



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony

Vol. 57, No. 1, February 2020

THE LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus

Presents

Angels and Demons

Jason Klein, guest conductor

Saturday, February 22, at 8:00 p.m.

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

Prelude talk 7:00–7:30 p.m. (Doors open by 6:30 p.m.)

The Beautiful Galatea Overture

Franz von Suppe

Three Bavarian Dances

Edward Elgar

“In der Walpurgisnacht” from Symphony No. 8

Joachim Raff

La chasseur maudit (The Accursed Huntsman)

Cesar Franck

Plus solos by the winners of the 2019-2020 Competition for Young Musicians

Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E-flat, first movement

Carl Maria von Weber

Igor Aprelev, soloist

Violincello Concerto No. 2 in D, first movement

Joseph Haydn

Starla Breshears, soloist

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are available at the Bankhead 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**.

♪ A Note from Kathy Streeter, LAS Guild President ♪

I am Kathy Streeter, and I am so honored to be the current president of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild. Greetings to a new year, a new decade and a new editor for the Livermore-Amador Symphony Notes.

Marcia Stimatz Elchesen has been the Symphony Notes editor for years while concurrently serving as secretary for both the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild and the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association. I honestly don't know how she handled all three jobs with such thoroughness, professionalism, taste and creativity.

Our new editor, Nile Runge, is an experienced editor and a very organized person. He is also creative, conscientious, knowledgeable, reliable and is a pleasure to work with.

When Nile first reviewed Marcia's Symphony Notes he was blown away with her creative use of fonts and borders and her ability to produce pages of well-placed articles and notices that make the Notes a pleasure to read. She was meticulous in her layout and presentation and Nile was full of praise and admiration.

We have benefitted from Marcia's abilities for over 6 years and still wonder how she managed it all. She has also been a terrific mentor to Nile while we transition to our new editor.

I want to publicly thank Marcia for all the work she has put in to make the Symphony Notes comprehensive and compelling. I also want to thank her for her tireless efforts to keep us all up to date and in the know with her thorough and concise board minutes and I look forward to both working with her and relying on her reporting in the future.

We were incredibly lucky to find an accomplished person to take over the job of Symphony Notes editor. Linda Tinney, our wonderful president of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association is not shy about praising our extraordinary musicians, our truly amazing conductor, or all of the volunteers who work so hard. So when she mentioned at a Rotary meeting that we were in dire need of an accomplished editor to take over for our retiring editor, she just happened to be at a table with Nile Runge. Nile had produced an incredible newsletter for a local chapter of retired teachers but was currently without any editing duties. Linda does not let grass grow under her feet and so here we are, welcoming Nile Runge as he presents his first issue of the Symphony Notes.

I know I speak for us all in thanking Marcia for the hours and hours she gave us and the high standard she set, and for welcoming and thanking Nile Runge for joining us as our new Notes editor.



An Important Update!
–Notice to Concert Ticket Holders–
Can't use your concert tickets?

The Bankhead Theater ticket office no longer processes returned LAS concert tickets as a donation to the Symphony. We suggest you consider offering your tickets to someone else who can use them.

♪♪♪

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

Attention Facebook Users!

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

Congratulations to our symphony!



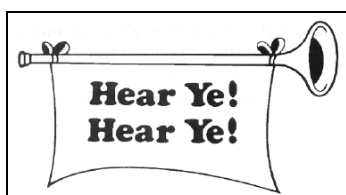
Today (Jan 15) Carol Boster and Jackie McBride, representing the Livermore-Amador Symphony, accepted a \$600 grant from Livermore Rotary to help upgrade our financial management. For 18 years volunteers have used Quicken to manage the symphony's financial affairs. Times have changed and Quicken is no longer able to meet our needs. The grant will go toward obtaining a more robust accounting system.



2020 POPS Concert: October 9

The Guild is pleased to announce this year's date for our annual Pops Concert. Please mark your calendars for

October 9. We are excited to begin planning this event. Stay tuned for meeting announcements. All are welcome to attend these meetings and help us choose our theme, music and decorations. We always have so much fun. **Linda Tinney**, 2020 POPS chair.



Mark Your Calendar Now!
Don't miss this important meeting!

♪ **Livermore-Amador Symphony** ♪
Annual Association Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Music Room
East Avenue Middle School, Livermore

NOTICE!
The April LAS Guild Spring Business Meeting
will be rescheduled
New date and location TBD.

Symphony Association's Financial Review

The review for fiscal year 2018–2019 was conducted on November 20. Thank you, committee members Nadine Horner, chair; Dennis Elchesen; Gordon Longerbeam; and Jutta Massoud. You will find the annual financial report on the LAS website at livermoreamadorsymphony.org/overview.



Intermission Jazz

Student jazz band **Element 116** will perform at the February 22 concert in the Bankhead lobby during intermission.

FINAL CONCERTS 2020

April 18

Firebird and Frederic Chiu

Lara Webber, conductor

(Prelude talk, 7-7:30 p.m. Concert, 8 p.m.)

Mozart: *Overture to the Abduction from the Seraglio*

Prokofiev: *Piano Concerto No. 3*

Frederic Chiu, Soloist

Liadov: *The Enchanted Lake*

Stravinsky: *Firebird Suite*

May 30

Brilliance and Beethoven

Lara Webber, conductor

(Prelude talk, 7-7:30 p.m. Concert, 8 p.m.)

Gounod: *Petite Symphonie for Winds*

Debussy: *Sacred and Profane Dances*

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 7*

Estate Sale Committee on the move!



Money raised benefits LAS!

HELP SUPPORT THE GUILD'S EFFORTS!
Income from estate sales is one of the primary ways the Guild raises money!

Do you know anyone who is significantly downsizing or closing out a home? Please tell them about this wonderful service offered by the Guild! More information is available on the LAS website at livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales.html

The Guild had a wonderful estate sale Sept. 13-14 netting \$7407, 100% went to the Guild per wishes of the deceased, long time Guild member and Symphony supporter Margaret Tracy.

And we are kicking 2020 off with two more sales: the first one will be March 6th and 7th, and the second will be in early April or May. If you've never worked a sale, think about trying it. You do not have to be an expert on pricing, we have that covered. But we always need help sorting items, setting up and joining in the fun. This group of ladies and gentlemen are hard-working and love the hunt for "treasures" in the homes. Please contact Marie at 925.447.5521 or Nancy at 925.294.8657 if you can help. We will be sending out sign-up information in February for the March sale. And call Marie or Nancy if you just want to find out what the estate sales are all about.

Fun Facts



A big wow! In the last nine years the Guild has been busy hosting 32 estate sales raising a total of **\$138,000**. The Guild has made client payments of **\$48,754** and has earned **\$89,350** for the Symphony.

In the last season (18-19) the Symphony Guild provided **\$18,900** in financial support to our Symphony.

Students Perform at Guild Winter Meeting



Over 30 Guild members and other symphony supporters gathered at the home of **Ann Kasmeyer** on Sunday afternoon, January 19, to hear three wonderful young performers. Each had participated in the Livermore-Amador Symphony Competition for Young Musicians in October and were invited to perform at the Guild's meeting.

Guild president **Kathy Streeter** opened a brief business meeting which included an update on Guild Estate Sales—*three* sales are now in the works this spring! Competition chair **Jutta Massoud** introduced the music program, which began with pianist **Andrew Navruzyan**, a sophomore at Campolindo High in Moraga, who performed Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Next, vocalist **Hannah Kang**, a junior at Dublin High, performed "Pie Jesu" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*, followed by Mozart's "Bester Jüngling." The musical program concluded with pianist **Celicia Thendean**, a sixth grader at Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton. Celicia performed Chopin's Ballade No. 1 in G minor and the first movement of Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor. Both Celicia and Hannah were accompanied by piano teacher **Fonny Chandra**, Celicia's mom.



Our Guest Conductor Jason Klein

“I was flattered and humbled to get a message from your illustrious music director Lara Webber inviting me to conduct this concert. My history with the or-

chestra goes back decades, when one of my professors, **Arthur Barnes**, asked me to be a ringer in his orchestra's bass section. I did this on several occasions, and during my conducting tenure with the Fremont orchestra he asked me to step in for him when needed. Years later, in 2007, he asked if I'd do a subscription concert, and that was a rewarding and enjoyable experience beyond my expectations. Many players at that time actually remembered me (vaguely?) from my student years.

My memories did not deceive me. I can say without exaggeration or fulsomeness that the *LAS* is a treasure. As Lara said, the players are indeed like a family—warm, friendly, inviting, responsive, and, except for illness or travel, present at every rehearsal. But it goes beyond that. They are skillful readers, technically proficient, and open to suggestion and, when needed, drill. If there is an instance of "attitude" or disagreement, I have not gotten so much as a whiff of it. It is truly a pleasure to guide this wonderful ensemble along in this program, much of which was unfamiliar to them.

Let me share for a moment a few thoughts about orchestra concerts and programming. These are times in which there are many choices for entertainment. An orchestra concert cannot provide whiz-bang special effects, startling visuals, good guys and bad guys, or concrete observations on

the human condition. We in this business have an obligation to provide stimulation of an entirely different sort, and that relies almost solely on the inexplicable power of connected and blended musical sounds to stir our souls to something resembling the same emotions that those other media give us. It's my goal to do this by choosing music—even sometimes unfamiliar music—whose content is full of character and beauty, and it is our job as performers to put that across to the audience with commitment and passion so that everyone emerges from the experience having been through a satisfying and rewarding emotional journey.

It is my hope that this will indeed happen in this performance—and, for that matter, in all of the *LAS* performances. In this case we have the added attraction of two remarkable young soloists, and the precocity and virtuosity of our youth is always an audience grabber. As I write I have yet to hear **Starla** and **Igor**, but the assurances of their playing level I have received virtually guarantees an amazing (in the very literal sense) experience.

I have named this program “**Angels and Demons**,” but the angelic component applies mostly to the soloists, although one can make a case for some heavenly inspiration elsewhere. As for the demonic part, composers through the years seem to have reveled in the opportunity to portray the satanic in music. The resulting pieces are almost always fiery, intense, and full of surprising effects. That is true of our two scary pieces, a witchy work celebrating (?) Walpurgisnacht, which is a springtime version of Halloween, and “The Accursed Huntsman,” in which a hunter, having the temerity to hunt on a Sunday, is cursed and ultimately chased into oblivion by demonic forces.

With all this, who needs CGI?”

Winners —Livermore-Amador Symphony Competition for Young Musicians

Igor Aprelev clarinet



Igor Aprelev, age 17, began studying clarinet *in the third grade* in his school band. He has played clarinet ever since.

- Igor was accepted to the All-State California Honor Band in the eighth through tenth grade, and the
- All-Northern Honor Band in the seventh through tenth grade.
- He has also participated in a variety of summer music camps throughout middle school and early high school . . .
- including the 2018 Music For All Summer Symposium during which he performed with the US Army Field Band during an evening concert.
- Last year Igor was accepted to the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra for the 2019-2020 season.

In addition to clarinet, Igor has been playing alto saxophone since seventh grade. On alto sax, he received an honorable mention at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Junior Young Artist Competition at the statewide level in November 2019. When not playing music (or plowing through mountains of homework), Igor likes to hang out with his friends, ride his mountain bike, swim when he can, and he loves to ski during the winter season.

Igor is currently a junior at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton. He lives with his parents Jenya Apreleva and Alexander Aprelev in Pleasanton. They have always had Igor's back in his passion for music. From music lessons to picking out a brand-new instrument, they have shown constant love and support. Igor would like to sincerely thank his parents—he would not be where he is today without them.

This concerto competition is Igor's first, and he is excited to perform Carl Maria von Weber's Second Concerto for Clarinet.

Starla Breshears cellist



Starla, age 11, began cello lessons at *age three* with Yoshie Muratani. *By the age of six*, Starla started studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Pre-College Division under Jean-Michel Fonteneau. Additionally, Starla is coached by her accompanist, Ayke Agus, and by cellist Christine Walevska. Starla has soloed with six different orchestras *since the age of six*. She has won numerous solo competitions, including

- Parnassus-San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition,
- ASTA (American String Teachers Association) State Competition finals,
- U.S. International Music Competition,
- U.S. Open Music Competition,
- California Association of Professional Music Teachers Sacramento Competition
- DVS-HNU (Diablo Valley College/Holy Names University) Competition.

Starla has participated in masterclasses with Amit Peled, Darrett Adkins, and Bonnie Hampton. Starla is the principal cellist of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Division String Orchestra. Starla plays a quarter size 19th century Hill & Sons cello generously on loan by J & A Beare Ltd., London.

Starla is the second of six children and lives with her parents Dustin and Julie in San Pablo. She is a sixth-grader at the Crowden School in Berkeley. Starla's interests other than music are hanging out with friends, eating good food, and playing with her younger siblings.

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

February 2020 and Beyond

Saturday, February 22, 2020

See pages 1, 3, 5, and 6.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Angels and Demons

With Solos by Winners of the Competition for Young Musicians

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

Saturday, April 18, 2020

See page 3.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:

Frederic Chiu, piano

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

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

See page 3.

7:00 p.m. LAS Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 30, 2020

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Brilliance and Beethoven

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

Friday, October 9, 2020

POPS Concert: 8:00 p.m. Livermore Community Center (Doors open 7:00 p.m.)