



# *Symphony Notes*

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild

Vol.52, No.1, December 2014

## ***THE LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY***

Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus

*Presents*

### **Musical Masterpieces**

**Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014, 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 no earlier than 6:45 p.m.

**Lara Webber**

**Academic Festival Overture**

**Johannes Brahms**

***Peer Gynt Suites*** (selections from both suites)

**Edvard Grieg**

~~~~~**Intermission**~~~~~

**Symphony No. 8**

**Antonin Dvořák**

#### **TICKET INFORMATION**

**Season & single tickets are now 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 Friday, Noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday 3–6 p.m.

**Website:** [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org)      **Phone:** 925-373-6800

Make checks payable to LVPAC.

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**Linda Tinney,  
LAS Guild**

♪♪ *From our  
Presidents* ♪♪

**Denise Leddon,  
Association Board**

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The symphony season had a great start with our annual Prelude Party September 18. We were so fortunate to have the wonderful dancers from the Valley Dance Theatre entertain us. Thank you, Betsy Hausburg. The Guild provided delicious refreshments, and we were happy so many attended. Lara Webber, our wonderful new conductor, was there as well as our former conductor, Art Barnes, and his wife, Helene. It was a lovely afternoon.

And now that our annual Pops concert is over, we are looking forward to the December concert with much enthusiasm. Please join the Guild in the lobby following the concert as we host a champagne reception.

I am very enthusiastic about the 2014/15 season and our new conductor. I am thrilled the orchestra will continue to perform in the lovely Bankhead Theater. Also, stay tuned regarding events planned around the May concert celebrating "The Red Violin." We have some exciting things planned.

It is my great pleasure to begin serving my third year as Guild President. I am really looking forward to it. Thank you, Guild Board and Guild members at large who work tirelessly to support the orchestra.

*Linda Tinney, LAS Guild President*

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**Notice to Concert Ticket Holders.**

**Can't use your concert tickets?**

Call the Bankhead Ticket Office (925-373-6800) up to 1 hour before the concert to release your seats. You will be mailed a tax donation receipt.

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**Look for the Symphony Association's Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the February issue of Symphony Notes.**

*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.  
PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551-1049. 925-373-6824.  
Website: [www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org](http://www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org)

**Exciting musical times are here!**

We love our new music director and conductor Lara Webber. She is talented, hard-working, and a pleasure to work with. She has already inspired us in so many ways: bowed parts for 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal, coaches, rehearsal schedules on the website, additional rehearsals, encouraging us to participate in "Play Out, Davies!", surveys, attending our meetings and events, additional surprises for concert. These are just a few of many. Lara and I have laughed at the plates we have spinning!

One of the best comments I've overheard about our distinguished conductor, "She's down to earth!"

Lara, welcome to our large Symphony family!

*Denise Leddon, LAS Association President*



**December Concert  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

♪ **Education AWARDS** will be presented to 4 high school seniors after intermission.

♪ **May LAS concert recordings** available for purchase in the Bankhead Lobby. See page 7 for details.



**~Following the Concert~  
A Champagne Reception  
in the Bankhead Lobby!**



|                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Attention Facebook Users!</b><br> Like us on Facebook @ | Kathy Boster, who plays clarinet in the Symphony and co-directs our youth orchestra, also manages our Facebook presence. Check us out! |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

***Introducing ... LARA WEBBER***  
**LAS Music Director and Conductor**  
**♪ *On a Personal Note* ♪**

**Welcome to our new music director and conductor, Lara Webber!**

Lara graciously provided some personal background for readers of *Symphony Notes*. Her professional biography is available in your LAS season brochure, and on the LAS website: <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/conductor.html>.

Webber grew up in Seattle and describes herself as an “outdoors person.” Besides music, she particularly enjoys hiking and biking, and is a football fan as well. (Her favorite teams, in alphabetical order, are the San Francisco 49ers and the Seattle Seahawks.) In addition to classical symphony repertoire, Lara listens to an eclectic range of music, from AC/DC to Led Zeppelin. She is also a fan of the rock band They Might Be Giants (TMBG). The daughter of an opera singer, Lara’s home away from home for much of her childhood was the Seattle Opera House, where she spent her afternoons and evenings. She spent a lot of time with singers and conductors, and eventually became both herself—first singing her way into music school as a voice major, then ultimately pursuing a career path on the podium.

Lara moved to Livermore ten years ago, when husband Julio Friedmann accepted a position at Lawrence Livermore Lab. She says, “We had taken turns following each other around the country, and it was my turn to follow him.”

Julio has undergraduate degrees from MIT in music composition and geology, and is an accomplished pianist and composer. He went on to further his geology studies at USC. It was there that he and Lara met while he was observing a conducting class in which she was a student. “The family joke is that I married him for his massive record

collection,” which Lara described as comprising a very wide range of musical genres. She routinely combs the collection when researching music for programming concerts.

Their daughter Elsa, age 12, and son Sam, age 9, both attend Livermore public schools. Elsa is a seventh grader, and plays piano and clarinet. (She is a student in LAS clarinet player Kathy Boster’s band class at East Avenue, and is also a private student of former LAS player Phyllis Harding!) Fourth grader Sam plays piano, and has recently taken up the trumpet.

A few years ago, in response to severe budget cuts that eliminated most music from the elementary school curriculum, Lara began leading students in classroom singing at her children’s elementary school. She is passionate about music being part of school curricula and would like to see LAS continue and intensify our support of music education.

In August 2013, Julio was tapped for a special assignment in the US Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy where he is currently Deputy Assistant Secretary for Clean Coal. The family lived in Washington DC last school year, which Lara described as a “fantastic opportunity.” She and the kids returned to Livermore in August 2014, just in time to begin preparations in earnest for the kickoff of our Symphony’s 52<sup>nd</sup> concert season!

## **Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild**

### **Estate Sales News**

**\$ Money raised benefits LAS! \$**

♪ **Our Estate Sales Committee** (Chair **Marie Ruzicka**, members **Leona Brush, Adela Cook, Maudie Kuening, Pat Mann, Nancy McKenzie**, and **Allene Nimitz**) organized four sales from May through October, **raising a total of \$13,587.55** for the Symphony! The income from the estate sales is one of the primary ways the Guild raises money. Each sale takes untold volunteers hours and days of work to mark and arrange items, assist customers at the sales, and clean up following the sale.

♪ **SUPPORT THE GUILD'S EFFORTS:** Volunteer at a sale, shop at a sale, or ask the Guild to conduct a sale if you are closing out a home or significantly downsizing. If you'd like email notices of upcoming sales and don't currently receive them, email **Marie Ruzicka**, *Estate Sales Chair*. <marie.ruz@gmail.com>.

Whoa, Nellie! The horse was not there, but the barn was, along with tools, tack, and collectables at the sale on **May 9–10**. Many hard-bound books on a variety of topics and in excellent condition were among the top sellers.

Just three weeks later, **May 30–31**, another sale featured toys, jewelry, kitchen items, and more collectables. Both sales attracted many customers who left with smiles and valued items. The Guild workers hitched their own energies to concerted preparations for these sales, which resulted in a topping of the estimated profit goal total for fundraising in the 2013–14 fiscal year!

The next sale, **July 25–26**, resulted in a good start to the Guild's income for the 2014–15 season. Items large and small were sold, including a beautiful pool table set. Many customers came to shop the sale, despite the excessively hot weather. Following the sale days, the Guild was able to donate many items, including furniture, to other non-profits on behalf of the estate.

A bit of history met the Guild volunteers for the **October 3–4** sale: antique tools! These and many other items sold well. The roomy setup allowed easy access for customers and good working conditions for volunteers. Special thanks to Doug Horner, who offered his time and expertise to price the antique tools, and to Bob Williams, who transported some large items left over from previous sales to the site, then returned those that didn't sell back into storage.

This lists includes all who helped at any of these sales. Many worked at multiple sales.

**Leona Brush, Pat Burnett, Sandy Clark, Dorothy Clarkson & Andy Lundberg, Adela Cook, Carol Counts, Nan Davies, Joan Dickinson, Judy Eckart, Marcia Elchesen, Patti Fredericks, Nancy Fritch, Irma Giannotti, Joan Green, Mary Ann Johnston, Maudie Kuening, Leota Lee, Anne Lindl, Anne Loyola, Pat Mann, Nancy McKenzie, Linda Miller, Helen Moore, Barbara Morrison, Sharron Morrison, Carole Murray, Allene & Charlie Nimitz, Sue & Bill Rabe, Marie Ross, Marie Ruzicka, Cyndy Salmon, Carlotta & Dale Schauer, Sonja Schlapfer, Joni Schuld, Sally Swanson & Dick Hatfield, Betty Turnbull, Naomi Webster, Ayn Wieskamp, and Bob Williams.**

Kudos to all Estate Sales Volunteers!

**Pat Mann, Estate Sales Committee**

#### **FOR SALE BY THE GUILD:**

Sturdy 6-foot long folding tables, \$10 each.  
Call Maudie at 925-447-3524 for details.

**WANTED:** The *Estate Sales Committee* has short-term need of a commercial space, such as an empty storefront, to hold a clearance sale of leftover items from donations and sales. Total time needed: about 7 days. (The room would not be available for others to use during this time period.) Please contact an Estate Sales Committee member if you have a lead that we can follow up. **Marie Ruzicka, Committee Chair** <marie.ruz@gmail.com>.

# ♪♪ The Future of Classical Music! ♪♪

## Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra (LASYO)

### Celebrates Sixth Successful Season!

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra performed its 6<sup>th</sup> annual summer concert on August 9 at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore before a large and appreciative audience. The 70+ musicians, who are from the Tri-Valley and beyond, rehearsed weekly at the Bothwell Arts Center beginning June 17.

The challenging program included Overture to the *Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart; “Summon the Heroes” (written for the 1996 Olympic Centennial) by John Williams; Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Procession of the Nobles” from *Mlada*, and his Themes from *Scheherazade*; “Polovtsian Dances” from *Prince Igor* by Borodin; the first movement from Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony; “Boisterous Bourrée” from Benjamin Britten’s Simple Symphony for String Orchestra; Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis”; and two works by Danish composer Hans Christian Lumbye. His Concert-Polka for Two Violins featured second year LASYO players Chitra Dassapa and Anna Renton as soloists. Ethan Ha, a Livermore HS senior, was concertmaster. (He is also in his third season as a LAS 1<sup>st</sup> violin.)

LASYO is sponsored by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association. It is coordinated by Betsy Hausburg (who plays tuba in LAS), and led by LASYO music directors Göran Berg and Kathy Boster. Berg is artistic director of Sycamore Strings Academy in Livermore; Boster is music director of orchestra, band, and choir at Livermore’s East Avenue Middle School. She also plays clarinet in LAS.

Several mentors rehearsed with the students and played in the concert: Bob Bryant, Larry George, Jim Hartman, Betsy Hausburg, Chris Immesoete, Chris Lawton, Patricia Lay, Jacqueline McBride, Danielle Napoleon, April Nissen, Cyndy Salmon, Lynn Stasko, Bob Williams, and Mark Williams.

**APPLAUSE TO ALL!**

## COMPETITION FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the 42nd annual competition, held on October 26, were pianist Vincent Liu, a sophomore at Dougherty Valley High School, and pianist Misha Galant, a junior at California High School.

For the competition Vincent performed the first movement of Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 16, and Misha performed the finale of Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30. As soloists they will perform the same works with the symphony at its February 21 concert. Judges for the competition were Lara Webber, LAS music director; Kristina Anderson, LAS concertmaster; and Jo Ann Koopman, piano teacher.

Thanks to Joan Dickinson for her computer work, to Nan Davies for refreshments, and to Marcia Elchesen for being on hand to serve as a greeter. Special thanks are extended to Ann Kasameyer for providing her home to the LAS Association as the competition site.

*JoAnn Cox, Competition Chair*

## STUDENT PERFORMERS AT JANUARY 22 WINTER GUILD MEETING

Three students who participated in the Competition for Young Musicians were selected by the judges to perform at the Guild meeting on Thursday January 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Kasameyer, following a brief business meeting. The students are pianist Alex Chen, an 8th grade student from Pleasanton; pianist April Chen, a 9th grade student from Pleasanton; and clarinetist Min Su Kim, a senior from Pleasanton. Members of the orchestra and the LASA Board, along with their guests, are invited to join Guild members in listening to these talented young musicians.

*JoAnn Cox*



Access YouTube videos of the LASYO concert  
and the concert program from our website!  
<http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/lasyo.html>



It was another big success for this year's Pops Concert, held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Robert Livermore Community Center. The Cresta Blanca Room was at capacity with 42 tables and 342 enthusiastic attendees. The 2014 Pops concert theme, "Star-Spangled POPS," was chosen in recognition of the 200th anniversary of our national anthem. The room was beautifully decorated to reflect the theme, including a large US flag hung from the stage.

**Some concert highlights:** All four verses of the national anthem were sung by the Livermore High School Chamber Singers, joined by a number of community vocalists (**Claudia Bui, Calista Davis, Shael Endacott, Julia Hall, Courtney Jackson, Lindsey Perry, Hannah Peterson, Sarah Rymer, Miale Smith, Ruth Veneman, Mary Rosary Flauta, Sarah Peterson, Kaia Prusso, Alysha Raj, Saba Salari, Kelsey Campbell, Matthew Lackey, Grant Lowenstein, Chelsea Warner, and Justin Beasley** from Livermore High; **Gregory Adkins, Andreas Gutierrez, Betsy Edwards, Alan Frank, Jennifer Guethlein, Phyllis Harding, Rollin Harding, Shari Johnston, Dales Jones, Kateri Jones, Mary Ann Jones, Penny Kammeijer, Dale Larsen, Bill Leach, Susan Locke, Janet Loughran-Smith, Ron McClellan, Milo Nordyke, Forrest Sass, and Dennis Vied**). The high school students also performed two additional numbers. The audience was treated to Dvořák's American String Quartet in F Major, performed by **Jamison Klang, Juliana Zolynas, Kathleen Fasenfest, and Alan Copeland**. The all-American music program included several audience sing-alongs as well.

As part of the fund-raising fun, two star-spangled themed gift baskets and two USA leather motorcycle jackets were raffled off. The finale of the raffle event—the drawing for the guest conductor—revealed the winner to be none other than our LAS music director emeritus, Dr. Art Barnes! He conducted the orchestra's performance of "Stars and Stripes Forever" to wild applause from the audience.

***Sincere thanks to all who made our 2014 Pops concert so successful:***

The dedicated **Pops Steering Committee:** **Walt Davies (Chair), Joan Dickinson, Joan Green, Denise Leddon, Nancy McKenzie, Linda Miller, Marie Ruzicka, and Linda Tinney.**

The volunteers who assisted the committee with setup, greeting audience members, selling raffle tickets, working the drinks booth, and cleanup: **Leona Brush, Pat Burnett, Adela Cook, Carol Eicher, Dennis & Marcia Elchesen, Larry George, Mary Ann Johnston, Maudie Kuening, Leota Lee, Sally Marone, Judy McMurry, Sharron Morrison, Janice Paquette, Sue Rabe, Marie Ross, John Stein, and Betty Turnbull.**

**Lara Webber**, LAS Music Director and Conductor, who worked with the steering committee on selecting the music, and served as emcee for the concert in addition to conducting it. LAS orchestra manager **Nick James**, who was the orchestra liaison and coordinated orchestra set-up.

Livermore High School choral director **Lydia Oey** and First Presbyterian Church choir director **Janet Holmes**, who collaborated with Lara Webber for the special "Star-Spangled Banner" performance.

LASA Board secretary **Carol Boster**, who loaned her US flag for the stage. (This special flag was a gift to Carol from her father, and had flown over the US Capitol in 1987.)

And, of course, our wonderful **LAS orchestra** and **Pops audience members**, without whom there could have been no concert!

Livermore  
CULTURAL Arts  
COUNCIL



**Second Annual LCAC  
"Celebration of the Arts"**

♪ LAS participated with several other LCAC member groups in this event, including the kick-off program on August 2, when LAS violist Adrian Boiangiu and his teenage grandsons David, Daniel, John, and Maxwell Gibbard performed. Both Daniel and David have played with LAS. Displays from LCAC member organizations were exhibited in the main Livermore library throughout the month of August.

♪ LCAC was a co-sponsor of "Tuesday Tunes with a Twist," a series of free outdoor summer concerts that ran for several weeks in the Bankhead plaza. Among participating groups were LAS principal bass Nick James' jazz group, and the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, led by LAS horn player Bob Williams. Several band members also play in LAS.

♪ Livermore-Amador Symphony is a member of LCAC, which encourages "cross-promotion" among the arts groups. Check out their calendar: [http://independentnews.com/event\\_calendar/](http://independentnews.com/event_calendar/)

**Barnes 50<sup>th</sup> Season Celebration DVD  
Now Available For Purchase - \$20.**

The DVD is a visually pleasing video capture of our May 2014 concert. It includes Dr. Barnes' compositions "Dallas Fanfare" and the premiere of "The California Golden Suite", Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5, the prelude talk, the presentation to Dr. Barnes by Livermore Mayor John Marchand, and the surprise visit by the Stanford Band playing the Arthur Barnes arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner". A few past-season pieces have also been included. A CD, containing only music from Barnes 50<sup>th</sup>, is also available for \$15, or buy both for \$30.

**Purchase your disk at the December 6 concert**, or contact Denise Leddon to make other arrangements: [denise@leddon.net](mailto:denise@leddon.net) or 925-699-2738.

**Thank you, videographer Howard Tsztoo!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Nick James**, LAS principal bass, has been appointed LAS Association Orchestra Committee Chair (commonly referred to as the "orchestra manager"). As such, he serves on the Executive Committee, and is the orchestra liaison with the Association Board. **Virginia McFann** announced in May that she was retiring from this post, which she had held for many years. She's been an orchestra member since LAS was founded in 1963, and plans to keep playing on!

**Marion Stearns** has been named an honorary member of the LAS Guild, joining Art and Helene Barnes, Bev Eckley, and Bev Hamlin.

The *Pleasanton Weekly* recently named **Dr. Art Barnes, LAS Music Director Emeritus**, one of 8 recipients of the 2014 Tri-Valley Heroes awards. Several Symphony supporters attended the awards ceremony. Barnes received the Arts and Culture Award, "for achievements or contributions within the area of arts and culture." An article about the awards appeared in the *Pleasanton Weekly's* October 24<sup>th</sup> edition. Each recipient will also be profiled separately in *Weekly* editions beginning November 7<sup>th</sup> (see <http://www.pleasantonweekly.com>).

**Joe and Marilyn Taylor** of Chandler, Arizona, send greetings! Former LAS players, they were recently reminiscing about playing with LAS. Joe mentioned that Chandler Symphony Orchestra plays several chamber concerts each year. "That way, every few years every section gets to do some solo numbers... Marilyn and I both miss playing in the LAS. We miss the people most of all. Joe – Bass; Marilyn – Viola."

## REMEMBRANCE

### **Sandra Elizabeth Harvey 1945–2014**

Sandee Harvey, a longtime LAS Guild member, passed away in her sleep unexpectedly on April 25. She was Guild president during the 1980–81 season, chaired several Pops concerts (including the very first one), and served as a committee member many times. She loved gardening, quilting, hiking, traveling, and grandparenting. Sandee donated a special music quilt to the Symphony for a raffle fundraiser in 2009. Her presence was greatly missed at the recent Pops concert, which was dedicated to her memory.

*Our heartfelt sympathy  
to husband Doug and all of her family.*

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association  
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SYMPHONY NOTES

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## Calendar

## December 2014 and Beyond

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Musical Masterpieces***

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

**See pages 1 and 2.**

**Thursday, January 22, 2015**

**Guild Annual Winter Meeting 7:30 p.m.**

**See page 5.**

**Saturday, February 21, 2015**

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Young Love***

**With Solos by Winners of the Competition for Young Musicians**

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

**See page 5.**

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Fantastic Flute!***

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

**Saturday, May 16, 2015**

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert: Beethoven and the Red Violin***

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