



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 62, No. 3, April 2025

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Presents

Romantic Masterpieces

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

*Featuring Virtuoso Violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn
performing on her legendary 1720 Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius*

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**

Polonaise from *Eugene Onegin*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Violin Concerto

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Elizabeth Pitcairn, soloist

Symphony in D Minor

César Franck

**Jim Hurley's *Open Strings World Music Middle School Student Ensemble*
will perform in the lobby at intermission.**

***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).***

APRIL 12 CONCERT
ELIZABETH PITCAIRN, SOLOIST
TCHAIKOVSKY'S VIOLIN CONCERTO



(photo: Joy Strotz)

Violin virtuoso Elizabeth Pitcairn performed with LAS at its May 2015 Bankhead concert. The Symphony is very pleased to welcome her back to Livermore! Pitcairn has earned a reputation as one of America's most beloved soloists. She appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Academy of Music and in 2000 gave her New York debut at Alice Tully Hall with the New York String Orchestra. She has since performed at Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Fisher Center, and the Kimmel Center. Passionate about youth and education, she serves as President and Artistic Director of the Luzerne Music Center in upstate New York, which provides training for gifted young musicians ages 9 to 18.

Born in 1973 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to a closely knit musical family (her mother is a Juilliard-trained cellist), Pitcairn began playing the violin at age 3 and made her orchestral debut at 14. Her path led her to Los Angeles to study with preeminent violin professor Robert Lipsett at the University of Southern California. Her former teachers include Julian Meyer, Sylvia Ahramjian, Jascha Brodsky and Shmuel Ashkenasi. She is a former faculty member of USC and the Colburn School and an alumna of the Marlboro Music Festival, Temple University's Center for Gifted Young Musicians, the Meadowmount School, the Encore School for Strings, and the National Repertory Orchestra. She is the former concertmaster of Southern California's New West Symphony under the direction of Boris Brott.

The artist performs with one of the world's most legendary instruments, the Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius of 1720, said to have inspired the Academy Award-winning film *The Red Violin*. Pitcairn is featured on the 10th Anniversary edition of *The Red Violin* DVD in a special feature called "The Auction Block." Named the Red Stradivarius violin while in the possession of Joseph Joachim, it was a gift from her grandfather in 1990 at Christie's auction house in London.

Pitcairn believes strongly in philanthropy and is a frequent performer for such charitable events as the American Cancer Society, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the Helping Hands and Hearts Foundation, and the Nakashima Foundation for Peace. Her favorite activities are skiing, tennis, horseback riding, and wine tasting.

Music Director Lara Webber and the Livermore-Amador Symphony are thrilled to perform Tchaikovsky's beautiful Violin Concerto with Elizabeth Pitcairn on April 12!

LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Romantic Expressions

Saturday, April 12

Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Inside the Music: 7-7:15

Bankhead Theater Livermore

*Concert Notes from Lara Webber
Music Director and Conductor*



The concert opens with a piece that feels like popping the cork on a great bottle of champagne, the Tchaikovsky polonaise from his opera, *Eugene Onegin*. It is an exciting invitation to focus our attention on what comes next: Tchaikovsky's remarkable violin concerto. I'm particularly excited about this performance, because not only is Elizabeth Pitcairn one of the most remarkable violinists performing today, she's also a good friend. In this performance, she and I are revisiting this concerto together for the first time in a quarter century. (We performed it together when we were students at the University of Southern California.) Elizabeth has a particularly rich and detailed interpretation of this exciting concerto, and of course, she plays a remarkable instrument that carries much of music history in its DNA. The centuries-old Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius is an instrument like no other, and it truly sings in Elizabeth's sensitive and expert hands.

The concert closes with one of the Romantic era's most inspired symphonic works, and the only symphony composed by Belgian-born French composer, César Franck. The symphony is deeply, personally expressive. It is cyclical, meaning everything stems from the first theme you hear, and all the primary themes are interwoven and related to one another and return at the end of the symphony in a blaze of glory. The middle movement is perhaps one of the most poignant, lyrical songs you've ever heard, beautifully sung out by the English horn and accompanied by harp and pizzicato (plucked) strings. It builds into one of the most satisfying symphonic experiences you can imagine.

This will be a blockbuster concert, presented with a personal touch.

We look forward to seeing you at the Bankhead on April 12!

Lara Webber

Annual LAS Concert School Outreach Assemblies: The symphony will present school concert assemblies at two Livermore elementary schools on April 17. The program includes the February 14 Bankhead concert's collaborative project of Reena Esmail's "Ram Tori Maya" with Cantabella singers and Hindustani dancers, along with storytelling music from a variety of different composers. Members of the LAS Guild will host a luncheon for the performers between the morning and afternoon assemblies. LAS player and LASA Education Youth Outreach chair, Stacy Hughes, worked with school staff to make the arrangements.

A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ Wells



Our February concert, *Expressions of Youth*, included a high-energy, vivacious, multitude of young singers, dancers, and musicians—capped off with a sugar high from the wine and chocolate pairing at the lobby reception afterwards! Hopefully, all that lively action boosted everyone’s spirit. We needed a change of pace, and I think it delivered—in special foil wrappers too. Now it’s spring and we are literally Marching On

The April concert is in full ramp-up mode and what a ramp we have: it looks like a ski jump from my perch. As we all prepare for Elizabeth Pitcairn and her Red Violin, a private, evening soiree on Friday April 11 has been added to the calendar—Ms. Pitcairn is performing in a local vineyard home and tickets are selling fast. (See LAS website homepage for details.) The Guild is giddy at the prospect of presenting this world-class talent in a stunning Livermore venue. It is the perfect complement to the Bankhead Theater

concert performance on Saturday April 12 with our full orchestra. We are extremely lucky to have the bench strength of Lara Webber attracting this level of talent to our community.

We are marching into another spring *Sipping for the Symphony* fundraising event as well: March 28 from 5–7pm, at Cuda Ridge Winery, 2400 Arroyo Road in Livermore. Hit the “easy button” on Friday afternoon—take a short drive out to their large parking lot, purchase a wine-tasting (the winery splits that fee with us), then enjoy their patio while *The Jammies* play in the background. It is a great way to wind down on a Friday night, the snacks and music are complementary, and you could purchase tickets for a chance to win a gift basket. You just might leave a winner of new treasures, meet a new chum, introduce yourself to a new wine, or take home a memory of the lovely valley we enjoy so much.

Looking for something absolutely free, no strings attached? Stop by the Livermore Bothwell Arts Center April 24 for the April version of January Gems. There’ll be a brief Guild business meeting followed by a recital and reception. Meeting starts at 6:30pm, and the recital at 7:00. We have at least 4 LAS Youth Competition runners-up eager to perform, and afterwards, munch on desserts, mingle with the audience, and share their ambitions. There may be strings during the performance, but no strings/no charge to you, just great entertainment!

Finally, on Saturday, May 10, our LAS Symphony and Guild join the Heritage Guild (those dedicated folks tending Livermore’s landmark buildings) to present the *Harmony & Historic Home Tour*. Tickets are selling now (see LAS website <https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org>). This self-paced walking/driving tour is an equal partnership—the Heritage Guild provides the homes, and groups of volunteer LAS musicians provide musical interludes in the homes. Other musicians may join them as well—the more, the merrier. This should be a delightful Saturday on Mother’s Day weekend. Buy a ticket for Mom and become her favorite!

We are marching on — let’s go out and play!

PJ Wells

2024-2025 President
Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

A Message from LASA PRESIDENT TIM BARRY



Happy spring, my fellow Symphony lovers! We had such a wonderful time at the February 15 concert, and the performance by our musicians and the young singers and dancers was inspiring! Many thanks to Cantabella for providing the young people who did everyone proud! The delicious chocolates with our cookies and beverages at the after-show reception were a delightful celebration of Valentine's Day as well! Thank you, LAS Guild!

Our Guild is embarking upon the busiest spring in memory with fundraising events, support of our upcoming concerts, and supporting the youth concerts at two elementary schools in Livermore! Help us spread the word about these events you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter! The March 28 *Sipping for the Symphony* at Cuda Ridge

Winery will again feature my own *Jammies* instrumental music group who have been asked for an encore performance for this event. Bring friends and family to this enjoyable afternoon of wine, silent auction, music, food, and fun! I also especially want to invite you to attend the May 10 Harmony & Historic Home Tour fundraiser, a partnership between our Symphony Guild and the Livermore Heritage Guild. Many thanks to the musicians who have answered our call to play music at one of the homes on this tour. This will add much atmosphere to the event and fulfill the partnership. Tell all your neighbors and friends and look in this newsletter and on the LAS website for more information and to buy tickets.

The fabulous Elizabeth Pitcairn returns to LAS after 10 years, to solo at our April 12 concert with her magical Red Violin. Tickets will go fast for this concert as well as for the elegant limited-seating soirée where she will perform on April 11 at a private location in the Livermore Valley vineyards. Look for ticket information on our website and help us spread the word. Thanks for all you do for our Symphony and we'll see you soon at these events!

Looking forward to an exciting month of Symphony activities with you in April!

Musically yours,

Tim Barry

President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association



APRIL 12 CONCERT TICKETS

Don't miss Elizabeth Pitcairn and this beautiful music!

<https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/tickets.html>;

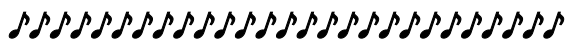
925-373-6800; or Bankhead ticket office, 2400 First St., Livermore. Adult tickets: \$30, \$37, \$44. All are good seats!

Youth under age 22 are FREE, but need a ticket.



**Livermore-Amador Symphony
Annual Association Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2025,
7-7:20 p.m., Music Room
East Avenue MS, Livermore**

LAS Association members—volunteer LAS players, adult season ticket subscribers, Guild members, and donors of \$50 or more—are eligible to vote in this board election.



Guild Annual Spring Meeting

Thursday April 24, 6:30 p.m.

Bothwell Arts Center

2466 8th St., Livermore

The evening begins with a short business meeting. Immediately following, attendees will be treated to a recital by several contestants from the Symphony's Competition for Young Musicians. Afterwards all are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation!

Election Slate

The Guild 2024–2025 Nominating Committee,

Judy Eckart, chair; Carol Beck, Joyce Brown, Sandra Hodzic, and Beth Wilson,

Is pleased to present the following slate of officers and nominating committee members for election at this meeting:

PJ Wells, President

Linda Miller, Vice President

Sally Swanson, Recording Secretary

Judy McMurry, Treasurer

Nominating Committee Members:

Joyce Brown

Michelle Rosenberg

If elected, all begin their terms on July 1, 2025.

Note that the committee has renominated the current Guild officers. The consistently fine work of these officers on behalf of the Symphony Guild has earned our strong support!

Officers are elected to one-year terms; nominating committee members are elected to two-year terms. The nominating committee comprises 4 elected members serving two-year terms (however, Joyce Brown was appointed this season to complete the 2023–2025 term of the late Lou Anne Martin) plus a chair; the chair is appointed to a one-year term by the Guild Board.



Guild Estate Sales

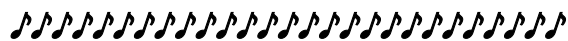
The new year started off with a big bang for the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild Estate Sale volunteers!

We had another wonderful sale in February and made close to \$9,000 for the symphony. We were fortunate to have a home where the owners had traveled the world and the items for sale proved it. Masks from South America, Pre-Columbian whistles, carvings from Denmark, boomerangs from Australia and more. As usual we had outstanding help from our volunteers. We can't do these sales without our village! Thanks again to all the ladies and gentlemen who worked so hard. They include **Patti Fredericks** (my right and left hand), **Joyce Brown, Bob Canning, Patty Canning, Adela Cook, Joan Dickinson, Marcia Elchesen, Janet Gabrielson, Darlene Jefferies, Mary Justice, Mary Ann Johnston, Bill Leach, Ron McKenzie, Judy McMurry, Linda Miller, Barbara Morrison, Maria Pomares, PJ Wells, Sarah Wharton, and Beth Wilson.**

Please contact me if you or someone you know is interested in a sale. All the Guild's share of the proceeds goes to the Symphony.

Nancy McKenzie, Estate Sales Chair

livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales.



Annual Guild Luncheon and Introduction of 2025–2026 Officers

Come & socialize with your fellow Guild members!

There will also be fine musical entertainment.

Guests are welcome too!

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 12 noon

Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill at Las Positas Golf Course

915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore

No pre-order required—Order & pay at the counter.

You may also renew your Guild

2025-2026 Season membership!

Watch for a reminder email or a phone call.

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY and GUILD
CALENDAR 2024–2025**

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert
Romantic Masterpieces***

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

*Featuring virtuoso violin soloist, Elizabeth Pitcairn
performing on her legendary 1720 Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius*

Friday, March 28, 2025, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Guild Sponsored Event: Sipping for the Symphony (See pp. 4 and 5)

Cuda Ridge Wines, 2400 Arroyo Road, Livermore

Friday April 11, 6:00 p.m.

Red Violin Soirée–Sunset Recital with Elizabeth Pitcairn

<https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/guild.html> (See pp. 4 and 5)

Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 7:00–7:20 p.m. (at LAS rehearsal)

Association Annual Meeting–Board member election (See p. 5)

East Avenue Middle School Music Room, 3951 East Ave., Livermore

Thursday, April 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m. (Note time change.)

Guild Spring Business Meeting–Election of Officers (See pp. 4 and 6)

7:00 Recital by selected runners-up from Competition for Young Musicians

Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St. (8th & H Streets), Livermore

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Guild Sponsored Event: Harmony & Historic Home Tour (See pp. 4 and 5)

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 12:00 noon

Guild Spring Luncheon with introduction of 2025–2026 Guild Officers (See p. 6)

Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore

Saturday, May 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:

Celestial Sounds, featuring Heidi Moss Erickson, soprano

Bankhead Theater, 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: PJ Wells; Editor: Marcia Elchesen. PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551; 925-447-6454.

Website: www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LivAmSymph/>.