



## *Symphony League Spotlight*



### *The Stars Have Aligned*



*Our next concerts on March 29-30 will combine the works of three great composers: Mendelssohn, Clyne, and Tchaikovsky and the music they created for three classic Shakespearean plays: Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth, and Romeo and Juliet.*

*Stars Allie Pratt and Charles Pasternak of Shakespeare Santa Cruz will team up with our own Maestro Daniel Stewart to dazzle us with an evening of sublime music and onstage excerpts from these plays of magic, tragedy, love and loss. It's time to "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" and enjoy this performance bringing us the joy of seeing the music come alive.*

### *This Issue*

*Spotlight Focus  
Page 1 -2*

*President's Message  
Mission Statement  
Page 3*

*Recent Events  
Page 4*

*Upcoming Events 2025  
Page 5*

*In Memoriam  
Membership  
Page 6*

*League Member  
Spotlight:  
Page 7*

*2025 Spring Concert  
Schedule  
Page 8*





## Getting to Know You

By Betty Dodd



*Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing Allie and Charles over coffee for the League newsletter. I'll give you a little of the background of each of them and then some Q and A. Allie Pratt grew up in Fairfield CA, a town close to Davis. She holds a Master's degree in Theatre Arts from UCSC and in addition to performing in Shakespeare Santa Cruz, has a teaching position at De Anza College. Growing up, Allie played piano, violin, and flute and was a drum major in a Marching Band.*

*Charles Pasternak has performed and directed in NYC and LA and many locations in between. He performed in Shakespeare Santa Cruz when it was located in the Sinsheimer-Stanley Glen at UCSC from 2008-2013 and has now been the Director of the company in the Audrey Stanley Grove at Delaveaga Park in Santa Cruz since 2022.*

*Q: What do you like/dislike about living in Santa Cruz?*

*A: Allie: I dislike the high rents, but like the access to nature and outdoor activities nearby.*

*A: Charles: I love the culture and sense of community that exists in Santa Cruz. When the fog rolls in during performances, it forces us to embrace this aspect of live performance.*

*I sometimes miss the tall buildings and energy of big cities, e.g. NYC.*

*Q: If you weren't an actor/director, what profession would you choose?*

*A: Allie: politician or lawyer*

*A: Charles: Writer*

*Q: Any passions or hobbies besides Theater?*

*A: Allie: hiking and backpacking and enjoying nature.*

*A: Charles: Baseball*

*Q: Favorite restaurants in Santa Cruz?*

*A: Charles and Allie both voted for Vim and Bad Animal.*

*Q: Any memorable disasters onstage?*

*A: Allie: fear of "Breaking" in other words breaking out of character and laughing when someone gets lines wrong and forces her to improvise.*

*A: Charles: One evening a member of the audience had his oxygen tank set too high and became "High". He wandered onto the stage and began interacting with the performers while the play was in progress. He ultimately had to be escorted off the stage to the applause of the audience!*

*We want to welcome Charles and Allie to share the stage with the Santa Cruz Symphony. When the Symphony season is over, we hope you will head on down to "The Grove" for a picnic and a play, and enjoy a wonderful Shakespeare Santa Cruz series.*





### ***From The President***

*The League is on a roll with exciting things going on. Last month we had a very successful “Country by Candlelight Gala” that raised a ton of money for the Symphony. This month we are excited for the Symphony collaboration with Santa Cruz Shakespeare at the “Symphonic Shakespeare” concerts. Our Preview Luncheon will feature Maestro Danny, Charles Pasternak, and Allie Pratt. But another thing I’m excited about is that after a bit of a vacation, our newsletter, Musical Notes, is back! Thanks to the amazing team of Sophie Polyhronakis, Dan Rutan, Betty Dodd, and Diane Overbo we are back on track with insightful interviews, profiles of individual members, information about upcoming events, and more. The newsletter is a wonderful outreach and we plan to have printed copies available at the League table at the concerts. If you like to write and want to join the team, let Sophie know at [somoore@comcast.net](mailto:somoore@comcast.net). See you at the Preview and Concerts. Anna*

---

### ***Annual Members Meeting***

***June 28, 11:30 a.m.***

***The Lodge at Montevalle***

***Hosted by your Board of Directors in appreciation of your hard work and commitment. We will be presenting our annual check to the Symphony. Red Spatula Society recognitions will also be presented. We invite you to attend, mingle with your fellow League members and enjoy a casual and relaxing time.***

---

### ***Symphony League Mission Statement***

***The League is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status. The purpose of the League is to provide financial assistance to the Santa Cruz County Symphony Association and its various programs. The League will conduct events and activities, raise funds, promote classical music education, and increase public awareness of classical music.***







## Recent Events

### Country by Candlelight



*Rachel Sabajo Event Chair*



On Saturday evening, February 1, guests entered a magical candlelit dining room at the historic Hay Barn on the University of California, Santa Cruz campus. The Carolyn Sills Combo Band provided toe-tapping music as guests enjoyed cocktails from a full bar, including a local artichoke Liquor cocktail, hors d'oeuvres, and a visit to the array of silent auction items, many from Santa Cruz artists. At dinner we feasted on barbecued , melt-in-your-mouth skirt steak, sumptuous baked beans and macaroni-and-cheese, and heirloom salad. Dessert was a highlight featuring homemade apple pie (made by League members) and ice cream. Entertainment followed featuring country-themed songs ala Patsy Cline performed by Julie James and her friends. Always a highlight was the live auction, offering a seven day cruise, a local legendary piano, dinner prepared by the Watsonville Fire Department, luxury sailing excursion in Monterey Bay and more. And of course, the evening closed with line dancing complete with instructions by a professional!

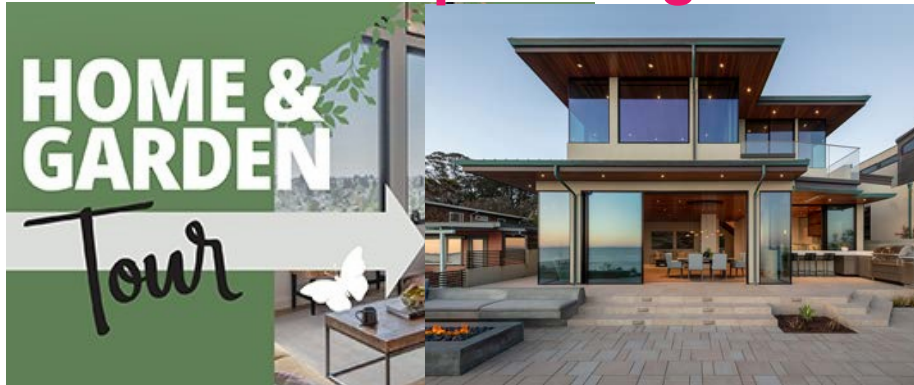
The gala was an absolute success. Not only was it a sold out event but the League raised over \$44,000 for our Symphony! Many thanks to everyone who organized the Gala and made it so special. The list is endless, but in particular, thanks go to Event Chair, Rachel Sabajo, who had the vision for this amazing, fun Country delight!







## Upcoming Events 2025



### 2025 Home & Garden Tour

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

**June 14-15, 2025**

*Mark your calendars! This year's Home & Garden Tour, June 14-15, 2025 will be thrilling, with fascinating homes and lush gardens that you won't want to miss. On tour will be the noteworthy house on the ocean side of West Cliff Drive, a modern home with ocean waves lapping at its feet, a hillside home with stunning views, and much more. Don't miss it! If you want to play a part in the excitement, call Cheryl Hammond to volunteer.*



### Spectacular

### Luau

**SATURDAY**

**July 19, 2025**

*On July 19, 2025 we invite you to join us in Aloha spirit! This premier event will take place at the meticulously manicured grounds of a fabulous estate featured in the 2024 Home and Garden tour. Warm breezes, soft lights, Hawaiian music and dancers, along with a genuine Hawaiian luau will immerse you in an evening you will long remember. Seating is limited to 60 guests at \$500 per person and is promising to sell out quickly. E Komo Mai, welcome, to one of our more prominent annual events.*

**Tickets:**<https://www.santacruzsymphonyleague.org/events/2025>





## *In Memoriam: John Dickinson*



*John Dickinson passed away on February 19th after a health decline following a stroke. With his wife, Nancy Van Natta, John was a long-time member of the League and he was always willing to lend a helping hand. He sold a record number of ads for the Home Tour magazine, provided sandwiches for 'Feed the Orchestra' and he even celebrated his 80th birthday at the League's Wings of Glory gala. He served on the board of the Symphony Association and in a number of community organizations. His family misses him.*

## *Membership*



*Welcome New Members!*

*Stella Marinos*

*Robert Rible*

*A warm 'Welcome' to the League Family! We look forward to greeting you very soon at a League gathering.*

*New membership campaign will be starting this summer. Stay tuned for details.*

## *How To Participate*

Your skills, creative ideas, and participation is what ensures our success. Here are areas where your help is urgently needed:

### **2025 Spring Home and Garden Tour**

Volunteers are needed to be a captain or a docent at one of the fabulous homes on this year's Tour. To ensure another successful tour, behind the scenes folks are needed, too. To offer your participation, contact Cheryl Hammond at 831-475-4982 or [cherylhammond5@charter.net](mailto:cherylhammond5@charter.net)

### **Orchestra Refreshments**

Very little of your time is involved and, if you like, you can "stick around" and enjoy the Orchestra in rehearsal – it's almost like having a private concert! Vickie and I invite you to join us in this much-appreciated support of the Symphony.

### **League Table at Concerts and Recitals**

Become an 'Ambassador for the League' by answering questions about the League, offering printed material and engaging with interested parties. It's a fun way to connect with other music-loving concert-goers! To offer help with refreshments or at a League table, email: [rutandan@comcast.net](mailto:rutandan@comcast.net), or call us at 831-475-4939





## **Member Profile**

**A Farewell to Clyde and Sheila Vaughn**

By Betty Dodd

At the end of March, we will be saying “Au Revoir” to two wonderful people who have been supporters of the Santa Cruz Symphony and League for a combined 50 years. They are turning to a new chapter in life by leaving their home of 30 years in Aptos, and moving to Napa California. Clyde and Sheila have been married since 1994 and have a blended family of 5 children and 3 grandchildren. Their accomplishments are so numerous that it is difficult to list them all, but I will give you some of the highlights.

Sheila was born and raised in Illinois and graduated university with a Master's degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology. She moved to Monterey and taught Speech Therapy in Pacific Grove. After leaving teaching she went to administration and fundraising in nonprofit organizations including Meals on Wheels, Easter Seals, and the Doran Center for the Blind, and retired from a position in Career Development at Cal State University Monterey Bay in 2005.

A native of Venice, California, Clyde graduated university with majors in Psychology, Theology and a minor in music. He played piano and organ throughout high school and university which helped fund his education. Over the years Clyde has been pastor of 5 different churches in Northern Cal, and spent 10 years at Grace United Church in Santa Cruz. He was Executive Director of Senior Housing Retirement community for the Odd Fellows in Saratoga, and also Executive Director of the Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce in Scotts Valley for 2 years.

Clyde and Sheila have shared a love of music, with Sheila playing piano, clarinet, handbells and singing in choirs. Clyde played piano, organ, sax and has been a director of chorale and handbell choirs.

Fortunately for us, this highly talented and qualified pair turned their energy and expertise to the Santa Cruz Symphony and League. Clyde was the president of the League Board for 3 terms, and Sheila treasurer for 15 years where she also maintained the membership database. Sheila has been making and selling her delicious jams and donating all the proceeds to the Symphony. We will miss that! Clyde was an editor of the League newsletter for many years, so he can advise us on what we are doing right/wrong. He has already given me some useful tips. Most years they have tried to take one major vacation, and this year, before embarking on their big move to Napa, they went on a memorable trip to Egypt and Jordan where they marveled at the relics of those ancient civilizations.

Their new digs in Napa consists of a 2 bed/2bath apartment in an Odd Fellows retirement village and comes with the benefit of continuing healthcare. It won't be long before they are immersed in activities there as they will continue to stay active. Wine tasting anyone? We want to say thanks for their friendship and support of the Santa Cruz Symphony and League throughout these many years. Although our musical community will miss them greatly, we wish them well as they embark on this new chapter.

They asked me to publish their new address for anyone who wishes to keep in touch. They hope to continue to hear from all their Symphony League friends. Their phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same.

Clyde cell: 831-212-1052 email [cufaad@comcast.net](mailto:cufaad@comcast.net)  
Sheila cell: 831-332-1695 email [sgvaughn@comcast.net](mailto:sgvaughn@comcast.net)

Clyde & Sheila Vaughn  
1800 Atrium Parkway Unit H175  
Napa California, 94559





**Spring 2025**  
**Concert and Recital Schedule**

**Classical Series Concert 3**  
**Symphonic Shakespeare**

**Guest Artist:**

**Charles Pasternak**

**March 29, 2025: 7:30 p.m.**

**Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium**

**March 30, 2025: 2:00 p.m.**

**Henry J. Mello Center,**

**Watsonville**

★★★★★

**Symphonic Musician Series**

**Danny and Friends**

**Sunday, April 13, 2025**

**Samper Hall at**

**Cabrillo College**

★★★★★

**Classical Series Concert 4**

**Mozart's Requiem**

**May 3, 2025: 7:30 p.m.**

**Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium**

**May 4, 2025: 2:00 p.m.**

**Henry J. Mello Center, Watsonville**

★★★★★

**Symphonic Musician Series**

**Omari and Friends**

**Sunday, May 18, 2025**

**Samper Hall at**

**Cabrillo College**

★★★★★

**Spring Pops Concert**

**John Williams Encore**

**Saturday, June 7, 2025**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium**

**Pre-Concert Street Party:**

**6:00 p.m. Church Street**

**Food Trucks and Music**

★★★★★

**Tickets at:**

**Santa Cruz Symphony .org**