Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 64, No. 1, December 2026

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Presents

Hope and Joy

Saturday, December 5, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.

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

No pre-concert talk due to holiday parade.

Symphonic Essay No. 1	**Samuel Barber**
Notturno	**Michael Tilson Thomas**
Carnaval de Venise, Op. 14	**Paul-Agricole Génin**
Annie Wu, flute	
Symphony No. 8	**Antonín Dvořák**

Following intermission, Student Awards will be presented to 4 high school seniors.

The audience and performers are invited to enjoy a post-concert reception in the Bankhead 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

HOPE & JOY

Saturday December 5 8:00 pm

livermoreamadorsymphony.org

Bankhead Theater
LIVERMORE VALLEY *arts*

Design courtesy of Anne Anaya

A Message from LASA PRESIDENT ANNE ANAYA

HOPE & JOY—*The inspiration behind our December concert and the guiding theme of our entire season!*



I recently came across a letter I had written to my grandma 53 years ago. I was describing one of my first violin concerts (although I spelled it "violen" back then!). I admitted I was scared, but I also said it was fun. Those simple childhood words still capture why I play music today: it fills me with **HOPE** and **JOY.**

The Livermore-Amador Symphony believes in sharing that **JOY** with the next generation. We are proud to invest our time and resources in encouraging young musicians and giving them opportunities to grow and shine.

Thanks to the dedicated leadership of Betsy Hausburg, our Summer Youth Orchestra once again brought together talented young musicians. Under the direction of Bill Harrington and Robert Huntington, summer evenings were filled with strings, horns, percussion, new friendships, and the **JOY** of making music together.

Our Competition for Young Musicians, coordinated by Anne Badders, with judges Lara Webber and Jo Ann Koopman, was another celebration of emerging talent. After nearly eight hours of audition performances at the Mertes Center at Las Positas College, two young musicians, Annabelle Trinh (7th grade) and Sophie Lechner (9th grade), were selected to perform at our February concert. Their dedication and talent give us tremendous **HOPE** for the future of music!

Our December flute soloist, Annie Wu, once performed at an LAS school assembly and was flute soloist at our LAS concert in April 2015 as a college freshman. And our June violin soloist, 16-year-old Ava Pakiam, is already a rising star, performing around the world. These young artists remind us of the extraordinary possibilities that emerge when we encourage and nurture the next generation.

As we celebrate our 2026–2027 season, I invite you to join us in experiencing the **HOPE** and **JOY** that music brings. Come celebrate the beauty of our orchestra and the remarkable promise of our young musicians. Buy season tickets! Invite friends and family to join you!

After all, today's musicians are tomorrow's inspiration. What greater reason for **HOPE & JOY**!

Anne Anaya
President, Livermore-Amador Symphony Association

LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Save money! Order a Season Subscription, available through December 5:

- **Visit the Bankhead ticket office in person, 2400 First Street, Livermore**
- **Single tickets can be ordered as above or** online https://livermorearts.org ***OR***
- **Phone the Bankhead ticket office, 925-373-6800**

Single ticket prices: $47/$40/$32. Youth tickets through age 21 are always **FREE**.

Ticket Purchase Questions? Call the Symphony at 925-789-5724.

A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ Wells



With the sun blaring down in my kitchen nook while huge, gray, pillowy clouds build on the western horizon, it a perfect setting for another edition of *Symphony Notes*. LAS already has under its belt another free, outdoor, all-community POPS concert; rehearsals for the December 5th holiday concert (Hope and Joy) are well underway; and our Guild is basking in the afterglow of another successful Harmony & Historic Home Tour in October.

The Guild kicked off the summer with a July estate sale that was both financially rewarding and emotionally fulfilling as well. Our beloved homeowners downsized and left many treasures behind to the benefit of our estate squad and loyal sale shoppers too. Then in September we supported the POPS concert with our annual "pass the hat" initiative (umm, actually it's a jack-o-lantern 🎃) and enjoyed a warm day on the green outside the Bankhead Theater. Just a few short weeks later, the Guild was on duty with the historic home tour.

Our treasured partnership with the Livermore Heritage Guild allows us to highlight local landmark homes with music from Symphony players, friends, family, and other local talent to keep the music flowing. Over 100 volunteers are needed to cover a single day of residence tours and it's impossible to thank our volunteers enough! The generosity of the homeowner cannot be overstated either, along with the entourage of bakers, decorators, project planners, local businesses, and sponsors (and a once-in-a-lifetime volunteer dinner, thanks to Will Bolton!). This is an event that really DOES take a village. Our photographer, Allyn Saroyan, produced lovely documentation of the day and you can see his bio and work on the link below. Kudos to him for memorializing the tour:

"My images of the 2026 Harmony & Historic Home Tour are now available on my website: https://allynsar.smugmug.com/Events/Livermore-Historic-House-Tour-2026. Any image may be downloaded via right-click (recommended) or the download button. There is also a button to download with one press all the images in a given gallery."

Once the December concert concludes, the Guild plans a Dutch-treat holiday lunch for Thursday, December 10, and we would love to include our musicians and LASA board members if they are able to join us for some holiday cheer. An invitation is coming, but if you're curious and/or afraid you'll miss the message, contact me @ pj.wells.ca@gmail.com and we will ensure you are part of the herd. Speaking of … we must soon bid farewell to the gentle, giant herd of elephants gracing downtown. What a gift it has been to have them with us these many weeks. Don't miss them or the December 5th concert, Hope and Joy.

Let's go out and play!

PJ Wells

2026-2027 President
Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Evening Concert

Hope and Joy

Saturday, December 5, 8:00 p.m.*
Bankhead Theater Livermore



Some Notes about the Concert from
Lara Webber, Music Director and Conductor

We begin with the richly expressive music of **Samuel Barber**. His **Symphonic Essay No. 1** deeply explores one musical idea in a myriad of ways that build drama, passion and excitement.

The centerpiece of the evening features Pleasanton's own **Annie Wu**, a virtuoso flutist and unique musical storyteller. Annie brings us **Notturno,** music of **Michael Tilson Thomas,** that's loaded with charm, nostalgia, and whimsy. She ties this piece together with **Paul-Agricole Génin's** familiar favorite, **Carnival of Venice**, a perfect pairing.

We finish with **Dvořák**'s fantastic **Symphony No. 8**. This symphony is fully loaded with memorable heartfelt melodies that take us on a dramatic and exciting journey that builds to a fantastically satisfying conclusion.

There is a reception for everyone in the lobby after the concert. Come join us!

No pre-concert talk. Lara will provide brief commentary during the concert.



Annie Wu, flute

We welcome back Annie Wu, who first performed with LAS at our April 2015 concert as a college freshman! Wu's interdisciplinary career aims to spark curiosity and connection through classical music. Her vision is to "create artistic experiences that provide people the opportunity to access feelings and meaning apart from their daily lives."

In 2015, Wu won first prize in the Astral Artists' national audition as the youngest artist on their roster. She took first prizes at the James Pappoutsakis Flute Competition, Yamaha Young Performing Artist Competition, and YoungArts National Competition, and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. As a concerto soloist, Wu has performed with the San Francisco Symphony, Vienna International Orchestra, California Symphony, Kentucky Symphony Orchestra,
West Virginia Symphony, and more, including LAS, of course! Recitals have taken her to Boston's Jordan Hall, Strathmore's Mansion, and Washington D.C.'s Phillips Collection.

She has been a faculty member of Juilliard's Preparatory Division, teaching her own elective on literature and music, as well as on musical storytelling, and has joined the Juilliard Extension Division for her course on listening through the lens of other art forms. Her research paper on music's narrative power in Goethe's Mignon Lieder received Harvard University's Hoopes Prize, and her ideas have been presented in *Symphony* magazine, Alfred Music, the New Jersey Flute Society, the Flute Center blog, and more. She has held an adjunct music faculty position at the Rudolf Steiner School in New York City and currently maintains a private flute studio in Brooklyn and online.

Wu holds a B.A. magna cum laude in comparative literature from Harvard University and an M.M. from New England Conservatory as a part of the Harvard-NEC Dual Degree Program, studying with Paula Robison.

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LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

YOUTH NEWS

Competition For Young Musicians

This October, two winners were selected at the Symphony's 54th annual Competition for Young Musicians. Each winner receives a $750 cash award and **will perform at the February 13 concert**. They are **Annabelle Trinh**, cello, who will play the 1st movement of Cello Concerto No. 1, by Camille Saint-Saëns, and **Sophie Lechner,** bass, who will play the 3rd movement of Andrés Martin's Concerto for Double Bass. The winners' biographies will be included in the concert program, the February edition of *Symphony Notes,* and on the LAS website. In addition, twelve contestant finalists will be offered a recital appearance opportunity for local audiences in Livermore at either a January or April Symphony Guild meeting. Each performer will also receive an honorarium. Association board member Anne Badders chairs the Competition committee.

Student Awards

Four high school students will receive $500 cash awards at the December 5th concert. The Symphony Association administers these awards to recognize local high school seniors who have made significant contributions to school and community musical activities. The awards are not based on students' musical ability or plans to pursue further music education. Bios for the winning students will be featured in the December 5 concert program and on the LAS website. Association board member Nissa Nack chairs the Awards committee.

Livermore Amador Summer Youth Orchestra

On August 1, the Livermore Amador Summer Youth Orchestra performed a free public concert at First Presbyterian Church Livermore. Over 50 youths participated. This year's concert was presented as a partnership between LASA and Livermore Valley Arts, with assistance from long-time LASYO coordinator, Betsy Hausburg. The orchestra was led by conductors Bill Harrington and Robert Huntington.

School Concert Outreach Assemblies

In April, the symphony orchestra will perform concerts for the student bodies of two elementary schools in Livermore. Association board member Stacy Hughes chairs the Youth Outreach committee.

Community Health & Education Foundation

Music has the power to inspire, connect, and create lasting memories. Your generosity will help Livermore-Amador Symphony introduce new audiences to the beauty of live orchestral music while giving young people opportunities to discover their own passion for music. Funds raised will support in-school concerts, student scholarships, music competitions, and hands-on experiences like the Instrument Petting Zoo, opening doors for children to explore and experience music in meaningful ways. Your support will also help expand community outreach, promote performances, and enhance the concert experience, welcoming new audiences and encouraging them to make symphonic music a lasting part of their lives. Through this special partnership, **CHEF will match donations by 50%**, up to a $10,000 match. Together, our goal is to raise $20,000 from our community, which CHEF will increase by $10,000, creating a total impact of $30,000 to support music education, youth programs, and enriching concert experiences. **Use this link by December 15** to go directly to the LAS CHEF donation page: https://chefgivingcommunity.org/symphony/. ***We are grateful for your support!***

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY and GUILD CALENDAR 2026-2027

Saturday, December 5, 2026
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concerts:
3:00 p.m. *Free Family Holiday Concert*
8:00 p.m. *Hope and Joy*
Annie Wu, flute
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Sunday, January 24, 2027, 2:00 p.m.
January Gems & Reception, Guild Winter Business Meeting
With performances by selected runners-up from the Competition for Young Musicians
Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore

Saturday, February 13, 2027, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:
American in Paris
With performances by the winners of the Competition for Young Musicians
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Saturday, April 10, 2027, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:
Soaring at Sunrise, Markus Pawlik, piano
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Tuesday, April 20, 2027, 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 22, 2027, 6:30 p.m.
April Jewels & Reception, Guild Spring Business Meeting–Election of officers
With performances by selected runners-up from the Competition for Young Musicians
Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore

Thursday, May 20, 2027, 12:00 noon
Guild Spring Luncheon, with introduction of 2027-28 officers
Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore

Saturday, June 5, 2027, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:
Blue Jeans and Beethoven, Ava Pakiam, violin
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 Anne Anaya; Guild President PJ Wells; Editor Marcia Elchesen. 925-789-5724; PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551. Nonprofit Tax ID 23-7001614. Website: www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org**