



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 61, No. 4, June 2024

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY *60 Years of Making Music!*

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Presents

Delightful Dvořák

Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Lara Webber, Conductor

7-7:15 Inside the Music preconcert talk by Lara Webber.

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

Serenade in E-flat

Richard Strauss

Becoming a Redwood

Lori Laitman

Chad Somers, tenor

Symphony No. 6

Antonín Dvořák

*The audience and performers are invited to enjoy a post-concert reception
in the lobby hosted by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild.*

Tickets: <https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/tickets.html>;
Bankhead ticket office at 2400 First St., Livermore; or 925-373-6800.
Youth under age 22 are always FREE.

*The Livermore-Amador Symphony is a Resident Company of the Bankhead Theater
and a member of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC).*



LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Delightful Dvořák

Saturday, June 1

Concert begins at **7:30 p.m.**

Inside the Music: 7-7:15

Bankhead Theater Livermore

Some Notes about the Concert

Lara Webber, Music Director and Conductor



The Symphony will perform a recently written work by **Lori Laitman**, one of today's most gifted composers. ***Becoming a Redwood*** is a song cycle about profound love and loss and finding wisdom and redemption in nature. The piece is set to poetry of **Dana Gioia**, who served as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts from 2003 to 2009 and California State Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2019. His poetry is emotional, cathartic and deeply inspiring, and plants us in the natural world. Laitman's expressive, evocative music is rooted in the text with musical lyricism that extends from the human voice with inevitability and eloquence. She draws with color and texture in her orchestration and finds warmth and nuanced expression in her harmonic language. We welcome tenor **Chad Somers**, one of the Bay Area's most sought-after singers, as our soloist. His vibrant, expressive voice is matched by his ability to connect intuitively and expressively to his audiences.

The concert opens with **Serenade in E-flat** by **Richard Strauss**, written by the composer at age 17. The marvelous LAS woodwinds are front and center for this piece! **Antonin Dvořák's Symphony No. 6** radiates with sunshine and joyful optimism. His music is full of memorable melodies, poignant tenderness, and boundless propulsive syncopated rhythms that carry us through to a glorious conclusion to our symphony season. We'll send you out singing! Please join us for the reception in the lobby following the concert.



Chad Somers, Tenor Soloist

Somers holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance and Literature and Vocal Pedagogy from the Eastman School of Music. He is Adjunct Professor of Voice at San Joaquin Delta College and has a busy private studio in Lafayette. His students are known for their technical abilities and artistic expression. Somers seeks to "inspire genuine artistry and to uncover students' authentic voices to produce one-of-a-kind performances."

Somers continues to receive praise for his performances on the opera, concert, and recital stages. He has performed with many area opera companies, recently including Opera Parallel and Pocket Opera in San Francisco, West Edge Opera in Oakland, Opera Modesto, and Livermore Valley Opera. (You may have seen his performance as Curley in LVO's production of *Of Mice and Men* at the Bankhead last October.) Other recent performances include appearances with Marin Symphony, Sacramento Choral and Orchestra Society, and Stockton Chorale and Symphony. In 2023 he performed in the premiere of ***Becoming a Redwood*** with Sonoma Philharmonic. Somers says, "Laitman's music has such a searching and human quality to match all the joy and despondency of Gioia's text which culminate to create a beautiful rumination on the human experience of love, loss and grief. [It is] a true joy to give it voice. I just love singing these songs!"

When not singing, you might find him hiking throughout Briones Regional Park with his wife and two children.

A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ WELLS



We want to extend a big thank you to all the wonderful garden and music enthusiasts who purchased entries to our May 4 Garden Symphony Tour. Mother Nature had some unforeseen plans and provided rain for the first two hours of the tour, but she didn't deter most people who enjoyed seeing the beautiful gardens and being treated to live symphony music at several homes. Symphony woodwinds were turned into a garage band by the rainy morning.

Know that your contributions to this fundraiser enriched local communities through the works of both the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild and the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club. Your participation helps to fund two local community-service, non-profit groups, each with a long history of giving back to the Tri-Valley area. Both groups are happily accepting new members and delighted to have you participate in our activities. Thank you all for helping further the good works of these two organizations.

We celebrated our 60th anniversary all season long, sharing music in the concert hall and through many other events. We continued a more recent tradition of a *free outdoor* Pops concert in our music series. We stand committed to our public schools outreach, the annual competition, youth orchestra, and Guild-hosted recitals that in total engage hundreds of youth each year. We have successfully experimented with new partners for fundraising and expanded our public engagement to encompass the entire concert season. We have much to be thankful for as we wrap up another season of music.

Be of good cheer—let's get out and play!

PJ Wells

LAS Guild President



A scene from the Garden Symphony Tour May 4
Photo courtesy of Denise Leddon

A Message from LASA PRESIDENT TIM BARRY



Hello fellow Symphony lovers! And what's not to love?! Lara, finishing her 10th season with us, and our musicians treated us on April 13 to "Butterflies and Brahms," another memorable concert. The *Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto* is still playing in my head!

Thank you, PJ Wells and Guild volunteers, for a yeoman's job of successful fundraising, fund-raising and friend-raising events in a short span of time.

Another successful Estate Sale took place February 23-24 when Nancy's Angels put on a great fund raiser again for us! The *Sipping for the Symphony* event at Cuda Ridge on March 15th was fun, delicious and musically invigorating!

The first-ever Symphony Garden Tour May 4th was drenched, fun, educational and we achieved a partnership with Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club and our musicians that was truly inspiring!

The June 1st season-ending "Delightful Dvořák" concert and soloist Chad Somers will be a beautiful conclusion to another successful season.

Our new committee to develop a more diverse audience will work this summer to promote next season, reaching out to many groups to spread the word about our great concerts. Many thanks to all the musicians, volunteers and patrons who define the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association!

Everyone have a sensational summer and be ready to come back refreshed and energized to put on our best season yet!

Musically yours,

Tim Barry

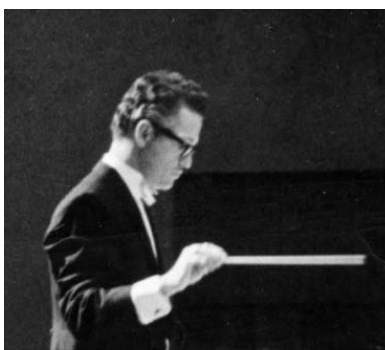
President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association

Music Director Emeritus Dr. Arthur P. Barnes died in February this year.

Art was our Symphony's music director and conductor for 50 years, from 1964-2014.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony will honor his memory with a tribute at the June 1 concert.



Barnes conducting a concert
at Livermore High School, approx. 1968



Celebrating the Symphony's
50th season
at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, 2013



LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

2024–2025 CONCERTS

Regular Evening Concert Series

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

December 7, 2024, 8:00 p.m.

February 15, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

April 12, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

May 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Purchase your season subscription now for best prices!
See Season Preview flyer further in this issue for details.

Early subscription sales available at our June 1 concert.

Season brochures have been mailed to LAS supporters.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra

Free Summer Concert—Open to the Public!

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Saturday July 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore

Brilliance at the Bankhead Saturday Evening September 7

A Gala Fundraiser for Livermore Valley Arts

Livermore-Amador Symphony will perform with Katharine McPhee

Star of Broadway's Waitress, TV's Smash, and runner-up on the 5th season of American Idol Katharine McPhee will delight the audience with her enchanting and soulful vocal talents, accompanied by our own Livermore-Amador Symphony!

Tickets on sale now at [LivermoreArts.org](https://livermorearts.org), 925-373-6800. <https://livermorearts.org>.

Livermore-Amador Symphony

POPS on the Green, Saturday September 28, Music begins 3 p.m.

POPS returns outdoors for the 4th consecutive year on the Shea Stage in the Bankhead Plaza! Bring a picnic or snack and enjoy the music by our wonderful symphony. Open to the public, free admission, but donations will be happily accepted! Pops is sponsored by the LAS Guild, with all donations going to support the Symphony. ***Join us!***

School Outreach Concerts in Dublin



A subset of the orchestra played at three concerts in Dublin on Thursday April 18, 2024: two at Amador Elementary School, followed by lunch for the orchestra in the school library provided by the Symphony Guild, and one at Green Elementary School.

Lara Webber introduced the instruments of the orchestra and each piece, with audience participation. The music created a world tour that began with the "Star-Spangled Banner" and included Mexico (excerpts from "Huapango" by Moncayo), China ("Saibei Dance" by Huang), Norway (the "Trolls' March" from Grieg's Lyric Suite), and some Beethoven and Dvořák before heading back to the U.S. for a Jurassic Park medley by John Williams.

Thanks to Carol Boster for photos and Judy Eckart for description.

Awards for High School Seniors, Presented at the December 7th Concert

The Symphony Association administers four awards to recognize high school seniors who have made significant contributions to school and community musical activities.

Winners receive a \$500 award. Applications will be available in late August 2024 from the Symphony's website <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/awards.html>

If you have questions, contact Awards Committee Chair Nissa Nack
nissanack@comcast.net or 925.484.1942.

The Competition for Young Musicians will be held in October and is open to instrumentalists and vocalists who live in Alameda County, Contra Costa County, the City of Tracy, or the community of Mountain House, California. The maximum age is 19. The winners will perform as soloists with the Symphony at its February 15, 2025 concert, and will be awarded \$500.

See the Symphony's website <https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/competition.html>.

If you have questions, contact Competition Committee Chair Anne Badders
competition@livermoreamadorsymphony.org or 925.606.5797

Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra
Free Summer Concert—Open to the Public!

Saturday, July 27 at 7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church Livermore

MORE GUILD NEWS

See flyer last page: Deadline to RSVP extended to May 21.



GUILD MEMBERSHIP 2024-2025
Get Ready for a NEW SEASON!
Please complete and return the **2024-2025 Guild Membership Form**. Invite a friend to join the Guild too! The form is included in this *Symphony Notes* and is also available on the Symphony's website. You may turn it in at the luncheon May 23 or mail it to Guild Treasurer Judy McMurry at the address on the form. If you have any questions, please call me 925-443-7398.
~ **Linda Miller, Membership Chair** ~

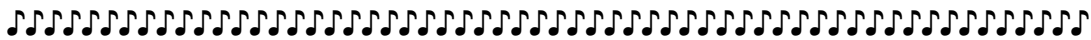


Photo courtesy of Denise Leddon

Guild members were entertained by these talented musicians at the annual spring business meeting held April 18 at the home of Claudia and Tim Barry. Pianist Hiroshi Corro performed Beethoven's Sonata Op. 13, No. 1, 1st movement, and Eileen Zhang performed Bach's Cello Suite No. 6, Prelude.



News Flash!
Upcoming Sale!
Money raised benefits LAS!

All the Guild's share of the proceeds goes to the Symphony.

Come Out and Shop at the Guild's Next Sale:

Friday June 14, 8am-1pm

Saturday June 15, 8am-12pm

Please contact me if you or someone you know is interested in a sale.

Nancy McKenzie, Estate Sales Chair

livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY and GUILD
60 Years of Making Music!
CALENDAR 2023-2024

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert
Delightful Dvořák
Chad Somers, tenor soloist

Saturday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.
Inside the Music, 7–7:15
Bankhead Theater, Livermore
Note concert start time!

Thursday, May 23, 11:30 a.m. (See page 7.)

Guild Spring Luncheon *Deadline to RSVP extended to May 21. See flyer last page.*
Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore

Saturday, July 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m. (See page 5.)

LAS Youth Orchestra Concert, free to the public
First Presbyterian Church, 4th & L Streets, Livermore

Saturday, September 7, 2024 evening (See page 5.)

Brilliance at the Bankhead Gala, Katharine McPhee, accompanied by LAS
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Thursday, September 12, 2024, 4–5:30 p.m.

Guild Prelude Party, First Presbyterian Hall, 4th & L Streets, Livermore

Saturday, September 28, 2024, 3:00 p.m. (See page 5.)

POPS on the Green Concert, outdoors on the Bankhead Plaza, free to the public

October, date and venue to be determined

Sipping for the Symphony wine tasting

December 7, 2024

3:00 p.m. Free Family Holiday Concert

8:00 p.m. Evening Concert, *Festive Fairy Tales*

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

See next page for LAS 2024-2025 Season Preview flyer!

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 PJ Wells; Editor Marcia Elchesen. PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551; 925-447-6454; Website: www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

Livermore-Amador Symphony

2024–2025 Preview

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor



Pops on the Green September 28, 2024

Concert at 3 p.m.

For the fourth year in a row, our annual Pops concert will be al fresco on the Shea Stage in the Bankhead Plaza on an autumn afternoon. Bring a picnic or snack and maybe something to sit on. No need for tickets, but donations will be accepted happily! Pops is sponsored by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild, with all donations going to the Symphony. Join us for Pops on the Green on Saturday Sept. 28 at 3 o'clock!

Family Concert December 7, 2024

Concert at 3 p.m.

Our family concert is full of holiday fun for everyone just before Livermore's holiday parade. Presented in coordination with Livermore Arts and in partnership with Valley Dance Theatre, this concert lasts less than an hour and is free of charge.

Festive Fairy Tales December 7, 2024

Concert at 8 p.m. (no preconcert talk)

Join us for an evening full of joyful sounds of the holiday season. You'll hear familiar holiday carols in the music of both Georges Bizet and Samuel Barber, and Maurice Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* brings magical fairy tales to life with excitement and poignant beauty. This music will warm your heart for the holidays.

Expressions of Youth February 15, 2025

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

The talented winners of our annual Competition for Young Musicians are featured soloists in this evening packed with musical inspiration and variety. Johannes Brahms caused a sensation with his marvelous "Academic Festival Overture," using raucous melodies sung by students. The sweeping sounds of young Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's "Symphonic Variations on an African Air" embellish a rarely performed masterwork you won't want to miss!

Romantic Masterpieces April 12, 2025

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

Violin virtuoso Elizabeth Pitcairn returns to Livermore to perform Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's thrilling violin concerto, playing her legendary 1720 *Red Mendelssohn* Stradivarius. The concert concludes with one of the most deeply spiritual and exciting symphonies of the Romantic era, César Franck's Symphony in D minor. Join us for an evening loaded with virtuosity and beautiful familiar melodies.

Celestial Sounds May 31, 2025

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

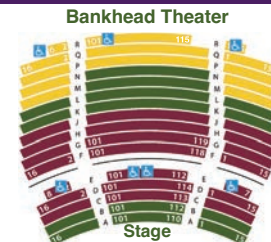
Lift off with the symphony as we explore the universe in all its celestial wonder. You'll hear music inspired by planets, comets, moons, and stars accompanied by images from our galaxy and beyond. "Claire de Lune," selections from Gustav Holst's *Planets* and John Williams's *Star Wars Suite*, and so much more will bring our season to a spectacular conclusion.

Programs subject to change.

Season Tickets

Dec., Feb., April, and May concerts.

Live at
The Bankhead



Section	A	B	C
ADULT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$158	<input type="checkbox"/> \$133	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$126	<input type="checkbox"/> \$102
Early Purchase: by July 15, 2024			
YOUTH (under age 22)	\$0 in all sections		

Tickets: \$ _____

I want to retain my seat(s) from the 2023–2024 season.

Retention of seats is guaranteed only for renewals received by July 31, 2024.

Payment

Write a check payable to **LVPAC**, or pay by credit card:

Amex Discover MC Visa

Account # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature: _____

Contact Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____ Seat(s) in the 2023–2024 season

Bring or mail this form to the Bankhead Theater Box Office, 2400 First St., Livermore CA 94550, or email its image to boxoffice@bankheadtheater.org (no subscription orders by phone)

Donation Please consider a tax-deductible contribution.

Donations may be made directly to LAS:

write a check payable to Livermore-Amador Symphony and send it to PO. Box 1049, Livermore CA 94551-1049; or pay by credit card at livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

Donor levels: Angel, \$1500 or more; Patron, \$1000–\$1499;

Benefactor, \$500–\$999; Sustainer, \$300–\$499;

Supporter, \$200–\$299; Contributor, \$100–\$199; Friend, \$50–\$99.

(The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center is no longer processing donations to LAS with ticket orders.)

The Symphony and the Bankhead Theater follow applicable Alameda County Public Health Department protocols and CDC recommendations. See livermorearts.org FAQs. **We prioritize the health and well-being of our audience and musicians over all else.**

Single-concert tickets go on sale **August 1, 2024**, at \$44, \$37, or \$30 for adults, and free for youth under age 22.

For further information please call 925.447.6454 or see livermoreamadorsymphony.org.



LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Join the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild provides support to the Symphony.

The Guild produces and distributes concert-season brochures, hosts receptions, raises funds (organizes and runs estate sales, plans and produces the annual Pops concert), and more.

Members gather for a prelude event in September, for meetings in January and April, and for a luncheon in May. Music is a part of each gathering. Please join the Guild!

Yes, I'll help, and I'd be especially willing to:

- Sort and price items prior to garage/estate sales
- Organize musical entertainment for meetings
- Chair a committee / serve on the board of directors
- Purchase and organize refreshments
- Order/pick up flowers for concert soloists
- Assist at receptions at Guild meetings, etc.
- Drive Guild members to events/concerts
- Please note that I need a ride to events/concerts**
- Work at garage/estate sales
- Plan new fundraisers and activities
- Telephone members
- Recruit new members
- Transport sale items, etc.
- Provide my house for a reception
- Staff a table at concerts

Annual Dues and Requirements

Active Member \$20.00 Active members are those who have paid their annual Active membership dues and agree to participate in Guild functions, activities, and all fund-raisers, as outlined in Guild policies. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

Associate Member \$35.00 Associate members are those who have paid their Associate membership dues and agree to participate in Guild fund-raisers. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

Friend of the Guild \$50.00 Friends of the LAS Guild. Friends are those members who have paid their Friends membership dues. They are invited, but not required, to participate in Guild fund-raisers and activities. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

I am joining as a Friend of the Guild, but please **contact me** about opportunities to help with Guild activities as they arise.

I am joining as a Friend of the Guild; please **do not contact me** to ask for additional assistance.

Make checks payable to Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild or L.A.S.G.

Please write *Active*, *Associate*, or *Friend* on the check.

Bring check and form to the May luncheon or the September prelude party or send to:

Judy McMurry
L.A.S. Guild
583 Bell Avenue
Livermore CA 94550

Unless you indicate that you wish otherwise, the information below will be included in a directory distributed to Guild members and LAS Association Board members.

I am a renewing member and my contact information is unchanged

Name

Street Address

E-mail Address

City

Zip Code

Home Phone Number

Mobile Phone Number

For more information, contact Linda Miller at (925) 443-7398.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild cordially invites you to attend the



GUILD ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON
Livermore-Amador Symphony oboe trio performs

**LIVERMORE
AMADOR
SYMPHONY**

Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 11:30 am
Beeb's Sports Bar and Grill
Las Positas Golf Course
915 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore

Enjoy a lovely luncheon with old and new friends of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild while listening to fine music. We will introduce our new Guild Board at a short meeting, share the annual report of activities and offer membership sign ups and renewals (credit cards, checks accepted by the Guild). Live musical entertainment provided by:

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Oboe Section

Eva Langfeldt and Jeff Lenigan, oboes

Jeanne Brown, English horn

Tell a friend. Open to all. We hope you can join us!

Please enter the banquet room at the side door, not the main entrance to the restaurant. No admission fee. Then order and pay for your food at the restaurant counter. Your order will be delivered to your table. Take a peek at the Beeb's menu ahead of time <http://beebstatlaspositas.com/bar-and-grill-menu.html>

Deadline extended: RSVP to Tim Barry by Tuesday, May 21

teabarry10@gmail.com or (925) 518-9070