



# Santa Maria Philharmonic Society

[www.santamariaphilharmonic.org](http://www.santamariaphilharmonic.org)



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January—March 2012 Newsletter

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## What to expect at the next Concert

By Marcus Engelmann, PhD

On Saturday, February 18, following a very successful holiday concert at the First United Methodist Church, the Santa Maria Philharmonic will return to Grace Baptist Church for its opening concert of 2012.

This concert is the first of three offerings planned for the coming spring and has been designed to feature the members of the string section of the orchestra. Maestro Farrer has prepared a musical program for the evening that spans the time from the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to the opening decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The composers will range from such famous masters as Johann Sebastian Bach to several somewhat lesser known, but very talented, composers such as Joseph Suk.

Bach's *The Musical Offering* was a set of pieces composed for his son's em-

ployer, the musically inclined Frederick the Great, King of Prussia and is actually based on a theme composed by the monarch. Bach felt that he hadn't done the theme justice when he improvised on the melody in the king's presence, so this was an attempt to rectify, what was in his mind, an unfortunate situation.

Suk's work that will be presented in the concert, *Serenade for Strings*, belies his affinity for string writing as he was a concert violinist as well as a composer.

In addition to these professional pursuits, he was also the son-in-law of the important Czech, late Romantic composer Antonin Dvorak; who's *Serenade for Winds* will be featured on the final concert of the Philharmonic in May. The February concert will be rounded out by the works of Dohnanyi, Respighi and Ireland. It will also mark the return

of our pre-concert lectures that have proven to be so popular with our audiences. For this concert, the lecture will be presented by Dr. Ann Lucas from the music faculty of Allan Hancock College. The lecture will begin at 6:50 with the concert beginning at 7:30.

Please join us on February 18 as the Santa Maria Philharmonic continues its 2011-2012 season and, as always, thank you for your support of Santa Maria's own symphony orchestra.

## Youth Outreach Program: *Peter and the Wolf*

George J. Majoue, Executive Director

Children in the fourth grades from the Santa Maria-Bonita, Orcutt, Guadalupe, Blochman, Los Olivos and Cuyama School Districts, as well as all Private Schools and Home Schools, have the privilege of attending a live performance of *Peter and the Wolf* on February 14, 2012 with the full orchestra dressed in their formal performance attire. **Maestro John Farrer** explains which instruments will be making the sounds they will be hearing that tell the tale followed by the performance of the classic narrated tale. The story is animatedly narrated by **Diane Borad-Mirken**. Comments from students often reflect the sentiment, "I didn't know I liked that kind of music." The children not only enjoy the music, but also learn concert protocol and make wonderful audiences.

Two performances of the work are presented in November and two more in February reaching a total of about 2,500 students, who are bused in from the Santa Maria Valley and its surroundings. These students reflect the cultural diversity of the area. High school students from St. Joseph High School, in most recent years, do ushering and shepherding of the groups. **Nancy Converse** coordinates the high school students and the flow of students in and out of the venue. Supporting Nancy are several adult volunteers who supplement the high school students or assist where needed.

The schools from which fourth graders attend have an average percent of students participating in the Free and Reduced Lunch Programs equaling 65%. For many, the exposure to classical music and the instruments of the orchestra is their first, and for many, the most memorable experience of their year. To volunteer your services for this most worthwhile educational outreach, contact the office at (805) 925-0412.



## Celebrating Community

*George J. Majoue, Executive Director*

As this goes to print we will have just concluded the second of a five-concert subscription season. If you were in attendance at either the matinee or evening performance you will recall with pleasure the melodious sounds echoing through First United Methodist Church. Both individually and jointly, the ***Righetti Madrigals***, ***Coastal Voices*** and ***Allan Hancock College Singers*** blended with our Orchestra to create a memorable experience. Bravo to **Maestro John Farrer** for another outstanding presentation from the Philharmonic Orchestra. Special Kudos goes out to our Stage Manager, **Sam Moore**, who carefully managed to coordinate the movement of all (153) on and off the stage in what appeared to be seamless. WOW!

Over one year ago, the Santa Maria Affiliate of the Santa Barbara Foundation, under Director **Kathy Simas**, began a project with the goal of increasing awareness of the impact of nonprofit agencies serving the Santa Maria Valley, educating and inspiring student artists, and celebrating art in

the community. This process was a true collaboration between local nonprofit agencies, schools, Santa Maria Arts Council representatives, Affiliate members, and the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department. The result is a variety of community banners that create an awareness of the impact of nonprofits on the community. (The inserted picture is of the Celebrating Community banner on ***Entertaining*** inspired by performing arts.)

Let me tell you about some of the tasty desserts I alluded to in my last column, lest you thought I forgot. January brings two delicious opportunities to satisfy your palate. **January 11, 2012 at Trattoria Uliveto's in Orcutt** between 5:00 – 10:00 pm. 10% of proceeds donated back to the Philharmonic. Hmmm! **January 21, 2012 at Radisson Hotel Santa Maria** for our Annual Dinner and Auction beginning at 5:30 pm. 100% of proceeds fund operations. Please mark your calendars to participate personally and invite your friends to join you in these events. If you like tasty treats like I do, look for reminders in your mailbox or email of future sweet offerings to come.

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society's mission is to maintain and strengthen cultural values; to preserve the classical music art form; to enrich musical experiences in the community; to provide fine, live musical performances; and to provide cross-generational educational events in the Santa Maria and surrounding valleys.

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For membership and/or ticket information, please contact George Majoue, Executive Director, at [george@santamariaphilharmonic.org](mailto:george@santamariaphilharmonic.org).



## Monthly Member mixers and FUNdraisers

Mark your Calendars

- January 11 from 5-10 pm at Trattoria Uliveto. 10% of the evening's proceeds will be donated to the Society.
- February 29 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Wine Country in Old Orcutt. Proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Society.

Don't miss out on these excellent Member Mixer opportunities. Bring a friend and share a glass of wine or a great meal. Check our website for more details

*George Majoue*



## Spotlight on MUSIC

By Lynne Garrett, Orchestra Liaison

A symphony orchestra is undeniably one of the most miraculous creations of mankind: an extraordinary union of musicians all gathered together for a single purpose.

Many people behind the scenes are responsible for the exceptional Santa Maria Philharmonic concerts. You might wonder how this particular group is selected. Here is where our music contractors come into the picture. Two contractors have the daunting task of bringing together the players of the orchestra. They both work closely with the Music Director and the Executive Director.

As string contractor Tom Turner is heads above many others, not just in inches but also in his ability to assemble a fantastic group of players. Since 2005, the amiable Tom Turner has diplomatically maneuvered through the most complicated and trying of economic times, riding the rough seas of last minute changes, reductions in orchestra personnel as well as services, cuts in pay, and the cancellation of concerts. Tom has skillfully accommodated the needs of the organization while also looking out for the welfare of the musicians. He is compassionate, fair-minded and ethical.

Tom grew up in Lompoc where his father was stationed at Vandenberg Air force Base. While in the 4th grade

attending school on the base, Tom had his first instruction in music. His recollections are of a minimal program, but his parents backed him 100% and he was impassioned to learn an instrument. He continued studying piano and violin through his years at Lompoc High School. Violin studies were with Diane Siminski, a significant figure in the Lompoc community.

During his first semester at Cal State Northridge Tom switched to viola and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in performance, studying with Myron Sandler. During his studies he met his wife Dorothy, also a music student. They married, and soon after completing his degree, they moved to the Goleta area where they remained, raising their four wonderful children. He immediately slipped into the life of a free-lance musician, playing orchestral music, chamber music, and musical theater.

Tom also chose to simultaneously go into the banking business where he spent many years in management, gaining skills in organization, communication, and working with people. These are the skills he brings to his contracting position. Tom loves working with people and the challenge of bringing together the right people for the right positions, like

solving a puzzle. He views the orchestra as a big family, and he knows that compatibility is essential. His even temperament and patience are indispensable when dealing with the diverse personalities that make up an orchestra.

Tom has spent many years in the area and is well established as a performer. He is presently principal violist with Cabrillo Music Theater in Thousand Oaks, principal violist in the Moorpark Orchestra, principal violist and contractor for Santa Maria Philharmonic, Santa Ynez Valley Chorale and the Lompoc Pops Orchestra.

Tom says all violists are nice people, but I'm sure all would agree that Tom is a gem. We are very fortunate to have him.



## Pre-Concert Lecture

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society welcomes all concert goers to participate in the Pre-Concert Lectures in The Great Room at Grace Baptist Church. The lectures begin at 6:50 pm and conclude approximately at 7:15 pm.

*Dr. Marcus Engelmann, Chair, and Dr. Ann Lucas, Professor, Fine Arts Department of Allan Hancock College, present these lectures throughout our subscription season. Participants have come to enjoy dynamic insight into the composers and the music being performed during the program that evening. Additionally, participants have raved about this informative experience. The Pre-Concert Lectures are FREE and open to all concert goers.*



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**EVENT**  
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January 21, 2012  
Radisson Hotel Santa Maria  
3455 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria California