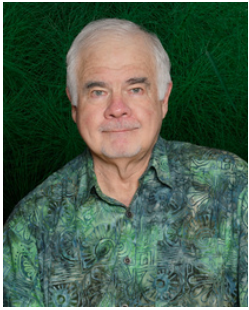




Spotlight On Kevin Monahan

Official Photographer of the Santa Cruz Symphony

By Betty Dodd



Everywhere and Nowhere is how Kevin described it when asked where he was originally from. He was born in the Boston area, but due to his father's career in the Army, attended school in many different places as he grew up. His father's last post was Fort Ord in Monterey, and they decided to settle in the Aptos area. Kevin then attended UCSC and UC Santa Barbara. He worked at Lockheed and Adobe some small companies in between.

Photography has been a lifelong hobby, beginning when darkrooms and chemicals were necessary for the amateur photographer. At first, he followed the Ansel Adams style landscape school but as the years went by and he traveled less, he became more interested in portrait photography.

Symphony Connection: Twelve years ago, a neighbor invited him to go to the Santa Cruz Symphony. This was Daniel Stewart's first year with the Symphony and the concert was Beethoven's 9th among other pieces. Kevin was so awestruck at the quality of the music that he soon became a subscriber and supporter of the Symphony. He even wrote a review of that concert which was featured in the 2016 Annual Report.

Kevin started taking photographs at the many Symphony and League events and you will see many of them in the yearly Symphony program book and Musical Notes issues. Presently he is engaged in taking head shots of all the Symphony and League Board members, an ambitious task.

Other Interests? Kevin is an avid birdwatcher and is a "Citizen Scientist", counting how many birds which can be identified in a specific area. This ties in beautifully with his passion for photography.

You will see Kevin at most of our events quietly hiding behind the camera and snapping pictures of various Symphony groups, costumes and party antics. He recently took many photos at our annual Twilight Picnic, as you will see on another page in this issue of the Musical Notes.

You might even find yourself on Kevin's "Candid Camera!"

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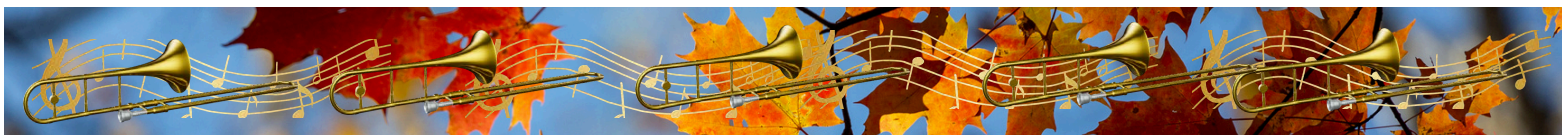
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From The Vice President

Dear Friends of our Symphony,

This year has brought unforeseen change for the League which we are navigating in solidarity as we move forward with planning and executing a season designed to compliment the exciting 2026-27 Symphony season.

Our dear President, Anna Hackenbracht, has been diagnosed with ALS. As we continue to support her and her family, we are also reminded of just how bright her leadership is, and we strive to fulfill her vision and goals. We are also reminded of what friendship, unity, and community means to all of us.

We have built an exciting season of events to support the 2026-27 Symphony season, and we look forward to seeing each of you at them.

We have also begun to include a "History of the Symphony League" in Musical Notes. In the next year, Dan Rutan, who is deeply familiar with the League, will present the history and insights which I am sure you will all find interesting and inspiring.

Our website has a fresh new look, and the contents are organized in a way that should make whatever you are looking for easy to find. Take a look! www.santacruzsymphonyleague.org. Additionally, we are planning a gala in early spring, not to be missed, and our ever popular and successful Home and Garden Tour in June. Other smaller but very fun events are scattered throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you soon, at the Symphony, and at our events, and hope you have a wonderful Fall.

Sophie Polyhronakis, Vice President

Board of Directors 2026-2027

President: Anna M. Hackenbracht

Vice President: Sophie Polyhronakis

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

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.





Our New ConcertMaster In Sun Jang

By: Betty Dodd



In addition to playing in the Santa Cruz Symphony for many years, In Sun brings all her experience of being a violinist in the San Francisco Symphony since 2008. While our Santa Cruz Symphony has 5 concerts per season, with usually two rehearsals before each concert, the San Francisco Symphony plays 3 concerts per week during its season, with 3-4 rehearsals before concerts. Of course the musicians must know the music before coming to rehearsals to perform with the other musicians. In Sun usually practices 1-2 hours a day, and sometimes 4-5 hours on weekends.

Early years: *Born and raised in Seoul South Korea, In Sun began playing the violin at the age of 4, in the Suzuki method, and went on to earn her BA in Music in Seoul, and Masters at Julliard in the U.S. Her parents still live in South Korea and she has one sister who lives in DC whose specialty is design.*

After Julliard, she went to study at New World Symphony in Miami for two years. Daniel Stewart was studying there at the same time...they sat beside each other and were both inspired by the energy and charisma of Michael Tilson Thomas who taught there. Sparks flew and Danny and In Sun connected and when she was offered a position in the SF Symphony, they located to San Francisco, with Danny eventually taking the position of Music Director of the Santa Cruz Symphony. Danny's family lives in the Bay Area and In Sun's family visits often from South Korea.

Hobbies? *Although music is In Sun's main focus, she also enjoys caring for plants, planning garden spaces and learning more about gardening in general.*

New Responsibilities: *Being Concertmaster in the Santa Cruz Symphony will entail a leadership role in coordinating the violin section with bowing instructions and musical expression, as well as communicating with Maestro Danny and delivering the overall feeling of each piece being presented.*

She will continue to be in the San Francisco Symphony as well as the Santa Cruz Symphony. We will see more of In Sun's talent when she performs the Tchaikovsky violin solo this season. Exciting!



History of the Santa Cruz Symphony League

The articles below were featured in the Santa Cruz Sentinel in the first 3 months of 1966. In reading through them, I realized how much things change and how much they stay the same. The "Guild", which is now the "League", was created to support the Symphony, and we continue the work today, 60 years later. Many of the same events have withstood the test of time: social gatherings, fundraisers, concert previews and supporting the young people of our community so they can develop a lifetime with music. Clearly, we have found a successful formula because we continue to grow and thrive.

*Till next time, when I have more historical insights to share, I remain,
Your Symphony Historian,
Dan Rutan*

Santa Cruz Sentinel



Music and membership were the main topics of conversation when prospective participants in the Santa Cruz Symphony guild gathered at the Castle Art gallery for a membership tea. Norman Masonson, symphony conductor, being served refreshments by Mrs. Frederick Mee and Mrs. Paul Roach, briefed the interested women on the needs of the symphony. Also in the picture are seated, from left, Mrs. Robert Emmons, Mrs. Jay DeBenedetti and Mrs. Jeanne Peterson. One of the main functions of the guild will be to help the symphony in a monetary way and its

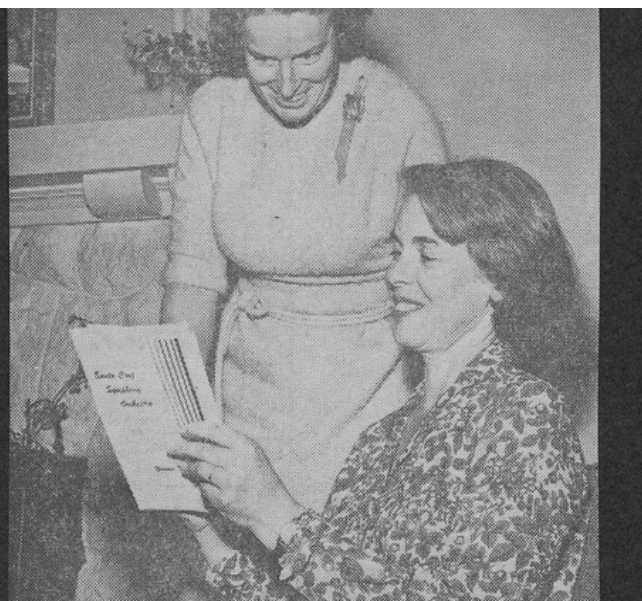
To Aid Symphony

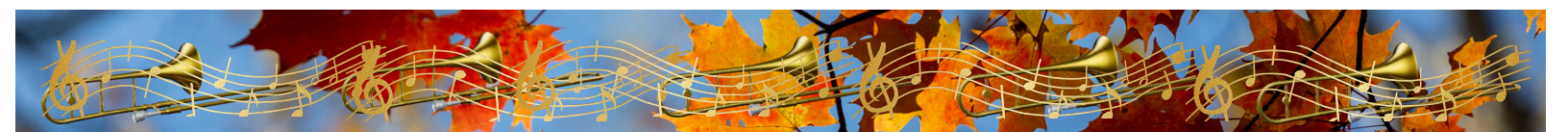
In the process of being formed is the Santa Cruz Symphony Women's Music association. This organization has been designed to take over many of the symphony's chores as well as helping with fund-raising and promotional activities.

General chairman for the group is Mrs. Fred Mee, seated below. With her is Mrs. Robert T. Emmons of Aptos, membership chairman.

Serving with Mrs. Emmons on the membership committee are Mrs. Fred Hudson of Watsonville, Mrs. Jeanne Peterson of Aptos, Mrs. Marshall Cowden and Mrs. John Brokaw. The committee met this past week at Mrs. Cowden's home to form plans for a Spring membership drive.

Others attending the organizational meeting were Mrs. Thelma Anderson, Mrs. Francis E. Podesta, Mrs. Ethel D. Sayles, Mrs. John Paizis and Mrs. O. J. Magee.





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



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.



Photos from our Recent Members and Guests Twilight Picnic



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
Cheryl Hammond, Membership
1505 42nd Ave, #30
Capitola, CA 95010

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 _____



Real Musicians, Real Composers, Real Live Performances

By Betty Dodd

Tomorrowland: Many years ago I used to love going to Disneyland. My husband worked for Disney in 1965 and we got a lot of free tickets. Some favorite attractions were Main Street, Frontierland, Small World, and Tomorrowland. In the decades that followed, while some things stayed the same, Tomorrowland had to continually reinvent itself. As each year unfolded, things that were once considered Science Fiction gradually became the new reality.

Today we are living in a world of driverless cars, personal flying machines, retina scans, wireless everything, genetically engineered food, and films with computer made “special effects”. And yes, now AI, with its unknown potential for good or evil. Will it find a cure for cancer or produce chaos and devastation? Can it compose a sonnet in the style of Shakespeare? Can it create an opera like Puccini? Or unleash an apocalypse?

In this world of overwhelming technology, the fact remains that from a sociological perspective, humans thrive in Social groups. Hence at the Symphony we gather in a theater to hear Real Musicians play music by Real Composers in Live performances. Nothing can compare to the thrill of being at a concert with music lovers and being transported, inspired and uplifted by listening to Daniel Stewart and our wonderful musicians. The energy they create is a sublime form of therapy that helps us remember our shared humanity, and is something that technology cannot reproduce.

Too much Technology here in Tomorrowland?

See you at the Symphony for a Group Therapy Session !

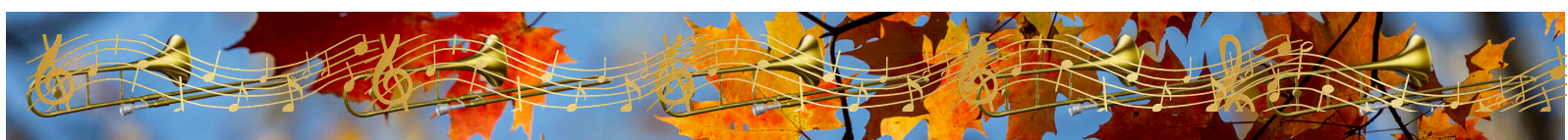


Recent Events

Wine and Roses in the Garden



Musicians Dressed in their Star Trek garb at the Pops Concert



Twilight Picnic

Sixty-six members and guests gathered Friday evening, September 25, 2026, to celebrate the Symphony League's first event of the season. A trio played music in the background and we dined on picnic fare of donated homemade salads and BBQ sausages etc. and ending with delicious classic strawberry shortcake. Thanks go to Mary Ann Orr who not only organized and recruited volunteers to make this happen, but also sponsored it.

It was a wonderful turnout at a great location, Paradise Park in Santa Cruz. Five new members joined and we spent the evening talking with each other and catching up with friends, old and new. There was a sheet of paper in the middle of each table, and we all wrote messages to Anna Hackenbracht, our beloved League president, who is in the hospital at the present time.

While we all love the music the Symphony creates for us, the picnic was a wonderful reminder of what happens around the music...laughing, reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, conversations, funny moments, and the sense of belonging to a community of music lovers. Welcome to all new members !





Upcoming Events

Halloween Costume Party

Episcopal Church

532 Center Street

6:00 p.m.

Costume Contest!

Food, Wine, Fun

\$75.00 per person

Tchaikovsky & Mendelssohn

Preview Luncheon

November 13, 2026



The Very Popular! Christmas Sparkles and Spirits Soiree December 12, 2026



The Symphony League's Black and White Ball March 20, 2027

"A Night to Remember"... Truman Capote

www.santacruzsymphonyleague.org/events



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)