



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild. Vol. 60, No. 2, February 2023

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Arthur P. Barnes, Music Director Emeritus

Performing

Violins of Hope Strings of the Holocaust

Sunday, February 5, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Monday, February 6, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

**BANKHEAD THEATER, 2400 First Street, Livermore
Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center**



Presented by East Bay Holocaust Education Center

Tickets: Bankhead ticket office at 2400 First St., Livermore; 925-373-6800; or

<https://livermorearts.org/events/violins-of-hope/>

Note—These performances are not part of the LAS season subscription series.

Violins of Hope, Strings of the Holocaust

Bankhead Theater February 5, 6, and 7

Livermore-Amador Symphony

Is honored to perform this special concert program

In collaboration with East Bay Holocaust Education Center (EBHEC).



The Violins of Hope are an extraordinary collection of restored violins, violas, and cellos that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. These instruments have survived concentration camps, ghettos, pogroms, and many long journeys to tell remarkable stories of injustice, suffering, resilience, and survival. Hear their stories in concert, with the full LAS orchestra conducted by music director Lara Webber and featuring violinist Lindsay Deutsch and LAS orchestra principal cellist Peter Bedrossian. Many of these restored instruments will be played by the soloists and symphony string players. The program includes Prokofiev's Overture on *Hebrew Themes*, Academy Award-winning movie-score music from *Schindler's List* by John Williams, and Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei*. During the concerts, Violins of Hope co-founder Avshalom Weinstein will tell the stories of some of the instruments.

**East Bay Holocaust Education Center has many other
Violins of Hope events, including:**

- **Violins of Hope instruments display in the Bankhead lobby, January 31 through February 12 from 11am to 6pm.** Docents from East Bay Holocaust Education Center will be on hand Mondays through Thursdays 11am–1pm and Fridays through Sundays 4–6pm.
- **Violins of Hope presentations at almost forty middle and high schools throughout Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon.**
- See EBHEC's website for more information. <https://www.ebhec.org/violins>

VIOLINS OF HOPE SOLOISTS

LINDSAY DEUTSCH, Featured Violinist

Deutsch received her education from the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles, where she studied under Robert Lipsett. With her limitless enthusiasm and vast gifts as a performer and entertainer, Deutsch is a charismatic and captivating presence on today's music scene. She has thrilled audiences world-wide with her passion for music and brilliant display of technique and musicianship.

Deutsch tours as solo violinist with Yanni and she can be heard on the theme and all 8 episodes of the Netflix blockbuster series, "The Witcher", which features her prominently as violin soloist. She has recorded "The Witcher Suite, Violin Concerto" by Sonya Belousova and Giona Ostinelli for Sony Masterworks, released December, 2021.

Deutsch feels strongly that the young people of today need to have opportunities to be exposed to the world of classical music. In 2007, she and her sister, Lauren, co-founded a non-profit organization, the Classics Alive Foundation, www.classicsalive.org, dedicated to building classical music audiences. The Youth Orchestra Residency Program has grown into a popular nationwide program for youth orchestras in which Deutsch is actively involved.



PETER BEDROSSIAN, Featured Cellist

Bedrossian, LAS cello principal, performs with other Bay Area orchestras including Berkeley Symphony and Bay Philharmonic. He has also performed with Livermore Valley Opera, Tassajara Symphony, and Pro Arte Symphony. A native of Long Island, NY, Bedrossian holds AB and PhD degrees in physics from Harvard University and is a physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Before coming to Livermore, he worked at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque and as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the Jülich Research Center (KFA) in Jülich, Germany. He studied cello with Claus Adam and George Neikrug.

A Message from **LAS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT TIM BARRY**

“Take a Little Time Each Day For Love, for Thought, and for Play”

My older brother Pat gave me a birthday card when I was in college studying to be a parks and recreation professional. The front of the card had a color drawing of a park with a family at play and the message “Take a Little Time Each Day for Love, for Thought, and for Play.” I thought what a perfect sentiment, especially since I was considering a career in a field that provides opportunities for people to experience love, thought and play. It remains to be the very best card I’ve received in all these years. Hallmark got one right! I have a very thoughtful, encouraging, and visionary brother, especially as I’ve completed a 45-year career in public parks and recreation and am enjoying a very fulfilling retirement, to include serving as your president of this splendid symphony organization!



Do you and I practice this charge? Do we let our loved ones know how much we love them often enough? I’m reminded of the Garth Brooks song, “If Tomorrow Never Comes,” that drives this point home. Give it a listen.

Do we really spend a few minutes or more a day in thought? Some use exercise, yoga, walking, meditation, reading, or non-screen time as vehicles for daily thought. Others listen to music to form a more relaxed state that enables them to give way to thought. Yes, even symphony music!

And do we indulge ourselves in some form of play, recreation or fun each day? All work and no play makes Johnny a very dull boy, as the saying goes! I’ve spent a career working to provide fun and fulfilling experiences for the whole family, which was most often met with relief, enthusiasm, and rejuvenation by those who participated. And, yes, they had oodles of fun at play! I believe our love of symphonic music, as a musician, or organizer, or supporter brings each of us the satisfaction, fulfillment, and social connection that is also associated with “play.”

Thank you, Beth Wilson and Guild committee, for arranging “January Gems,” including the performances by two student Competition runners-up at Beth’s home on January 15. Thank you, everyone, for your help in presenting the upcoming February 5, 6 and 7 *Violins of Hope* concerts which we are proud to present as a partner with the East Bay Holocaust Education Center. We are also looking forward to a brilliant program for the April 1st *Kaleidoscopic Color and Spiritual Sound* concert **including performances by our student Competition winners.** Happy 2023 to all!

Yours in music,
Tim Barry, president

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♪ ♪ A Message from ♪ ♪ GUILD PRESIDENT BETH WILSON

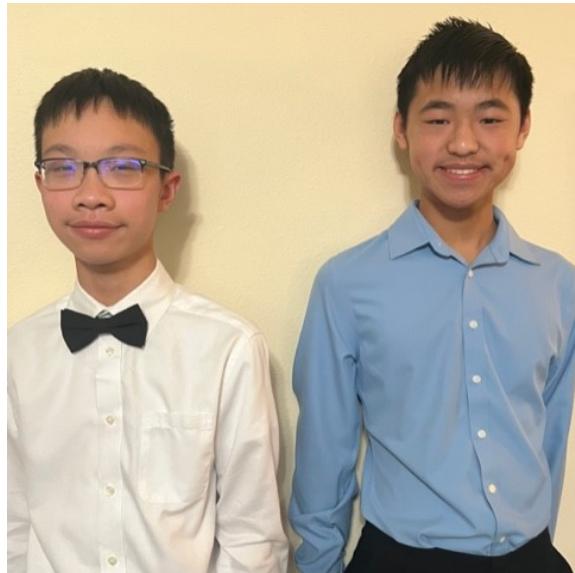
Our December Symphony concert was a tremendous success. The audience members were thrilled to hear the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony, as was evidenced by the prolonged standing ovation. The Christmas Overture and Fantasia on Greensleeves lent a lovely holiday air, and Grieg's Lyric Suite had patrons and musicians alike feeling as if they were in Scandinavia. We remembered Dr. Barnes's wife Helene as Lara Webber spoke about her from the podium and we presented Dr. Barnes with a bouquet in her memory.



The Guild recently held our January Gems event in my home in Livermore. We had an excellent turnout of Guild members, musicians, and Symphony board members. Everyone enjoyed the brief meeting followed by performances from Ryan Lee and Dayton Nguyen, two outstanding young runners-up from our Youth Competition. Then we all adjourned for refreshments, schmoozing and congratulations to our performers. Everyone was so grateful to be able to meet in person after two years of Zoom presentations!

We are all looking forward with great anticipation to the February *Violins of Hope* concerts. The Symphony's own Peter Bedrossian will be playing Bruch's *Kol Nidre* on a Holocaust cello, accompanied by the orchestra, and we musicians all just swoon whenever we rehearse it, it's so gorgeous and moving. We will be accompanying a violin soloist on some of the other pieces, and the program is well rounded, with music from a variety of countries and cultures. The Guild members, the Symphony board and the musicians all look forward to seeing our wonderful audience again at these concerts!

Beth Wilson, Guild President and LAS flutist



Ryan Lee, cello, performed a selection from Paganini's *Variations on a Theme from Rossini's Moses in Egypt*.

Dayton Nguyen, piano, performed the 1st and 2nd movements of Beethoven's Piano Sonata, Opus 31.

(Photo courtesy of Claudia Berry)

Bob Williams: “You’re In!”

Once a year even seasoned musicians agree on their favorite song: “Happy Birthday”—and the Livermore-Amador Symphony played that song to honor Bob Williams during their orchestra rehearsal on November 15. Marking his 90th birthday with music, talk and cookies, the Symphony Guild participated in the celebration along with the orchestra.

H. Robert Williams began his association with LAS as a horn player in 1972 and continued playing with the orchestra for 50 years. He likes telling the story of his “audition” with the group when he was playing next to horn player Helene Barnes during a rehearsal; she turned to him afterwards and said, “*You’re in.*”

Bob served as horn principal for many years and was assistant conductor of the Symphony until the end of the 2013–2014 season. He also conducted the pit orchestra for the Valley Dance Theatre (VDT), particularly loving its annual performances of *The Nutcracker*. He has been a member of the Pleasanton Community Concert band and since 1989 was the band conductor as well. All this playing and conducting came in addition to his 22 years of teaching music in the public school system and studying nuclear materials during his 18-year career with General Electric.

At his 90th birthday party, Bob told the orchestra that it was the best rehearsal he had ever attended because all he needed to do was listen: no need to count measures, play, or conduct. His wit, memory, and speech are in top shape. As the Livermore music community knows well, Bob retired from LAS at the end of the 2021-2022 season in June. In addition, he recently retired from directing the VDT pit orchestra, but he is still conducting the band.

As the music community celebrates Bob Williams on his 90th year, we want to reiterate: “You’re in!” And we wish you many happy refrains in the years to come!

Visit Bob at this website: <https://www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org/williams.html>.

~PJ Wells, Guild Publicity Chair~



2022-2023 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

The Symphony Association administers four awards, given to recognize high school seniors who are active in music during their high school careers. These awards are based on participation in musical events and activities, particularly activities that support music education and music in the community. The awards were presented from the Bankhead stage at the December 3 evening concert following intermission.

Symphony Association Award

This year given in honor of longtime orchestra member Marion Stearns.

Ananya Iyengar is a senior at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon. Ananya has been learning Indian classical Carnatic music for many years and also has been a part of her school's choir program since sixth grade. Currently, she is a member of her school's chamber choir and a capella club. Ananya has sung at the Alcosta Senior Center over the summer, at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in San Ramon, at school concerts, at school games performing the national anthem, and at other community events. She has been selected for and participated in many festivals, such as California's All State Honor Choir and San Jose State University's Honor Choir. Ananya created and runs two YouTube channels: one dedicated to teaching Carnatic music and the other for mashups, harmonies, and covers. Both of her channels have over 100,000 views and hundreds of subscribers. Ananya is excited to continue growing her passion for music in college next year.

Arthur P Barnes Symphony Association Award.

Given in honor of LAS Music Director Emeritus Barnes.

Aiden Mathew, a student at Dougherty Valley High School, plays French horn, piano, and trumpet. His horn teacher is Paul Neuffer. Aiden has played in the wind ensembles of his school's concert band throughout high school and is a member of the Diablo Wind Symphony. He has played in honor bands including the California Band Directors Association's 2021 All-State Symphonic Band and 2022 California Orchestra Directors Association's All-State Symphony Orchestra. As French horn section leader at his high school, Aiden has helped with training and led sectionals. He plays horn in the school jazz club, which performs at school events and senior centers. He is president of the Tri Valley Youth Musical Ensemble, a student-led group that performs at senior centers and charitable events. Aiden provides piano accompaniment and assists the choir director at Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco. This year in the COSMOS program (California State Summer School for Mathematics & Science) at UC San Diego, he studied music and technology. He plans to major in music and technology and continue to play horn.

(Continued on p. 8.)

2022-2023 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS, continued

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.

Audrey Fick-Furlotte, a student at Livermore High School, plays piano and sings. Her current voice teacher is Sarah Sloan. In the 9th and 10th grades, Audrey earned level 5 and 7 certificates of merit for piano from the Music Teachers' Association of California, and she gave piano recitals at the Quail Garden assisted living home in Livermore as a high school freshman. Audrey was a member of the concert choir at LHS in 9th and 10th grades; she has been a show choir member since 11th grade, and this year she also is a vocalist with the jazz band. She was in the cast of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at LHS last year and *Love on the High Seas* this November and has performed in *Fiddler on the Roof* and other musicals produced by the Bay Area Children's Theatre and the Young Actors' Theatre Camp. She has sung at Livermore Pride events in 2021 and 2022. Audrey plans to go to New York City to study musical theater in college. She hopes to become a successful actor.

Bill King Memorial Award.

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

Anna Tang, a student at Livermore High School, sings and plays violin. At her school, Anna was a member of the concert choir in 11th grade and is now in the chamber and show choirs. An orchestra player throughout high school, she is concertmaster of the chamber orchestra. She has played in the LHS pit orchestra for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and in the cast recording for the student-run musical [*INSERT future HERE*]. At Livermore's Tri-Valley Solo & Ensemble Music Festival last year, Anna played in a violin/clarinet/bass trio and performed as a violin soloist at the command performance. She has been a member of the Diablo Valley College Philharmonic Orchestra and principal second violin in the LAS Youth Orchestra, and she now plays in the first violin section of the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra. Last year, she auditioned and was accepted into the California Orchestra Directors Association's All-State String Orchestra, where she placed second chair. Anna plans to attend a four-year university and continue to play in orchestra and sing in choir.

Thanks to LAS Webmaster Judy Eckart for the Awards writeup.

Community Health and Education Foundation Donation Matching Program

The Symphony was chosen to receive CHEF's 50% donation-match during January.

All donations will help offset our costs for the *Violins of Hope* performances.

Through January 31, CHEF matches 50% of your donation. \$10 becomes \$15!

<https://chefgivingcommunity.org/hope/>



Mark Your Calendar Now!
Don't miss these important meetings.

- ♪ **Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild**
Annual Spring Business Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Tim and Claudia Barry
Guild Officers and Nominating Committee Elections.

- ♪ **Livermore-Amador Symphony**
Annual Association Meeting
Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 7:00–7:20 p.m.
Immediately preceding LAS rehearsal
East Avenue Middle School Music Room
3951 East Ave., Livermore
Association Board Members Election.

Livermore-Amador Symphony received a generous \$3000 grant from Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) in October 2022. Pictured receiving the grant at the TVNPA office are LAS board members and Grants committee co-chairs **Jacqueline McBride** (second from left) and **Carol Boster** (center), with TVNPA members **Cathy Young**, **Marty Sutton**, and **Maria Mancini**. McBride is also a LAS musician. The Grants committee actively pursues obtaining grants for the symphony throughout each season. Grant income is an important source of funding that allows our symphony organization to thrive.



LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY and GUILD CALENDAR 2023

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert Performances Violins of Hope, Strings of the Holocaust

Featuring soloists Lindsay Deutsch, violin, and Peter Bedrossian, cello
Sunday, February 5, 3:00 p.m.
Monday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Saturday, April 1, 2023, 8:00 p.m. (Prelude talk, 7–7:30)

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:
Kaleidoscopic Color and Spiritual Sound
Includes performances by winners of the Competition
for Young Musicians
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Thursday, April 20, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Guild Spring Business Meeting
Home of Tim & Claudia Barry

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 7:00-7:20 p.m.

Association Annual Meeting—Board member election
East Avenue Middle School Music Room, 3951 East Ave., Livermore

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 8:00 p.m. (Prelude talk, 7–7:30)

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:
Drama and Fantasy — O’Conor Plays Beethoven
John O’Conor, piano
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Guild Spring Luncheon
Beeb’s Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore

Symphony Notes is published four times a year for members of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, Orchestra, and Guild.

Symphony Association President: Tim Barry

Guild President: Beth Wilson

Editor: Nile Runge

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