

July 17, 2017

Dear LAS Family:

Greetings to you all at the height of summer. I hope you are all well and enjoying the heat! I've been fortunate to have a little time to relax and reflect on our most recent concert season, and look forward to our upcoming musical adventures together in 2017-18, our 55th season. I want to acknowledge the wonderful leadership of Denise Leddon, whose term as our board president has just recently concluded. I'm happy and excited to welcome Linda Tinney, who moves from leading the guild to leading the board. The wonderful Nancy McKenzie becomes our next guild president. We are excited and grateful for your talents and service, and lucky to have such leaders within our symphony family.

This season marks my fourth year as your music director. Collaborating with all of you continues to be some of the most rewarding work I've done in my musical life. You have inspired me with your dedication, your musical preparation, and our perpetual evolution together in artistic expression and risk taking as you bring this great symphonic music to life with me, and our audiences. The countless hours of volunteer time you *all* give, as musicians, guild members and board members, have borne fruit in the quality of our performances, and our reach into the broad community of the Tri-Valley. I hope you all feel pride in and ownership of our continuing growth together.

Next season we get to chew on some really wonderful, challenging music. We will play great symphonies of Sibelius, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, and evocative music of Ives, Prokofiev, Britten, Berlioz, and Respighi. Two exceptional soloists will join us: violinist Madeline Adkins, concertmaster of the Utah Symphony, and, from the Cypress String Quartet, cellist Jennifer Kloetzel. Music for our first concert set is already available. The time is coming to listen to recordings and dust off those instruments! In addition to our four major concerts, we will again present a free family concert on the afternoon of Livermore's Holiday parade (and our season opening evening concert). Everyone from Superman to the Valkyries, Darth Vader to Jaws will make an appearance as we celebrate "Heroes and Villains" on our Pops program in late October. That will be a blast!

To our surprise and delight, the LAS has very recently been awarded two separate grants to continue our educational outreach efforts with performances in both Livermore and Pleasanton schools next season. Your dedication and time preparing and performing for elementary students in their schools is inspiring them (and their teachers), enriching their lives, and enhancing their creative education. Clearly, this is also creating a desire for more! We all recognize that these concerts, as rewarding as they are to give, ask a lot of our volunteers. We are working now to schedule these events as strategically as possible, within both the symphony schedule and school calendar, to maximize the time of our musicians who are able to volunteer for these inspiring concerts. As soon as we have dates and details, we will share that information.

Once again, we have been invited to perform at LVPAC's Brilliance at the Bankhead September 9th Gala, their biggest fundraising event of the year, this time with the Grammy Award winning *Indigo Girls*. The Indigo Girls' creative musical success has endured for more than 30 years and found new inspiration in collaboration with symphony orchestras all over the country, including most recently the National Symphony Orchestra. Thanks to all of you who have already volunteered to participate in this event! Stay tuned as Bryan Waugh will be in contact soon with all the details.

I'm really looking forward to our musical future together. Music-making, this most human endeavor, creates connection, builds trust, and nurtures an intuitive sense of collective understanding between people. What could be more relevant to our time, and more rewarding? I hope you'll all be back with us, and I look forward to making music with you!

Cheers,



Lara Webber
Music Director and Conductor
Livermore Amador Symphony

PS: Stay tuned to www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org to keep up on all the latest scheduling information and developments.

PPSS: The Symphony Guild needs volunteers to help with two upcoming Estate Sales (proceeds benefit LAS), one on August 4/5 and the other on August 11/12. There are several preparation days in advance of each sale, and lots of help is welcome. Please contact Pat Burnett if you'd like to pitch in: 1capat@comcast.net or 925-454-0107.

Brief season overview:

September 9, 2017 8pm: LVPAC Gala with Indigo Girls: Dress rehearsal 9/9 at 2pm. Rehearsals Tues. 8/29 and 9/5 at 7:15pm. All at Bankhead Theater.

Friday 10/20/17 at 8pm. "Heroes and Villains at the POPS": Robert Livermore Comm. Center

Saturday 12/2, 3:00-4:00pm. Free Family Concert: Bankhead Theater,

Saturday 12/2, 8:15 pm. Season-opening Concert 1 "Musical Heroes"

Saturday 2/24/18 8pm: Concert 2, "Wild Water and Wonder"

Saturday 4/14: Concert 3, "The Human Spirit and the Natural World"

Saturday 6/2: Season finale/Concert 4: "Romantic Expressions"

Youth Outreach Concert dates TBA, likely occurring between April and June Concerts.