

FALL 2024

MUSICAL NOTES

Official Newsletter of the Santa Cruz Symphony League

Musician Spotlight: Adaptations Getting to Know Nancy Zhou

Are you wondering what Nancy's duties as Concertmaster consist of?

This highly esteemed and vital position consists of tuning the orchestra and working closely with the conductor to ensure his vision and interpretation of a piece is conveyed to the violin section and, by extension, the entire orchestra. In addition to being an accomplished musician who may be called upon for solos, she must be a leader with communication skills that convey the conductor's directions to all the musicians in the orchestra.

The Season program book recounted Nancy's early years and professional life. But we wanted to get to know Nancy on a more personal level; to meet the woman behind the leader and performer. Here are some questions that Nancy was kind enough to answer for us. Some responses might surprise you!

Q: What are your hobbies and interests?

A: Reading, cooking, and fashion - you can argue that these three hobbies are related to music, peripherally!

Q: How many hours a day do you practice the violin?

A: An average of 5-7 hours - this includes either mental or physical practice.

Q: What other profession would you pursue if you were not a violinist?

A: Dermatologist - hands down. May seem bizarre, but I am fascinated with our integumentary systems, the science behind skincare, and beyond.

Q: Do you have any advice on how to inspire children and/or teenagers to love classical music and/or play an instrument?

A: Any passion takes investment in developing focus, an appreciation of silence (which is harder nowadays), and a lot of patience. Classical music is such a passion - oftentimes, the seeds are sewn if children are exposed to free community concerts, recordings at home, etc.

All of us who heard the solo violin piece from the movie "Schindler's List" last year will remember how thrilling Nancy's performance was. We look forward to her interpretation of the Violin Concerto by Erich Wolfgang Korngold at the Adaptations concert!

This Issue:

Getting to Know
Nancy Zhou

PAGE 1

Concert Preview:
Adaptations

PAGE 2

Sparkles & Spirits
Dinner & Concert
Twilight Picnic

PAGE 3

Mason Bates:
Master of
Modern Music
Member Spotlight

PAGE 4

2024-25 Symphony
League Events
Membership Information
Hosting Musicians

PAGE 5

Orchestra Refreshments

PAGE 6



CONCERT PREVIEW: Adaptations

Explore the magic behind the music with Maestro Daniel Stewart and Concertmaster Nancy Zhou.. You'll have the unique opportunity to experience the Santa Cruz Symphony's "Adaptations" concert on a deeper level with stories about the Composers and compositions.

DATE: **Friday, November 1, 2024**

TIME: 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Pete's Fish House
213 Esplanade, #102
Capitola, CA 95010

Lunch choices:

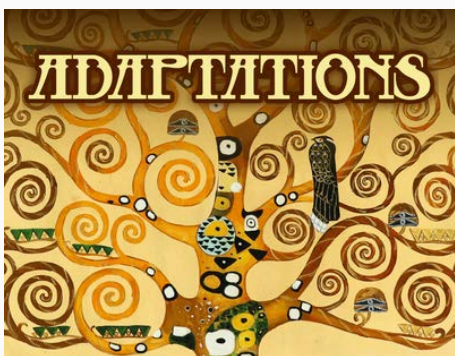
Halibut with Champagne Cream Sauce or
Nantucket Scallops w/Lobster Fenugreek Emulsion

Dessert: Tiramisu

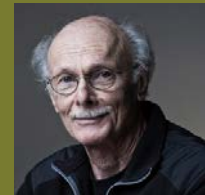
Wine: Silver Mountain Chardonnay

Tickets are \$45 per person. Space is limited, so reserve your seats now! Deadline for reservations: October 25, 2024

Order online at: www.SantaCruzSymphonyLeague.org



Composer Spotlight: Adaptations Josef Sekon



Josef Sekon is an accomplished composer and dedicated music educator at Cabrillo College, where he inspires students with his passion for music and composition. With a background in both classical and contemporary styles, Josef has created a diverse portfolio of works that have been performed nationally. His teaching philosophy emphasizes creativity and collaboration, encouraging students to explore their unique musical voices.

In addition to his role at Cabrillo College, Josef actively participates in local music initiatives, fostering community engagement through workshops and performances. His commitment to nurturing the next generation of musicians makes him a valued figure in the educational and artistic landscape.

Don't miss the performance of Sekon's composition 'Spin' with Santa Cruz Symphony on November 2 and 3.

Sparkles & Spirits Dinner & Concert



New and Exciting This Season:

December 14, 2024
Sparkles & Spirits Dinner
Calvary Church Parish Hall
across from Nickelodeon
532 Center Street
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tickets are available at: scsl.org

Price: \$75.00 per person

This prix fixe buffet will feature, wines and gourmet delights for all tastes. Dress in your sparkling holiday outfits and meet your friends to begin your holiday musical evening here. Guests will also enjoy holiday carols and Santa Claus. Following dinner, it's an easy walk to the Holiday Pops Concert.

Twilight Picnic

The Membership Committee hosted the annual members' Twilight Picnic on October 11 at Paradise Park. More than 70 people gathered to celebrate the symphony and enjoy each other's company and fun picnic food. Eighteen guests and many new members were among the attendees. The highlight of the evening was live music by mother and daughter flutists, and we thank them for joining us. Many thanks to the team for making the evening such a success.



2024- Spring 2025 Concert Dates

Adaptations

Saturday, Nov 2, 7:30 p.m.

Civic Auditorium

Sunday, Nov 3, 2:00 p.m.

Mello Center

Symphony Music Series

Nancy & Violin

Sunday, Nov 24, 2:00 p.m.

Semper Hall, Cabrillo College

Holiday Pops Concert

Saturday, Dec 14, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 15, 1:00 p.m.

Civic Auditorium

Symphony Music Series

Soulful Joy

Destiny Muhhamad & Friends

Sunday, Dec 22, 2:00 p.m.

Semper Hall, Cabrillo College

Family Concert

Peter & The Wolf

Sunday, Mar 2, 2025, 2:00 pm

Civic Auditorium

*Popular concerts sell out,
so secure your seats early at:*

ONLINE:

www.SantaCruzTickets.com

BOX OFFICE:

307 Church Street, Santa Cruz 95060

CALL:

(831) 420-5260



Reflections on the First Concert of the Season: Mason Bates: Master of Modern Music

The start of the new concert season welcomed back Mason Bates to perform his long anticipated *Philharmonia Fantastique*, a piece co-commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra.

Born in Pennsylvania, and raised on a farm in Virginia, Bates showed an early interest in bridging the worlds of electronic and symphonic music, premiering his Concerto for Synthesizer in 1999 with the Phoenix Symphony. After receiving his PhD in composition from UC Berkeley in 2008, he worked as a DJ and techno artists in clubs and lounges of San Francisco. There he co-founded Mercury Soul, a nonprofit that showcased classical music with DJ sets. He later joined the Composition faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 2014.

Appointed as the first ever Composer-in-Residence at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2016, Bates presented an immersive production and stagecraft, imaginatively transforming the way classical music is both created and experienced. Prior to winning a Grammy in 2019 for his first opera, *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, Bates was the recipient of awards in Berlin and Rome, where he studied at the American Academies. Bates is currently proclaimed as the second most performed living composer.



Member Spotlight



Helen Jones first discovered classical music as a college student. She began attending concerts in Boston, later in New York, and more recently in San Francisco. When she moved to Santa Cruz she immediately became an active follower of the Santa Cruz Symphony. Helen eventually joined the Symphony League Board of Directors, and served as President of the Symphony League 2015-2017.

Helen is a former De Anza College Counselor and Administrator, and remains active in the Osher Lifelong Learner Institute. When Helen is not busy with her involvement in the lives of her 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren, she enjoys hosting Symphony League events at home in Westside Santa Cruz. One of her biggest thrills has been hosting Musicians of the orchestra, whom fill Helen's heart with music when they invite friends for rehearsal sessions at her home.

2024-25 SC Symphony League Events

The Symphony League always has something new & exciting planned! Mark your calendar and join us at these events:

NOV 1, 2024 Preview & Luncheon: Adaptations

DEC 14, 2024 Holiday Concert & Dinner

FEB 1, 2025 Country by Candlelight Gala

MAR 28, 2025 Preview & Luncheon:
Symphonic Shakespeare

MAY 2, 2025 Preview: Mozart's Requiem

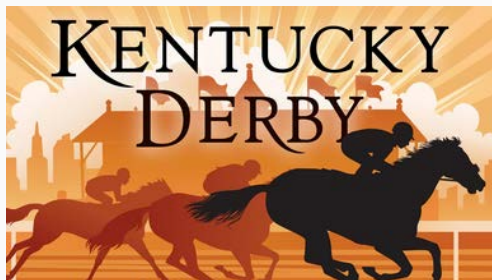
MAY 3, 2025 Kentucky Derby Party

JUN 14-15, 2025 Home & Garden Tour

Purchase tickets at: SantaCruzSymphonyLeague.org



Two-step into a charming country setting and kick up your heels for a night of fun by candlelight! Enjoy country hospitality with a delicious farm-to-table dinner, live music, and exciting silent and live auctions.



Be part of the action with the most exciting two minutes in sports! Wear your finest attire and fabulous hat while you sip on mint juleps, savor delicious Southern inspired cuisine, and cheer on the Horses.



Get an exclusive look inside beautifully designed interiors, take a stroll through spectacular gardens and hear stories behind some of the most exquisite properties in the region.

Membership Information

Welcome to our newest members:

Paula Abel (James Neef)

Kellie Allyn

Ted Altenberg & Janet Kreitzer

Rich Hamlin

Derek Hidalgo

Terry & Mary Sue Haskin

Michael & Lesley Tierra

The 2024-2025 Symphony Season is in full swing! Please plan to attend our events. Join fellow League Members while enjoying a Preview Luncheon, a fundraiser, a concert, or other social gatherings (look for our Holiday event coming in December!).

I'm always glad to provide League information to a prospective member. If you know someone who is interested in the League, please send me their contact info.

Dan Rutan

ALERT!

If you haven't renewed for the 24-25 season, please call Dan at 831-475-4939 or go to SCSL.ORG.

Thank you

Hosting Musicians

Many of the Santa Cruz Symphony musicians travel here from other cities and stay with local hosts the Friday and Saturday nights before the performances. Although we have many volunteers, we never seem to have enough.

Do you have a spare bedroom? Would you like to host a Symphony musician? If so, or if you would just like more information about our hosting program, please email

Julia Fuerst at

scsymphonyhousing@gmail.com.

It is a fun way to get involved with the Symphony and get to know a musician!



Orchestra Refreshments

Musicians and guest performers travel from far and wide to perform with the Santa Cruz Symphony. During their time here, they spend countless hours preparing to perfect their performances for our concerts. They often have little time to eat between their commitments to the various rehearsals and pre-concert events they attend. Show your appreciation to them by supporting Orchestra Refreshments, which provides refreshments to musicians and guest performers during concert rehearsals!

How can you help?

- **Volunteer** to provide refreshments or serve refreshments. Smiling faces and helping hands are always welcome! Contact Dan & Vickie Rutan at 831-475-4939 for details. OR
- **Mail a check** to:
*Santa Cruz Symphony League
c/o Mark Chambers-Bray
157 Willow Drive
Felton, CA 95018
Memo: Orchestra Refreshments*



THANK YOU 2024 Orchestra Refreshment Donors

-
- Angela Clark
Anna Hackenbracht
Betty Dodd
Cheryl Hammond
Dianne Overbo
Dolores McCabe
Erik & Nancy Dybdahl
John Dickinson & Nancy Van Natta
Kathy Hatfield
Mark Chambers-Bray
Mary Jo Dunn-Ruiz
Maureen Rishi
Mila Herman
Pat McVeigh
Patricia Greenway
Patty Lockett
Rachel Lather
Rachel Sabajo
Sophie Polyhronakis
Susan Dormanen
Vickie Rutan