



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild

Vol. 58, No. 1, December 2020

Reflections From Your Music Director



It was March third when I last gathered with my LAS colleagues and led a full orchestra rehearsal. This rehearsal was our first run through of Stravinsky's *Firebird* Suite, and the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3, some of the most difficult and exciting music the orchestra has ever played. Although we had a long way to go in our preparations for the April concert, I could hear in that first reading the promising seeds of productive rehearsals and a wonderful performance to come. One week later, we suspended our rehearsals in the face of the pandemic.

That feels like a lifetime ago.

Now, as we watch the seasons change, temperatures cooling and leaves falling, I am astonished at the temporal dissonance I am feeling. It feels as though years have passed since our last LAS orchestra rehearsal. And yet simultaneously, the days, weeks, and months have vanished so quickly, I can't always account for them. For me, and I imagine for many of you, the loss of a normal work schedule, framed in my world by concerts, rehearsal schedules and musical preparations, has taken with it my normal perception of the passage of time.

Music is all about measuring time. Quite literally, we can't even begin making music together until we know what meter it is in, what's the *time* signature? Next, we must determine the *tempo*. Are we playing a fast *Allegro*, or is it a slow *Adagio*? Beyond temporal mechanics of rhythm and proportion, the harmonic and melodic language of the music captures our imagination and emotion, which further manipulates us and transforms the way we experience time passing. The focus required for a musician in rehearsal or performance can make an hour pass in what feels like a moment, or just the opposite. This is a feeling any of us can have when we are deeply focused on what we are doing. Just think of how quickly your favorite book seemed to come to an end.

We can't recreate the rehearsal experience online. We can't replace the shared experience of concerts together in the theater. But we can find ways to connect and be creative together in the meantime. Most importantly, as we feel so acutely the absence of these shared experiences, we can choose to work to uphold our community by supporting our musical and artistic institutions to ensure they are there for us when we are again able to gather.

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

Reflections (continued)

I'm delighted with the contributions our LAS musicians made to the Bankhead Theater's innovative *Vineyard Vibes* series recently streamed online. In celebration of Beethoven's 250th year, LAS has released on our website and social media live recordings of recent LAS performances, with added video commentary from yours truly, and beautifully edited by Alan Frank. Next month, Soprano Heidi Moss, who was to be a featured soloist with us this season, will create for us an online mini-recital of songs and arias, centered around Beethoven's beautiful song, "Ich Liebe Dich." Her program will explore the progression of song from Mozart to Beethoven, to Schumann, to today with music composed by her husband, composer Kurt Erickson. We've also just concluded our annual concerto competition, and are exploring ways to elevate and share the extraordinary talent of our various winners while we wait for the next opportunity to present them in concert with our orchestra.

This fall, with the support of my excellent neighbors, I launched a "Backyard Strings" program in my



large yard. In full compliance with Alameda County Health mandates and guidelines, several string players have been donning their masks and joyfully making music together, overcoming physical distancing by extending the range of their listening abilities. Our audience of a handful of neighbors, as well as dogs, cats, and chirping birds have been really impressed! I'm thrilled we've been able to do this, but also very mindful that many musicians aren't in a position to join us. I'll continue to reach out to our entire membership with regular emails and videos, occasional "Zoom" gatherings, and ways to engage in virtual musical projects. I deeply appreciate the support our musicians, our board, and our fabulous symphony Guild continue to provide our community through this challenging time.

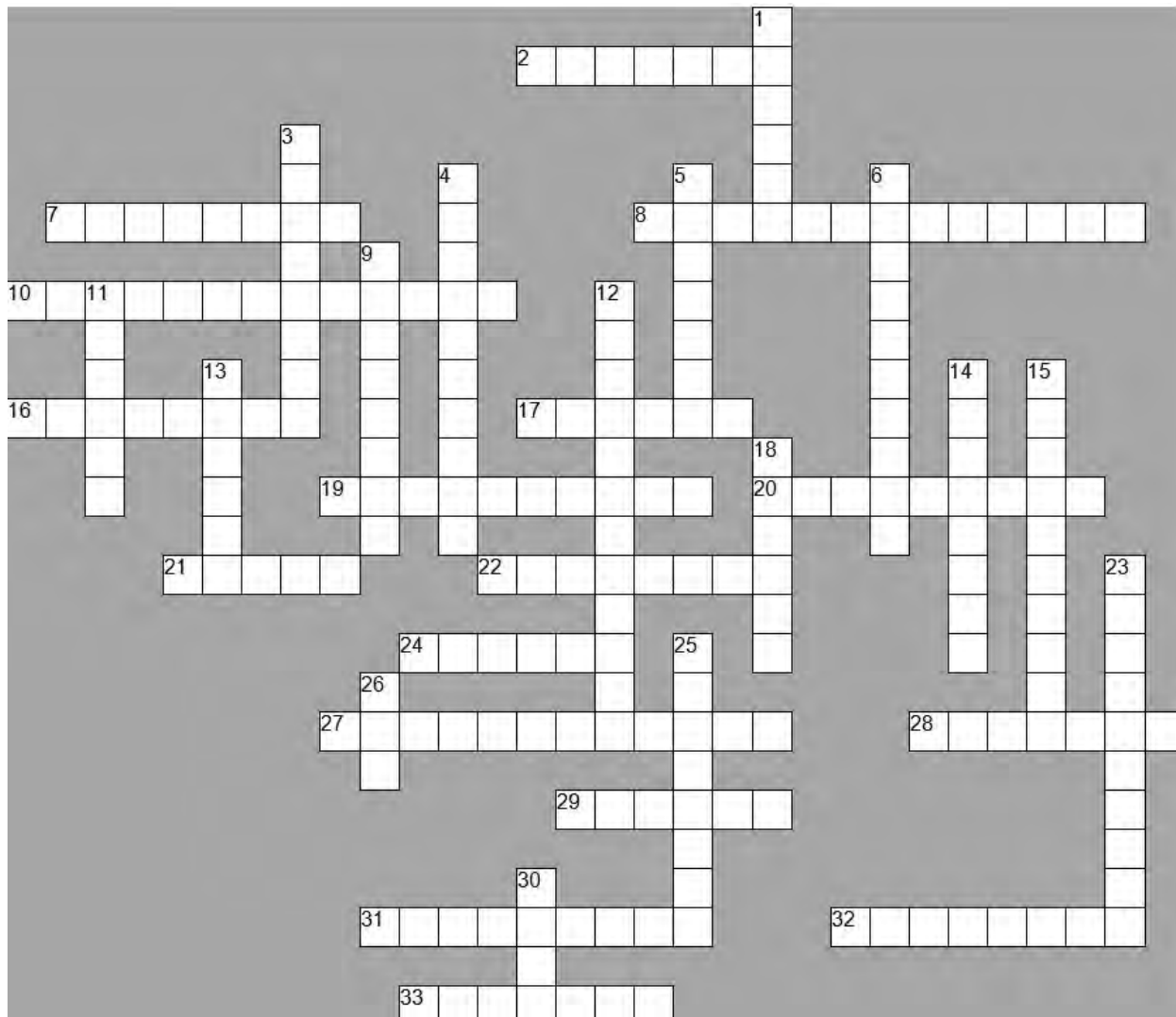
It's clear that we won't be able to resume normal operations for several more months, but we will continue to plan for that day, and the steps we need to take to be ready. We will be here for you, and we will do all we can to uphold our community, our Bankhead Theater, and our local arts institutions.

In the meantime, keep making, listening, and engaging with music however you most enjoy. Allow it to draw your focus, and manage your sense of time for a few minutes, or hours. Allow music to rewire your brain, process your emotions, captivate your attention. Let music be your escape, and your companion for a while.

Lara Webber, LAS Music Director and Conductor



♪♪ **A BEETHOVEN CROSSWORD** ♪♪
By Bryan Waugh, LAS Orchestra Personnel Manager



Crossword Clues are on the next page, answers page 8

Symphony Notes is published four times a year for members of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, Orchestra, and Guild. Symphony Association President Alan Frank; Guild President Beth Wilson; Editor Nile Runge. PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551-1049. 925-447-6454.

Website: www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LivAmSymph/>
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/livamsymph>
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/livamsymph/>



Across

2. nickname of his Piano Sonata #17 (also the title of a stormy Shakespeare play)
7. the finale of his 9th symphony includes a setting of this poem
8. its title translated from Latin into English would be "Solemn Mass"
10. Beethoven together with these other two German composers (one Baroque and one Romantic) are often referred to as "the three B's"
16. his very popular Bagatelle #25 in A minor for solo piano is much more commonly known by this title
17. his 9th symphony ends in this key
19. his string quartets #7, #8, and #9 are known as the "_____ " string quartets (named for the Russian ambassador that commissioned them)
20. nickname of his Piano Sonata #14 (also the title of the 2016 Oscar winner for best picture)
21. the young Beethoven studied with this senior Austrian composer in 1792
22. although Beethoven had originally dedicated his 3rd symphony to this French military leader, Beethoven later became disillusioned with him, and thus withdrew the dedication
24. nickname of his 3rd symphony
27. LAS performed his "_____ of the House" overture in 2007 to inaugurate the newly opened Bankhead Theater
28. nickname of his Piano Concerto #5 (also the name of an 1889 Johann Strauss waltz)
29. LAS performed this overture at the 2017 "Heroes and Villains"-themed POPS
31. young pianist in the Peanuts comic strip that idolizes Beethoven
32. Elizabeth _____ (proud owner of the "red violin") performed his violin concerto with LAS in 2015
33. the heroine of his one and only opera

Down

1. his incidental music for "The Ruins of _____ " (an ancient Greek city) includes a Turkish march
3. his 5th symphony was the first symphony to include this brass instrument in the orchestra
4. "The Creatures of _____ " (the god of Greek mythology that gave fire to mankind) is Beethoven's only full-length ballet score
5. his one and only opera
6. some principal characters in this E. M. Forster novel (and its 1992 film adaptation by James Ivory) attend a performance of Beethoven's 5th symphony
9. nickname of his 6th symphony (synonymous with "bucolic")
11. nickname of his 9th symphony
12. nickname of his Piano Sonata #23 (sort of rhymes with the word "sonata")
13. he died in this Austrian city in 1827
14. author of the poem set in the finale of his 9th symphony
15. nickname of his Piano Sonata #8 (also the nickname of Tchaikovsky's 6th symphony)
18. his 5th symphony begins in this key
23. in the 1994 film "Immortal Beloved", Beethoven is portrayed by this British actor (who would years later win an Oscar for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in the 2017 film "Darkest Hour")
25. LAS held a weekend retreat at _____ in 2013 to rehearse Beethoven's 9th symphony
26. Gwendolyn ____ performed his Piano Concerto #4 with LAS in 2019
30. he was born in this German city in 1770

♪♪ ETHAN PLATT TRIBUTE FUND UPDATE ♪♪

Following the passing of long-time symphony supporter Ethan Platt last May at age 102, the Guild formed the "**Ethan Platt Tribute Fund**" to honor his support of LAS from its founding in 1963. He served as the charter president, played clarinet in the orchestra, served as orchestra manager for 20 years, and continued supporting the symphony in various ways throughout his life. To launch the fund, a Covid-safe "non-concert" (the brainchild of then Guild president Kathy Streeter) was announced in *Symphony Notes* June 2020 (<http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/SymNotes/SymNotes-2020June.pdf>). Many of you contributed. ***So far, we have raised \$4,500, a wondrous sum!*** These funds will purchase sheet music for the orchestra and will be stamped, "The Ethan Platt Tribute Fund." We in the Guild and Symphony thank you all for your generous donations to this fund. Yes, we will gladly accept further contributions—just send your check payable to **LASA, memo Ethan Platt Tribute, to LASA, P.O. Box 1049, Livermore CA 94551**. You may also donate to the Platt Fund from <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org> by clicking on Ethan's photo.





From LASA PRESIDENT ALAN FRANK

Dear Orchestra and Audience Members,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 season of the Livermore-Amador Symphony, your community orchestra. What a season! Totally different from what we had planned or have ever done before. Last season was interrupted mid-way by the pandemic. At this time, we have no idea when we could again have you back into the Bankhead Theater with the full orchestra. Our talented members, musicians, and music director are working to keep your orchestra together and connected with our faithful and supportive audience.

We have started and are moving ahead on several special projects by and for our musicians and audience. Our first live, outdoors, and socially distanced presentation was jointly produced by LAS and the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center [see page 9]. It was broadcast live as part of the theater's **Vineyard Vibes presentations** and is now available on our website. We are exploring concepts for future new live performance video.

This season was initially planned to open with a celebratory concert of Beethoven's 250th birthday. That not being possible we are now celebrating Beethoven on our website with some of our finest past performances. We are assembling videos from our superb audio recordings, adding introductory remarks by Lara Webber and with appropriate imagery.

The celebrated pianist Frederic Chiu was supposed to have been our guest soloist last April. He has graciously committed to performing with us once things again open up. In the interim he has given us permission to use his incredible performance of the Liszt piano reduction of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Soon we will be posting his recording on our web site as part of our Beethoven celebration.

Our website now has a new page providing access to all our web presentations.

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

Other exciting production possibilities are in the offing and will be posted on our web site as they are completed. We will also announce the release of new productions by email. Video productions currently available include the recently released recording from our June 2019 performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with our wonderful soloist Gwendolyn Mok, and the symphony's performances of *Our Town* and Beethoven's Sixth, the "Pastoral" symphony. Also available is our joint LAS and LVPAC Vineyard Vibes video.

With this new season we have a newly elected leadership team, dedicated to bringing you the finest productions our community orchestra can offer. Our goal is to be ready to come back better than before when the time comes. We are currently in reasonable financial shape and hope that donations towards our special projects will help keep us above water until we can once again return to the theater and resume live performances by our wonderful orchestra.

Best wishes in music and for your continued health.

Alan Frank

2020–2021 President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association



IN MEMORY OF WALTER DAVIES

The symphony organization was deeply saddened to learn that Walter Davies passed away on August 24th, 2020. He was 83 years old. Walter is survived by his beloved wife, Nan Wood Davies, son Walter Gerald (Meghan Hoover) Davies, daughter Bryn Kathleen (Vince Neil) Ilagan, 5 grandchildren, 5 brothers, and a sister. The family plans to have a celebration of life sometime next year.

Walter was involved with the symphony from its earliest days. As spouse of Nan, who played flute and piccolo in the symphony until her retirement just last season, he could always be counted on to help out the orchestra in whatever way was needed. Walter played flute in the orchestra early on, and at various times served as Association board member, president, POPS chair, orchestra photographer, and co-host extraordinaire for countless Guild meetings held in the Davies home.



Livermore-Amador Symphony dedicated its October 18 Vineyard Vibes concert in Walter's memory. We will all miss him very much.

Thanks to Kathy and Clark Streeter who shared these personal memories of Walter.

Kathy and Clark first met Walter in the '60s through the theater group Cask and Mask Players and became close friends with him and Nan. Kathy recalled this memory, "Sometime in the early '70s, Walter called early on a Saturday morning. Clark and I were still in bed, but I picked up the phone and heard Walter's voice saying he wanted to start an eight-member madrigal singing group. We recruited six more of our singing friends and started singing every Sunday at one house or another. We rehearsed on Sundays, the only day we were all available, so Walter named us "Sunday's Childe." We rehearsed and performed for over 35 years. We were quite good. My eyes tear up every time I think about it. Walter was a very special person. When I told our daughter that he had passed away her response was, 'But the world isn't right without Walter.'"

Clark noted that, as a photographer, Walter "explored several media, including 35mm and medium format, but was most intrigued by large format black-and-white photography. After his 4x5 inch Sinar camera was stolen, he built his own 8x11 inch view camera from scratch." Walter was also involved with many other cultural organizations in Livermore including Livermore Art Association and Livermore Arts Commission. He held many positions in these groups, "most importantly, that of all around helpful person. ... Walter was generous to a fault. He mentored and encouraged many of us, and was always willing to help when asked. I personally feel that I owe him a debt that I could never repay, even if we had both lived on for a very long time."



Update from GUILD PRESIDENT BETH WILSON



The Guild has begun our new season with 77 members. We also have some new members on our Board. The Board has continued to meet regularly, have lively discussions, and do what we can to support the Symphony. Just keeping in touch with each other through email and Zoom has been heartwarming. We miss being able to hold our estate sales currently, but the Symphony Association Board has determined that our liability is too great at this time. Meanwhile, our amazing Nancy McKenzie has sold a couple of higher-value items to add to our income, and the support of many people to the Ethan Platt fund has been wonderful. We have begun plans to hold an online sale with many really lovely items early in 2021, so watch for announcements!

This season, even without live performances, we are celebrating the anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday. Alan Frank and music director Lara Webber have each spent countless hours putting together video treats for you, our patrons. We all have a bit of Beethoven fever. That's better than the poor people who attended Beethoven's marathon live concert in December 1808 (which turned out to be the last time Beethoven performed as a soloist with an orchestra in public). The concert took place in the Theater an der Wien, an unheated, freezing venue where the orchestra performed the three works we will be offering online—Symphonies 5 and 6 and his 4th piano concerto—as well as other pieces! Aren't you glad you can enjoy these Beethoven recordings at your leisure in a warm place?

The Symphony musicians are grateful that there have been some opportunities to get together in smaller groups outdoors. We appreciate Lara's dedication to organizing these informal events and helping the orchestra keep together as a community, part of the larger community of patrons, donors, LASA board, and Guild members.

We thank you all and look forward to supporting our orchestra in a variety of creative ways.

Beth Wilson

LAS Guild Board Members 2020-2021

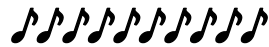
Officers

President	Beth Wilson
Vice President	Joan Green
Secretary	Lou Anne Martin
Treasurer	Joan Dickinson
Immediate Past President	Kathy Streeter

Committee Chairs

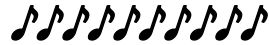
Budget	Joan Dickinson
Estate Sales	Marie Ruzicka & Nancy McKenzie
Historian	Helen Moore
Luncheon	Tim Barry
Membership	Linda Miller
Pops Concert	Linda Tinney
Publicity	Mary Anne Rozsa
Refreshments	Sheila Fagliano
Season Brochure	Joan Dickinson
Season Tickets	Joan Dickinson
Social Correspondence	Pat Mann
<i>Symphony Notes</i>	Marcia Elchesen
Telephone	Joyce Brown





Meet the Musicians!

A special section on the LAS website features recorded pieces by LAS musicians. Don't forget to check it out! [Meet the Musicians page](#)



Livermore-Amador Symphony

Planned Concert Dates

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

No concert dates are currently planned

*Please stay tuned and stay in touch. Your community orchestra is here for you—
Even if we can't be in concert together.*

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

Crossword Answers

Across

2 tempest
7 odetojoy
8 missasolemnis
10 bachandbrahms
16 furelise
17 dmajor
19 rasumovsky
20 moonlight
21 haydn
22 napoleon
24 eroica
27 consecration
28 emperor
29 egmont
31 schroeder
32 pitcairn
33 leonora

Down

1 athens
3 trombone
4 prometheus
5 fidelio
6 howardsend
9 pastoral
11 choral
12 appassionata
13 vienna
14 schiller
15 pathetique
18 cminor
23 garyoldman
25 asilomar
26 mok
30 bonn

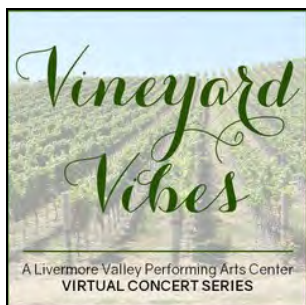
Breaking news

Walt Davies Legacy

*The new owner of Walt's Last Factory just handed me three boxes from the attic. They are tape recordings of the symphony's concerts from 1964 to 2000. The big problem is that the earliest recordings are on reel to reel magnetic tape. I would love to digitize and share them. The challenge is: **Does anyone even now still have a reel-to-reel tape deck that could play these tapes?** If you have one or know someone who does **please contact me.***

Alan Frank





LAS at Vineyard Vibes

Featuring *Wine Break Brass Quintet* and *The Whirlwinds Trio*

LAS musicians performed chamber music at an online concert presented by Livermore Valley Performing Arts in October 2020. The video of this Vineyard Vibes performance includes introductions and comments by Chris Carter, CEO of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, and Lara Webber, Music Director of the Symphony. Click here: <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/sigevents.html>

Wine Break Brass Quintet

Christine-Ann Immesoete, LAS Principal Horn
Diane Schildbach, LAS Principal Trombone
Marcus Schildbach, LAS Tuba
Robert Bryant, LAS Trumpet
Rick Fleer, Trumpet (LAS guest musician)

Prelude to Te Deum, by Marc Antoine Charpentier,
arranged by William Picher

Second Suite in F major, by Gustav Holst,
arranged by David Sabourin

March

Song Without Words

Song of The Blacksmith (with Lara Webber, as the
blacksmith, playing a nuclear fuel rod assembly)

Fantasia on the Daragason

Just a Closer Walk with Thee, arranged by Zack Smith

The Whirlwinds Trio

Marianne Beeler, LAS Principal Flute
Eva Langfeldt, LAS Principal Oboe
Chris Diggins, Clarinet (LAS guest musician)

Seven Appalachian Melodies, by Alfred Loeffler

Married and Single Life

George Reilly

Old Joe Clark

The Sheffield Apprentice

Putnam's Hill

William and Polly

If You Want to Go-A-Courting

*This concert was dedicated to the memory of Walter Davies,
a founding father of the cultural arts community in Livermore.*

The virtual concert was recorded outdoors at Retzlaff Vineyards, with appropriate COVID safety measures in place.

LAS GUILD



Due to Covid-19, all LAS Guild Estate Sales are cancelled. We will hit the ground running as soon as we get the ok.

For more information, call
Nancy McKenzie 925-294-8657.





Youth Outreach



COMPETITION FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

The annual LAS Young Musicians Competition was conducted entirely digitally due to the pandemic this year. We received 18 entries (6 violins, 5 cellos, 1 harp, 2 horns, 1 alto sax, and 3 pianos).

Lara Webber and Jo Ann Koopman judged the uploaded YouTube videos and nominated two winners, both violinists:

Valery Breshears, 11 years old, from San Pablo and Lauren Kim, 18 years old, from San Ramon.

We also have 4 runners-up: Dustin Breshears, 14, violin; Ethan Shin, 15, cello; Alexander Canicosa-Miles, 17, cello; and Eric Tandean, 16, alto sax.

We are exploring how we can feature these talented young people with Covid restrictions in place. More information about the winners will be in February *Symphony Notes*

Jutta Massoud, Competition Chair



STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

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. This season, the awards went to these four outstanding students. More information will be available in February *Symphony Notes*.

Arthur P. Barnes Award: cello player **Alexander Canicosa-Miles**, Homeschool/ San Francisco Conservatory of Music–Pre-college.

John H. Green Memorial Award: trombone player **Konrad Owczarek** of Livermore High.

Bill King Memorial Award: clarinet and alto saxophone player, and bass singer **Igor Aprelev** of Amador Valley High.

Symphony Association Award in memory of Marion Stearns: violinist **Andrew Choi** of Amador Valley High.

Nissa Nack, Awards Chair