



# *Symphony Notes*

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild

Vol. 58, No. 3, April 2021

***LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY***  
***JOYFULLY ANNOUNCES***  
**PLANS ARE IN PROGRESS FOR THE**  
***2021-2022 CONCERT SEASON!***

**Saturday Evenings**  
**at Livermore's Bankhead Theater**

**December 4, 2021**  
*Symphonic Sounds of the Season*  
*Constance Koo, harp*

**February 12, 2022**  
*The Brilliance of Youth*  
*Youth Competition Winners and*  
*Jazz Band "Element 116" at Intermission*

**April 23, 2022**  
*Vibrant Voices*  
*Heidi Moss Erickson, soprano*

**June 4, 2022**  
*Building a New World*  
*Frederic Chiu, piano*

*More details will be available in June Symphony Notes.*

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

## *A Message From Your Music Director*

This past year has changed us all. We have been through so much, and had to process it in isolation, without the necessary and deeply rewarding catharsis of live musical rehearsals and performances together. It is especially thrilling to plan for our 2021–2022 season after so much deprivation, and from a new vantage point of profound appreciation for the privilege of communal artistic expression.



Thanks to the miracle of vaccines, we are planning to bring you a full plate of symphonic offerings beginning this fall. **In October, Pops moves outside!** We will celebrate together on the lawn in front of the Bankhead Theater with a fun short program of favorite music, joined by **Element 116** under the direction of Matt Finders. For our regular concert season, talented, diverse soloists will bring their unique perspective to our orchestra and audiences through beautiful works of a variety of composers. **Harpist Constance Koo** is featured playing **Debussy's Sacred and Profane Dances** to open our season in December. *Winners of both the 2020 and 2021 Young Musicians Competition bring excitement and energy to the stage in February.* In April, **Copland's Emily Dickinson Songs** are brought to life by beloved Bay Area Soprano **Heidi Moss Erickson**. Finally, internationally renowned pianist **Frederic Chiu** plays Prokofiev's sparkling **Third Piano Concerto** for our season finale in June that will also feature **Dvořák's New World Symphony**. We will be announcing more specific program content in the coming weeks, in a season that promises a thoughtful blend of symphonic favorites, and new compositional voices that together speak to our times and experiences.

New on our website this month: personal interviews and performances created just for us by pianist **John O'Connor**, who had been our April 2021 concert soloist. We are rescheduling John's performance with us into a future season. In the meantime, enjoy my interview with John as he shares his warm, funny, probing insights on everything from singing through the piano, to the psychology of teaching, to the joy of playing golf! He is a magical person whose spirit exudes joy and generosity. A second video features John's uniquely beautiful playing. While sheltering in place this January in Dublin, Ireland, he graciously recorded three beautiful nocturnes just for us with a personal introduction. [See p.8 for links to the videos.]

We are turning from darkness toward light, from solitude to community. We are building a new world together, with new perspectives, to renew our community and embrace possibilities. As we emerge, we will need to process the complex web of feelings that will come. There will be joy and relief, but with that, lingering uncertainty and profound pain from all we lost. All these feelings coexist, and I can think of no more appropriate art form than symphonic music to process it all. In a single melody, a composer can traverse a vast landscape of emotion and experience. Harmonize that melody, and depth and perspective is added that no words can articulate. **We need our artists now more than ever**, and we need to work together to make that art come to life in real time, before our very eyes and ears. It is the act of creation that helps us grow together.

Finally returning to shared creative experiences we love and treasure, with new appreciation for the privilege of being together and making music happen, will renew us. We can't wait to build our world again, with you.


  
**From GUILD PRESIDENT BETH WILSON**

The Symphony Guild board has been busier than one might think in a pandemic. We've continued to meet and plan a number of activities as well as keep up our regular business. The Bankhead Theater management graciously let us operate our Raffle there, and I also want to thank Lara Webber for letting herself be raffled off! Guild volunteers sold raffle tickets for three weekends before LVPAC Executive Director Chris Carter drew the winning ticket on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Several of us gathered then to witness the event, and it was so much fun to see each other in the flesh as we begin to venture out safely.



As you can read elsewhere in the *Notes*, Marcia Elchesen had the winning ticket! Our Guild Spring Business Meeting came soon afterward. The membership elected the nominated slate of officers and Nominating Committee members, and here we are:

President, Beth Wilson; Vice President, Joan Green; Secretary, Sally Swanson; Treasurer, Joan Dickinson. Incoming Nominating Committee members are Pat Wheeler and PJ Wells. Many thanks to Joyce Brown and her committee members.

Plans are being finalized for our May Luncheon headed by **Tim Barry**. Sonya Sheffield has secured a date, **September 23**, for the *Sipping with the Symphony* fundraiser. Adela Cook is planning for our annual *Prelude Party*, which will be held at the Springtown Hall on **September 9<sup>th</sup>**, and you will find information on our exciting *Picnic with the Pops* Concert, engineered by Nancy McKenzie in conjunction with Music Director Lara Webber. I certainly thank all these wonderful volunteers for the many hours of their time, as well as their talent!

*Beth Wilson*





## UPCOMING GUILD EVENTS

### **Guild Spring Luncheon and Music Program**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 11:30 a.m.**

Beeb's, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore (See p. 5 for details.)

### **Prelude Party**

**Thursday, September 9, 2021, 3:30 p.m.**

Springtown Hall, 931 Larkspur Dr., Livermore

### **Sipping with the Symphony**

**Thursday, September 23**

Page Mill Winery, Livermore

### **Picnic with the POPS!**

**Saturday, October 23, 2021**

Concert begins at 3:00 p.m.

Downtown Livermore in front of the Bankhead

**PLUS! A new twist on our annual  
POPS CONCERT!**

POPS is going *al fresco* this year! Join us on the grassy area **in front of the Bankhead Theater** for this fun and lively concert. Bring a picnic or snack if you like and enjoy music performed by our wonderful **Livermore-Amador Symphony** on the outdoor Shea Stage. The teen jazz band **Element 116** will also perform. *No need for tickets*, although donations will gladly be accepted. All donations go to support the Symphony. Pops chair Nancy McKenzie and Lara are already at work, coordinating logistics with the Bankhead's Eric Johnson.



**GUILD ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 11:30 a.m.**

Beeb’s Sports Bar and Grill at Las Positas Golf Course  
915 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore

You are cordially invited to the first in-person event of this year and we hope you can join us! We will have a lovely luncheon, introduce our new Guild Board, offer membership renewals, *and* enjoy musical entertainment by Eva Langfeldt on oboe, Lisa Maher on flute, and Christy Diggins on clarinet. Also, a special presentation of folk music from Guild member Tim Barry!

**RSVP to Tim Barry by May 5<sup>th</sup>.**

[teabarry10@gmail.com](mailto:teabarry10@gmail.com) or (925) 518-9070.

No registration fee required up front. Guests will order and pay for their own food at the luncheon, and your order will be delivered to your table. An unusual process to match an unusual Pandemic year! ☺ The menu will be sent out to Guild members so you can consider your items ahead of time for quick ordering when you arrive. Please enter the banquet room at the usual side door (not the main entrance to the restaurant). If you have any questions, email or call Tim Barry.

***Pandemic Rules:*** The restaurant requires that you wear your masks, except while eating and drinking, and that you bring your COVID-19 shot record to show at the door at check-in.

***See you on May 12th!***



**GUILD MEMBERSHIP 2021-2022**

***Get Ready for a NEW SEASON!***

**Please complete and return the 2021-2022 Guild Membership Form.**

Invite a friend to join the Guild too! The form is included in this *Symphony Notes* and is also available on the Symphony’s website. You may turn it in at the luncheon May 12 or mail it to Guild Treasurer Joan Dickinson at the address on the form. Please call me at 925-443-7398 if you have any questions.

***Linda Miller, Membership Chair***

## Honoring Marie Ruzicka



**Marie Ruzicka**, an original Guild member and dear friend to us all, passed away right after Christmas. Among her many contributions to the Symphony Guild, she co-founded our Estate Sales program. This has been a major source of fundraising for the symphony these past several years. Marie served as chair or co-chair of the Estate Sales committee right up until her death and taught all of us estate sales volunteers the “tricks of the trade.” In recent years, her eyesight had declined and she was not as physically active. She was at every sale though! There she sat in the most comfortable chair she could find, near the front door. Marie’s friendly and enthusiastic voice greeted shoppers as they entered. Many of them were “regulars,” whose interests and circumstances she had come to know. “Christmas is coming!” “Don't forget your wife's birthday!” “Check out our wonderful jewelry just down the hall on your left!” In her honor, the Guild has purchased a padded folding chair with a plaque that reads, “Marie's Chair.” The chair will have a place of honor at every future estate sale and we Guild members will be privileged to tell the story of our dear friend, Marie.



### ***News Flash!* GUILD ESTATE SALES ARE RETURNING!**

The Guild is making plans to hold a **BIG** sale in Livermore on **June 4, 5, 11, & 12!** On sale days, signs directing you will be on Mines Rd. and Portola Ave. **Items include:** Carousel horses, juke box, Mardi Gras masks, 800 beanie babies, barbie dolls, an organ from England, outdoor & indoor furniture, jewelry, paintings, decor items, Christmas decorations, bric-a-brac, barware, iron beds, stained glass tools, birdhouses, and much, much more. *Covid protocols will be in place.*

***~For more information, Nancy McKenzie 925-294-8657~***

## RAZZLE DAZZLE RAFFLE WRAP-UP

*Nancy McKenzie, Raffle Chair*

A great big virtual hug to all the volunteers who helped with our latest fundraiser! We held a raffle in the Bankhead lobby over three weekends from late March–April 11. **The prize? Vocal entertainment at your event by Lara Webber!** Lara is our fabulous Music Director and Conductor of the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Thanks go to Guild President **Beth Wilson** for coming up with the idea and all those who gave their time and energy to help in so many ways: **Tim Barry, Joyce Brown, Patty Canning, Adela Cook, Joan Dickinson, Marcia Elchesen, Darlene Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnston, Sally Marone, Lou Anne Martin, Nancy McKenzie, Judy McMurry, and Mary Anne Rozsa.** Thanks to **Chris Carter**, Bankhead executive director, for supporting our endeavor by allowing us to sell raffle tickets in the Bankhead lobby and for coming over on Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. to draw the winning ticket. Special thanks to **Lara**, who agreed to be raffled off, and also to all those who supported the raffle. We raised \$1470 for the symphony!

**And the winner was ...** our own Marcia Elchesen! But there's an update. "Lou Anne Martin and I were selling tickets the last day of the raffle. About 4:30 a woman strode purposefully into the lobby right up to the raffle table. 'I'd like to buy one raffle ticket!' She had learned about the 'Razzle Dazzle Raffle' from **Marketing chair Denise Leddon's** writeup in the **Livermore Cultural Arts Council** newsletter and had driven over from San Ramon just to buy the ticket. 'If I win, I'm going to treat my Red Hat Society ladies—they would love it!' Her enthusiasm bubbled over! We invited her to stay for the drawing, but she had to go to work. **I decided right then that if I won, I would offer her the prize!** A half hour later I was amazed to hear my name called out as the winner. She was 'thrilled' when I phoned her with the news. What a wonderful opportunity I was given to help spread the news about our fantastic Livermore-Amador Symphony. Elaine and her friends are in for a real treat!" ~*Marcia Elchesen*



Joyce Brown  
Beth Wilson  
Lara Webber  
Alan Frank

## LAS music director serves on Eagle Scout Board of Review

LAS music director and conductor Lara Webber shared this gratifying community connection:

“I recently had the privilege of serving on the **Board of Review for Kiersten Ways**, the *first female Eagle Scout* in Livermore. The suggestion to include me was made by the Bankhead’s **Chris Carter**, an active troop leader himself. Kiersten is a vocalist and plans to pursue a musical life in her future.

It was a wonderful experience—Kiersten is an extraordinary person, very worthy of this honor. It was also a very valuable way to connect the Livermore-Amador Symphony’s service to the community with scouting’s service to the community, and all the shared values of both organizations. I’m really grateful to have been part of this historic local FIRST, serving on the Board of Review for Kiersten Ways, and so glad Chris thought of me and the symphony.” ~LW



### A gift from John O’Conor

**Pianist John O’Conor would have performed Beethoven with LAS in April 2021, but the pandemic intervened. He made recordings for LAS at his home in Dublin, Ireland, as a gift to our community and a prelude to a future collaboration with the Symphony.**



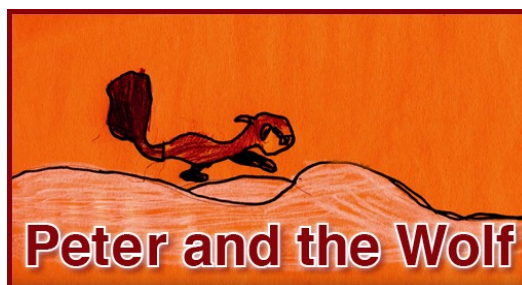
### Interview with Lara Webber

Internationally acclaimed, beloved pianist and human being John O’Conor chats with LAS music director and conductor Lara Webber about being a Dubliner, teaching and learning from students, genuine expression, the art of the cantabile line, tossing the tuxedo/tails and SO MUCH MORE!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ec1dxk9M34>

### Three Nocturnes

Livermore-Amador Symphony presents pianist John O’Conor, performing three nocturnes by Field, Chopin and Scriabin. These videos were filmed at his home in Dublin in January 2021 as a gift to our community and a prelude to his performance with us in the future. Thank you, John!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= or9OgvMtoY>





## SYMPHONY OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS (PANDEMIC STYLE)



Unable to give live in-school performances, LAS partnered with Livermore's Smith third graders to create a lively, colorful online presentation of **Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf***. Third-grade teacher **Anne Anaya** (also an LAS second violin and LASA board member) describes the collaboration. "After speaking with LASA president and orchestra member **Alan Frank** about his desire to mix our symphony's audio performances with images, we came up with the idea to enlist the help of the third graders at my school. I designed a virtual lesson, and with the help of the third-grade teaching team and our principal, **Joe Meunier**, we shared the lesson with about 120 students. Students watched a video version of the music mixed with animation. With just a bit of art instruction, students drew images, mixing pen with crayon. We are all incredibly proud of the creativity and enthusiasm of our young Smith school artists!"

Using the LAS December 2015 concert recording of *Peter and the Wolf*, Frank "choreographed" the artwork into the video along with instrument recordings representing the story's characters performed by LAS musicians. **According to Frank**, "Every one of the technological capabilities explored in the last 6–8 months were called upon in this video, from live performance, to recorded audio, to animation. It was a challenge and a lot of fun!" In addition to being available to Livermore schools, LASA Board member **Carol Boster** shared the video with Pleasanton USD music teachers, and LAS horn principal and Dublin USD music teacher **Chris Immesoete** shared it in Dublin with her colleagues.

"It felt particularly important for us to somehow continue our outreach efforts this year," Music Director **Lara Webber** says. "Teachers everywhere have had to do the impossible—find a way to teach in an engaging and participatory way without being able to be in the same room with their students. This is especially difficult for music classes. All of us who make music in a group have lost contact with that most human of all experiences. We must ensure that as schools reopen and normalcy gradually returns, our society redoubles and increases its efforts to ensure music-making and art remain a vibrant part of the core curriculum available to all students. *Music is magic*—it engages the brain and sparks creative thinking like nothing else can. It connects us and promotes empathy. The pandemic has stolen this from us for a whole year, so it will be very important and cathartic to bring it back into the lives of students everywhere, and our community at large."

The video is dedicated to the memory of our beloved Virginia McFann and can be found on the LAS website <https://www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org>.

# Be a Symphony Supporting Player!

## Join the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild



The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild provides support to the Symphony. The Guild produces and distributes concert-season brochures, hosts receptions, raises funds (organizes and runs estate sales, plans and produces the annual Pops concert), and more. Members gather for a prelude event in September, for meetings in January and April, and for a luncheon in May. Music is a part of each gathering. Please join the Guild!

### Yes, I'll help, and I'd be especially willing to:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sort and price items prior to garage/estate sales<br><input type="checkbox"/> Plan/produce the annual Pops concert<br><input type="checkbox"/> Publish the <i>Symphony Notes</i> newsletter<br><input type="checkbox"/> Organize musical entertainment for meetings<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chair a committee / serve on the board of directors<br><input type="checkbox"/> Purchase and organize refreshments<br><input type="checkbox"/> Order/pick up flowers for concert soloists<br><input type="checkbox"/> Assist at receptions at Guild meetings, etc.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Provide my house for a reception<br><input type="checkbox"/> Drive Guild members to events/concerts<br><input type="checkbox"/> Please note that I need a ride to events/concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Work at garage/estate sales<br><input type="checkbox"/> Work at the Pops concert<br><input type="checkbox"/> Plan new fundraisers and activities<br><input type="checkbox"/> Telephone members<br><input type="checkbox"/> Recruit new members<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transport food, sale items, etc.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Present flowers to soloists<br><input type="checkbox"/> Assist at receptions after concerts<br><input type="checkbox"/> Staff a table at concerts<br><input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
|---|--|

### Annual Dues and Requirements

**Active Member**     \$20.00    Active members are those who have paid their annual Active membership dues and agree to participate in Guild functions, activities, and all fund-raisers, as outlined in Guild policies. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

**Associate Member**     \$35.00    Associate members are those who have paid their Associate membership dues and agree to participate in Guild fund-raisers. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

**Friend of the Guild**     \$50.00    Friends of the LAS Guild. Friends are those members who have paid their Friends membership dues. They are invited, but not required, to participate in Guild fund-raisers and activities. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am joining as a Friend of the Guild, but please <b>do contact me</b> about opportunities to help with Guild activities as they arise. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am joining as a Friend of the Guild; please do not contact me to ask for additional assistance. |
|--|--|

Make checks payable to Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild or L.A.S.G.

Please write *Active*, *Associate* or *Friend* on the check.

### Bring check and form to the May luncheon or send to:

Joan Dickinson, Treasurer  
 L.A.S. Guild  
 3550 Pacific Ave, Apt. 1407  
 Livermore, CA 94550

*Unless you indicate that you wish otherwise, the information below will be included in a directory distributed to Guild members and LAS Association Board members.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ 9-digit Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact Linda Miller at (925) 443-7398.