



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild

Vol.54, No.1, December 2016

THE LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus

Presents

A Heavenly Life

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Saturday, December 3, 2016, at 8:15 p.m.

**BANKHEAD THEATER, 2400 First Street, Livermore
Livermore Performing Arts Center**

Doors open by 7:45 p.m.

Exsultate, Jubilate

W.A. Mozart

Emily Helenbrook, soprano soloist

————— **Intermission** —————

Presentation of student awards

Symphony No. 4

Gustav Mahler

Emily Helenbrook, soprano soloist

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are available at the Bankhead ticket office.

Contributions to the Symphony may also be given at the ticket office.

In Person: Bankhead Theater Ticket Office, 2400 First Street, Livermore.

Tuesday through Saturday, Noon to 6 p.m.

Website: www.bankheadtheater.org **Phone:** 925-373-6800

Make checks payable to **LVPAC**.

♪♪ *From the LAS Guild President* ♪♪

This season started off with a bang on September 10 when the orchestra performed with Judy Collins as the Bankhead Theater launched its 10th season gala event, “Brilliance at the Bankhead.” It was a wonderful evening! Ms. Collins expressed her appreciation to the orchestra throughout the concert, and many LAS musicians shared that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Our annual Pops concert October 21, “POPS Groovin’ in the ’60s” was also a big hit. The Guild and especially the Pops committee did a terrific job pulling it all together. Thank you, Nancy McKenzie, Pops chair, for your exceptional organization of this fun event. The audience and orchestra members showed great ’60s spirit in their costumes, not to mention our “groovy” conductor

with no less than 3 outfit changes throughout the evening! [See Pops article on page 6.]

The Pops Committee always welcomes thematic ideas for the next concert. If you have a theme suggestion for Pops 2017, and some song ideas to back it up, we would greatly appreciate your input!

I am really looking forward to seeing you all at the December 3 concert when soloist Emily Helenbrook will perform in both the Mozart and Mahler pieces.

Thank you, Guild board, members, and friends who do so much to support our wonderful orchestra. It is largely because of your support that the symphony is able not only to continue its musical contribution to our community, but to thrive.

Linda Tinney, LAS Guild President

**December Concert
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

REMINDER!

*To accommodate the Livermore Downtown
Holiday Parade:*

**Concert begins at 8:15 p.m.
There will be no prelude talk!**

**Education AWARDS will be presented
to 4 high school seniors after intermission.**



***Following the Concert*
Join us for a Reception
in the Bankhead Lobby!
Hosted by the Guild.**

Spread the Word!

Livermore-Amador Symphony

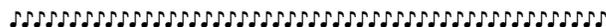
Second Annual

Free Family Concert

December 3, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

Bankhead Theater

See page 3 for details!



**–Notice to Concert Ticket Holders–
Can’t use your concert tickets?**

Call the Bankhead Ticket Office (925-373-6800) up to 1 hour before the concert to release your seats. You will be mailed a tax donation receipt.



Symphony Notes is published four times a year for members of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, Orchestra, and Guild. Symphony Association President Denise Leddon; Guild President Linda Tinney; Editor Marcia Stimatz Elchesen. PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551-1049. 925-447-6454. Website: www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org

Amazing Fact! We had a total of 1933 reserved seats (96% of capacity) in the Bankhead Theater for LAS concerts during the regular 2015–16 season. The December 2015 concert was 99% reserved. **If you don’t have your current season tickets yet, delay no longer!**

**Second Annual Free Family Concert!
Bankhead Theater December 3, 3:00 p.m.**

LAS music director Lara Webber has put together this collaborative holiday musical treat geared towards families with children! The program features Livermore-Amador Symphony, Cantabella Children's Chorus, and Valley Dance Theatre, performing sing-along seasonal classics, a cappella numbers, and selections from *The Nutcracker*. Listen for the magical musical instrument, the celesta, while the fairy dances. It's sure to leave a lasting impression of sugar plum fairies dancing in your head! The concert will also offer a taste of Mozart with soprano soloist Emily Helenbrook. The performance will be less than an hour, followed by the popular Instrument Petting Zoo in the Bankhead lobby—LAS orchestra players will offer children a hands-on experience with various instruments.

Please share this concert with friends and family who have not experienced our symphony. It's one way to get them hooked! Thanks to funding by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, *the concert is free, but tickets are required*. Please contact the Bankhead for ticket information.



**December 3 Concerts
Emily Helenbrook, soloist**

Soprano Emily Helenbrook is a recent graduate from the Eastman School of Music and University of Rochester in the Dual Degree Program for Vocal Performance and Political Science.



Helenbrook has performed with the Eastman Opera Theatre and several times as a featured soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also appeared twice on the nationally acclaimed NPR radio program, "From the Top."

Raised in western New York, she comes from a musical family. She was inspired by her violinist grandfather and by her aunt, a soprano vocalist, who was also Helenbrook's first vocal instructor.



♪♪ From the LAS Association President ♪♪

Colorful, playful, hip! "Groovin' in the '60s" is now my all-time favorite Pops concert. We're back in the groove, starting our symphony season with this party hit! Thank you, Bryan Waugh, for the concept, and Jim Hartman, for sharing your valuable '60s posters. Thank you, Element 116, symphony musicians, and Lara Webber, for such colorful, amusing costumes and music. Thank you, dear Guild, for an incredible amount of dedication and work, especially in helping me build the VW bus centerpieces. Thank you, faithful audience, for enjoying the Pops as much as I did!

Mmm ... Mahler and Mozart for our upcoming December 3 concert at 8:15 p.m. The Mahler is so emotional. I close my eyes to listen differently when Lara is rehearsing other sections of the orchestra ... major goose bumps! The Mozart is crisp and clean. One gift still coming, to hear the

beautiful, angelic soprano Emily Helenbrook. Lara named this concert right. It is "A Heavenly Life!"

The Judy Collins LVPAC 10th Season Gala was a wonderful event. I'm so pleased that Scott Kenison asked LAS to play. What a hidden talent the symphony has ... playing in the dark! A story for another time, but that's why we do live performances. They're exciting and social. You never know what to expect. We will practice walking on water next. Lara Webber already does. She put a ton of preparation into this event. Thanks, Lara. Thank you, LAS musicians, for donating your time to support the theater and its educational outreach mission.

A great season is here, with five-year planning in progress. I can't wait to see you at the post-concert reception December 3rd!

Denise Leddon, LASA President

♪♪ The Future of Classical Music! ♪♪

COMPETITION FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

The winners of the 44th annual competition, held on October 9, were pianist Sehyun (Eunice) Lee, a senior at Dougherty Valley High School, and violinist Felix Yu-Shuan Shen, a freshman at Dublin High School. For the competition Eunice performed the first movement of Piano Concerto No.1 in C Major, Op.15, by Beethoven and Felix performed the first movement of Violin Concerto in D Minor, Op.47, by Sibelius. As soloists they will perform the same works with the symphony at its February 18 concert. Judges for the competition were Lara Webber, LAS music director, Jo Ann Koopman, pianist/piano teacher, and Katy Juneau, principal viola for the Fremont Symphony.

Thanks to Joan Dickinson for her computer work and to Ann Kasameyer for the refreshments and for providing her home to the LAS Association as the site of the competition

JoAnn Cox, Competition Chair

STUDENT PERFORMERS AT JANUARY 19 WINTER GUILD MEETING

Three students who participated in the Competition for Young Musicians were selected by the judges to perform at the Guild meeting on Thursday evening, January 19. The meeting starts at 7:30 and the musical program will begin at approximately 7:45. The students are pianist Rachel Liu, a sophomore at Dougherty Valley High School; cellist Sean Lee, also a sophomore at Dougherty Valley High School; and flute player David Davisson, a sophomore at Livermore High School. The location is the home of Ann Kasameyer. Members of the orchestra and the LASA Board, along with their guests, are invited to join Guild members in listening to these talented young musicians.

JoAnn Cox

Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra (LASYO) Eighth Season

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra performed its 8th annual summer concert on August 6 for an enthusiastic crowd at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall. Seventy-six musicians, from the Tri-Valley and beyond, began their weekly concert rehearsals at the Bothwell Arts Center in June.

The program included W.A. Mozart's Overture to *The Magic Flute*; Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98, 2nd movement; selections from Suite for Strings, "From Holberg's Time," by Edvard Grieg; *Star Wars Medley* by John Williams; and selections from *Aladdin Suite*, Op. 34, by Carl Nielsen. As a result of collaboration with Mark Anderson of New World Music Academy, the concert also featured *Carnival of the Animals*, by Camille Saint-Saëns. Piano soloists were Franklin Ho and Jason Hale, piano students at NWMA. The concertmaster was Adam Zhu. (Anderson won the symphony's Competition for Young Musicians of 1974-75 and also 1979-80!)

Betsy Hausburg coordinates LASYO, which is sponsored by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association; Göran Berg and Don Adkins served as music directors. Hausburg plays tuba with LAS, Berg is artistic director of Sycamore Strings Academy in Livermore, and Adkins is a music educator, conductor, performer, composer, and church musician.

Several adult mentors rehearsed with the students, some of whom also played in the concert: Bob Bryant, Lee Carpenter, Peter Chatterjee (LASYO alumnus), Larry George, Forest Jones, Chris Lawton, April Nissen, Diane Schildbach, Marcus Schildbach, Lynn Stasko, Bob Williams, and Beth Wilson.

Spring School Concert Assemblies: As part of its outreach to youth, the symphony will perform "Peter and the Wolf" concert assemblies at two Pleasanton elementary schools in April. Funding is provided through partnerships with LVPAC, the Pleasanton Arts Commission, and the Pleasanton Youth Commission.

GUILD NEWS

ESTATE SALES COMMITTEE

- **July 1–2.** The committee held a successful sale in July for one of our longtime Guild members, Evelyn Foster. She moved to Salt Lake City to be closer to her daughter. And we helped her do it smoothly!
- **November 12.** The Guild joined Livermore Cultural Arts Council and Livermore Shakespeare Festival in a moving sale outside the old Livermore library as we prepare to vacate our storage space there. The Guild “trimmed down” and made \$422 in the process while enjoying a beautiful autumn day! Stay tuned for information about helping us in December with the move.

Of course these sales are not possible without hours of work by some very dedicated Guild members. A huge thank you to **Leona Brush, Peggy Burdick, Pat Burnett, Ginger Bytnar, Bob Canning, Patty Canning, Adela Cook, Carol Counts, Joan Dickinson, Marcia Elchesen, Patti Fredericks, Nancy Fritsch, Irma Giannotti, Mary Ann Johnston, Maudie Kuenning, Anita Kuntz, Linda Miller, Helen Moore, Barbara Morrison, Allene Nimitz, Marie Ross, Marie Ruzicka, and Joie Spooner** for their help with one or both of these sales.

In early September, the committee produced a flyer insert for *The Independent* promoting our Estate Sales service, which also included the LAS 2016–2017 concert schedule. (Several first-time Pops-goers reserved tickets as a result of the flyer!) Thanks to **Marie Ruzicka, Pat Mann, and Judy Eckart** for their work.

Nancy McKenzie, Estate Sales Co-Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Touring to the 2017 Year!

The Nominating committee will meet in January to start drafting a slate of officers for the 2017–2018 Guild year.

You can help: Heard someone offer ideas for one of the Guild activities? Know someone with untapped talents? You are a current officer who wants to serve in another capacity next year? Had such a good time working on a committee that you would like to lead it next year?

Please call or email one of the committee members with your suggestions: **Pat Mann, Patty Canning, Mary Ann Johnston, Barbara Morrison, and Joie Spooner.** Our contact information is in the current Guild directory.

Pat Mann, Nominating Committee Chair

Guild Prelude Party

The Guild held its season opener on September 22, giving members and guests a chance to socialize and enjoy entertainment by Valley Dance Theatre. President Linda Tinney particularly welcomed guests and new Guild members, and invited music director Lara Webber to speak about the upcoming concert season. The dance program featured very creative choreography including “Less is More” (a four-part piece comparing ballet and modern steps), “Ball Girl Nightmare,” and “Plink, Plank, Plunk.” VDT Director Betsy Hausburg gave background information about the works. Thanks to Nan Davies for arranging the entertainment and to Maudie Kuenning and Nancy McKenzie, who organized refreshments. **A note from Maudie:** “My sincere thanks to these Guild members who provided the delectable refreshments for our recent Prelude Party: **Pat Burnett, Adela Cook, Carol Counts, Marcia Elchesen, Marcia Finders, Joan Green, Jean King, Nancy McKenzie, Marie Ross, and Marie Ruzicka.** It is the generosity of our membership that makes our gatherings so special.”

The Guild
is sponsoring the
HARPIST
for all four concerts
this season!





Pops Groovin' in the 60s

GROOVIN' THE NIGHT AWAY! And on October 21, the 330 folks who attended the Symphony Guild's annual POPS concert did just that! The costumes were terrific! We had members from Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, hippies, the Pink Panther, Willie Nelson, a go-go dancer, Holly Golightly, a lava lamp, a '60s mad scientist, and more. Décor included a display of wonderful '60s concert posters loaned by Jim Hartman, LAS horn player and orchestra production manager, and flower-power VW bus table decorations, the brainchild of Denise Leddon, LASA president and LAS second violin. Guild members had a great time building buses at the bus assembly get-together in September! The raffle made \$350 on the two beautiful baskets assembled by Barbara Morrison and Linda Miller, and \$80 on the chance to conduct the orchestra.

LAS conductor and music director Lara Webber led the orchestra in a wide range of '60s music, including medleys from the musicals *Hair* and *The Sound of Music*, tunes from the Beatles, Mancini classics "Moon River" and "The Pink Panther," "Mission Impossible," the original TV theme from "Star Trek," and "Pinball Wizard." Guild president Linda Tinney and LVPAC executive director Scott Kenison led the sing-alongs, with lively audience participation. Vocal trio Tinney, Kenison, and Webber performed "Under the Boardwalk" with back-up band Beth Wilson on percussion, Matt Finders on bass, Zachary Lem on drums, and Brynli Toulze on guitar. Returning for their second Pops concert was Element 116, the middle and high school jazz band under the direction of Matt Finders. Their performance included "Hit the Road Jack," the Beatles tunes "Yesterday" and "Hey Jude," "Peter Gunn," and "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Audience members also enjoyed playing the '60s trivia quiz that was in the program.

Of course, this kind of event takes hours of planning and many volunteers. My thanks go out to:

Guest performers: Scott Kenison, Matt Finders, and Element 116.

Pops Steering Committee: Ginger Bytnar, Bob Canning, Patty Canning, Joan Dickinson, Joan Green, Jim Hartman, Denise Leddon, Sally Marone, Linda Miller, Barbara Morrison, Marie Ruzicka, Linda Tinney, Bryan Waugh, and Bob Williams.

LAS Music Director and Conductor Lara Webber, who also worked with the steering committee.

Other Guild members and friends who pitched in (table decorations, setup, selling raffle and drink tickets, working the beverage booth, cleanup, and more): Adela Cook, Dorothy Clarkson, Nan Davies, Walter Davies, Dennis Elchesen, Marcia Elchesen, Muriel Haupt, Mary Ann Johnston, Jean King, Pat Mann, Sharron Morrison, and Marie Ross.

Special thanks to Joan Dickinson who has years of POPS history in her head! Can't do this event without her. Thanks to Linda Tinney for all her support, to Lara Webber and the Livermore-Amador Symphony for all their beautiful music, and to our Pops audience!

Nancy McKenzie, Pops Committee Chair

Save the Date! POPS 2017 is Friday, October 20th!



LCAC 50th Year Celebration October 5. The wine & hors d'oeuvres event at RLCC was a smashing success with almost 100 people attending, including seven LCAC past/present presidents and the mayor of Livermore. A dynamic video, "Livermore's Impossible Dream," was unveiled during the celebration. It details the growth of Livermore's arts culture during the past 50 years with interviews, photos, and clips from our arts organizations. <https://youtu.be/kR4BM7EfxkE>.

LCAC Booth at ArtWalk October 8. Thanks to all the musicians and dancers who participated! LAS sponsored Vineyard Woodwinds (Marcia Powers, Cyndy Salmon, Larry George). Many other LAS past and present musicians took part. Vintage Brass (Chris Lawton, Marcus Schildbach, Bob Bryant, Richard Lamb, Rick Fler) performed. So did the spirited Valley Dance Theatre, and jazz combos Secret Tattoo (including Nick James) and the Sussman Trio. I hope you were able to stop by to enjoy the shows!

Denise Leddon

**POPS CONCERT
SPECIAL THANKS!**

Wine Donations:

Valerie & Hank Huff,
Frantic Frog Winery
William Thomson,
Harris Tesla Vineyards, LLC
Norm & Stephanie Petermeier,
Villa per Dué Vineyard
Lecia Roundtree,
Wine Group, Inc.

Financial Sponsorship:

Lisa Burkhart
Stoneridge Creek Retirement Community

Join the A.P. Barnes Society! Inquire at APBarnesSociety@livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

Members are dedicated supporters who have included Livermore-Amador Symphony in their estate plans. Financial contributions will help to:

- ♪ Sustain the Artistic Growth of the Symphony
- ♪ Provide Access and Enrichment to Young People
- ♪ Strengthen the Financial Foundation of the Symphony

Guild Estate Sales

**\$ Money raised benefits LAS! \$
SUPPORT THE GUILD'S EFFORTS:**

Income from estate sales is one of the primary ways the Guild raises money! If you know anyone who is significantly downsizing or closing out a home, please tell them about this wonderful service the Guild offers! For more information: <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales.html>

Nancy McKenzie, Estate Sales Co-Chair

♪ **Lynn Stasko**, longtime LAS bassoon player, announced her retirement at the end of the 2015–2016 concert season after 38 years with the orchestra. However, she promptly returned just to play for "POPS Groovin' in the '60s!" The orchestra thanked Lynn for her dedicated service with a special bassoon cake and card during the break at a Pops rehearsal, organized by LAS personnel manager Bryan Waugh.

Thank you, Lynn!

We hope to see you in the audience at the concerts!

**Attention
Facebook Users!**



The Livermore-Amador Symphony is a Resident Company of the Bankhead Theater and a member of Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC).

Look for the Symphony Association's annual financial report, fiscal year 2015–2016, in the February 2017 issue of Symphony Notes. The financial review took place on November 7.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association
P. O. Box 1049
Livermore, CA 94551-1049

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Livermore, CA
Permit 120

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SYMPHONY NOTES

Calendar

December 2016 and Beyond

Saturday, December 3, 2016

See pages 1, 2, and 3.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concerts:

The Bankhead Theater, Livermore

3:00 p.m., *Free Annual Family Concert*

8:15 p.m., *A Heavenly Life*

Thursday, January 19, 2017

See page 4.

Guild Winter Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 18, 2017

See page 4.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Inspirational Journeys

With Solos by Winners of the Competition for Young Musicians

8:00 p.m., The Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Transfigurations

8:00 p.m., The Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Arabian Nights

8:00 p.m., The Bankhead Theater, Livermore