

July 26, 2016

Dear Musicians of the LAS, Members of the Guild, and Board of Directors,

Greetings, good wishes and happy summertime! I'm writing to thank you all for your extraordinary contributions to a successful 2015-16 season and to welcome you to an exciting 2016-17 full of a variety of great music, talented soloists, and new opportunities for the LAS to grow and thrive as we serve our wonderful community.

Members of the LAS, I hope you all could feel the progress we made together throughout the season. With each performance, you collectively made enormous strides in so many areas. By the end of the season, the orchestra began to play with intuition and spontaneity; responding in the moment with a collective musical instinct that comes from listening to one another. Our soloists took the time to share with me how much they enjoyed collaborating with you. Most of all, you share the joy and expression of the music with your audiences, and that is so deeply appreciated by your listeners.

I look forward to continuing to stretch and grow with you in the coming season, as we have the opportunity to play some excellent music together, from Mahler's 4th Symphony, to *Scheherazade*, with many musical styles in between. If you haven't already, I encourage you to dust off your instruments, practice and play this summer. Music is already available, and online links to listen to the season's repertoire are on the symphony website. Staying in contact with your musical selves this summer will make your LAS experience all the more rewarding and enjoyable. I am excited to pick up where we left off and embark on the next musical challenge with you.

The success of the LAS rests on the shoulders of an extraordinarily dedicated Symphony Guild and Board of Directors, and many committee members. Thanks to you all for your tireless, creative work in support of our orchestra, and our efforts to grow and reach out to the community in new ways. You are the heart and soul of our orchestra. You work to plan our season, Pops, outreach and special events. You support our musicians, raise funds, promote our concert performances and on top of all that, you look out for the long term future health of the whole organization. We are all grateful to each of you for the work you do to support the LAS and keep its foundation strong.

Our efforts to reach children and families will continue in the coming season. Following on our successful efforts last year, we will again participate in a Free Family Concert in advance of the Holiday Parade on the afternoon of our season opening concert, Saturday December 3rd. Food and refreshments will be backstage at the Bankhead and musicians are welcome to relax and enjoy themselves between the afternoon and evening performances. In the spring of 2017 we will bring our *Peter and the Wolf* program to Pleasanton elementary schools.

As most of you know, our season will begin a bit earlier than normal with our first Tuesday rehearsals on August 30, and Sept. 6 when we prepare for LVPAC's September 10th Gala at 8pm. (2pm dress rehearsal), featuring the legendary Judy Collins. Thanks to all of you who enthusiastically volunteered to come back early to participate in this Gala event celebrating LVPAC's 10th season. That's wonderful! Because there are many production details to determine well in advance, Bryan Waugh, personnel manager, will be in contact very soon to confirm your participation, and he will appreciate your prompt responses. Please stay tuned for music availability, and other details as they become available.

Rehearsals for our first classical concert (Mahler 4 and Mozart *Exsultate Jubilate*) begin Tuesday Sept. 13. Please be sure to watch for emails from the LAS and regularly check the symphony website livermoreamadorsymphony.org for our season preview video (thank you Kathy Boster!), musicians handbook, schedule updates and information on our fabulously fun 60s POPS concert in October. It's going to be a great season!

Thank you all so much for being a part of this musical family.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lara Webber".

Lara Webber
Music Director and Conductor,
Livermore-Amador Symphony