

LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber
Music Director & Conductor
Arthur P. Barnes
Music Director Emeritus
Sat. December 2, 2023, 8 p.m.
Bankhead Theater, Livermore



Winter Tales



Image by Gordon Johnson from Pixabay

Karelia Overture (1893)
Opus 10

Jean Sibelius
(1865–1957)

Trittico Botticelliano (1927)
(Three Botticelli Pictures)

Ottorino Respighi
(1879–1936)

- I. La Primavera (Spring)
- II. L'Adorazione dei Magi (The Adoration of the Magi)
- III. La Nascita di Venere (The Birth of Venus)

INTERMISSION

Presentation of student awards

to Yeonjun Kim, Francis Nguyen, Abigail Paik, and Esha Shenoy
by Tim Barry, LAS Association president

Hansel and Gretel Suite (1893)

Engelbert Humperdinck

- I. Prelude
- II. The Witch's Ride
- III. The Gingerbread House
- IV. The Witch's Waltz
- V. Dream Pantomime

(1854–1921)
arr. by Gerard Schwarz

3-Concert Season Tickets for Feb., April, June 2024 are on sale in the lobby.

The audience and performers are invited to enjoy a reception
hosted by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild
and featuring Cuda Ridge wines in the lobby after the concert.

Music Director position underwritten by the Chet and Henrietta Fankhauser Trust.

Hansel and Gretel by Humperdinck presented under license from
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Orchestra

Conductor

Lara Webber

First Violin

Joseph Fath
Concertmaster
Juliana Zolynas
Assistant
Concertmaster

Norman Back
Feliza Bourguet
Judy Eckart
Lana Hodzic
Susan Ivie
Doug Morrison
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Nick Travia
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Miwa Yamanouchi

Second Violin

Ursula Goldstein
Principal
Anne Anaya
Stephanie Black
Mary Burchett
Lisa Burkhart
Jena Ernst
Stacy Hughes
Denise Leddon
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Nissa Nack
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Judy Beck
Principal
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Dora Scott
Fernanda Van Atta
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Principal
Claire Armstrong
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Alan Copeland
Kate Fisher
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Chris Jackson
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Paul Pappas
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Richard Hibbs
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Marianne Beeler
Principal
Stacie Manuel

Piccolo

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Oboe

Eva Langfeldt
Principal
Jeanne Brown

English Horn

Jeanne Brown

Clarinet

Lesley Watson
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Doug Stark
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Katie Brunner

Horn

Christine-Ann Immesoete
Principal
James Hartman
Roger Henderson
Bryan Waugh

Trumpet

Michael Portnoff
Principal
Bob Bryant
Anthony Manuel

Trombone

Diane Schildbach
Principal
Alice Williams

Bass Trombone

Marcus Schildbach

Tuba

Betsy Hausburg

Timpani

April Nissen

Percussion

April Nissen
Principal
Aren Durand
Todd Evans
Walt Nissen
Pranav Singh

Piano

Todd Evans

Celesta

April Nissen

Harp

Constance Koo

Librarians

Audrey Horning
Stacy Hughes
Patty Crohare

Program Notes

Karelia Overture (1893) Opus 10

Jean Sibelius
(1865–1957)

Johan, later Jean, Sibelius was born in 1865, at a time when the Grand Duchy of Finland was an autonomous part of the Russian Empire. Young Sibelius's father died of typhoid fever when Jean was only 3, forcing his mother to move her family in with her own mother. Thus, Sibelius grew up in a household dominated by women, with the only male influence coming from his uncle Pehr, who nurtured Jean's love of music, especially the violin. Wanting to be a professional violinist, he later abandoned that goal, writing,

“My tragedy was that I wanted to be a celebrated violinist at any price. Since the age of 15 I played my violin practically from morning to night. I hated pen and ink, and unfortunately I preferred an elegant violin bow. My love for the violin lasted quite long and it was a very painful awakening when I had to admit that I had begun my training for the exacting career of a virtuoso too late.”

Widely considered to be Finland's greatest composer, Sibelius wrote music that is often cited as helping Finland develop a national identity as it struggled for independence from Russia in the early 20th century. His birthday, December 8, is celebrated nationally as the Day of Finnish Music, when it is not uncommon to see lots of Finnish flags decorating houses.

The Karelia suite is named after the Karelia region of Finland as well as a movement of Finnish-language nationalism in the 1890s. The music is meant to conjure up the grandeur of the Vyborg Castle in the region. The suite consists of the overture being played tonight and three movements, the themes of which are all introduced in the overture.

Trittico Botticelliano (1927) (Three Botticelli Pictures)

Ottorino Respighi
(1879–1936)

Born in 1879 in Bologna, Italy, to a musical and artistic family, Ottorino Respighi grew up studying violin and piano. Proving himself quite adept at music, he would later pick up viola and harp. He became principal violinist of the Russian Imperial Theater and studied for a time with Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

Respighi is credited with bringing the orchestral colors demonstrated by Russian composers and the heavy-handed sound of Wagner into Italian music. Mainly known for his *Ancient Airs and Dances* and his Roman trilogy, the tone poems *Fountains of Rome*, *Pines of Rome*, and *Roman Festivals*, Respighi also composed operas, ballets, chamber music. The *Trittico Botticelliano* you're hearing tonight is scored for small orchestra, featuring single winds, piano, and celesta.

Inspired by a trio of paintings by Sandro Botticelli that hang in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, the work is dedicated to Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, well-known patron to numerous composers of the early 20th century. This work is in three movements, each depicting one of Botticelli's works: *La Primavera* (Spring), *L'Adorazione dei Magi* (The Adoration of the Magi), and *La nascita di Venere* (The Birth of Venus).

Two things the listener might notice: 1) there are considerably fewer musicians onstage compared to his Roman trilogy, and 2) the second movement uses the medieval hymn *Veni, veni Emanuel*, which can be traced to monastic orders of the 8th or 9th century.

Hansel and Gretel Suite (1893)

Engelbert Humperdinck
(1854–1921)

arr. by Gerard Schwarz

The name Engelbert Humperdinck might sound familiar to you, especially if you enjoy pop balladeers of the late 1960s (or if you're a fan of the 1987 Rob Reiner film *The Princess Bride*, “Prince Humperdinck”), but this work is by the Humperdinck who was a German composer born in 1854.

Young Humperdinck was discouraged by his parents from studying music and was encouraged to study architecture instead. But his interest in becoming a musician would prevail, and he began taking music classes at the Cologne Conservatory in 1872. Four years later, he won a scholarship that allowed him to study in Munich with Franz Lachner and Josef Rheinberger.

He later went to Italy and became good friends with Richard Wagner, who invited Humperdinck to travel to Bayreuth to assist in the production of *Parsifal*. During this time, Humperdinck also served as a music tutor to Wagner's son, Siegfried.

Hansel and Gretel is Humperdinck's most popular work by far. He began writing it in 1890 while living in Frankfurt. It was originally a small, informal work done in short movements to accompany a puppet show his young nieces were putting together. Inspiration struck, and with a libretto written by his sister Adelheid that was loosely based on the tale written by the Brothers Grimm, he put together a *singspiel* (a German light opera) of 16 songs accompanied by a piano, all connected by dialogue. A year later, he began orchestrating it.

The opera premiered in December of 1893 in Weimar with Richard Strauss conducting.

In 1923, the Royal Opera chose the work for its first complete broadcast, and in 1931, it was the first opera transmitted live by the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Program notes written by Kathy Boster

Edited by Eva Langfeldt

Music Director Lara Webber

Lara Webber is dedicated to inspiring audiences and community engagement through the power of symphonic music. She has been praised by fellow musicians for her musical depth, genuine expression, strong personal vision, and collaborative spirit. Now in her tenth season as music director and conductor of LAS, she has brought music to Tri-Valley elementary schools, coached chamber musicians, and advocated for the arts.

Webber holds degrees in music from Oberlin and USC and has held the positions of both assistant and associate conductor of the symphony orchestras of Baltimore and Charleston and music director of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus. She is music director of the Palo Alto Philharmonic. Her guest-conducting activities have included multiple performances with the symphonies of Houston, Pittsburgh, Santa Barbara, and Modesto, among others. She has served as cover conductor for the San Francisco Symphony and the National Symphony Orchestra and was a conductor of the Emmy-nominated Disney's Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra. Her operatic associations include posts as assistant conductor at Glimmerglass Opera and conductor of the Baltimore Opera Studio.



Student Awards

Each year as many as four graduating high school seniors who have made significant contributions to school and community musical activities are presented with an award from funds administered by the Symphony Association.

Symphony Association Award

One of two awards established by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association. This year one award is given in honor of Marion Stearns.

The LAS Association Award in honor of Marion Stearns goes to **Esha Shenoy**. A student at Dublin High School, Esha plays violin and piano. She has taken piano lessons from Rimma Radayeva for 12 years and has earned Certificates of Merit from the Music Teachers' Association of California in each of the past ten years. Since 9th grade, Esha has been awarded four first places plus a second place in the North California Young Talents Music Competition, performing contemporary and Romantic piano pieces. Also throughout high

school, Esha has been a violin player in the Dublin High School Orchestra. As a junior, she was publicity chair for the orchestra. This year, she is outreach manager for the newly formed Tri-M Music Honor Society chapter at Dublin High. In that role, she has taken on varied tasks including helping to plan mentorships for middle school students and future senior center performances by small ensembles. Esha plans to attend a four-year university and major in biomedical engineering. She will continue to play the violin and piano and hopes to learn to play other instruments, such as the guitar, as well.

Arthur P. Barnes Award

This Livermore-Amador Symphony Association award is named in honor of Music Director Emeritus Arthur P. Barnes.

Yeonjun Kim receives the Arthur P. Barnes Award. A piano student of Galina Corkery throughout high school and a violin student of Karen Paik during his junior and senior years, Yeonjun is co-concertmaster of the Livermore High School honors chamber orchestra, an ensemble that has won numerous awards, including being selected to perform at Carnegie Hall and being selected as the “reading orchestra” for the 2023 California All-State Music Educators Conference. As a junior and senior at LHS, Yeonjun has been a sound engineer for the jazz band and a keyboardist for the spring musicals in 2022 and 2023. Also while at LHS, he has served as piano accompanist for the Junction Avenue K–8 school choir and for a Christensen Middle School soloist. He has performed at command performances of the Tri-Valley Solo & Ensemble Festivals on both piano (as a soloist, in a duet, and as an accompanist) and violin (as first violin in a string quartet). Yeonjun plans to continue to play violin in an orchestra while pursuing a bioengineering degree at a four-year university on his way to becoming a physician.

John H. Green Memorial Award

Established by Tot and John W. Green in memory of their son, John H. Green; he played horn, attended Granada High School, and received a Symphony Association Award.

The John H. Green Memorial Award goes to **Francis Nguyen**, who plays piano and violin and is a student at Livermore High School, where he is co-concertmaster of the honors chamber orchestra and is pianist in the honors jazz band. For three years, he has been the accompanist for the LHS chamber choir and has played piano in the pit orchestra for LHS musicals. He also played keyboard in the Valley Dance Theatre pit orchestra for *Spring Rep* last year. At command performances of Tri-Valley Solo & Ensemble Festivals, Francis has played piano as a soloist (for three years) and in a piano duet and has played violin in a string quartet. Throughout high school, he has been a first violin in the Marian Days National Church Festival orchestras. He has been piano accompanist for the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church choir in San Jose since ninth grade and the St. Michael Catholic Church choir in Livermore since tenth grade; both are weekly commitments. Francis plans to attend a four-year university to study in the medical field while continuing to be active in music programs.

Bill King Memorial Award

Established by Jean King in memory of Bill King, the son of Jean and Walter King; Bill loved music and played cello and trombone at Jackson and East Avenue Middle Schools.

The Bill King Memorial Award this year is presented to Granada High School student **Abigail Paik**, a singer and violin player. She has played violin in the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra, Berkeley Youth Orchestra, and San Jose’s Cambrian Symphony, as well as orchestras at Granada and Livermore High Schools. At Tri-Valley Solo & Ensemble Festival command performances, Abigail has played violin as a soloist and in a string trio and has sung in a voice ensemble. She has performed on violin at Discovery Church in Livermore and St. Clare’s Episcopal Church in Pleasanton. She has accompanied the Cantabella Children’s Chorus on violin as a senior and recorded vocal practice tracks for that group as a ninth grader and has been the soprano section leader for the chorus. She has played violin in pit orchestras for numerous musicals. Abigail has also been an actor/singer in high school musicals and even was a sound technician for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and at her church. In college, Abigail plans to study civil engineering while participating in both choral and orchestral music as a hobby.

Three Concerts at a Discount LAS Concerts in February, April, and June

Enjoying our concert? Want to hear and see more? Join us at the three remaining performances of our 60th anniversary season!

Discount prices: \$108, \$89, or \$71 for adults for our February + April + June concerts. Total savings compared with single-concert tickets: \$18, \$16, or \$13.

Youth under age 22: free of charge.

Flyers with the details are available at our table in the lobby.

Tonight:

Tickets to the three-concert series are available from our table in the lobby before the concert and during intermission.

December 3 to February 10:

Buy tickets through the Bankhead Theater box office.

Visit the box office,

Email your contact info and charge-card info to boxoffice@bankheadtheater.org, or

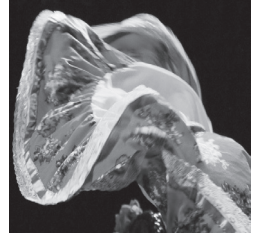
Mail your contact information and a check to 2400 First St., Livermore CA 94550. (This offer is not available by phone.)

Next Concert:

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 you also hear the tunes of Dvořák’s sunny and sumptuous Symphony No. 6, we’ll send you out singing.



Donors

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association and Guild gratefully acknowledge donations received since December 2022 from the following.

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Joan Green
Audrey Cedarlund Lovell

A donation has been received in honor of

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Members of the A.P. Barnes Society bequeathed donations to the symphony or have included the symphony in their estate plans. For information, please contact

APBarnesSociety@livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

Grants and Matching Gifts

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association and Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild gratefully acknowledge funding support from:

Community Health and Education Foundation
Pleasanton Arts Commission and Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center
Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
Alameda County Arts Commission ARTSFUND
(partially funded by the U.S. American Rescue Plan Act)
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Ayn Wieskamp unused EBRPD campaign funds

Also: LAS applied for and received an Employee Retention Tax Credit from the IRS.

LAS Guild: Estate Sales Experts



Symphony Guild volunteers have years of experience **managing estate sales**: evaluating items, and offering advice, sorting, pricing, marketing, and holding the sale. Proceeds are shared between you and the Symphony, as agreed by and contracted with you. Your donations may be tax deductible. All of the Guild's share of the proceeds goes to the Livermore-Amador Symphony. See livermoreamadorsymphony.org, or contact Nancy McKenzie at nancymac360@gmail.com or 925.294.8657.

Family Concert

This afternoon, LAS presented its annual family holiday concert here at the Bankhead in coordination with Livermore Valley Arts. The short concert featured holiday music (from "Festive Sounds of Hanukah" to "Sleigh Ride") and more ("*Beauty and the Beast* Overture," "Theme from *E.T.*"). As usual, selections from *The Nutcracker* featured dancers from Valley Dance Theatre. In the lobby afterwards, an "instrument petting zoo" supervised by orchestra members gave young audience members an opportunity to try out instruments. (Strings and percussion this year, no woodwinds or brass, just to limit chances of contagion in this time of COVID.)

Donations

Livermore-Amador Symphony
P.O. Box 1049, Livermore CA 94551-1049
www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org

Corrections or questions?

Please contact Judy Eckart: judy@justjudy.com

Livermore-Amador Symphony is a member of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council and a resident company of the Bankhead Theater.

LVPAC is a sponsor of this event.

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