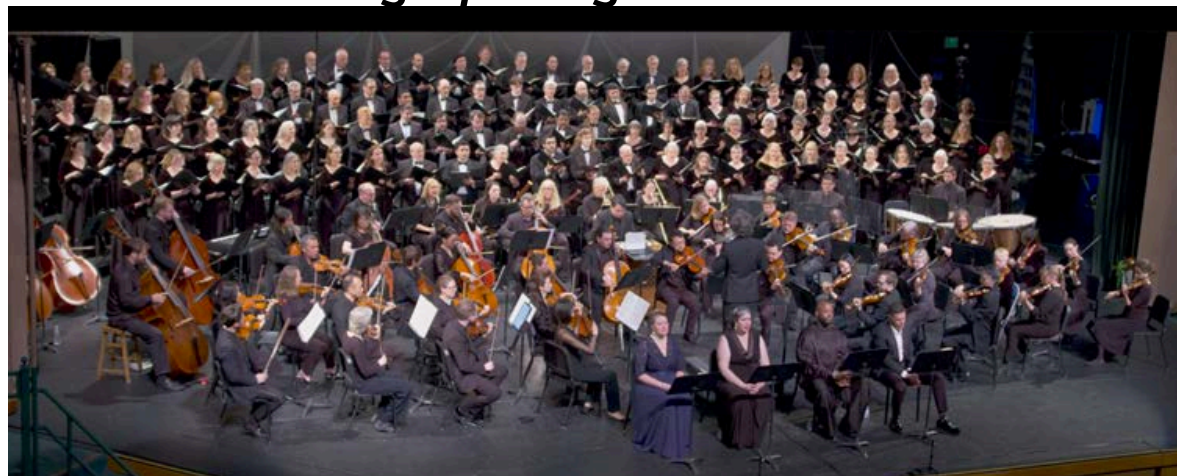


Santa Cruz Symphony and Cabrillo Chorus



Symphony League Spotlight

This season has been filled by incredible collaborations with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Cabrillo Chorus, and many guest performers. When the Cabrillo Chorus of 120 singers, along with the Symphony presented Mozart's Requiem, the thrilled audience sprang to a standing ovation in celebration of their performance of this masterpiece.

And who can forget the Shakespeare and Symphony concert where the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet was cleverly staged among the audience? Or the scene where Puck from Midsummer Night's Dream propped against Daniel's podium and slumbered through the entire number while on camera? Who knew that "sleep acting" was a thing?

Shakespearean actors Allie Pratt and Charles Pasternak gave us a hint of the lively Santa Cruz Shakespeare season in the Grove at DeLaveaga which will be starting this summer.

The family concert was another sold out event and included many local young people and their families. Omari, a multitalented performer with personality plus, MC'd the entire concert and narrated the story of Tchaikovsky's Peter and the Wolf, exciting the imaginations of adults and children alike. Many young musicians from Santa Cruz area participated and it was wonderful to see all the school age young people involved in creating and performing live music. It is inspiring to know that not all children are glued to phones and social media, as some might think.

A street party was part of the fun of the John Williams movie music concert and we all loved the light heartedness of this final concert. Many enthusiastic costume wearers vied for prizes.

As part of the Mozart concert, Maestro Daniel Stewart introduced one of his own compositions. Thanks, Danny for bringing us so much pleasure with this season's wonderful selection of music.

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Interview with Cheryl Anderson

by Betty Dodd

How does a little girl from the “hillbilly” area of “Mounts Holler” Pennsylvania become a sophisticated, world traveled musician, singer and leader of a 120 member Chorus?

Much has been written about Cheryl and all her marvelous accomplishments . She is a beloved local legend who has led the Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus for 35 years. I sat down with her recently to get to know Cheryl, the woman, and not the public figure.

Cheryl was born in the hills of Pennsylvania, just across the state line from West Virginia, into a family compound of Mounts (her family name). In the absence of formal entertainment, this country family made music: sang, played instruments, and got together at her Grandparents’ home, church and the Grange.

Cheryl attended a one room elementary school with a total of 35 students, (7 in first grade), with the majority of students being from the Mounts families. When she was 5 years old, she began studying piano with her Aunt Norma. This same Aunt Norma at the age of 94 still sings beautifully and was able to sing in the Cabrillo Chorus’ recent performance at Carnegie Hall.

“Trees are about hope and faith”

Fast forward to high school in Claysville, PA, she had a school counselor with the unlikely name of Mr. Volcano. One day near graduation, Cheryl was taken by the wrist by a very stern teacher, the Librarian, and led to the counselor’s office. Thinking she was going to be reprimanded for some offense, Cheryl was surprised when the grumpy teacher stated to Mr. Volcano that “this girl must go to college!”

And she did! Somehow they made it happen. She worked her way through West Liberty State College, WV, majored in voice and piano, and studied all other musical instruments. Her focus was mostly classical music, but even did some backup vocals for Country and Western groups who were appearing on the radio station WWVA Jamboree. This was her first “paid” singing job.

Cheryl’s first teaching position was a K-7 school in Virginia Beach, VA. It was a great experience and laid the groundwork for her work with children and youth until today.

It was in Virginia that Cheryl met and married John Anderson, a very talented flutist and conductor who also sings. They moved throughout the country, attending various universities for graduate work and to take jobs, and eventually landed in California in 1989. Cheryl was hired at Cabrillo by the late Lile Cruz, another well known local musician and conductor, and has now been teaching at Cabrillo for 35 years.

Although Cheryl is stepping away from Cabrillo and all the administrative work that goes into managing and directing the Cabrillo Chorus, she will still be leading a 35 member chorus at Peace United Church of Christ on High Street. In this semi retirement chapter of their lives, Cheryl and John plan to travel in the Southwest US, and will take a major trip to Egypt in January 2026. Cheryl loves hiking and baking. Her specialties are pies: Pear, Grape and Rhubarb being her favorites, from recipes passed down to her from her grandmothers and aunts.

If she had not become a choir director, Cheryl says she would have liked to have been a ballerina or a spy !!

Cheryl, we hope you will have time to pursue your hobbies in the future. As you can see by the photo, Cheryl is still a country girl at heart and very comfortable wearing rubber boots, in the orchard with the dogs, Howdy and Talullah, beside the apple tree that was presented to her by the Symphony League in recognition of her contribution to our Santa Cruz music community.



From The President



The League has had a wonderful Season of beautiful music, amazing fundraising events, great Preview luncheons with Maestro Danny, and more. Since I became a League member and more recently President, I have reflected on another special aspect of the League - and that is community. The League is not just an organization of volunteers. It is an ensemble of people who love the Symphony but also enjoy each other. Let me give some examples. At one of my first committee meetings, we met at Mary Ann Orr's home in Pasatiempo. The meeting didn't start until we had enjoyed a delicious lunch and time to visit and catch up. We got the work done but we enjoyed each other's company. I also think about one of our Board Members, Susan Koeker. Susan judiciously sends handwritten notes to members who are going through a medical issue, celebrating something in their life, whatever. She adds that special note. So what I've observed is that this is an organization that understands community. And we invite you to join our community!

Annual Members Meeting

June 28, 12:00 p.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

Home and Garden Tour

The Home & Garden Tour for 2025 was a huge success thanks to a dedicated team and some amazingly generous homeowners. The five properties on the tour were quite different in style and we heard nothing but compliments about each and every one. The West Cliff Cottage was of great interest and the homeowners were especially welcoming. The Oceanfront Perfection home near East Cliff was many peoples' favorite for its location and decor. We were all charmed by the Entertainer's Paradise, which will likely be the location for future League events. Many tour goers purchased paintings at the Hillside Elegance home. And everyone loved the incomparable Rosscienda Vineyard Estate.

Many thanks to our hardworking and skilled H&G Tour Committee:

Janis Bolt

Jan Derecho

Cheryl Hammond

Sophie Polyhronakis

Rachel Sabajo

Nancy Van Natta

Mark Chambers-Bray

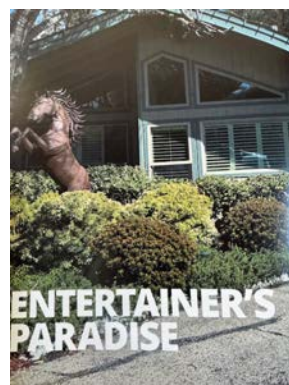
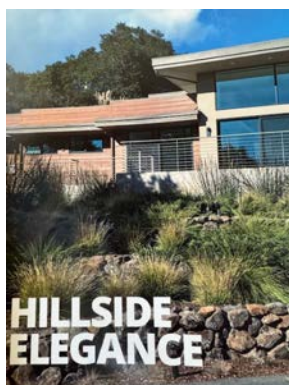
Anna Hackenbacht

Mary Ann Orr

Andy Rolphe

Linda Segal

In addition to the planning committee, a total of 70 docents were on site at the homes to show visitors around. Thanks to all who participated. How many tickets were sold, and how much money did we raise for the Symphony from this event? We will find the answers at our upcoming League annual luncheon meeting. See you there!





Upcoming Events 2025



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.



*Preview:
October 3, 2025
Scheherazade*



*Twilight Picnic
October 10, 2025
Paradise Park*



*Preview:
October 31, 2025
The Planets*



*Sparkles and Soiree
December 12, 2025*

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



Membership



Welcome back to Sue Dormanen, who took a 'break' from the League for a couple of years. It's great to have YOU back!

Member Shirley Greenwood has relocated to Oregon. Shirley was a member for many years and has been a great supporter of the League and our many activities. We send Shirley our Best Wishes in her new home in Oregon.

"Thank You"

--- to all of you for volunteering your time, skills, and talents to ensure the success of our fabulous annual fundraising events: The December 14 "Sparkles and Spirits Soiree" prior to the December 14 concert; the Gala on February 1; the Stay at Home Tea; and the Home and Garden Tour June 14 and 15. Without your dedication, our fundraising efforts on behalf of our marvelous Symphony would not be possible.

A round of applause to those volunteers who provisioned and served the Orchestra with Refreshments during rehearsal before every concert this past season. More volunteers are needed to participate in this program next season. It's not a tough commitment and the food is sincerely appreciated by these talented musicians. Some people volunteer each concert, but the more people we have to help, the fewer times you need to provide food. Donations towards Rehearsal Refreshments is also a way to participate without a lot of effort on your part. To join our team, please call us at 831-475-4939 or email: rutandan@comcast.net.

A round of applause also goes out to League Member Julia Fuerst in finding safe, comfortable, and much-needed housing for musicians during rehearsal week. Thank You, Julia!

Be sure to RSVP by June 24 for you and a guest for YOUR League's Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, June 28 – can easily be done on the League website or by calling Cheryl Hammond. Held at Montevalle in Scotts Valley, this event, hosted by your Board of Directors, is our way of saying "Thank You" to everyone for your support, participation, and commitment to the League and to our wonderful Orchestra. You'll receive an update on our fundraising results for this season, socialize with other members, and witness appreciation awards to the new inductees and seasoned veterans of the Red Spatula Society. And be there when the results of your fundraising efforts are presented to the Symphony leadership. Questions? Call Cheryl at 831-475-9482. See You There!

Keep your eyes on your email in-box: This year, League dues notices will again be sent via email. We tried it last year with a lot of success, saving on stationery and postage expenses. Thank you!

New members are always welcome. Please provide me with names, addresses and/or phone numbers and I'll be happy to contact them regarding the League and membership.

Thanks to all of you for your support. It has been a pleasure serving as your Membership Director.

Dan



Symphony League Spotlight: Gary Reece

Interview by Betty Dodd

While Daniel Stewart makes all the beautiful music for us, Gary Reece is in the background doing all the administrative work that makes our Symphony function. As Executive Director, he has to manage and communicate with:

- *The Symphony Board*
- * Financials and Budget*
- *Symphony staff, hiring and managing*
- *Daniel Stewart*
- *Guest performers*
- * Sponsors and Donors*
- *Compiling the program book*
- *Advertising the Symphony*
- *Orchestra members*

All that and much, much more! To get an idea of how Gary came to this position, I was able to interview him and learned a bit about his background.

Gary was born in Peoria, Illinois. He played trombone in his high school marching band, played handbells in church, and his Mom played piano, giving him a somewhat casual background in music appreciation. While at the University of Illinois, he majored in Finance and Economics. There he met John Burroughs, who is well known to the Santa Cruz community, and having been fraternity brothers, they became lifelong friends.

In 1978, a few years after graduating, Gary moved to California to take advantage of the more gentle climate. He was involved in significant real estate development, and was a financial consultant to a variety of businesses throughout the Bay Area.

By 2019 he was recruited to become the Board Treasurer for the Symphony. At that time Dorothy Wise was the Director. When she wanted to retire, a search was made for a suitable candidate to fill the position. When no candidate was found, Gary was asked to take the position. So, in 2021 he unexpectedly came into his present day role as Executive Director.

Gary's is the face we see at every concert, meeting, and League event, and he truly knows everything that is happening at the Civic. When he graduated with his specialty in Finance and Economics, I doubt that he would have dreamed of managing a Symphony Orchestra. However, to keep this musical ensemble afloat and thriving, it has to be treated like a business, and Gary has the "chops" to make it work. At our somewhat aged Civic Auditorium which at times hosts roller derbies and wrestling matches, Daniel Stewart manages all the music selections for each season, and Gary makes sure it can happen.

In his personal life some favorite restaurants in the area are Sugo and Oblo in Santa Cruz. He enjoys seeing old and "sappy" movies. If he hadn't been involved in business and finance, he would like to have gone into Law. His main hobby would be travel, if he gets time to do it.

Gary's goal and hopes for the Symphony would be to offer high quality performances to a sellout crowd every time. We as audiences believe we are getting wonderful, high quality music, and many sell out performances have already occurred.

Thanks, Gary for all the energy and expertise you have brought to the Symphony organization and being the unseen hand guiding it though.



2025 - 2026 Santa Cruz Symphony Concert Season

Scheherazade

October 4-5, 2025

Rimsky-korsakov Scheherezade
and Edgar Cello Concerto,
featuring Jonah Kim



The Planets

November 1-2, 2025

Holst The Planets, Hindemith
Viola Concerto, and a World
Premiere by Benjamin Goodwin



Holiday Pops Concert

December 13-14, 2025

A jolly holiday celebration with
Your Symphony!



Family Concert

March 1, 2026

LinkUp: The Orchestra Swings!
and Carnival of the Animals by
Saint-Saens

Special Surprise Event

March 28-29, 2026

Watch for our announcement of
details closer to the date!



Beethoven Symphony No. 9

May 2-3, 2026

Beethoven Symphony No. 9, Dvorak
Carnival Overture, and a World Premiere
by Jaron Lanier



Spring Pops Concert

June 13, 2026

Favorites from popular music's evolving
songbook



Tickets at:

Santa Cruz Symphony .org