



Spotlight - Jerold O'Brien and Silver Mountain Winery

By Betty Dodd

We've been drinking his wines at most fundraising events, Symphony League parties and concert after parties. But who is the person behind this generous contribution? Recently I tracked down Jerold and got to know him a little bit.

From Military to Vintner

Born in Sacramento, he traveled all over the country for his education, ending at the age of 19 in Air Force Cadets. This evolved into pilot and officer training, and he spent 20 years in the military. His interest in wine began when every Friday night his fellow officers would gather at the bar. While others liked beer and liquor, he preferred wines. Through the Military and private trips, Jerold traveled to many regions of the world where wines were produced. After retiring from life in the Military, Jerold settled in the SF Bay area and decided to pursue



his passion as a vintner. He bought his property in the Santa Cruz mountains in 1973, built a house and began wine production. At that time there were very few wineries outside of Napa and Sonoma areas. Everything was going well until the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 ruined all his buildings, including the house. Undaunted, he began again and made everything even bigger than it was before.

Another Love

From an early age, Jerold was drawn to two kinds of music.. Jazz and Classical. When he met Symphony advocate Mary Ann Orr 25 years ago, she introduced him to the Santa Cruz Symphony and recruited him to the Symphony Association Board where he served for many years.

Dedicated to supporting classical music, in addition to contributing wines to our parties, he is also a sponsor of the recent "Pops" concert.

Thanks, Jerold for your unstinting support of the Symphony with your wines and philanthropy.

Be sure to say Hello to Jerold at the wine pouring table at our next Symphony party!



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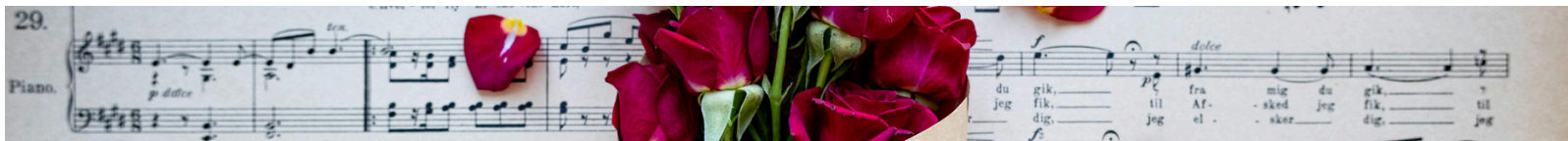
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From The President



Dear Friends of our Symphony,

As President of the Symphony League, I am thrilled to welcome you to our 2026-2027 Season and invite you to join us in many upcoming activities. Our mission is Fundraising, Symphony Support and Education. This year we enjoyed many events, including a Luau, "Valentine Venetian Gala", the Sparkles and Spirits Holiday dinner, as well as several preview luncheons with Maestro Danny and the soloists. We also held a welcome Twilight Picnic under the redwoods. The crowning event was the Annual Home and Garden Tour, and this year we celebrated our 50 year anniversary for it. Bravo! to all who participated and made it such a wonderful experience. In the end, we raised \$128,000 and confirmed our honored place as one of the largest donors to the Symphony. We also publish a quarterly *Musical Notes* in which you can find information about upcoming events, membership, and other pertinent League information.

So please join us this year! Become a League member. Sign up for lunch with Maestro Danny at a Preview. Volunteer on one of our fundraising committees. Raise your hand to be a docent at the next Home and Garden Tour! Most importantly, join a community of active and enthusiastic people who love the Symphony and get to enjoy a special "behind the scenes" look at our beloved institution.

Below is the new Board of Directors and Members at Large for the upcoming 2026-2027 Season. See you soon at the Preview or Concert!

Sincerely, Anna

Board of Directors 2026-2027

President: Anna M. Hackenbracht

Past President/Parliamentarian:

Mary Ann Orr

Treasurer: Robert Rible

Recording Secretary: Kathy Hatfield

Co-Directors of Fundraising:

Helene Milner, Rachel Sabajo

Director of Education/Previews:

Anne Hayden

Co-Directors of Membership/Recruitment:

Dan Rutan, Cheryl Hammond

Director of Communications: Open

Corresponding Secretary: Susan Koeker

Board Members at Large

Ted Altenberg

Jeff Bernhardt

Holly Brown

Jan Derecho

Betty Dodd

Russ Hobbs

Nancy Meyberg

Sophie Polyhronakis

Honora Robertson

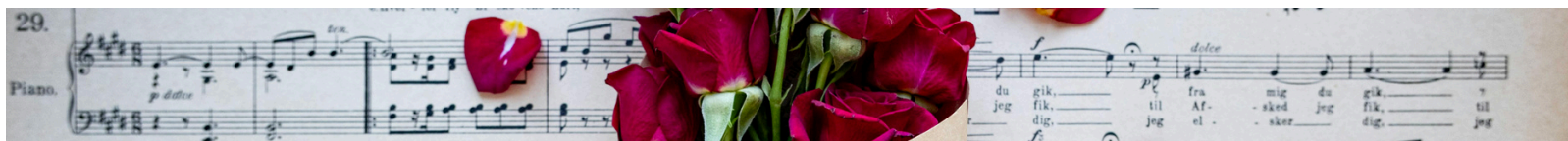
Nancy Van Natta

Spomenka Zaninovich

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.





History of the Santa Cruz Symphony League

By Dan Rutan

Did you know?

In 1958, many local musicians gathered to play classical music. Doughnuts were plenty, along with a cup of coffee and a good time was had by all.

In 1965, Norman Masonson became conductor. Prior to this time, a collection plate was passed - the 'take' averaged \$1.00 per performance attendee – not enough to support the growing orchestra.

Masonson spoke to several interested folks about forming a "Guild" to help raise funds by organizing 'socials' and plan fundraising events. Voila! The first Santa Cruz Symphony League was formed with Marion Mee as its President (1966 – 1967). A similar group of supporters in Watsonville soon formed, with Marilyn Liddicoat serving as President (1968 -1969). Within 5 years, the 2 groups merged to form the Symphony League of Santa Cruz County.

! That's 60 Years ago !

And the FUN WAS JUST BEGINNING!

(In future editions of Musical Notes, I'll feature more about the League and its impact on your Symphony. If you, dear reader, have a question, suggest a topic, or event to be reviewed, just send me an email. I'll do my best to create an article. rutandan@comcast.net)

Until next time, Be Well, Safe, and Musical ----

Dan



*Wally Trabing on the drums and
Paul Sandas on violin*

Paul is helping Wally tune his drum

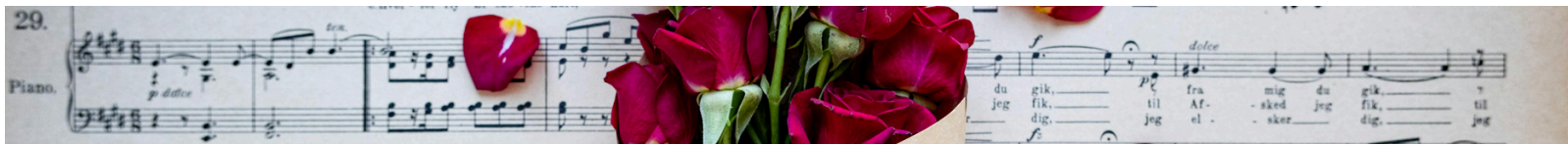
Both founding members of the Santa Cruz Symphony

1959

Photo courtesy of Covello and Covello Photography

Notice:

The Symphony Association is relocating to 1070 River Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The office will be closed July 6–12 and reopen on July 13. Phone: 831-462-0553 (unchanged). Symphony League's legal address will match the new one; all other League addresses and phone numbers remain the same.



Symphony League Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Symphony League was held on June 27, 2026. We always meet at the end of the year to celebrate, and to present a check to the Symphony.

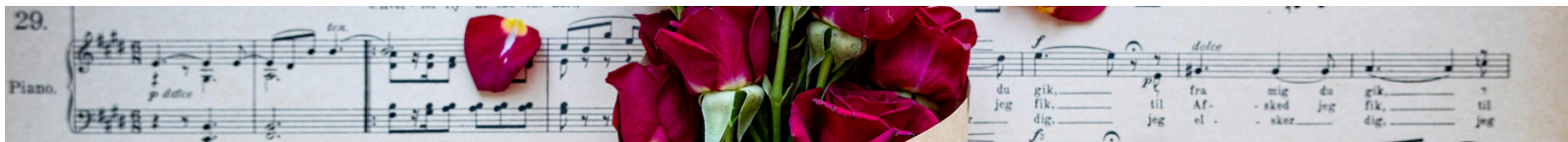
This was a banner year. We had some wonderful events, starting with the Holiday Sips and Sparkles, and ending with a stellar 50th Anniversary Home and Garden Tour.

*At the end of the day, we presented the Symphony with a check for **\$128,000.00** The biggest ever!*

Many thanks to the team that put the event together, led by the very capable Betty Dodd, and assisted by Dan and Vickie Rutan, Cheryl Hammond, Julie Mazurek, Sophie Polyhronakis, Anne Hayden, Spomenka Zaninovich, and Kevin Monahan

We are excited for the coming year and look forward to having everyone join us at our events, at the Symphony, and at all the events we host.





Symphony Support

RED SPATULA SOCIETY!

Originally started by Peggy Minier over 30 years ago, providing refreshments to our orchestra has become a hallmark of the Symphony League.

Thirteen years ago, Peggy requested we take on her responsibilities. We considered ways to honor the dedicated volunteers who kindly supplied food and support, serving refreshments for the orchestra during rehearsals before Saturday evening concerts at the Civic.

The RED SPATULA SOCIETY was born.

Each spring, at your League's annual picnic, volunteers who participated during the concert year receive a Red Spatula Society Award. The first year award is always – guess what? – a RED SPATULA! In subsequent years, they are awarded other kitchen tools – always red and, we hope, useful implements used for preparation of the coming season's refreshments.

Participants this year were:

Betty Dodd, Sue Dormanen, Mary Jo & Fred Dunn-Ruiz, Erik & Nancy Dybdahl, Anna Hackenbracht, Cheryl Hammond, Kathy Hatfield, Mila Herman, Patty Lockett, Dolores McCabe, Julie Mazurek, Dianne Overbo, Sophie Polyhronakis, Rachel Sabajo, and Nancy Van Natta.

Receiving his second year award as Honorary Red Spatula Society member was Gary Reece, Symphony Association Executive Director. His enthusiastic support of our Society, and the League, contributes immeasurably to our success!

Thank you for ensuring our orchestra is well fed during concert weekends in Santa Cruz.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Vickie and Dan Rutan

Your Orchestra Refreshments Volunteer participation is very welcome.

Please contact us:

vicksterlaud@gmail.com or rutandan@comcast.net.

Home phone: 831-475-4939





Symphony Support

Should you? Could you? Would you?

By Betty Dodd

As Symphony League members, we all love our musicians. Although we raise money for the Symphony as a whole, there are some things we do to support the musicians individually that add a personal touch and which can form bonds between us and the musicians. One way is providing refreshments for them at their rehearsals... they are so appreciative, and can't stop saying Thank you, Thank you. By doing this, we meet up with them while serving, and can have a casual chat, getting to know them much more than just seeing them onstage at the concerts.

Another way is by hosting them overnight in our homes. Many musicians come from the other side of Hwy 17, some as far away as Sacramento, and must stay overnight in Santa Cruz area, in order to rehearse, play in a concert Saturday night at the Civic, then at the Mello in Watsonville on Sunday. Driving back over Hwy 17 at midnight is not an option, obviously, and staying in a hotel in Santa Cruz on a weekend is very expensive.

If you have a bedroom in your home that is currently being used as a craft room, drop zone or otherwise vacant, why not consider getting it organized to host a musician for the weekend?

Some questions you might have about the possibility of doing this are as follows:

Q..Do I have to provide food/coffee? How will I know what they like to eat?

Q..Do I need to live close to the Civic or Mello?

Q..Do I need to have a spare bathroom for them?

Q..Do they stay out late?

Q..Will they be practicing loud instruments?

Q..Should I give them a key or wait up for them to get back?

Q..I have pets. What if the musicians have allergies?

Q..Can I talk to others who are hosting for more information?

Some Answers:

You do not have to live close to the Civic or Mello, and some housing hosts live as far as Scotts Valley or Felton. A spare bathroom is not needed, although it would be appreciated. The Housing Coordinator asks all housing applicants if they have allergies. If the answer is yes, they will not be placed in a home where those allergies might be exacerbated.

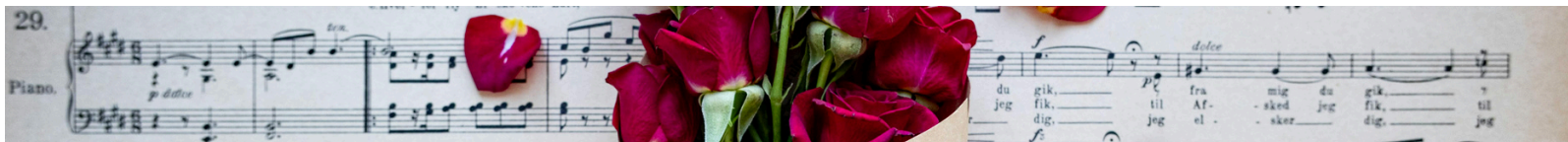
As far as providing food for them goes, you might offer coffee, tea or light breakfast options, such as fruit or yogurt. Access to the refrigerator and kitchen is helpful as they sometimes bring their own food. You will have phone contact with your musician guest prior to hosting.

Some musicians attend the after party after the Saturday night concert, so might be late getting home. You could provide a spare key or access code so they would not disturb you. They don't usually practice their instruments at your home as they have access to the Civic before the concerts.

Contact Julia Fuerst if you would like to volunteer to host or need more information.

Her email is: scsymphonyhousing@gmail.com

In addition to being musically talented, musicians give up many conveniences such as job security and must travel a lot in order to have a career in music. Why not try hosting one of our Freeway Philharmonic musicians and Make a new Friend !



Membership

The Symphony League is a separate all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide major funding to the Santa Cruz Symphony.

In 1965, when Norman Masonson became the conductor of the symphony, he realized the need for a supporting organization, so he approached local symphony attendees about forming a 'Guild' to organize social and fundraising events. The Santa Cruz League was 'born' in 1966 with a similar organization formed in Watsonville in 1969. Within 5 years, the two organizations merged to form the Symphony League of Santa Cruz County. We provide funding through events and activities, all while developing lifelong friendships. Some members support a single event, others participate in multiple events, while others give time when they are able. Through membership and engaging events, we raised close to \$130,000 last season. What we've discovered over the years, is that we really do have fun, with members participating according to their interests and passions.

The League is proud to be a sponsor of this wonderful Symphony. Our membership – 175 strong – is folks who want to support our efforts in raising funds to support the symphony's concerts, community outreach and very popular in-school programs. We welcome new members and encourage you to become one of us.

Come find us at the League table in the lobby before concerts and at intermission. Learn if the League is a place for you to grow your love and appreciation of our orchestral music. If you have questions or want to discuss this opportunity further, you can reach us directly through phone, email, by visiting our website at www.santacruzsymphonyleague.org or scan the QR code to learn more about who we are and what we do.

From 1966 to 2026 60 years of fundraising!

*Dan Rutan
Co-Membership Director
831-475-4939
rutandan@comcast.net*

*Cheryl Hammond
Co-Membership Director
831-475-9482
cherylhammond5@charter.net*



SANTA CRUZ
SYMPHONY LEAGUE

Membership Application

We invite you to join us. The Membership Levels are listed below, and on the back side of this form is the address where you can mail your application. Additionally, you can go to our website: www.santacruzsymphonyleague.com/membership and join online. We provide funding for the symphony through events and activities all while developing lifelong friendships.

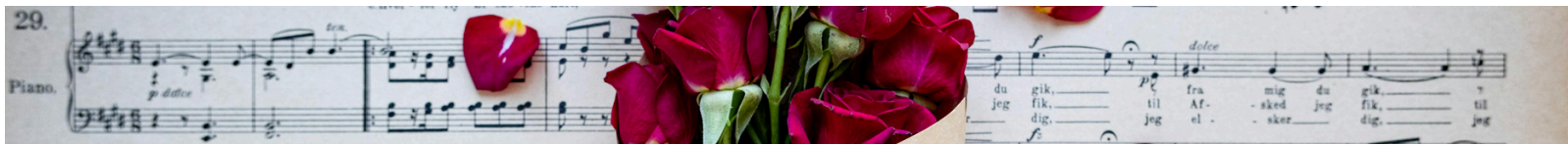
Membership Levels:

Individual: \$40. This level is for the active members who participate and attend League events.

Family: \$70. This level is perfect for two members of the same household. One or both members actively participate and attend events throughout the season.

Contributing: \$100. This level is for individuals who are willing, but not obligated, to accept working assignments and to serve on committees.

Friend of the League: \$250. This level is ideal for the member who is less active in helping at events, but wants to maintain a meaningful contribution.



Membership Application



Membership Application



SANTA CRUZ
SYMPHONY LEAGUE

Date: _____ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ \$40 Individual ☐ \$70 Family ☐ \$100 Contributing ☐ \$250 Friend

Name: _____

Family/Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Land/Cell

Phone: (____) _____ Land/Cell

E-Mail: _____

Additional Email: _____

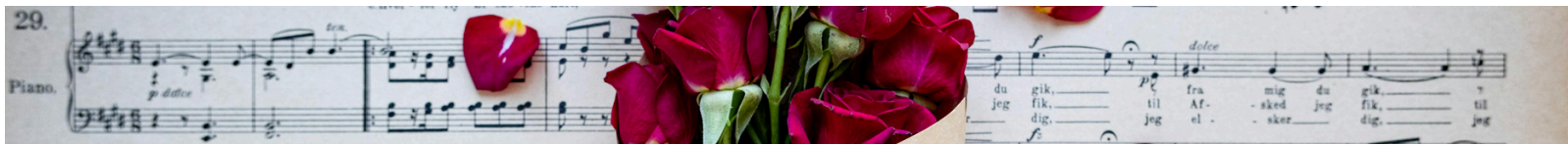
Mail Application to:
Santa Cruz Symphony League
Dan Rutan, Membership
5040 Thurber Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95065

You can also join or renew your
membership at
santacruzsymphonyleague.org/join



Providing my email authorizes the Santa Cruz Symphony League to send me all League notices.
☐ Yes ☐ No

Credit/Debit card: _____ Exp: _____ CV Code _____



Recent Events

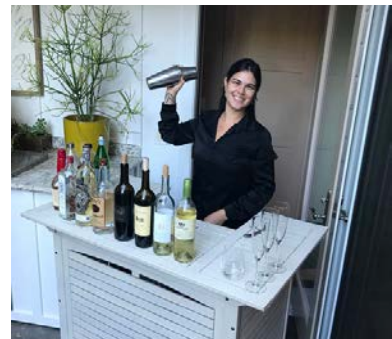
The 50th Annual Santa Cruz Home and Garden Tour



*Beautifully curated
momentos of
beloved ice cream store*

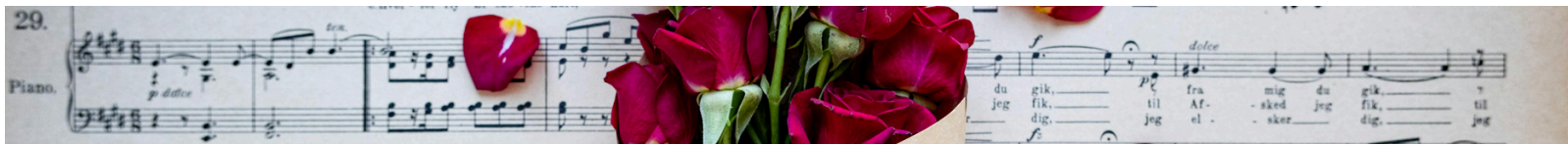
*Captain, docents and owners
getting acquainted before
touring Mariannes ice cream
house*

After Recital Soiree

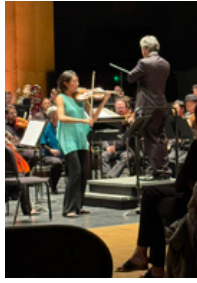


Upcoming Events

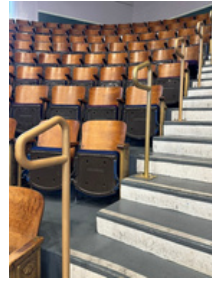




What A Season!!



The 2025-2026 Symphony season is behind us and leaves us with the memories of all the great performances we were privileged to see and hear. And what a year it was!



When Daniel Stewart partnered the Symphony with Cabrillo Chorus and Shakespeare Santa Cruz for the Amadeus and the Beethoven 9th concerts, we had sellout crowds which, according to Symphony manager Gary Reece, earned the highest gross ever for the Symphony! All the concerts of the season had something unique and original about them..an evening or afternoon to bring beautiful live music to us all.

Then there were all the parties and fund raising events...Venetian Voyage, Sparkles and Spirits, Preview luncheons before concerts, Home and Garden Tour, Wine and Roses, and much more. All of us who either attended or volunteered to help at these events got to enjoy the socializing and camaraderie they brought us. Part of being in the Symphony League is the idea that we are raising funds to promote the prosperity of the Symphony, an honorable effort in itself, but in the meantime, we are having fun. It's beneficial and definitely a win-win situation.

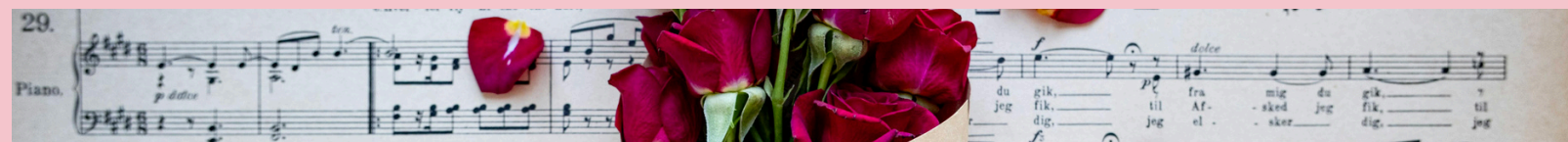


At the Symphony League annual luncheon in June, we presented a check representing the culmination of all our fundraising efforts to Danny and Gary. Daniel announced and elaborated on an amazing '26-'27 season coming up. In Sun Jang is to be our new Concertmaster, replacing Nancy Zhou who has embarked on a new career move in China. Some highlights of the new season as listed are Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Tchaikovsky violin concerto, featuring Violinist In Sun Jang, Rachmaninoff's Piano concerto #2 and so much more exciting wonderful music.

Not yet announced are the mini concerts at Cabrillo's Samper Hall. I try to go to as many of them as I possibly can. The parking is convenient and free and the atmosphere is friendly and inviting. The smaller groups allow artists to share their talents in concerts of their own designs.

And so, with all the events and parties to attend, Symphony League members will never be bored. Our love of music and the Santa Cruz Symphony is the common thread that binds us together. We are looking forward to next season with great anticipation. Hope to see you all there!

By Betty Dodd



2026- 2027 Santa Cruz Symphony Concert Season

October 3/4: America's 250th Birthday

October 3: Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, October 4: Mello Center, Watsonville

Dvorak New World Symphony Finale; **Gershwin** Rhapsody in Blue; **Barber** Adagio for Strings; **Copland** Fanfare for the Common Man; **Bernstein** Music from West Side Story; **Williams** Music from Star Wars; **Simone** Come Ye; **Orzel** Chuckchansi Overture; **Ives** The Unanswered Question



November 14/15: Tchaikovsky and Mendelssohn

November 14: Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, November 15: Mello Center, Watsonville

Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto featuring violinist **In Sun Jang**, and **Mendelssohn** Symphony No. 4 (Italian)



January 16/17, 2027: Lanier and Rachmaninoff

January 16: Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, January 17: Mello Center, Watsonville

Lanier World Premiere Concerto and **Rachmaninoff** Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring pianist **Serene**



February 28, 2027: Family Concert, Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

This engaging, family-friendly concert brings students, families, and our community together.

LinkUp: The Orchestra Sings! Plus Peter and the Wolf by **Prokofiev**



April 3/4, 2027: Stravinsky and Walton

April 3: Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, April 4: Mello Center, Watsonville

Stravinsky Firebird (1945 Suite) featuring violist **Pearl de la Motte**, and **Walton** Viola Concerto



May 1/2, 2027: Strauss, Esmail, Nietzsche, and Bernstein

May 1: Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, May 2: Mello Center, Watsonville

Strauss Also Sprach Zarathustra, **Esmail** Ram Tori Maya, **Nietzsche** Hymnus an das Leben, and **Bernstein** Chichester Psalms, featuring **Cabrillo** Symphonic Chorus



June 12, 2027: Spring Pops Benefit Concert, Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

Favorites from popular music's evolving songbook. Join us for a free street party before the concert with live music, food, and dancing!

Tickets at: [Santacruzsymphony.org](https://santacruzsymphony.org)