



# *Symphony Notes*

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 61, No. 3, April 2024

## **LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY** *60 Years of Making Music!*

**Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor**

*Presents*

### **Butterflies and Brahms**

**Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Lara Webber, Conductor**

*7-7:15 Inside the Music* preconcert talk by Lara Webber.

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

**D'un matin de printemps**

**Lili Boulanger**

**Butterfly Lovers' Violin Concerto**

**He Zhanhao, Chen Gang**

**Chase Spruill, soloist**

**Symphony No. 4**

**Johannes Brahms**

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

**Tickets:** <https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/tickets.html>;  
Bankhead ticket office at 2400 First St., Livermore; or 925-373-6800.  
Youth through age 22 are always FREE.

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

 LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY*Butterflies and Brahms***Saturday, April 13****Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.*****Inside the Music: 7-7:15*****Bankhead Theater Livermore***Concert Notes from Lara Webber**Music Director and Conductor****“Can’t wait for this concert, it is just such beautiful music!”***

**Lili Boulanger: *D’un matin de printemps* (Of a Spring Morning)**—Lili Boulanger no doubt would have become one of the most important compositional voices of the 20th century, had she not succumbed to lifelong illnesses at the tender age of 24. *D’un matin de printemps* was one of the very last works she composed. Aware that her time on this earth was limited, she poured her passion and imagination into this short, invigorating, impressionist work. With evocative themes and brilliantly layered orchestration, she transports us into her vision of the eruption of new life in spring.

**He Zhanhao and Chen Gang: *Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto***—Based on a Chinese folk legend in the Romeo and Juliet mold and composed in 1959, this work is a perfect balance of western harmony with the sounds and melodies of Chinese traditional opera. This music is loaded with soaring, lyrical melodies that are achingly beautiful, speaking directly from the heart. The two lovers are represented by duets between violin soloist and principal cello. Broadly speaking, the music is in a three-part form, with the sweeping love theme dominating the first section as the lovers meet; the central section, full of rhythmically propulsive music, describes all the conflict and trauma the lovers face; and the last section is again dominated by the emotional love theme, as our heroes die tragically and then transform metaphorically into delicate butterflies. Cadenzas in the solo flute frame the concert with delicate beauty. The concerto’s love theme is one of the most widely beloved melodies in all of music, and has been sung and played by all sorts of people, instruments, and ensembles. (Our own Tim Barry and his band, *The Jammies*, performed melodies from *Butterfly Lovers* at our recent Sipping for the Symphony!) We look forward to welcoming our soloist, Chase Spruill, a creative and innovative artist known for his compelling interpretations of a wide variety of music from the violin repertoire. A sought-after musician, he performs and teaches regularly throughout the Bay area, Sacramento area, and beyond.

**Johannes Brahms: *Symphony No. 4***—Brahms’ lush and passionate *Symphony No. 4*, his final symphony, is a towering compositional achievement that truly captures the sum of his incredible musical genius and skill. Brahms unites the whole creation with his remarkable ability to develop his gorgeous themes in ways that trust the listener’s ear to carry us forward. He surprises us with rhythmic displacement and incredibly poignant harmonic journeys. We are somehow transformed in the experience, one of the greatest symphonic achievements of all time.

**APRIL 13 CONCERT**  
**CHASE SPRUILL, SOLOIST**  
***BUTTERFLY LOVERS' VIOLIN CONCERTO***  
**He Zhanhao and Chen Gang**



Violin soloist Chase Spruill is a creative and innovative artist known for his compelling interpretations of a wide variety of music from the violin repertoire. A sought-after musician, he performs and teaches regularly throughout the Bay area, Sacramento area, and beyond.

Spruill has taught as a core faculty member at the nationally celebrated nonprofit Community MusicWorks and as visiting professor of violin and orchestral studies at Wheaton College. He has performed and recorded music written for him by the well-known American composer Philip Glass. He's collaborated with other notable artists such as *Kronos Quartet*, composer/electric guitarist Steven Mackey, and BAFTA-nominated composer

Brian Reitzell, releasing music from the acclaimed TV series *Hannibal*. His recordings appear on the Philip Glass record label Orange Mountain Music and on Supertrain Records.

Dedicated to “exploring potential intersections between music and social justice,” Spruill returned to his hometown of Vacaville to develop and run the music program at Sierra Vista School, where he remains on the faculty. In this year’s letter to his students, he wrote, “It is my great joy to be in my seventh year at Sierra Vista K-8 as your full-time, on-campus music teacher, collaborating with young people in Grades 4 through 8 to explore the exciting landscape of music through general music curriculum, wind, brass, and orchestral string instruments! I spent the greatest part of my school life right here in Vacaville, and this is the city where I decided as a 10-year-old that I wanted to be a professional violinist, musician, and educator. ... Music is the tool I use to help me further connect with people, learn about them, and try my hardest to give something when or if people ask for it.”

**Livermore-Amador Symphony looks forward to performing  
this beautiful piece of music with Spruill at the April concert!**

*The world’s top-selling classical music magazine called Spruill, “...an engaging and convincing advocate... Spruill has an energetic approach...plays with great spirit...and a great sense of presence...” – BBC Music Magazine (January 2020)*

*Strings magazine listed Chase Spruill as one of the noteworthy interpreters of the music of leading American composer Philip Glass. (May 2021)*

## *A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ WELLS*



With the sun beaming down, butterflies and hummingbirds cruising around the garden, and blooms bursting with pollen all over town, now is a good time to reflect on our upcoming April concert. With foresight and deliberation, Lara has selected music that celebrates a sunny day and an uplifted heart. I am looking forward to an evening of LAS entertainment and interpretation that always delights our audience. Bring it on, “Butterflies and Brahms.” We are ready for you!

We began spring with a fundraising event at Cuda Ridge Wines in Livermore, spending Friday afternoon, March 15, with dozens of our closest friends—including some new friends from the vintner’s wine club. The gentle sounds of “The Jammies” (thanks to Tim Barry and band members) were a treat for all. So many people made the day a success: all the gift basket creators (Linda Miller, Claudia Barry, Sarah Wharton, Sandra Hodzic);

catering (Sandra Hodzic, Carol Beck); and the Dinos and staff at Cuda Ridge. While I generally hate the “leaping forward” part of daylight savings, this year it worked to our advantage: watching the sun fade over the vineyards was a special ending to the day and a great start to the weekend. Let’s go back there!

Following our April 13th concert, the Guild will go “all in” on our final fundraiser for the season: a Garden Symphony Tour. This is a partnership between the LAS Guild and the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club. They have gardens, we have musicians, and together we will have a garden tour of 5 homes with live musical interludes. The tour is Saturday, May 4, 2024; the gardens are open from 1–5 p.m. (rain or shine). And musical interludes from several of our symphony musicians are available from 1–4 p.m. in these same gardens. However, if there’s rain, our musicians will bow out: “Water plants, not performers!”

*Be of good cheer.*

*PJ Wells*

LAS Guild President

**Here’s a teaser pleaser—> !**

*Flyer on p. 8 has all the information  
RSVP—make reservations by April 20!*



## *A Message from LASA PRESIDENT TIM BARRY*



My fellow Symphony lovers and I were treated to a wonderful LAS concert on February 10, “Vibrant Variations.” Special performances by our Symphony’s Competition winners, Cara Wang and Connor Roham, brought down the house with their fine performances!

And what a fabulous Guild fundraiser: *Sipping for the Symphony*, held at the beautiful Cuda Ridge Wines on March 15. Great Guild-provided food, lovely wines, fun raffle, and pretty nice music provided by my own group, The Jammies! A great turnout capped a successful fundraiser and friend-raiser. Thank you, LAS Guild!

Looking ahead, our next concert is April 13, “Butterflies and Brahms.” It features violin soloist Chase Spruill’s interpretation of the beautiful composition, *Butterfly Lovers’ Violin Concerto*. Our efforts to expand musical offerings to reflect our community’s ethnic diversity is in full flower with this work by Chinese composers He Zhanhao and Chen Gang. Bravo, conductor Lara Webber, our Music Committee, and our hard at-work-musicians for planning and preparing this special evening of music.

Guild members are invited to my home on the evening of Thursday April 18 at 7:30 p.m. as Claudia and I host the Guild’s annual Spring Meeting. The evening will include performances by two musicians selected from the Symphony’s annual Competition. Our LASA annual meeting is also coming up in April, just before our orchestra’s rehearsal at East Avenue Middle School: Tuesday April 23 at 7 p.m. sharp. All Association members are invited to join us.

Looking forward to an exciting month of Symphony activities with you in April!

Musically yours,

*Tim Barry*

President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association

 LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

**APRIL 13th CONCERT TICKETS**

*Don't miss this beautiful music! Invite your friends too!*

<https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/tickets.html>;

925-373-6800; or Bankhead ticket office, 2400 First St.,

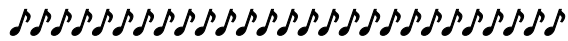
Livermore. Adult tickets: \$28, \$35, \$42. *All are good seats!*

Youth through age 22 are FREE, but need a ticket.



**Livermore-Amador Symphony  
Annual Association Meeting  
Tuesday, April 23, 2024,  
7-7:20 p.m., Music Room  
East Avenue MS, Livermore**

*LAS Association members—volunteer LAS players, adult season ticket subscribers, Guild members, and donors of \$50 or more—are eligible to vote in the board election.*



**Guild Annual Spring Meeting**  
**Thursday April 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Home of Tim & Claudia Barry**

The evening begins with a short business meeting. Immediately following, attendees will be treated to performances by Eileen Zhang and Hiroshi Corro, contestants from the Symphony's Competition for Young Musicians. Afterwards all are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation!

**Election Slate**

**The Guild 2023-2024 Nominating Committee,**  
 Judy Eckart, chair; Alan Frank, Sandra Hodzic,  
 Lou Anne Martin, and Beth Wilson

**Is pleased to present the following slate of officers and nominating committee members for election at this meeting:**

- PJ Wells, President**
- Linda Miller, Vice President**
- Sally Swanson, Recording Secretary**
- Judy McMurry, Treasurer**
- Nominating Committee Members:  
**Carol Beck and Sandra Hodzic**

If elected, all will begin their terms on July 1, 2024. Officers are elected to one-year terms; nominating committee members are elected to two-year terms. The nominating committee comprises 4 elected members serving two-year terms plus a chair; the chair is appointed to a one-year term by Guild officers. Lou Anne Martin and Beth Wilson begin the second year of their terms on July 1.

**SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY MAY 4, 1-5pm!**



**Guild Estate Sales**

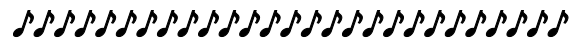
The LAS Guild Estate Sale volunteers didn't spring into spring, they **JUMPED!**

In late February we had one of our biggest sales yet, netting a little over \$8,000. Good for all of you, and hurray for the Symphony! These are our hard-working volunteers: Sarah Wharton, Barbara Morrison, Patti Fredericks, Mary Justice, Patty Canning, Darlene Jeffries, Mary Ann Rozsa, Bob Canning, Ron McKenzie, PJ Wells, Nancy McKenzie, Joan Dickinson, Jack Wells, Joyce Brown, Judy McMurry, Linda Miller, Janice Paquette, Sid Speeder, Abhi Vishwas, Bill Leach, Joie Spooner, Adela Cook, and Beth Wilson.

Please contact me if you or someone you know is interested in a sale. All the Guild's share of the proceeds goes to the Symphony.

**Nancy McKenzie, Estate Sales Chair**

[livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales](http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales).



**Annual Guild Luncheon and Introduction of Officers**

***Come & socialize with your fellow Guild members! Guests are welcome too!***

**Thursday, May 23, 2024, 12 noon**  
**Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill at Las Positas Golf Course**  
**915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore**

**No pre-order required for luncheon—**  
**Order and pay at the counter.**

**You may also renew your Guild 2024-2025 Season membership!**

***Guild members: Watch for a reminder email or a phone call for information re RSVP!***

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY and GUILD**  
**60 Years of Making Music!**  
**CALENDAR 2023-2024**

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***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert***  
***Butterflies and Brahms***  
**Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)**  
**Bankhead Theater, Livermore**  
*Note concert start time!*

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

**Guild Spring Business Meeting (See pages 5 and 6.)**

**Home of Tim & Claudia Barry**

**With performances by 2 selected Competition runners-up**

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

**Association Annual Meeting–Board member election (See page 5.)**

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

**Saturday, May 4, 12-5 p.m.**

***New Event!* Garden Symphony Tour (See pages 4 and 8.)**

**Sponsored by LAS Guild and Livermore-Amador Garden Club**

**Thursday, May 23, 12 noon (See page 6.)**

**Guild Spring Luncheon**

**Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore**

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

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:***

***Delightful Dvorak, Chad Somers, tenor soloist***

**Bankhead Theater, Livermore**

***Looking ahead... Watch for details closer to the date!***

**Saturday evening, July 27, LAS Youth Orchestra concert**

**Saturday afternoon, September 28, Outdoor *POPS on the Green* concert**

**October, Sipping for the Symphony wine tasting**

*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. PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551; 925-447-6454; Website: [www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org](http://www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org).

A fundraising partnership for  
Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild &  
Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club

# *Garden Symphony Tour*

**Self-guided walking tour of 5 gardens  
in Pleasanton & Livermore**

**Saturday May 4, 2024**

**1 to 5 pm** (gardens open for touring)

**1 to 4 pm** (live musical interludes)

**\$40 per person**

For information:

[www.lavgc.org](http://www.lavgc.org)

[www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org](http://www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org)

Joan Dickinson at 925.605.8915

Event for ages 8 and older. No pets.

Space is limited — reserve early!

RSVP using the reservation form below by April 20, 2024  
Confirmations and addresses will be emailed after April 22

*Return the form below with your check.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number in your party** x \$ 40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed**

Checks payable to:

LAS Guild

Checks and form mailed to:

LAS Guild, Attn. J. McMurry

583 Bell Ave

Livermore CA 94550