



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 61, No. 2, February 2024

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus

Presents

Vibrant Variations

Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring winners of the Competition for Young Musicians

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**

Saibei Dance from Saibei Suite No. 2

An-Lun Huang

Cello Concerto, 1st and 2nd movements

Edward Elgar

Cara Wang, soloist

Huapango

José Moncayo

Piano Concerto No. 1, 3rd movement

Frédéric Chopin

Connor Roham, soloist

Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

Benjamin Britten

Teen jazz band *Element 116*, directed by Matt Finders, will perform in the lobby at intermission.

*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 are always FREE.

A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ Wells



After a very successful December concert we've jumped into January 2024! The program performed at the Bankhead was well received and the enthusiasm in the upper seats was palpable. People left the theater in high spirits—and enjoyed a splash of wine at the reception in the lobby (hosted by the Guild) before heading for home. A special season ticket promotion in the Bankhead lobby put our Guild past and present treasurers in the spotlight for the evening. Although they may have distributed more dark chocolate than concert flyers, they were armed for any and all outcomes and we appreciate their desire to drive a good bargain. Through chocolate all things are possible!

As anticipation builds for the February 10 concert *Vibrant Variations*, the Guild looks forward to our annual January Gems on January 21. This “two-fer” event is a recital and a reception, hosted for the first time at

the Bothwell Arts Center. We opened our afternoon program to three contestants from last fall's Competition for Young Musicians to perform for us. While the Bothwell can be “sweater weather” all year around, the venue is larger than a personal home and allows us to include a wider audience. Part of that widening strategy includes trying some new venues to reach an audience outside the theatre.

With rehearsals for the February concert well under way, the Guild has turned its attention to March 15, when we're partnering on a wine-tasting, fundraising event at Cuda Ridge Wines in Livermore. Their award-winning wines are already featured by the Bankhead and they enjoy a deep wine club membership. This is a working, local winery with a patio, tasting rooms, views of the vineyards, and easy, ample parking. Their customers, our LAS family, and the general public are all welcome to attend. This is our first springtime event, so after a few months of dodging the rain, folks should be eager to “go out and play” when wine, sips, snacks, and music are featured. Mark your calendar now for the Guild's spring *Sipping for the Symphony*, Friday, March 15 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., and bring along a friend or two! Cuda Ridge is located at 2400 Arroyo Road, Livermore. They are very enthusiastic about hosting our group.

Our Guild volunteers are at the ready to assist folks in preparing for and hosting an estate sale. This team works enthusiastically and tirelessly with families in need of the service. Life experience is invaluable in saying goodbye to a well-loved home. Empathetic and respectful, we demonstrate dependability, thoroughness and satisfaction helping families with the transition. If you or anyone you know needs an estate sale, please contact Nancy McKenzie for a consultation at nancymac360@gmail.com or 1-925-294-8657.

Be of good cheer!

PJ Wells

LAS Guild President

A Message from LASA PRESIDENT TIM BARRY



Vibrant Variations is Upon Us!

Happy New Year fellow Symphony lovers!

Yes, I'm looking forward to the upcoming February 10th LAS *Vibrant Variations* performance featuring our LAS musicians and the winners of the Competition for Young Musicians, Cara Wang and Connor Roham! Our December concert was very well received, and I really enjoyed introducing our young scholarship recipients on stage and presenting them with their awards. Our outreach to student musicians is an integral part of our Association's community service and engagement, and we are very proud of these efforts!

2024 will be a banner year for LAS, celebrating our 60th anniversary season and continuing to emerge from a global pandemic with a bright future ahead. I appreciate everyone's efforts this season, from the delightful performance of our conductor and musicians, to the tireless efforts of our Guild volunteers, to the good works of our boards and committees. Pulling together in the same direction is no easy feat, but we do it with sound leadership at all levels of LASA. This time of year, we begin to seek leaders to fill key roles on our boards for the next year. I hope you will consider how you can step up and contribute your time and talent to fill these roles. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to make LASA go"! 🤝

Musically yours,

Tim Barry

President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association



Tim and Lara at a Guild *Sipping for the Symphony* event.

Vibrant Variations
Saturday, February 10
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



This concert is full of orchestral showstoppers, and inspired, expressive young musical talent, featuring works of a diverse set of composers from around the globe: China (Saibei region), Mexico (Veracruz region), England, and Poland.

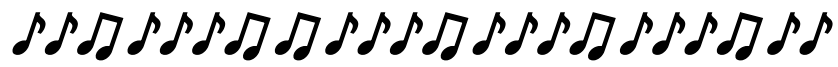
An-Lun Huang: *Sabei Dance, from Saibei Suite*—In celebration of Chinese lunar new year, we are performing An-Lun Huang's beloved Saibei Dance. Energized, vigorous music that celebrates a beautiful region of China, north of the Great Wall near Mongolia, where traditional melody features leaps and lyrical lines that intertwine through the orchestra. This is a wonderful blend of traditional Chinese melody and western symphonic style.

José Moncayo: *Huapango*—A vivid, exciting showpiece for the orchestra based on the popular traditional Mexican musical style and folk dance of the same name. The melodies vary constantly, with driving syncopated rhythms. The full color palate of a symphony orchestra is explored, with a diverse set of sounds in the percussion, and a particular emphasis on trumpet, trombone and violins, a nod to the Mariachi sound. The music builds in intensity to a thrilling finish.

Benjamin Britten: *Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra*—A fantastically inventive set of theme and variations written in the immediate aftermath of World War II to reintroduce English society to the orchestra after a long period of suppression of the cultural arts by the bombings and by the artists and musicians themselves being away at war. Britten brilliantly introduces us to each instrument of the orchestra: They are like characters in a story. Wit and humor, joy and melancholy, each instrument family has its memorable moment in the sun, and all combine for a truly inspired finale.

Our program also showcases young musical talent throughout the evening with performances by our two immensely talented **winner of the Symphony's 51st Competition for Young Musicians** (featured further in this newsletter). In addition, we are thrilled to bring back teen jazz band ***Element 116***, under the direction of Matt Finders, who will entertain us in the Bankhead lobby during intermission.

We look forward to seeing you at the Bankhead on February 10!



**Winners of the 51st Annual
COMPETITION for YOUNG MUSICIANS**

Cara Wang and Connor Roham

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association conducts the Competition each October. Winners are awarded \$500 prizes and perform as soloists with LAS.



Cara Wang, age 13, studies cello at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College division. She will perform the first and second movements of Edward Elgar’s Cello Concerto. Cara began cello lessons at the age of 4. She has won many competitions and has previously performed at Carnegie Hall, in the Junior Bach Festival, and at various community events. Cara was previously principal cellist of the SFCM Pre-College String Orchestra and currently is a member of Young Chamber Musicians and the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. She has had additional lessons and masterclasses with several well-regarded cello artists.

Inspired by the opportunity to learn from the wonderful musicians she has met, she now provides lessons to other young cellists in her community. When not working on music, Cara enjoys creative writing and tackling robotics challenges with her teammates.

Connor Roham, age 17, is a pianist and composer from San Ramon. He will perform Frédéric Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 1, third movement.

Connor has been a prize winner at many national and international piano competitions since he was 7. He has played in solo and orchestral performances at prestigious venues in Europe and the US such as Carnegie Hall, where he has performed in both the Stern Auditorium and Weill Recital Hall. Connor has appeared on KTVU Fox Mornings on 2, ABC7 San Francisco, and ABC7 New York and in several online publications. He is currently studying the full program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Connor is a Young Scholar with the Davidson Institute for profoundly gifted students and a member of American Mensa.





LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

CONCERT TICKETS

THERE'S STILL TIME! If you don't already have a subscription, You can purchase a 3-concert season for February 10, April 13, and June 1 and get a discount over single ticket prices. Available until February 10!

See form on last page. Not available by phone or online.

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 are always FREE.

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



Guild Estate Sale

Fri./Sat. February 23 & 24
Opens both days at 8:00 a.m.

Happy 2024! The Guild started the year off with a New Year's Eve bang!

We're working on another **Estate Sale**, this time in Livermore on Scott Street. Items include Hummel figurines, kitchenware, sterling silver collector spoons, linens, tables, a pull-out sofa bed, dresser sets, lamps, jewelry, tools galore, games, a light-weight wheelchair, garden equipment, and more. Don't miss this big, wide, and wonderful sale. For details, check Craig's list the week of the sale.

Nancy McKenzie, Estate Sales Chair

livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales.

Money raised benefits LAS!



LAS CONCERT FEBRUARY 10

Vibrant Variations

Featuring winners of the 2023-24
Competition for Young Musicians.

You don't want to miss it!

Plus youth jazz band Element 116 at intermission.

Election Slate for Guild Spring Meeting

The LAS Guild Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers and nominating committee members for election at the Guild Spring Meeting on the evening of Thursday April 18, 2024.

PJ Wells, President

Linda Miller, Vice President

Sally Swanson, Recording Secretary

Judy McMurry, Treasurer

Nominating Committee Members:

Carol Beck

Sandra Hodzic

We think the current officers are doing superb jobs, so all of the officers are being renominated to their current posts! Fortunately for the Guild, they are willing to continue.

The terms of current nominating committee members Alan Frank and Sandra Hodzic end on June 30 this year. Alan has chosen to retire from his position, but, to our delighted surprise, Sandra Hodzic has asked to continue.

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.)

LAS Guild 2023-2024 nominating committee:

Judy Eckart, chair; Alan Frank, Sandra Hodzic,
Lou Anne Martin, and Beth Wilson

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

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert
Vibrant Variations***

**Includes performances by winners of the Competition for Young Musicians
and, in the lobby at intermission, teen jazz band Element 116**

**Saturday, February 10, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)
Bankhead Theater, Livermore**

Note concert start time!

Friday and Saturday, February 23-24, opens at 8:00 a.m.

Guild-Sponsored Event: Estate Sale Fundraiser (See p. 6)

Friday, March 15, 4-7 p.m.

Guild Sponsored Event: Sipping for the Symphony (See p. 2)

Cuda Ridge Wines, 2400 Arroyo Road, Livermore

Saturday, April 13, 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, 7:30 p.m. (See p. 6)

Guild Spring Business Meeting

With performances by 2 Competition for Young Musicians contestants

Location pending

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

Association Annual Meeting–Board member election

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

Thursday, May 23, 12 noon

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

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.

Livermore-Amador Symphony

60th Anniversary Season!

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Dr. Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus



Available Dec. 3 to Feb. 10
and at the Dec. 2 evening concert
**3-concerts discount:
February, April, and June
concerts**

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.

3-Concerts Season Tickets

February, April, and June concerts.

Bankhead Theater



Live at The Bankhead

Section **A** **B** **C**
ADULT \$108 \$89 \$71

Total saved compared with single-concert ticket prices:
\$18 \$16 \$13

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

Tickets: \$ _____

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 _____

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 (this offer is not available 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:

\$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.