

Musical Notes



The Symphony League of Santa Cruz County Newsletter

2011-2012 Season Number 2

League Info: membership@slscc.org • slscc.org

September 16, 2011

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Another one of Gail Mowatt's insightful interviews.



This Mediterranean style villa is one of the five homes on this year's home tour. Details on page 6.



Clyde's Chords

by Clyde Vaughn, President



We have started the 2011-12 season with a bang! The new Rare Chair Affair drew on the gifts of artisans in our county who created wonderfully decorated chairs. It was a great success, and everyone involved wants to do it again next year! The wine bottling party at River Run was fun for everyone involved. Thirty people

bottled, corked and labeled a whole barrel of very tasty red wine, then took home their own bottles with custom-made labels, with their own names on the bottle. We definitely want to repeat that!

However, being the President of the Symphony League of Santa Cruz has created a unique challenge ... but it's a challenge I'm delighted to have. We have an extremely busy calendar of events. When someone suggests an event, or activity for the Symphony League, I have to ask where will we fit it in the calendar. While we don't want to overcrowd our calendar we want to offer a wonderful variety of events. We think that one activity may appeal to a certain segment

of our community who might not be as interested in another event. Our golf tournament might appeal to some, while others are more interested in a cookie exchange. Wine bottling will attract one group while an afternoon tea may have more appeal to others (or you can go to both!).

Our Board recently met and reviewed upcoming events. Our Home Tour will require many house captains and docents. That's a great opportunity to have fun while supporting the Symphony. Call Mary Ann Orr (427-0760) or Vicki Wasson (661-0996) to volunteer.

We also scheduled the Symphony Sizzle on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, a Kentucky Derby Party on May 5, and our Co-Ed Golf Tournament on July 27. This is in addition to the 20x20 events (a murder mystery night, a bocce ball party, "Comedy to Go" on April 1, and other exciting ideas).

Of course I'm looking forward to seeing you at the September 30 Preview, a luncheon at Chaminade, and at the opening concert, the first weekend of October.

In glorious harmony,
—Clyde

Rare Chair Affair - A Resounding Success

by Sheila Vaughn, Chair



Dawn Teall and Pam Nielsen of Scotts Valley Artisans garnered First Place with "The Queen of Hearts."



Third place: "Bee Happy," a beautiful garden chair, entered by Jen Norton.



Mary Ann Hobbs' entry "Splash," garnered the People's Choice award.

Over 30 local artists exercised their creativity by decorating a chair and entering it in the League's first ever "Rare Chair Affair."

A panel of prominent local artists including Sally Bookman, Bonnie Stiles Walker, Tina Baine, and Nancy Howells, judged these works of art.

The event culminated with a grand party on August 20 at the Museum of Art and History in downtown Santa Cruz. Attendees sipped wine and tasted hors d'oeuvres while they perused the collection of decorated chairs, voted on their favorites for the "People's Choice" award, and placed bids on the chairs that they wanted to take home.

Special thanks to the many League members and friends who generously donated their time and energy to making The Rare Chair Affair a success. Committee members included: Donna Large and Norma Domash, Entries and Donations, Frank Miller, Gala, Mary Ann Orr, Food and Beverages, and Mary Ann Hobbs, Logistics.

The event raised \$4,300 that will support the Santa Cruz County Symphony's classical concerts at the Santa Cruz Civic and Mello Center, and the Youth and Family programs which introduce over 4,000 young people to classical music each year. We anticipate that next year's Rare Chair Affair will be even more successful.



Second Place went to Sue Walter and Pat Alexander Weston for "Bertha Bench," a chair made entirely from recycled materials. When the Museum of Art and History expressed an interest in this chair, the purchaser donated it to them for their collection.

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Concert #1 Composer's: From Another Angle

by Gene Wright

A most remarkable phenomena of classical music history is the abundance of stories relating to the composers. So, for amusement, let's take a look at the three composers featured in this season's opening concert.

Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)



Czech composer whose popular *New World Symphony* originated from three years spent in New York and among the Czech community of Spillville, Iowa.

Fritz Kreisler called on Dvorak in 1903 in his impoverished home in Prague.

"It was like a scene from *La Boheme*," Kreisler remembered. "Dvorak was lying in bed, sick and in visibly bad shape. He had sold all his compositions for a mere pittance and now had nothing to live on. Even the emoluments for his brilliant American tour had for some reason or another been used up."

I had been playing some of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances and visited the old man to pay him my respects. I asked him whether he had nothing further for me to play. "Look through that pile," the sick composer said, pointing to a mass of unorganized papers. "Maybe you can find something." I did. It was the *Humoresque*."

Felix Mendelssohn (1808-1847)



Grandson of the Jewish philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, he was raised a Protestant. By the age of seventeen he had composed 12 string symphonies, an opera and The overture to the *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

"One had to be careful, Victoria and Albert agreed, about foreign musicians.

Many of them drank and were involved with women. But this Mendelssohn was a gentleman and a family man. At 33, he was only ten years older than they were.

So Felix was invited to Buckingham Palace, after dinner, one June evening in 1842. Victoria and Albert were

almost fluttery with anticipation. They accompanied the composer to the piano and listened with rapt attention as he played selections from his *Songs Without Words*. When he was asked back, "Albert wanted Felix to try his organ, and Victoria wanted what Albert wanted, so there was Mendelssohn, on a Saturday afternoon, at Buckingham Palace again. The prince explained the organ registers and played a chorale. Felix followed with the chorus from St. Paul, the three of them singing along and Albert pulling the stops. Next they trooped to the Queen's salon, where, at the piano, Victoria sang 'Italien'. Except that she sang D sharp where it should have been natural, as Mendelssohn later reported, and natural where it should have been sharp, she performed 'most charmingly'. In fact, he said, 'the only really nice, comfortable house in England, where one feels completely at home, is Buckingham Palace'"

Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)

By the age of thirty, Rossini had attained world fame with a string of *Opera Buffa* successes. After 1829 he wrote nothing more for the stage and passed the second half of his life in Parisian indolence.



"He once said quite frankly, 'I know of no more admirable occupation than eating. Appetite is for the stomach what love is for the heart. The stomach is the conductor, who rules the grand orchestra of our passions, and rouses it to action. As for love, I regard her as the *prima donna par excellence*, the goddess who sings cavatinas to the brain, intoxicates the ear, and delights the heart. Eating, loving, singing, and digesting are, in truth, the four acts of the comic opera known as life, and pass like the bubbles of a bottle of champagne. Whoever lets them break without having enjoyed them is a complete fool.'

That the musician who could make such a frank gastronomic confession of faith, who once declared that 'The truffle is the Mozart among the mushrooms,' was an accomplished gourmand cannot be denied. Yet on the morning when I first saw him, he seemed quite content with his bread and milk." *Leopold Auer (1845-1930); Hungarian violinist and teacher.*

Bottle Your Own Wine Party



Our first “Bottle Your Own Wine Party” was held on September 10 at River Run Winery in Aromas.

League members and guests took turns filling bottles with “Symphony Red” wine, corking them, and then adding personalized labels and cork sealers. A pot-luck lunch followed the bottling.

The group Cruzin, consisting of Scotty Correa-Mickel and Bill Borton, provided the music.

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Editor's Corner



Welcome to the second edition of Musical Notes for the 2011-2012 season. Here are some of the highlights.

Meet a Musician

Gail Mowatt provides us with another in her series of insightful interviews of orchestra members, this time featuring violinist Nancy Kvam and her musical rabbit (page 7).

Composers: From Another Angle

Past President Gene Wright penned a very creative article that gives us a personal glimpse into the lives of the three composers featured in this season's opening concert: Dvorak, Mendelssohn, and Rossini. I guarantee that you will learn something that you didn't know about each of them (page 3).

Early Deadline For Preview at Chaminade

The season's first preview, a luncheon at Chaminade featuring Sheryl Staples, associate concertmaster for the New York Philharmonic, is set for Friday, September 30. Chaminade needs to know how many are coming a week in advance. Thus, we need your paid reservations by September 30. Reserve online at slscc.org or call Gail Mowatt at 425-7772.

Home Tour Coming Up

The 26th annual Symphony League Home Tour is set for Saturday and Sunday, November 6 and 7. See page 6 for details.

Event Summaries & Pictures

Check out the photos of the best entries in the recent Rare Chair Affair event as picked by our professional judges as well as People's Choice winner chosen by attendees (page 2). Also, see the pictures from our Bottle Your Own Wine party on page 4.

Nerds Needed

I need help doing technical stuff like maintaining our League website and sending email blasts to members. Let me know if you fit that bill.

Facebook Page

Sheila Vaughn has set up a Facebook page for the League. But she needs someone willing to spend about 10 minutes per day updating the page. Call Sheila at 662-8908 if you can help.

Thanks for reading Musical Notes.

Harry Domash
editor@slscc.org

Symphony Fund Raiser! Second Hand Collectible Sale

On Saturday, October 8 from 9:00 – 2:00, the League is holding a Second Hand Collectible Sale at the home of Mary Ann Hobbs at 146 Morrissey Blvd. in Santa Cruz.

This will include clothing items of designer quality in good condition, small pieces of furniture, historical art, rugs, fine costume jewelry (especially from the 1930s or 40s), porcelain, china, silver, crystal, classic handbags, paintings, and objets d'art in general. This is not a rummage or garage sale!

It is time to donate items you are no longer using. Call Mary Ann Hobbs at 466-9524 for times of delivery. Call Angela Clark if you have any questions 831-423-2749. Thanks for your help.

Angela Clark & Mary Ann Hobbs



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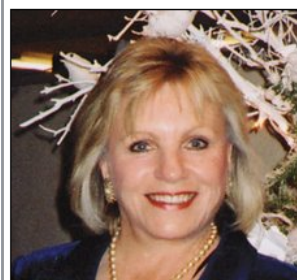
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Chip In For the Symphony Opportunity

by Bill Mowatt

You are invited! We are now forming a steering committee for our 2nd annual "Chip In for The Symphony" Golf Tournament.

As you may know, our successful 2011 golf tournament motivates us to repeat the tournament next year. The date is July 27, 2012 at DeLaveaga Golf Course using the same format, a Best Ball Scramble. We are now forming the steering committee, and if you are interested call me at (831) 425-7772, or e-mail at bgmowatt10@cruzio.com



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26th Annual Home Tour

The 26th annual Symphony League Home Tour is set for Saturday, November 5, and Sunday, November 6, 2011 from 12:00 – 5:00 P.M. Five unique homes will be



Mediterranean style villa (Tour “Boutique House”)

featured this year in a relatively small geographic area to cut down on the drive time and increase the time tour goers can spend at each lovely home. Our northernmost home is in Woods Cove off of Graham Hill Road, and our southernmost home is on old San Jose road. We’re returning to the more familiar format of the daytime, weekend tour, with a



Art house on the ocean

Boutique included at one of the houses. The Boutique will offer a collection of themed gift baskets for sale, as well as homemade baked good and jams, and Fall decorative

items. As a bonus to the traditional tour, each house will have an additional draw for the tour-goers. One home will feature musicians throughout the day. One home is overflowing with art, sculpture, and artifacts from around the world, plus numerous well-known local artists works. Our historical home, dating from the 1860s, will have an historian present to answer questions and share interesting tidbits from the past. And the final home will feature an informal fashion show with models wearing apparel from the newly opened “Chic Boutique” in Aptos.



1920s beach bungalow on the harbor



Historical 1860s “Gem” home in Paradise Park Masonic Club

Tickets are \$25, and can be purchased online at www.slscc.org, by phone at 831-427-0760, or at these local retail stores: Palace Arts in both Santa Cruz and Capitola, Annieglass in both Santa Cruz and Watsonville, the Symphony office at the Civic Auditorium, Le Chef in Aptos, Alladin Nursery in Corralitos, and Zinnias in Scotts Valley.

Tour co-chairs Mary Ann Orr and Vicki Wasson are busy bees organiz-

ing the Tour and recruiting the many League volunteers it takes to host this huge event. Each year is “the best yet!” so it will take everyone’s efforts, generosity and good will to keep up the grand tradition that the Home Tour has become. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Ann, (831-427-0760), orrmma@aol.com, or Vicki, (831-661-0996), vlwasson@yahoo.com.



“Old World Charmer” home in Woods Cove

**League Membership Info:
membership@slscc.org**

Meet a Musician: Nancy Kvam

by Gail Mowatt

It is easy to spot Nancy seated in the second row of violinists with her beautiful red hair, and her instrument named "Autumn." But what is not apparent is her deep musical heritage, her musical pet, and her record for the Symphony's shortest commute!

Nancy's story about her violin helps us understand the bond between performer and instrument. She made several trips to Missouri in 1980 to meet with violin maker and friend Keith Davis to commission her custom-designed violin to be delivered on the Autumn equinox. She says, "After three visits to arrange my specifications (size, style, color, varnish etc.) I was able to take my new violin home on the last day of Autumn. It is the essence of Autumn in color and season. I am nearly the only one who has played it."

With her heritage, it is difficult to imagine Nancy doing anything but playing her violin. It started with Grandfather Kvam, a second generation Norwegian immigrant who played trumpet with a US symphonic band and won an opportunity to represent our country with his band in Paris. Everyone in the family was involved with music: grandmother was a pianist/organist who taught until she was 95; great uncle, was a cellist and head of music at Douglas College; father a trumpeter who played in Belgium for an American forces dance band; mother a singer; older sister also a violinist who teaches and conducts, and brother who played trumpet. That doesn't cover the musical cousins, one of whom attended grad school with Cheryl Anderson. Whew! It's no wonder Nancy is so deeply involved in the performance and teaching of music in our community!

In addition to our Symphony, Nancy plays with various string ensembles and has played with the Monterey County Symphony, The Antiquarian Funks, and Cabrillo Stage productions where she served as concertmaster for four years. Through the Cabrillo Youth Strings Music Program, she conducts the Baroque-Classical Ensemble and Contemporary Music Ensemble. This busy woman helps students at the Music Lab in the Cabrillo Music Department, evaluates string players and ensembles for the Music Teachers' Association, and enjoys going into classrooms to prepare the students for their Symphony Music in the School concert.

Even her pet rabbit, Damakaya, got involved in music education. She recalls, he "really enjoyed listening to




my students during their lessons. He did arabesques and pirouettes across the floor. One day I brought him to hear a Youth Concert. He was out in the auditorium in his small animal box. I often wonder what he thought about that."

She appreciates the support the League provides to keep the symphony running smoothly, enjoys working with the volunteer docents, and yes, thinks the snacks are great. Nancy's favorite piece of music is the one she is working on right now, and she can work right up to the last moment and still be on time for rehearsal...her commute is one block from home to Civic!

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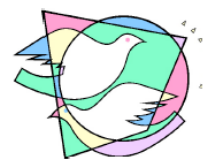
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