

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

2011-2012

Concerts are performed in the
Bankhead Theater,
2400 First Street, Livermore

DR. ARTHUR BARNES,
MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

www.livamsymph.org



Beethoven, Wagner, and Sibelius

Saturday December 3, 2011 8 p.m. (prelude talk, 7 p.m.)



Wagner: Overture to *Rienzi*
Beethoven: Choral Fantasy
Danielle Naler, piano
Pacific Masterworks
Chorus
Sibelius: Symphony No. 2

Dr. Arthur Barnes and the orchestra open the season with three works by musical giants. Richard Wagner's overture to *Rienzi* was written for an opera which celebrates a champion of the Roman people. For the *Choral Fantasy* of Ludwig van Beethoven, the orchestra will be joined by piano soloist Danielle

Naler and the Pacific Masterworks Chorus. The *Choral Fantasy* is a unique mix of solo piano, orchestra, and voice which bears a striking resemblance to the "Ode to Joy" in Beethoven's 9th symphony and speaks of "when love and strength are united." The Symphony No. 2 of Jean Sibelius, once called "a struggle between death and salvation" by the composer, became a symphony of liberation in the hearts of his Finnish countrymen.



Pianist **Danielle Naler** received her Master of Music degree in piano performance from Indiana University and in 2008 was awarded the Sir Daniel Donahue Fellowship for study in the collaborative piano program at the Music Academy of the West, under the direction of Jonathan Feldman.

The **Pacific Masterworks Chorus** is directed by Dr. Greg Lyne and embraces a wide repertoire ranging from works of the *a cappella* tradition through accompanied compositions including choral masterworks.

Something for Everyone

Saturday February 11, 2012 8 p.m.

(prelude talk, 7 p.m.)

Smetana: Vltava (The Moldau)
Saint-Saëns: Danse macabre
Dvořák: Wind Serenade
Davies: Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise
plus solos by winners of the 2011-2012
Competition for Young Musicians

The two winners of the Symphony's annual Competition for Young Musicians will be featured soloists on a program which provides special treats for music lovers of every persuasion. "The Moldau" of Bedřich Smetana portrays a waterway's inspiring transformation from tiny springs to a noble river. A solo violin leads the orchestra in a nocturnal dance of death in the "Danse macabre" of Camille Saint-Saëns. The orchestra's wind players will be highlighted in the sparkling spontaneity of the Wind Serenade of Antonin Dvořák. The popular Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise, by Peter Maxwell Davies brings to life a spirited, all-night marriage celebration complete with bagpipes.

Home from NY: Laura Hamilton

Saturday March 24, 2012 8 p.m. (prelude talk, 7 p.m.)

Wagner: Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*
Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto
Laura Hamilton, soloist
Dvořák: Symphony No. 6

Laura Hamilton, member of the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and former Livermore resident, comes home to play the Mendelssohn violin concerto. This famous composition ushered violin concerti repertoire into the Romantic era with its lyrical intensity and structural innovations and has long been a standard by which violinists are measured. The evening opens with the raging storm of Richard Wagner's overture to *The Flying Dutchman*. Antonin Dvořák's Symphony No. 6 blends German influences designed to please Viennese audiences with expressions of his own Czech nationalism to produce a mature work which would surely be as well known as his "New World" symphony if it had been tagged with an equally catchy nickname.

Laura Hamilton is principal associate concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. During her 24-year tenure with the Metropolitan she has led hundreds of performances and has been concertmaster for live international high-definition video transmissions of *Salome*, *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Nixon in China*. Hamilton was previously a member of the Chicago Symphony and appeared with that orchestra as concerto soloist with Sir Georg Solti conducting. During her youth, Hamilton lived in Livermore and studied with local teachers Marion Clark and Robert Jacobson, and Daniel Kobialka of the San Francisco Symphony. She performed with LAS in 1976 as a winner of the Symphony's Competition for Young Musicians and played the Tchaikovsky violin concerto with the orchestra in 1983.



Guest Maestro: Lara Webber

Saturday May 12, 2012 8 p.m. (prelude talk, 7 p.m.)

Beethoven: Symphony No. 1
De Falla: El Sombrero de Tres Picos (Three-Cornered Hat)
Franck: Symphony in D Minor

Lara Webber,
guest conductor



Maestro Lara Webber, former associate conductor of the Baltimore Symphony and current Livermore resident, is guest conductor for an evening of contrasting and distinctive musical styles. The program opens with the work Ludwig van Beethoven called his "Grande Symphonie". Its surprising opening and *allegro molto e vivace* sprint to the finish launched a musical revolution. Selections from Manuel De Falla's *El sombrero de tres picos* (Three-Cornered Hat) will whisk the audience away to a village in Spain. César Franck's symphony in D minor provides the dual pleasures of a cyclical construction which fascinates musical theorists and a melodic richness; it will bring the evening to a close with one of the most ear-catching tunes of the symphonic repertoire.

Lara Webber, as assistant and associate conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, programmed and conducted over 80 concerts annually, including classical subscription, educational, pops, and community programs. She previously was associate conductor of the Charleston (S.C.) Symphony Orchestra and music director and conductor of the Los Angeles Debut Orchestra, a post previously held by André Previn and Michael Tilson Thomas. Webber has guest-conducted the orchestras of Annapolis, Houston, Pittsburgh, San Antonio, and Louisville; and the Chicago Sinfonietta. Also experienced in opera, Ms. Webber was assistant conductor at Glimmerglass Opera and conductor of the Baltimore Opera Studio's production of *Don Giovanni*.

To add to your enjoyment of each concert, hear the **Prelude**.

6:45 doors open

7:00-7:30 prelude talk

8:00 concert begins

Single-Concert Tickets

Tickets for individual performances are available (starting in November) at adult \$28/\$25/\$22, senior \$26/\$23/\$20, and youth \$10, through the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center box office at www.bankheadtheater.org or (925) 373-6800. For more information, call the Symphony at (925) 373-6824 or visit www.livamsymph.org.

Symphony Guild

The Symphony Guild has promoted music in the area since 1963 as an auxiliary of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association. Its purpose is to stimulate interest in the Livermore-Amador Symphony and to provide financial support. Membership is open to all who share this goal. Please call (925) 447-4007 or see www.livamsymph.org for information.

Grants

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