



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 61, No. 1, December 2023

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus

Presents

Winter Tales

Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

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

No pre-concert talk due to holiday parade.

Karelia Overture

Jean Sibelius

Trittico Botticelliano

Ottorino Respighi

Hansel and Gretel Suites

Engelbert Humperdinck

*The audience and performers are invited to enjoy a post-concert reception
in the Bankhead lobby hosted by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild.*

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

A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ Wells



Welcome back to another season of music and sharing at the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association and Guild! It is November—and if ever there were a season for “Pumpkin Spiced Symphony” it is now. Mmmm, it sounds delicious as the temperature drops into the 40s and dried leaves skitter down the street. I am looking forward to the Winter Tales December 2 evening concert—the Hansel and Gretel Suites brings to mind a gingerbread confection that so fits the season.

Was it not just yesterday that I started my term as Guild President? After the new officer induction at Beeb’s in May (a fun event with a bite to eat and a short musical performance), the summer seemed to drift away..., then BANG! It was September and what a cracking month it was too. Our lovely Guild Prelude Party (with dancers from Valley Dance Theatre) was soon overtaken by the autumn fundraiser “Sipping with the Symphony” at Page Mill Winery, and two days later, POPS on the Green was held outside the Bankhead on a miraculously dry afternoon.

This is pretty heady stuff considering I was not connected to the symphony until about 6 years ago—a mere speck in the span of 60 music-making years by LAS. After retiring from a career in high-tech marketing, the world of nonprofit performing arts is a welcome change and challenge. I confess to being a musical lightweight, so this opportunity forces me to build some personal bench strength. My father was a talented musician who volunteered in his local symphony. Despite my lack of orchestral skill, I relate to his enthusiastic purpose of reaching others through music.

Ah, December, you are right around the corner. I look forward to seeing everyone in festive spirit, visiting a friend, going out to a film, meeting for lunch, attending the holiday concerts, and witnessing a new venture for the Guild: pre-movie advertising at our local Vine theatre. While you settle in your seat and adjust your snacks, look for our short ad promoting LAS to cycle by on the screen.

It’s time to go out and play—our orchestra knows exactly what that means and they’re already rehearsing. Why not take a friend to the symphony this year? It’s a terrific present from you, the size is always correct, the sound is terrific, and a free splash of wine at the lobby reception afterwards caps off a unique evening.

Be of good cheer!

PJ Wells

2023-2024 President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

A Message from LASA PRESIDENT TIM BARRY



Happy Fall to our Symphony family of supporters! With wonderful efforts, the Bankhead Gala, Sipping with the Symphony, and Pops on the Green concert, were all performed beautifully and enjoyed by hundreds of community members! Our wonderful Music Director & Conductor, Lara Webber, continues to lead and promote our Symphony in stellar fashion! As the formal start of our season approaches with the December 2 Free Family Concert at 3 p.m. and Winter Tales Concert at 8 p.m., I'm amazed at the enthusiasm and dedication of our players and the Guild volunteers, led by President PJ Wells, who both do the heavy lifting for our Symphony.

As the holidays and the New Year approach, have you thought about how you can do a little more to support your Symphony this next year? Contributions can come by way of time and talent, with your participation on the Association or Guild boards, or in treasure with your generous contributions to both our organization and the Bankhead Theater—our home base and integral partner to the success of our Symphony! Thank you for all your efforts, and here's to a great Symphony Season!

Tim Barry

2023-2024 President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association

Editor's Note: Tim Barry and Brad Herbert provided musical entertainment gratis for Sipping with the Symphony!



The crowd at Pops on the Green in front of the Bankhead Theater, September 30.

Evening Concert
Saturday, December 2
8:00 p.m.
Bankhead Theater Livermore

Winter Tales
Concert Notes from Lara Webber
Music Director and Conductor



Ottorino Respighi: *Trittico Botticelliano*—Music that takes its inspiration from art, specifically three paintings by Botticelli that now hang in Florence’s Uffizi Gallery: *La Primavera* (Spring), *L’Adorazione dei Magi* (The Adoration of the Magi) and *La Nascita di Venere* (The Birth of Venus). We are thrust into spring with wildly joyful trills in the violins and woodwinds, and run through a series of baroque styled dances that keep us constantly aloft with the birds and blooms of a fragrant scene. The gorgeous middle movement features solos for all the woodwind instruments, and its main melody will be familiar to all, as it is the carol, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The final movement begins with simple harmony undulating under languid melodies in the solo woodwinds, with a long passionate melody growing out of the entire string section playing as one. This is stunningly beautiful, transformational music.

Engelbert Humperdinck: *Hansel and Gretel Suites*—The score captures all the childlike wonder and playfulness of our two main characters as they dance and sing, finding joy in the forest, eventually excitement in the discovery of a house made entirely of candy and cake! Of course, their worst fears are realized when they are captured by the wicked witch, and Humperdinck uses the full power and punch of the orchestra with blazing bass and driving percussion to bring that witch to life. The soothing evening prayer frames the suite, with beautiful chorales in the horns and warm lyricism in the strings and woodwinds. You’ll all be singing along when the children triumph over the witch and free the gingerbread children. Humperdinck’s music is fully loaded—rich harmonies, memorable melodies, and powerful moments that sweep us away!

Jean Sibelius: *Karelia Overture*—Karelia is an important place in Finnish history and culture, the source of great mythology and profound national pride, particularly in standing up against Russian aggression. Sibelius’s music is inspired by his love and study of Finnish folk song. He builds up great energy and excitement through compelling but simple melodic ideas, repeated notes and rising scales, with a melancholic and beautifully expressive contrasting slow theme in the middle, leading to a delightful march. The music is full of joy and ends in a blaze of glory.



**Livermore-Amador Symphony's
Annual Free Family Concert
Bankhead Theater, December 2, 3:00 p.m.**

A fun and festive way to kick off the holiday season with your family!

Free of charge, open to all. The concert lasts about an hour,
ending well before the start of Livermore Downtown's Holiday Parade.

This short, lively program is designed for the young and the young at heart. The audience is not sedate, so don't worry about bringing young children—the concert is meant to welcome new listeners, especially families with young kids! The program will feature music from *Beauty and The Beast* and holiday medleys of Hannukah songs and Christmas carols. Dancers from Valley Dance Theatre will also present brief selections from their *Nutcracker* production, which opens December 9 at the Bankhead.

The popular Instrument Petting Zoo is back again too! Following the concert, LAS musicians will be in the Bankhead Lobby, offering children an opportunity to try out a variety of string and percussion instruments to encourage an interest in learning to play a musical instrument.

Tickets are required even though they are free: [Register for your free general-admission wait-list tickets!](#) The event is fully subscribed, *but* there always seem to be numerous ticketholders who don't use their tickets, so showing up at the Bankhead Theater entrance by 2:45pm should work.

To Register by Phone or in Person: Contact the Livermore Performing Arts Center's Bankhead Theater ticket office at 925.373.6800 or 2400 First Street, Livermore CA 94550. See livermorearts.org/plan-your-visit for ticket-office hours.

***The Symphony is pleased to present this concert in coordination with
Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and in partnership with Valley Dance Theatre.***



December 2, 8:00 Evening Concert

REMINDER!

***To accommodate the Livermore
Downtown Holiday Parade
Concert begins at 8:00 p.m.***

**There will be no pre-concert talk!
Music Director Lara Webber will provide
brief commentary during the concert.**

**Education AWARDS will be presented
on stage to high school senior winners,
immediately following intermission.**



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

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET YOUR 2023–2024 SEASON TICKETS!

SAVE MONEY BY ORDERING A SUBSCRIPTION!

4-Concert Series Season Subscriptions Available Only Until December 2, 2023!

Concerts are December 2, 2023; February 10, April 13, and June 1, 2024

- Visit the Bankhead ticket office in person, 2400 First Street, Livermore, OR
- Complete the order form on the last page of this *Symphony Notes* and drop it off at the Bankhead ticket office or mail it. Be sure to allow plenty of time for mail to reach the Bankhead before December 2. Check payable to LVPAC or credit card.

Important! Season tickets are not available by phone or online.

Purchase Single-Concert Tickets

- Visit the Bankhead ticket office in person, 2400 First Street, Livermore, OR
- Phone the Bankhead ticket office, 925-373-6800, OR
- Order online: <https://livermorearts.org/event-calendar/>

Adult single ticket prices: \$42, \$35, \$28. Youth tickets through age 21: Free.

Ticket Purchase Questions? Call the Symphony at 925-447-6454.



Guild Estate Sales

Money raised benefits LAS!
HELP SUPPORT THE GUILD'S EFFORTS!

We Did It Again x 2!

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild had two very successful Estate Sales this summer. **Our Estate Sale Super Star volunteers raised \$8581.56!** These are amazing people who go the extra mile and more. What a pleasure it is to work with them. And speaking of "them" here they are: *Joyce Brown, Bob Canning, Patty Canning, Adela Cook, Joan Dickinson, Marcia Elchesen, Patti Fredericks, Dick Hatfield, Darlene Jeffries, Mary Jestice, Mary Ann Johnston, Bill Leach, Judy McMurry, Ron McKenzie, Linda Miller, Barbara Morrison, Janice Paquette, Mary Anne Rozsa, Joie Spooner, Sally Swanson, Sarah Wharton, and Beth Wilson.* Thank you!

Nancy McKenzie, Estate Sales Chair

livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales.



COMING FEBRUARY 10!

LAS CONCERT Vibrant Variations

*Featuring winners of the 2023
Competition for Young Musicians.
You don't want to miss it!*

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

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY and GUILD
60th ANNIVERSARY SEASON!
CALENDAR 2023-2024**

Saturday, December 2, 2023
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concerts
3:00 p.m. *Free Family Holiday Concert*
8:00 p.m. *Winter Tales*
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Sunday, January 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Guild Winter Meeting: January Gems

Location pending

Saturday, February 10, 2024, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:

Vibrant Variations

Includes performances by winners of the Competition for Young Musicians

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:

Butterflies and Brahms, Chase Spruill, violin soloist

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Thursday, April 18, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Guild Spring Business Meeting

Location pending

Tuesday, April 23, 7:00-7:20 p.m.

Association Annual Meeting–Board member election

East Avenue Middle School Music Room, 3951 East Ave., Livermore

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Guild Spring Luncheon

Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:

Delightful Dvorak, Chad Somers, tenor soloist

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Website: https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LivAmSymph/
Phone: 925-447-6454

Livermore-Amador Symphony

60th Anniversary Season! 2023–2024 Preview

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Dr. Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus



Pops Concert September 30, 2023

Concert at 3 p.m.

For the third year in a row, our annual Pops concert will be al fresco on the Shea Stage in the Bankhead Plaza on an autumn afternoon. Bring a picnic or snack. No need for tickets, but donations will be accepted happily! As always, Pops is sponsored by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild, with all donations going to the Symphony. Join us on Saturday September 30 at 3 o'clock!

Family Concert December 2, 2023

Concert at 3 p.m.

Our family concert is full of holiday fun for everyone just before Livermore's holiday parade. Presented in coordination with Livermore Arts and in partnership with Valley Dance Theatre, this concert is free of charge.

Winter Tales December 2, 2023

Concert at 8 p.m. (no preconcert talk)

Celebrate the season with magical music and fairy tales. Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel Suite* takes us back to our childhood adventures, fears, and fantasies. Respighi's shimmering *Trittico Botticelliano* brings a warm glow to the dark days of winter and features music familiar in Christmas carols. Get your holidays off to a festive start with the sounds of the symphony!

Vibrant Variations February 10, 2024

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

Join us and welcome great young musical talent to the stage from our own community in performances featuring the winners of our annual Competition for Young Musicians. In addition, the orchestra celebrates Chinese New Year with the joyous "Saibei Dance" by An-lun Huang. Benjamin Britten's fantastic "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," an audience favorite, is a set of thrilling variations full of energy and humor. The colorful sounds of Mexican composer José Moncayo's "Huapango" infuse the evening with traditional Mexican folk dance. This concert is always a community event you won't want to miss.

Butterflies and Brahms April 13, 2024

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

Springtime is for lovers and romantics. Open your heart to beautiful music inspired by a timeless Chinese folk tale as Bay Area violin soloist Chase Spruill joins LAS to perform the beloved *Butterfly Lovers' Violin Concerto*. We open the evening with *D'un matin de printemps* ("Of a Spring Morning"), brilliant music of Lili Boulanger. And the lush and passionate Symphony No. 4 by Johannes Brahms is not to be missed. Celebrate springtime with the Symphony!

Delightful Dvořák June 1, 2024

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

Our season finale features a new work by American composer Lori Laitman. Her beautiful piece *Becoming a Redwood* features tenor Chad Somers, singing the poetry of Dana Gioia. The marvelous woodwinds of LAS are front and center in Richard Strauss' youthful *Serenade in E-flat*. After also hearing the tunes of Dvořák's sunny and sumptuous Symphony No. 6, we'll send you out singing.

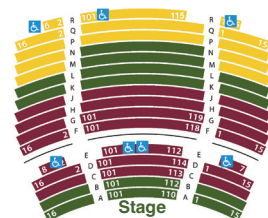
Programs subject to change.

Season Tickets

Dec., Feb., April, and June concerts.

Live at
The Bankhead

Bankhead Theater



Section	A	B	C
ADULT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$151	<input type="checkbox"/> \$126	<input type="checkbox"/> \$101
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$143	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95
	Early Purchase: by July 15		

YOUTH (under age 22) \$0 in all sections

Tickets: \$ _____

I want to retain my seat(s) from the 2022–2023 season.

Retention of seats is guaranteed only for renewals received by September 9, 2023.

Payment

Write a check payable to **LVPAC**, or pay by credit card:

Amex Discover MC Visa

Account # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature: _____

Contact Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____ Seat(s) in the 2022–2023 season

Bring or mail this form to the Bankhead Theater Box Office, 2400 First St., Livermore CA 94550, or email its image to boxoffice@bankheadtheater.org (no subscription orders by phone)

Donation Please consider a tax-deductible contribution.

Donations may be made directly to LAS:

write a check payable to Livermore-Amador Symphony and send it to PO. Box 1049, Livermore CA 94551-1049; or pay by credit card at livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

Donor levels: Angel, \$1500 or more; Patron, \$1000–\$1499;

Benefactor, \$500–\$999; Sustainer, \$300–\$499;

Supporter, \$200–\$299; Contributor, \$100–\$199; Friend, \$50–\$99.

(The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center is no longer processing donations to LAS with ticket orders.)

The Symphony and the Bankhead Theater follow applicable Alameda County Public Health Department protocols and CDC recommendations. See livermorearts.org FAQs. We prioritize the health and well-being of our audience and musicians over all else.

Single-concert tickets go on sale September 10, 2023, at \$42, \$35, or \$28 for adults, and free for youth under age 22.

For further information please call 925.447.6454 or see livermoreamadorsymphony.org.