HIGH NOTES

JANUARY 2018

SONGS
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
JANUARY 27 -28, 2018

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60TH ANNIVERSARY

SANTA CRUZ SYMPHONY
DANIEL STEWART MUSIC DIRECTOR
Top 10 Fun Facts

1. Die Meistersinger has been played at Watsonville High School graduations for many, many years.

2. Wagner’s overture is 9 minutes; the opera is a whopping 4.5 hours.


4. Richard Strauss wrote his first song when he was 6 and his Four Last Songs at 84, one year before his death.

5. Strauss once called himself “a first-class second-rate composer.”

6. Strauss musically quotes from his tone-poem Tod und Verklärung (Death and Transfiguration) in Im Abendrot (At Sunset).

7. As he lay fatally ill from a series of heart attacks, Strauss calmly claimed, “Dying is just like I composed it in Tod und Verklärung.”

8. In his role as Russian Inspector of Naval Bands, Rimsky-Korsakov learned a lot about woodwinds and brass, enhancing his orchestration abilities.

9. The grim bass motif, the first notes of the first four measures (E-D-C-Bb), thematically represents the domineering Sultan.

10. The tender, sensuous, winding violin melody is the sound of Scheherazade spinning her tales.

About the Songs

Richard Wagner’s celebratory and stirring Prelude to his comedic opera Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg begins our vocally themed program. The story revolves around the city’s guild of Meistersinger (Master Singers), an association of amateur poets and musicians. They were primarily master craftsmen of various trades who developed a craftsman-like approach to music-making, with an intricate system of rules for composing and performing songs. Ultimately, the story is about the superiority of creative new songs over established traditional songs, or the triumph of progressive over conservative thought.

Next comes Richard Strauss’ visionary and transcendent Four Last Songs featuring Metropolitan Opera star and frequent guest Michelle Bradley. Three of the songs, Frühling (Spring), September, and Beim Schlafengehen (When Falling Asleep), are based on poems by Hermann Hess. The final song, Im Abendrot (At Sunset), is based on a poem by Joseph von Eichendorff, which Strauss felt had special meaning for him. Strauss wrote the songs for soprano and orchestra and died shortly after completing them. All of the songs but Frühling deal with death, and are suffused with a sense of calm, acceptance, and completeness.

One Thousand and One Nights, also known as The Arabian Nights, is the inspiration for Rimsky-Korsakov’s sweepingly epic Scheherazade. Korsakov wrote the following introduction for the piece:

The Sultan Schiar, convinced that all women are false and faithless, vowed to put to death each of his wives after the first nuptial night. But the Sultana Scheherazade saved her life by entertaining her lord with fascinating tales, told seriatim, for a thousand and one nights. The Sultan, consumed with curiosity, postponed from day to day the execution of his wife, and finally repudiated his bloody vow entirely.

Scheherazade will once again feature our concertmaster, Nigel Armstrong.
FAQs

Q: How long is the concert?
A: Wagner’s *Die Meistersinger* is 9 minutes long, followed by Richard Strauss’s *Four last Songs* which lasts 25 minutes. Following a 20 minute intermission we will perform Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Schéhérazade*, 46 minutes in length.

Q: When an orchestra member plays a solo as part of a piece, are they considered a soloist?
A: Often a composer will write a solo for the concertmaster or another principal player. While they do not stand in front of the orchestra like a featured soloist, these musicians are playing solos. The conductor typically acknowledges these orchestra soloists during the bows.

Q: When is the "right time" to clap?
A: Composers like Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms worried their works were not liked if audiences didn’t clap after every movement. Wagner instigated changes in audience behavior by requesting they stop clapping during his opera *Parsifal* to avoid extra curtain calls mid-opera. (Remember, Wagner wrote very long operas.)

We believe you should clap when you feel so moved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>League Preview 11:30 am</td>
<td>California Grill, Watsonville</td>
<td>SantaCruzSymphonyLeague.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Open Rehearsal 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27/28</td>
<td>&quot;Songs Past, Present &amp; Future&quot;</td>
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<td>SantaCruzTickets.com</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>Legacy Society Event 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Simpkins Swim Center Conf. Room</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>Classical Overtures 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Watsonville Public Library</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>&quot;The Orchestra Rocks!&quot; Family Concert 2pm</td>
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For more information, call 831.462.0553 x10 or email office@santacruzsymphony.org.

**Musician Spotlight**

**Jill Van Gee**

Jill Van Gee is Santa Cruz Symphony’s Assistant Principal Viola and holds a Bachelor of Music from The Juilliard School and a Master of Music from the Université de Montréal. As a performer, Jill has performed with many chamber groups and orchestras (including Austin, San Antonio and Montreal Symphonies), touring and performing all over the world. She enjoys working with the next generation of musicians through her private studio and with local youth orchestras.

Jill also holds the position of Librarian - her first administrative position with a symphony. As Librarian, she is responsible for ordering, maintaining, and marking the physical sheet music, making the bowing notations provided by the concertmaster and other principal string players, and distributing the music to the musicians.

She started viola in the 5th grade at a public school. She wanted to play the cello but her teacher said she was too small, so she chose the viola because “everyone plays the violin.”

Jill settled in California two years ago with her boyfriend and two feline friends, Artemis and Captain Spectacular. When not preoccupied with music, she enjoys cooking and baking as well as sampling the local coffee shops. She doesn’t consider herself athletic, but looks forward to tackling the bouldering walls at local gyms and practicing Iyengar yoga.
The Need: More Music Education in Schools

Music education is limited in Santa Cruz County, and is provided on a school by school basis. Some schools have music teachers, some don’t. Some grades have music teachers, some don’t. We want to work to help fill that gap.

The Symphony has been offering free concerts to 4th and 5th graders for almost 50 years and an in-class classical music listening program for the past five. We’ve heard great things about how these programs have positive effects on children’s lives, and we want to have an even bigger impact by providing ongoing music education — teaching children how to read music and to play an instrument.

“With Link Up the children are enjoying playing the recorder a lot. I am amazed how engaged they are.” - Susan Knopf, Mintie White Elementary School teacher

What is Link Up?

Link Up is a free music education program offered by Carnegie Hall who has partnered with orchestras across the globe. For the first time this year, we are implementing their Link Up program in Santa Cruz County starting with “The Orchestra Rocks!” whose program contains selections that highlight the importance of rhythm in music.

What Your Symphony is Doing

Over 2500 4th and 5th graders have joined the Santa Cruz Symphony in this highly participatory program. They are currently learning to read music, count rhythms, sing, and play the recorder in their classrooms. On February 20 and 21, they will come together and perform various selections with the Santa Cruz Symphony from their seats at one of our four free Youth Concerts. The Link Up program and materials are free to students and teachers alike, and through the help of donations, the Symphony provided over 1000 recorders to students in need.

Thank You!

Many, many thank to donors like you, our partners at SC County Office of Education and Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and the many teachers countywide without whom this program would not be possible.

“Once the music and general education teachers went through the SCCOE Professional Development training, a transformation occurred! Even those teachers who were reluctant and reticent became energized and exuberant!” - Audrey Sirota, VAPA coordinator for SC County Office of Education
THE ORCHESTRA ROCKS FAMILY CONCERT

FEBRUARY 25, 2018 • 2PM • SANTA CRUZ CIVIC AUDITORIUM
TICKETS: $8 CHILD, $15 ADULTS + FEES • 25% DISCOUNT ON GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE
CIVIC BOX OFFICE: 831.420.5260 • SANTACRUZTICKETS.COM
Larry Friedman and Tom Ellison recently revised their estate plan, choosing to make the Santa Cruz Symphony a beneficiary in the Memorandum of Charitable Intent they filed with Community Foundation Santa Cruz County. "The Arts community in Santa Cruz County is a wonder to behold and this was one way we felt we could give back," said Larry.

In their 25 years together their musical commitment has grown from singing in the Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus, to occasional attendees at Symphony concerts, to full season subscribers. "Our first experience was when the orchestra was just a community organization, and you could only hope that it would improve," said Tom.

They saw a big change when Larry Granger arrived on the scene. "Santa Cruz Symphony finally became a professional organization," said Tom. "and now the violins at least were all in tune." They continued to sing under the baton of Cheryl Anderson and got to see the improvements first hand.

When Danny Stewart became the conductor, their commitment to the Symphony solidified. "Bringing Danny on board was a transformational moment for the Symphony," said Tom, adding, "We’re singers with the Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus which traditionally performs in the final concert of the year, and Danny’s operatic background puts a strong emphasis on the meaning of the words. He wants the chorus to bring that out, just as he might in an operatic stage performance."

Besides singing and attending concerts, Tom and Larry also began volunteering with the Symphony by serving as docents for the school’s program. "We knew [Board Member] Lee Duffus through the chorus, so it was natural to support that program," said Larry. They also now house symphony musicians during performance weekends.

Their Arts interest goes beyond music to stage performances and visual arts. Their Memorandum of Charitable Intent leaves money to other arts organizations in the county as well as to the Santa Cruz Symphony. "Our bequest to the Arts in Santa Cruz may feel small," said Tom, "but so would anything. What we hope is that we inspire others to join us in making legacy gifts."
Recital

An Afternoon with Schumann & Brahms

Featuring JONAH KIM
Principal Cello
Santa Cruz Symphony

Grammy winning artist Jonah Kim made his solo debut with Wolfgang Sawallisch and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2003. The same year, he also appeared with the National Symphony Orchestra where the Washington Post music critic Joseph McLellan called him simply, “the next Yo-Yo Ma.”

2:00pm • MARCH 4TH, 2018
SAMPER RECITAL HALL

ELIZABETH DORMAN / Piano
NIGEL ARMSTRONG / Violin
DANIEL STEWART / Viola

Tickets: CabrilloVAPA.com or Call: 831.479.6154
$45, $20 student with ID

A fixture at top studios such as Skywalker Sound and the Hit Factory, he records across a spectrum of genres and collaborates live in concert with artists like Andrea Bocelli, Mariah Carey, Cristian Castro, and Kenny Rogers. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to experience this exceptionally talented artist in an intimate setting as we welcome Jonah to the Santa Cruz Symphony family. Tickets are limited, so reserve your seats now as we anticipate a recital that promises to be inspiring, enchanting and memorable!
Thank You

As a Symphony supporter, you know that great music speaks to beauty, to truth, to our lives. It brings out the best in who we are, as individuals and as a community. And we are all passionate about sharing our love for music with Santa Cruz County.

New, younger audiences are finding their way to our concerts every time we take the stage. Educational efforts are sowing the seeds of expanded future audiences. What started as a community orchestra 60 years ago has grown to be a genuine cultural powerhouse and a major symbol of our community.

Your generosity in contributing to our Annual Fund drive continues to show how special Santa Cruz County is. At a time when state and federal funding for the arts could be eliminated and incentives to give are being eroded, you continue to stand up for music.

Music provides those of us in Santa Cruz County a refuge and expresses what cannot be expressed in any other way. We are grateful that, when asked, you rise to the occasion to ensure that the legacy of classical music thrives in our special community. After 60 years of performing, we know that the Symphony will live on thanks to donors like you!

Remember the Symphony in your estate or retirement plan and ensure the joy of music for generations to come.