and married there, she developed an interest in zydeco and jazz. She loves to hear cello music, especially performed by YoYo Ma. We are so happy to be part of her exploration!



Thanks to Home Tour Volunteers

Once again members came through with flying colors when we needed you! We don't have enough space to thank all who helped. But special thanks to: Vicki Wasson who worked tirelessly to create the beautiful baskets sold in our Boutique, our dear Emily Stewart, who's contribution is always indispensable, and house captains Miriam Fishman, Lee Slaff, Marie Tomasi, Connie Adams, Lynette Nugent, Danene Forman, Gail Mowatt, Cynthia Kilian, Anne Hayden, and Sheila Hall. And to all of the docents, we couldn't have done it without you—literally.

With much gratitude, MaryAnn Hobbs and Peggy Minier, Home Tour Co-Chairs.

Welcome Richard Pool

A particular fan of Dvorak, whose music he describes as "so clear and appealing." Richard also is very fond of cello concerti and favors classical music over other types of music. He moved here from the Sacramento area 12 years ago and worked as a contractor, developer and architect. He still works as a building designer. Richard describes himself as a "dedicated amateur photographer." His favorite subjects are nature and wildlife. His photographic inspirations are Sexton and Ansel Adams and his favorite photo is of a young snowy egret. As we talked, he was preparing for a photography trip to Utah. We are glad he is part of our group!



Introducing Howard and Virginia Law

Both Howard and Virginia were introduced to classical music in their early school years, Howard by seeing *Fantasia* and playing opera on his first record player and Virginia hearing live concert music performed once a month by the high school band in her small town of Bessemer in Upper Michigan. The two met at UCLA and now have three children and two grandchildren. Howard is a retired engineer from Lockheed and Virginia is retired from a career teaching English at West Valley College in Saratoga. Both have an abiding interest in genealogy, gardening and landscaping, and Virginia leads a LLL discussion group on *The New Yorker*. Howard plays the guitar by ear, and Virginia is returning to piano lessons favoring Mozart selections. While both like folk and jazz, they love to hear Beethoven, Bach and Brahms. Virginia closed the interview with this observation about the Santa Cruz Symphony: I feel privileged to be able to focus intentionally on a two-hour performance surrounded by a community of people who also enjoy it, while knowing and respecting the years of preparation, study, and practice required by the performers to make it possible."

Symphony League Website
slscc.org

Meet a Musician: Norman Peck

by Gail Mowatt



An interview with Norman Peck, principal percussionist and personnel manager for the symphony practically writes itself. The tall man with impeccable posture who stands in the percussion section at Santa Cruz County Symphony concerts has a rich story to tell of a musical family, three epiphanies, and ownership of a Stradivarius!

A Musical Family and the First Epiphany

Norman is a third generation musician: his mother who is still an accompanist at 89 and a choir director and dramatic soprano grandmother. When under five, he was “planted in front of his grandmother’s Steinway and told that I ‘would’ learn to play.”

He enjoyed telling about his father who played the organ and recorder, but “was one of those annoying people who could pick up any instrument and make it work. I’d bring home an oboe, saxophone, French horn or whatever I had to learn in college and while I was struggling with it, he’d take a quick look at the method book, mumble a little to himself, and pretty soon he was playing it better than I was. Very aggravating!”

After eight years of piano lessons, the “twitchy” boy was allowed to take a beginners’ percussion class and, since he could read music, was immediately moved to an intimidating advanced class of older, bigger and louder teenaged drummers. After a brief lesson on holding the sticks, he found drumming was easy, “insensible –to-everything-around-me fun.” He had his first epiphany: “... a sudden understanding about my place in the universe. Wow! Walking home after that first class took much longer than usual and twelve year old males are not renowned for the speed and clarity of their processing.”

The Second Epiphany

The piano lessons were stopped and Norman began playing with the amateur Oakland Community Orchestra, school band and jazz band. He found he could tune timpani thanks to his trained ear from all those piano lessons. While still 14, he was asked to play timpani for a special church service where he had to create the timpani part that the choir director forgot to bring.

Again the piano lessons paid off as he improvised an instant timpani part. The performance went quite well, “I didn’t fall off the stage, play in the rests, or drop my sticks.” When the grateful choir director handed him a check for \$50, he looked at the money and had his second epiphany: “These people are paying me to play. Playing music is fun. They’re paying me to have fun. I could get used to this. You know, I do believe I’m onto something here.”

That epiphany propelled him into his current career with the Santa Cruz County Symphony since 1980, The Lamplighters Orchestra, and West Bay Opera. He plays jazz with a big band, teaches a large class of private students and provides instrumental contracting services to a variety of clients. In an earlier period, playing with the Oakland Symphony Friday Night Pops he had an opportunity to play with guest artists such as Jose Feliciano, Benny Goodman, and Della Reese. He has done two European tours and three recordings with the Arch Ensemble for Experimental Music, and began serving as Personnel Director with our symphony in 1980. He visits elementary classrooms as part of the symphony childrens’ music program where he stirs up students, docents and teachers with his collection of instruments and three principals of percussion: it’s universal, ancient and about imagination.

The Third Epiphany

When he is not having fun with music, he is enjoying his East Bay home with Lynda, his wife for 29 years, and two cats Hector and Alex. You will find him reading his favorite science fiction authors, Isaac Asimov for one, watching his collection of sci fi movies, or performing in the kitchen with his wok or smoker. That was where he had his third epiphany as he was staring at a recipe: “First, let me say that experienced musicians can generally look at a piece of music and hear at least some of it in their heads. I suddenly realized that I could taste the recipe I was staring at. Since then, not only do musical ideas simply show up unannounced, but culinary ones as well.” His original recipes include an original lemon-cilantro sauce for smoked salmon, southwest pasta and a “dangerous” Sangria.

He owns a large collection of percussion instruments, and about the Stradivarius he says, “Okay, okay, you violinists, start breathing again. It’s a Stradivarius musical saw. Really.”

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!

