



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild

Vol.54, No.4, May 2017

THE LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus

Presents

Arabian Nights

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Saturday, May 20, 2017, at 8:00 p.m.

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

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

Lara Webber

Piano Concerto in A Minor

Edvard Grieg

Frank Wiens, soloist

———— **Intermission** ————

Scheherazade

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Kristina Anderson, violin

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are available at the Bankhead ticket office.

Contributions to the Symphony may also be given at the 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**.

**Linda Tinney,
LAS Guild**

♪ ♪ *From our
Presidents* ♪ ♪

**Denise Leddon,
LAS Association**

The Guild presented a gift of \$10,000 to the symphony at the Association's annual meeting prior to orchestra rehearsal on April 18. We were also happy to announce that the Guild will again sponsor the harpist for next season's concerts and host the popular post-concert sparkling wine receptions in the Bankhead lobby! It was a busy week—on April 20, the Guild held its annual spring business meeting to elect Guild officers and Nominating Committee members. Welcome aboard, everyone! (See article on page 4.)

The music for the May 20 concert holds special memories for me. First of all, as a college drama/dance major I was a harem girl in the full-length ballet of *Scheherazade*, and my best friend was the Sultan's storyteller, Zobeide. The music is glorious and I never tire of hearing it. The Grieg Piano Concerto is another favorite of mine. Being Norwegian, my husband and I visited Grieg's home in Bergen and my relatives who live in northern Norway. After my husband died in 2011, his family and I put together a video of his life. I used the "Adagio" section of the Grieg Piano Concerto as the background music to photos of our trips. The concerto brings back so many wonderful memories. My husband's family will be attending the concert with me and I am pretty certain there won't be a dry eye among us during soloist Frank Wiens' performance.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Guild president for the past five years. As I near the end of my term I send out a heartfelt thank you to all the members of the Guild and especially to the Board for their help and support. I wish Nancy McKenzie great success as she takes the lead of a wonderful group of symphony volunteers. We will all continue doing our utmost to support the Symphony.

Linda Tinney, LAS Guild President

Livermore-Amador Symphony is a member of Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC), which encourages "cross-promotion" among the arts groups. Check out their calendar: <http://www.independentnews.com/calendar/>

Were you transfixed by Matilda Hofman and our magnificent concert April 8? Her pre-concert talk was superlative, and she conversed with the audience to the end at the post-concert reception. Thank you, Matilda—we enjoyed working with you! Welcome back, Lara!

As hauntingly beautiful as last concert's melodies were, I can't pull any back into my brain. That's because Scheherazade has consumed all in there! May 20, you'll just love it!

Thank you, reelected LASA Board Members, and welcome back, Trey Johnston. Thank you, dear Guild, for the \$10,000 gift, continued harp support, meeting refreshments, and after-concert receptions!

New officers were elected at the April LASA board meeting: President, Linda Tinney; Vice-President, Lynn Seppala; Secretary, Marcia Elchesen; Treasurer, Ursula Goldstein; and Officer-at-Large, Denise Leddon. Congratulations, and thanks for stepping up!

I've had a busy three years as Symphony Association President. The Kasameyer timpani purchase is happening. I enjoyed shaping/negotiating such things as two rehearsals per concert at the Bankhead, storage for our celesta and timpani, critically scoring more chairs for the stage, selecting our personnel/production team for the symphony, and instituting 5-year planning to improve and preserve existing functionality. A best part was working closely with Lara Webber to ensure a smooth operating transition, especially while we included regular youth open dress rehearsals, in-school performances, free family concerts, galas, and a successful holiday donation letter. LAS has been invited again to perform at the Bankhead Theater Gala (September 9 with the Indigo Girls)! Ooh!

We will be in good hands with Linda Tinney come July 1st. Thank you, LASA board, donors, audience, orchestra musicians/dedicated volunteers, Guild, and Lara Webber. Thank you, everyone, for making us what we are!

Denise Leddon, LAS Association President

P.S. Please keep your ear tuned to Livermore's Downtown Steering Committee. It is their mission to reach out to Livermore residents, to listen to you on planning the mostly empty 8-acre parcel downtown.



May 20th Arabian Nights

**Piano Concerto in A Minor by Edvard Grieg
Scheherazade by Nickolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

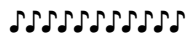
Join us in the Bankhead Lobby for a post-concert sparkling wine reception hosted by the Guild!



Piano soloist Frank Wiens has toured the US annually in recital and orchestra performances since 1974, including soloist appearances with the Atlanta, Denver, and Detroit symphonies. He has also performed in London, Vienna, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and the Soviet Union. In 2012 he participated in a special project in Norway involving the music of Edvard Grieg. Wiens has taught since 1976 at University of the Pacific in Stockton, where he now holds the position of Professor of Piano. He resides in Stockton with his wife, mezzo-soprano Lynelle Frankforter Wiens. In his spare time, Wiens enjoys golf and gourmet cooking. Wiens calls the Grieg concerto “one of the most beloved and well-known pieces in the repertoire for piano and orchestra, as well as one of that composer’s most successful works in a large format. Its combination of virtuosity with the beautiful melodies so associated with Grieg’s music make it easy to love.”

Kristina Anderson, LAS concertmaster, violin soloist. LAS music director Lara Webber says, “Rimsky-Korsakov’s brilliant and imaginative orchestral masterpiece *Scheherazade* is the ultimate example of storytelling in symphonic music... a musical tapestry of colorful music that is vividly cinematic in its scope.... The character of Scheherazade is represented by a solo violin playing an improvisatory-sounding theme that spins out in each movement—signaling the start of a new story to consume the focus of the Sultan. His theme is unmistakable, powerful and threatening, often played by the brass and low strings, and it transforms several times as the Sultan is affected, excited, and moved by Scheherazade’s stories. We ride the beautiful stormy seas with Sinbad. We witness the charm and magic of the Kalandar Prince, represented by exotic woodwind solos, and fall in love with the Young Prince and Princess. Rimsky-Korsakov brings all these musical themes and fantastic tales together in the finale, a Festival at Baghdad.”

Learn more about Anderson at <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/anderson.html>



2017-18

Livermore-Amador Symphony

**Regular Concert Season
Bankhead Theater, Livermore
Renew your subscription now!**

- December 2, 2017**
- February 24, 2018**
- April 14, 2018**
- June 2, 2018**



Renew your season tickets at the May 20 concert and receive a rose! Turn in your completed order form at the LAS table in the lobby. Pay by check (made out

to LVPAC) or credit card. You may also drop off or mail in your order form: Bankhead Ticket Office, 2400 First St., Livermore CA 94550. The order form is at <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/flyers/LAS-PreviewFlyer-April2017.pdf>

Heroes and Villains at the POPS

Friday, October 20, 2017

Robert Livermore Community Center

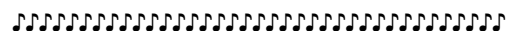
The preview flyer has details about the 2017–2018 concerts and includes an order form:

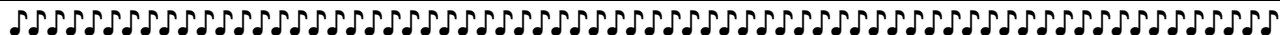
<http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/flyers/LAS-PreviewFlyer-April2017.pdf>



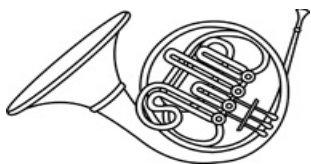
**Livermore-Amador Symphony
Youth Orchestra Concert
Saturday, July 22, 8:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
2020 Fifth St., Livermore**

Open to the public—admission is free!





Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild



Annual Guild Luncheon and Installation of Officers

Thursday, May 25, 2017, 11:30 a.m.

DoubleTree Hilton Hotel

720 Las Flores Road, Livermore

Entertainment by Brass Quintet WBBQ

Invite a friend to join you!

Cost **\$25.00** (includes tax and tip)

Check payable to LAS Guild

(You may pay at the door.)

Please RSVP before **May 15** to 925-292-5826.

Ginger Bytnar, Luncheon Coordinator

Guild Officers Elected

At its Spring Business Meeting on April 20, the Guild elected officers for the 2017–2018 season: **Nancy McKenzie**, President; **Patricia Burnett**, Vice-President; **Marcia S. Elchesen**, Recording Secretary; and **Joan Dickinson**, Treasurer. **Nan Davies** and **Leota Lee** were elected to the Nominating Committee. Installation will take place at the Guild spring luncheon May 25.

After the meeting, attendees enjoyed a music performance by **Mary E. Martin**, piano; **Phyllis Harding**, clarinet; and **Alan Copeland**, cello. Martin opened the concert with piano arrangements of Tchaikovsky’s “The Seasons–February,” Debussy’s “Arabesque No. 2,” and Gershwin’s “Prelude No. 1” and “I Got Rhythm.” Next, Martin and Copeland performed five of the “Six Studies in English Folk Song” by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The program closed with Piano Trio #3, a three-movement work by Rick Sowash, a living composer and native Ohioan, about whom Copeland shared several unusual and interesting biographical details.

Following the performance, attendees socialized and enjoyed refreshments organized by **Leona Brush** with assistance from **Maudie Kuening**. Several Guild members provided an array of cookies and other treats for the affair.

Special thanks to **Nan Davies** who arranged for the music program and to **Nan** and **Walt** for hosting the meeting in their home.

Six Reasons

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Marie Ruzicka and Pat Burnett,

Estate Sales Co-Chairs

For more information:

<http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales.html>

The **Guild**
sponsored the

HARPIST

for each 2016–2017
regular season concert!

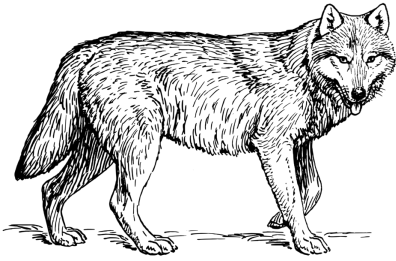


REMINDER!

Please complete and return your 2017–18 Guild Membership Form.

Form is available on the Symphony’s website at <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/applications/LASGuildMembershipForm.pdf>. Please turn it in at the luncheon May 25 or mail to LAS Guild, P.O. Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551.

Symphony Performs *Peter and the Wolf* Concerts at Pleasanton Schools



On April 20, the Livermore-Amador Symphony took a full orchestra into Valley View and Vintage Hills elementary schools in Pleasanton, reaching over 900 students in one day with performances of *Peter and the Wolf*. The music captivated the imagination of the kids, who enthusiastically answered questions and shared their ideas about the music they heard. They were particularly enthralled with the narration by actor Michael Wayne Rice, an associate artist with Livermore Shakespeare Festival. The program was tied into the common core curriculum, with an emphasis on critical thinking, imagery, and storytelling through music. Each performance opened with the “Star Spangled Banner,” with full-throated singing from all the students, and closed with the kids clapping and marching along to Sousa’s “Washington Post March.”

The musicians, nearly all of whom volunteered their time, included Lynda Alvarez, Norman Back, Judy Beck, Marianne Beeler, Stephanie Black, Lisa Burkhart, Lisa Canter, Alan Copeland, Judy Eckart, Del Eckels, Josepha Fath, Ursula Goldstein, Phyllis Harding, Jim Hartman, Christine-Ann Immesoete, Susan Ivie, Eva Langfeldt, Patricia Lay, Denise Leddon, April Nissen, Michael Portnoff, Wendy Reynolds, Diane Schildbach, and Bryan Waugh. The performances were led by LAS music director Lara Webber.

Between the morning and afternoon concerts, the musicians enjoyed a lunch break at the home of LASA Board member Min Xu, organized by Guild members Marcia Elchesen and Linda Miller. These concerts were made possible by grants from the Pleasanton Arts Commission and the Pleasanton Youth Commission with administrative help and support from LVPAC-Bankhead Theater and the LAS Youth Outreach Committee. The Symphony looks forward to bringing similar programs to schools throughout the Tri-Valley in the coming years.

**Competition for Young Musicians
October 1, 2017**

The competition is open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside or attend school in Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol, Dublin, or San Ramon. Students are eligible through grade twelve. (If not enrolled in high school, the maximum age is 17.) By September 10, students must submit an application and a recording for preliminary screening. Those who pass the screening will be invited to audition on October 1. The winner(s) will perform as soloist(s) with the Symphony at its February 24 concert and receive a \$500 award. Detailed information is on the Symphony’s website at <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/competition.html>

JoAnn Cox, Competition Chair

**Awards for High School Seniors
Presentation at December 2nd Concert**

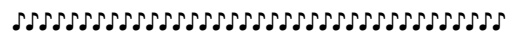
The Symphony Association administers four awards (currently \$400 each) to recognize high school seniors who have made significant contributions to school and community musical activities. (The awards are not based on students’ musical ability or plans to pursue further music education.) Students who reside or attend school in Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol, Dublin, or San Ramon, or who have actively participated as LAS musicians, are eligible to apply. Applications will be available in late summer and *due October 23*.

<http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/awards>

Nissa Nack, Awards Chair

Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra

LASYO will offer a four-week summer session for musicians ages 11–21. Rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 20–July 18, 7–10 p.m. in Livermore’s Bothwell Arts Center, with dress rehearsal July 21 and concert July 22. Applications are due May 15. Details: <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/lasyo.html>



Symphony Notes is published four times a year for members of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, Orchestra, and Guild. Symphony Association President Denise Leddon; Guild President Linda Tinney; Editor Marcia Stimatz Elchesen.
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Website: www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association
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SYMPHONY NOTES

Calendar

May 2017 and Beyond

Saturday, May 20, 2017

See pages 1, 2 and 3.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Arabian Nights

Frank Wiens, piano; Kristina Anderson, violin

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

Thursday, May 25, 2017

See page 4.

Guild Spring Luncheon–Installation of Officers and Music Program

11:30 a.m., DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, Livermore

Saturday, July 22, 2017

See pages 3 and 5.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra Concert

8:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Livermore

Friday, October 20, 2017

See page 3.

Pops Concert: Heroes and Villains at the POPS

8:00 p.m., Robert Livermore Community Center, Livermore

Saturday, December 2, 2017

See page 3.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Musical Heroes

Beethoven, Prokofiev, and Sibelius

8:15 p.m., The Bankhead Theater, Livermore