



# *Symphony Notes*

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 62, No. 2, February 2025

## **LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY**

**Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor**

*Presents*

### **Expressions of Youth**

**Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.**

*Featuring winners of the Competition for Young Musicians*

**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**

**Ram Tori Maya**

**Reena Esmail**

*Joining the orchestra onstage: members of Cantabella Children's Chorus\*  
and Hindustani dancers, Aria Lotlikar and Prita Mohanty*

**Violin Concerto, 1<sup>st</sup> movement**

**Jean Sibelius**

**Ariel Pawlik-Zwiebel, soloist**

**Academic Festival Overture**

**Johannes Brahms**

**Piano Concerto in A Minor, 1<sup>st</sup> movement**

**Edvard Grieg**

**Olivia Luan, soloist**

**Symphonic Variations on an African Air**

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor**

**\*Cantabella Children's Chorus will also 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.**

## ***A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ Wells***



Linda Miller & PJ Wells, December Guild Holiday Luncheon

Not only did we wrap up 2024 with two innovative holiday concerts, we also took full advantage of a CHEF 50% matching grant campaign. Our audience rallied to the occasion and donated \$10,000 within just a few days, adding \$15,000 to our coffers! This generosity and commitment to LAS cannot be underestimated. Well done, all! And many thanks to our orchestra and Guild volunteers who spent time with youngsters at the Petting Zoo following the afternoon concert. Little ones stood in awe of massive instruments, waiting for their turn to speak with musicians and take a crack at playing.

Leaving 2024 in the rearview mirror, we greeted the new year with the Guild's *January Gems*—our recital-reception showcasing contestants of the symphony's Competition for Young Musicians. Audience members were blown away when we reiterated that these musicians were high schoolers. Bright futures are ahead for Donghu Kim (cello) and Yuzuka Williams (flute). An even larger group of performers are clamoring to play at our April 24 recital and business meeting. *Encore!*

The February 15 LAS concert, *Expressions of Youth*, is shaping up to be a vibrant, energetic, multi-cultural event that includes a tip of the hat to Valentine's Day. In our efforts to make each concert a unique audience experience, we are planning a simple wine and chocolate pairing at the Guild-hosted reception afterwards. Stop by the lobby, say hello, and enjoy a splash of wine with a dash of chocolate. Don't be alone Valentine's weekend: spend it with us! *LAS ROX! 4EVER URS! SO SUITE! MUSIC MAN! DUET?*

Meanwhile, our estate sale squad is busy prepping a February 14/15 sale. These sales draw scores of enthusiastic savvy shoppers every time. The care and respect this team offers the homeowner is first rate. The skilled merchandising and pricing make our sales celebratory events for shoppers *and* raise significant monies for the parties involved. Whether pawing through a tool chest in the garage, emptying a linen closet, or wrapping beautiful objects in preparation for their new, forever home, the payoff comes on sale days. Have yet to visit our sales? Just stop by and look (heh, heh, heh)... no obligation to buy, no entry fee. *[See p.6]*

Finally, mark your calendar for Friday, March 28, 5-7pm, when another *Sipping for the Symphony* will be held at Cuda Ridge Winery, 2400 Arroyo Road in Livermore. The Guild will dish up appetizers, gift basket drawings, live music from *The Jammies* (yay!), and a beautiful, sunset venue overlooking the vineyards. You will not want to miss this gentle, early-evening welcome to our Livermore spring.

STAY TUNED for more details about these events: April 12, LAS concert *Romantic Masterpieces*; April 24, Guild meeting and youth recital; and May 10, the brand-new *Harmony & Historic Home Tour*.

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*



Wow! What a brilliant kickoff to our Symphony season with the September 7 Brilliance at the Bankhead Gala in support of Livermore Valley Arts, featuring Katharine McPhee; the September 28 Pops Concert on the Green; and the fabulous December 7 Free Family and Festive Fairy Tales concerts! In December, we were also able to hit our goal of raising \$10,000 through the CHEF matching program and earn another \$5,000 too! Thank you for your generosity and support of our Symphony!

Our brilliant conductor, Lara Webber, and our dedicated LAS musicians are preparing for our February 15 Expressions of Youth concert, featuring Youth Competition winners Olivia Luan, who will perform as soloist for the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16, by Grieg, and Ariel Pawlik-Zwiebel, who will perform as soloist for the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of the Violin Concerto by Sibelius.

Our dedicated hard-working Symphony Guild, led by go-getter President PJ Wells, has done a stellar job supporting our organization. They are planning more estate sales, fundraising events, and innovative marketing ideas to ensure the success of our upcoming concerts! Please support their efforts and get behind your local Livermore-Amador Symphony!

See you at the Bankhead February 15—Inside the Music talk with Lara at 7:00pm, concert at 7:30!

*Tim Barry,*

President, Livermore-Amador Symphony Association

 <b>CANTABELLA</b> <i>Children's Chorus</i> <b>YOUTH TICKETS ARE FREE!</b>	<b>LOCAL CANTABELLA CHILDREN'S CHORUS &amp; HINDUSTANI DANCERS TEAM UP TO PERFORM REENA ESMAIL'S "RAM TORI MAYA"</b>	
	<b>BRAHMS, COLERIDGE-TAYLOR AND WINNERS OF THE 2024-2025 COMPETITION FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS</b> <b>ARIEL PAWLK-ZWIEBEL SIBELIUS</b> <b>OLIVIA LUAN GRIEG</b>	
<b>INSIDE THE MUSIC WITH LARA WEBBER, CONDUCTOR 7:00 - 7:15</b>		 <b>CHOCOLATE &amp; LOCAL LIVERMORE WINE PAIRING AT THE RECEPTION</b>

*Design Courtesy of Anne Anaya*

*Expressions of Youth*  
**Saturday, February 15**  
**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*

Our program showcases young musical talent with performances by the two winners of the Symphony's 52<sup>nd</sup> Competition for Young Musicians, Ariel Pawlik-Zwiebel and Olivia Luan.

These soloists are super talented and playing two slam dunk fabulous concertos that will have you on the edge of your seat! They are featured further in this newsletter.

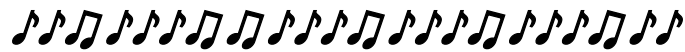
**Reena Esmail: *Ram Tori Maya***—This piece by Indian-American composer Esmail premiered in 2022 and is being performed locally for the first time. The LAS performance will be a unique collaboration among the symphony, the Cantabella Children's Chorus, and two local Hindustani dancers, who will perform on stage with the orchestra. Esmail works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music, and brings communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces. What a joyful opportunity to bring our community together through music that blends artistic and cultural style traditions that are part of our Tri-Valley!

**Johannes Brahms: *Academic Festival Overture***—This beloved work displays both Brahms's skill and his sense of humor. When bestowed with an honorary college degree in England, he surprised his audience by celebrating and featuring the favorite drinking songs of the students rather than the traditions of the stuffy academic elite of the day. The audience, full of students of course, cheered on hearing their tunes!

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: *Variations on an African Air***—Coleridge-Taylor was a great prodigious talent, achieving celebrity status as a black British composer in both the UK and US in his late 20s and early 30s. His "Variations on an African Air" speaks directly to the heart and reaches the listener emotionally without any artifice or barrier. The expression and creativity of his variations on the spiritual "I am troubled in my soul" take us on a deeply satisfying dramatic journey.

Cantabella Children's Chorus will also entertain us in the Bankhead lobby during intermission.

***We look forward to seeing you at the Bankhead on February 15!***



**Winners of the 52nd Annual  
COMPETITION for YOUNG MUSICIANS  
Olivia Luan and Ariel Pawlik-Zwiebel**

***The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association conducts the Competition each October.  
Winners are awarded \$500 prizes and perform as soloists with LAS.***

**Olivia Luan, age 15, attends Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton. She began her musical journey at age four and currently studies under Markus Pawlik. Olivia will perform Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor, 1<sup>st</sup> movement.** She has distinguished herself in numerous competitions, winning Second Prize at the 2024 United States Open Music Competition Showcase Piano Solo, First Prize at the 2024 US International Open Music Competition, and First Prize at the 2023 Crescendo International Music Competition, where she performed at Carnegie Hall. Olivia's achievements also include the Silver Award at the 2021 International Young Artists Competition and Second Prizes in the International Great Composers Competitions for Best Mendelssohn Performance, Best Beethoven Performance, and Masters of Piano Concerto. In addition to her piano accomplishments, Olivia is passionate about biology, dance, and the string bass. She plays in her school's wind ensemble and was selected as the principal bass for the 2023 California Junior High School All-State String Orchestra.



**Ariel Pawlik-Zwiebel, age 17, is a senior at Campolindo High School in Moraga and studies violin with Eugene Chukhlov. He will perform Jean Sibelius's Violin Concerto, 1<sup>st</sup> movement.** Ariel performs regularly as a soloist and recitalist, and recently played public concerts with his father, pianist Markus Pawlik, in Phoenix, San Rafael, Pleasanton, Walnut Creek, and other cities. This past August, they performed in a co-production of the San Francisco International Piano Festival with Noontime Concerts at Old St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco and look forward to touring Europe this upcoming summer. Ariel performed solo works recently with the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society, the Junior Bach Festival, and at the Peninsula Holocaust Memorial Commemoration and will also be performing as a soloist with the YPSO Orchestra and the Prometheus Symphony this season. As a chamber musician, Ariel plays with the Young Chamber Musicians program in Kohl Mansion. He has attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival twice and participated in the YPSO chamber program. Ariel toured Japan as concertmaster of the YPSO Orchestra this past summer and was the concertmaster of the Festival Orchestra at the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival (BAYOF) in January 2024. He has won numerous top prizes including, among others, competitions of the Etude Club of Berkeley, Pacific Musical Society, US Open, DVC-HNU Strings, and the Silicon Valley Philharmonic, and was a laureate of the International Grumiaux Competition in Belgium.



# LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

## TO PURCHASE CONCERT TICKETS:

- Phone the Bankhead ticket office, 925-373-6800, OR
- Order online: <https://livermorearts.org/event-calendar/>, OR
- Visit the Bankhead ticket office in person, 2400 First Street, Livermore

Adult single ticket prices: \$44, \$37, \$30. Youth tickets through age 21 are always FREE.

**Ticket Purchase Questions? Call the Symphony at 925-447-6454.**



## Valentine's Day Guild Estate Sale

Friday & Saturday

February 14 & 15

Open both days 8am-1pm

1733 Tourmaline Ct., Livermore

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild is having another great sale on February 14-15. There are treasures from around the world. Items include pre-Columbian whistles, file cabinets, book shelves, Dell monitors, speakers, office desks, computer desks, cameras, rattan baskets, kitchen appliances, Danish modern furniture, fabric, Nippon Kogaku microscope, lamps, 10.4" digital frames, didgeridoo, wooden Vikings, slide carousels, paper cutter, adding machine, artwork from Asia, Denmark, Australia, and Africa, hand weights, pillows, area rugs, kitchen "stuff," TVs, chairs, daybeds, sofa, vintage betel nut box, cookbooks galore, black recliner, masks, pottery, silver-plated items, records, sheet music, Tupperware, backpacks, dinnerware, glasses, fans, tripods, crockpots, vacuums, and much, much more!

*Nancy McKenzie, Estate Sales Chair*

[livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales](http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/estatesales).

**Money raised benefits LAS!**



## Sipping for the Symphony Returns!

Friday, March 28, 5-7pm

Cuda Ridge Winery, 2400 Arroyo Rd., Livermore

Entertainment by The Jammies!



**April 12 Concert**

**Romantic Masterpieces**

**Elizabeth Pitcairn, soloist**

*Playing her legendary 1720 Red Stradivarius*

**Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto**

**The Guild**

**Sponsors the**

*HARPIST*

**at our LAS concerts!**



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

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***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert  
Expressions of Youth***

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

**Bankhead Theater, Livermore**

Includes performances by winners of the Competition for Young Musicians  
and, in the lobby at intermission, Cantabella Children's Chorus

*Note concert start time 7:30pm!*

**Friday and Saturday, February 14–15, 2025, 8:00 a.m–1:00 p.m.**

***Guild-Sponsored Event: Estate Sale Fundraiser*** (See pp. 2 and 6)

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

***Guild Sponsored Event: Sipping for the Symphony*** (See pp. 2 and 6)

Cuda Ridge Wines, 2400 Arroyo Road, Livermore

**Friday April 11, *Special Evening Fundraising Event–Details to be announced***

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

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:***

***Romantic Masterpieces, Elizabeth Pitcairn, violin***

**Bankhead Theater, Livermore**

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

***Association Annual Meeting–Board member election***

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

**Thursday, April 24, 2025, 7:30 p.m.**

***Guild Spring Business Meeting–Election of Officers***

***With performances by selected runners-up from Competition for Young Musicians***

**Location pending**

**Saturday, May 10, 2025** (*Details to be announced in April Symphony Notes.*)

***Guild Sponsored Event: Harmony & Historic Home Tour*** (See p. 2)

**Thursday, May 22, 2025, 12:00 p.m.**

***Guild Spring Luncheon with introduction of 2025–2026 Guild Officers***

**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, 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.  
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