



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 63, No. 1, December 2025

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Presents

Joyful Sounds of the Season

Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.

**BANKHEAD THEATER, 2400 First Street, Livermore
Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center**

No pre-concert talk due to holiday parade.

Christmas Overture	Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
Suite for Viola and Small Orchestra Jenny Douglass, soloist	Ralph Vaughan Williams
Christmas Eve Festivities	Quinn Mason
Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 1	Ottorino Respighi
The Snow Maiden	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

During intermission, enjoy Christmas carols in the lobby, sung by Cantabella Children's Chorus.

*The audience and performers are invited to enjoy a post-concert reception
in the Bankhead lobby hosted by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild.*

Tickets: <https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/tickets.html>;
Bankhead ticket office at 2400 First St., Livermore; or 925-373-6800.
Youth under age 22 are always FREE.

*The Livermore-Amador Symphony is a Resident Company of the Bankhead Theater
and a member of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC).*

A Message from LASA PRESIDENT ANNE ANAYA



Welcome to a **new symphony season**! I'm happy to be stepping into the role of LASA Board President this year while continuing to play in the second violins. After recently retiring from teaching in Livermore, I'm enjoying finding a new tempo in life!

This year, we're especially focused on expressing our **heartfelt thanks** to the donors whose generosity keeps our music thriving. With the launch of our new donor program on May 1, 2025, we introduced two ways to support the symphony: the **Symphony Club** for donations of \$100–\$499, and the **Conductor's Circle** for gifts of \$500 and above. We were delighted to host our very first Conductor's Circle Luncheon at Garré Vineyard & Winery at the start of November—a wonderful afternoon of gratitude and connection—and we look forward to adding new Circle donors to next fall's 2026 gathering.

We're still humming with joy after Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance's 5th Annual *Power of Giving: A Night of Inspiration*! The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association was deeply honored to receive the **2025 Impact Maker Award** in the **Arts & Culture** category. At the heart of our orchestra is a shared passion for bringing music to life for our community—especially our young audiences. Through performances, school programs, and scholarships, we're proud to help the Tri-Valley stay in tune with the joy of music.

As you look ahead, **consider inviting friends** to join you at our upcoming concerts. Perhaps Valentine's Day, with our *Romeo and Juliet* theme? Or our Spring performance, as we partner with the Livermore Arts Association to pair live music with original local art? We'll close the season with a jazzy & Gaelic inspired finale. But first, **we hope to see you at our December 6 concert, *Joyful Sounds of the Season***—a heartwarming celebration filled with festive music, perfect for starting your holiday season on a joyful note!

I'm looking forward to a season that truly strikes a chord with everyone. Let's make it one to remember!

With a harmonious heart,

Anne Anaya,

President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association



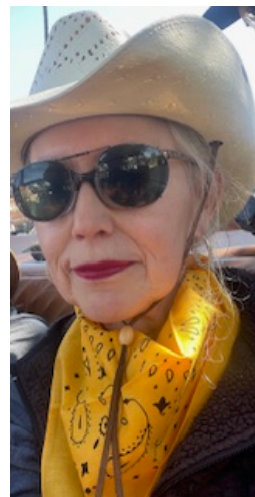
Learn more about the Guild and special plans for this concert season! Stop by the Guild concierge table in the lobby before the concert or during intermission at the evening concert on December 6.

—Following the Concert—The audience and musicians are all invited to join us for a reception in the Bankhead Lobby, hosted by the Guild.

A perfect end to a festive musical evening!

A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ Wells

It was warm in June 2025 and I was humming “Oh, what fun it is to ride ...” in a 1950 Buick Roadster convertible representing **LAS in the Livermore Rodeo Parade**. What a blast! When Tim and Claudia Barry initially approached me about participating in the Rotary parade, I weaseled out of it by saying there was not enough time to pull together a ride. Being diplomatic, I mentioned if somebody could get a hot convertible and a cool driver, then we were in for the ride — but otherwise, meh. Just when I thought the issue was put to bed, it was resuscitated in the form of a soft yellow, 1950 Buick Roadster convertible with a cowboy driver and his adorable cowgirl wife. They hauled me, Anne Anaya, and Lara Webber around the parade route at a thundering pace of 2 miles per hour. My only regret was not being allowed to sit on the BACK of the back seat ~ but the driver said “nope” and that was that. Thanks to those who participated — looking forward to another ride in 2026.



Check out this beauty below as we cruise past the judging table!

Fast forward to September and the **POPS concert** on the lawn outside the Bankhead. This year my internal estimator says about 250+ people attended and enjoyed our free, live concert. Despite a slightly smaller crowd, they were generous with donations and youthful energy. The kiddos continue to be tireless in their ability to run, jump, summersault, play, dance, and even conduct the music. Budding performers, if not downright slapstick hambones in the crowd for sure. My favorite piece is the military salute, and I hope the veterans in the crowd appreciated the familiar, respectful, enthusiastic tunes that honor their service.

We rounded out Autumn with a **Sipping for the Symphony** event hosted once again by our generous supporters at Cuda Ridge Winery. This fall was our most successful event and much credit goes to the winery itself for exceeding donations, including a special reserve bottle of red that went into a live auction sale. Everyone's favorite musical group, The Jammies, generously donated 2 hours of live music to the highest bidder too. Gift baskets (Linda Miller, Sarah Wharton, Claudia Barry, Sandra Hodzic) are truly The Best in town, and our appetizer table cannot be beat: thank you again, Sandra Hodzic. I now see a land beyond Ritz crackers and spray-on cheese.

What's next? The **January Gems youth recital/reception** on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the Bothwell Arts Center (2466 8th Street in Livermore). It starts at 2:00 p.m. with music and ends with cookies/coffee about 90 minutes later. This is free, it's fun, it's a little pick-me-up after the holidays, and you will not believe that these musicians are in high school. Anne Badders has been working tirelessly on this program with an increasingly rich array of talent. We would love to see you there. Join us for a little January WOW!

Meanwhile, I hope to see you at our **December 6th holiday concert** — do come out and play with us. You may just leave humming, “Oh, what fun it is to ride” on the way home.

May peace and good health find you this holiday season as well.

Happy holidays to all!

PJ Wells

2025-2026 President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild



LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Evening Concert

Joyful Sounds of the Season

Saturday, December 6, **8:00 p.m.***

Bankhead Theater Livermore

Some Notes about the Concert from

Lara Webber, Music Director and Conductor



Vaughan Williams's Suite for Viola and Small Orchestra is rooted in folk song and English Christmas carols, deeply beautiful and inventive. It alternates between jaunty tunes and dances and ballads that are serene and peaceful. Warm and wonderful music. The piece features **Jenny Douglass**, a leading violist in the Bay Area, principal viola of the Marin Symphony, and a member of the unique and fantastic conductor-less New Century Chamber Orchestra. We go waaaaay back! We both spent our undergraduate years at the Oberlin Conservatory and share many of the same profound memories of formative musical experiences. She's a marvelous human and a wonderful artist!

Respighi brings 20th century flair and vivid orchestral color to 16th century songs and dances in his **Ancient Airs and Dances**. This is music full of vivacious energy and direct expression.

Tchaikovsky's music for the **Snow Maiden** fairy tale is musical magic full of shimmering harmony, memorable tunes, and soaring melodies. The finale: "Dance of the Buffoons," a true showstopper!

Festive overtures of the great British composer **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** and American composer **Quinn Mason** frame the concert with music sure to put you in the holiday spirit!

Cantabella sings in the lobby at intermission and there is a reception for everyone in the lobby after the concert. We can't wait to see you there!

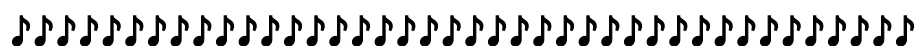
**No pre-concert talk. Lara will provide brief commentary during the concert.*



Jenny Douglass, viola

We welcome Jenny Douglass, principal violist of the Marin Symphony since 1999 and a member of the New Century Chamber Orchestra since 2008. She is also a frequent substitute with the San Francisco Symphony; she has performed with them in Davies Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, and on several European tours. She has toured North and South America, Europe, and Asia with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

From 2015 to 2022, Jenny served as the Marin Symphony's Director of Education and Community Engagement. She developed several initiatives that send Marin Symphony musicians into Marin County schools and other community locations. In June 2019, Jenny created and produced a Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra tour, taking 90 teenagers to Europe for performances in Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. Her love for chamber music has taken her to festivals all over the US. Her chamber music partners have included Yo-Yo Ma, Joseph Silverstein, Bruno Giuranna, and members of the San Francisco and Boston Symphonies. She earned degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School.



**Livermore-Amador Symphony's
Annual Free Family Concert
Bankhead Theater, December 6, 3–4 p.m.**



A fun and festive way to kick off the holiday season with your family!

Free of charge, open to all. The concert lasts about an hour, ending well before the start of Livermore Downtown's Holiday Parade.

We're delighted to once again present our fun-filled free family concert at the Bankhead Theater!

This short program is for all ages—the concert is meant to welcome new listeners, especially families with young kids! Join us and sing along with familiar holiday carols. Valley Dance Theatre performers will join us onstage with brief selections from their *Nutcracker* production (which opens at the Bankhead on December 13). You'll have the chance to meet musicians and dancers in the lobby afterwards.

The popular Instrument Petting Zoo is back again, too! Following the concert, LAS musicians will be in the Bankhead Lobby, offering children an opportunity to try out a variety of instruments to encourage an interest in learning to play a musical instrument.

Tickets are required although they are free: The event is fully subscribed, but there always seem to be numerous ticketholders who don't use their tickets. Sign up through the Bankhead for the wait list for [free general-admission tickets](#) and join us for a short, fun-filled celebration of the holiday season on Saturday December 6 at 3 p.m.! **Note:** wait-list people will be admitted starting fifteen minutes prior to the concert. Chances of being admitted from that list? About 100 percent!

To register by phone or in person: call the Bankhead Theater ticket office at 925-373-6800 or go to the ticket office at 2400 First Street, Livermore CA 94550. See livermorearts.org/plan-your-visit for ticket-office hours.

***The Symphony is pleased to present this concert in collaboration with
Livermore Valley Arts and Valley Dance Theatre.***



Petting Zoo Photos from LAS Archives

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET YOUR 2025–2026 SEASON TICKETS!

~SAVE MONEY BY ORDERING A SUBSCRIPTION~

4-Concert Series Season Subscriptions Available Only Until December 6, 2025.

Concerts are December 6, 2025; February 14, April 11, and June 6, 2026

- Visit the Bankhead ticket office in person, 2400 First Street, Livermore, *OR*
- Complete the order form on the preview flyer <https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/flyers/LAS-PreviewFlyer-15May2025.pdf> and drop it off at the Bankhead ticket office or mail it. Allow plenty of time for mail to reach the Bankhead before December 6. Check payable to **LVPAC** or credit card.

Important! Season tickets are not available by phone or online.

Purchase Single-Concert Tickets

- Visit the Bankhead ticket office in person, 2400 First Street, Livermore, *OR*
- Phone the Bankhead ticket office, 925-373-6800, *OR*
- Order online: <https://livermorearts.org/event-calendar/>

Adult single ticket prices: **\$46, \$39, \$31**. Youth tickets through age 21: **Free**.

Ticket Purchase Questions? Call the Symphony at 925-789-5724

NEW! LAS DONOR LEVELS & BENEFITS



SYMPHONY CLUB

- SYMPHONY CLUB gift: **LAS decal**

OVERTURE CLUB \$100-\$199

- recognition on printed programs
- membership in the LAS Association

SONATA CLUB \$200-\$299

- all benefits above plus
- **2 lobby bar vouchers**

CONCERTO CLUB \$300-\$499

- all benefits above plus
- Join us in the Bankhead's **Founder's Room** for each concert. We look forward to meeting you there!



CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE

- all Symphony Club benefits plus
- expect your autumn invitation to the annual **Conductor's Luncheon**

BATON CIRCLE \$500-\$999

- expect your invitation to the **season end dress rehearsal**

MAESTRO CIRCLE \$1000-\$1999

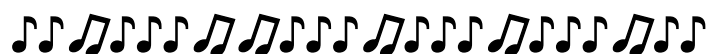
- expect your invitation to a **backstage tour** before the December concert

OVATION CIRCLE \$2000-\$4999

- expect an invitation to **sponsor a concert soloist**

VIRTUOSO CIRCLE \$5000 and above

- expect an invitation to **sponsor a concert**



YOUTH NEWS

COMPETITION for YOUNG MUSICIANS

This October, *three* winners were selected at the Symphony's 53rd annual Competition for Young Musicians. Each winner receives a \$750 cash award and **will perform at the February 14 concert**. They are **Cara Wang**, cello, who will play the 1st movement of Cello Concerto in B Minor, by Antonín Dvořák, **Donghu Kim**, cello, who will perform a selection from Rococo Variations by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and **Charlotte Trinh**, harp, who will play Maurice Ravel's Introduction and Allegro. The winners' biographies will be included in the concert program, the February edition of *Symphony Notes*, and on the LAS website.

In addition, eight contestant runners-up will receive a recital appearance opportunity for local audiences in Livermore at either a January or April Symphony Guild meeting. Each performer will also receive an honorarium.

Association board member Anne Badders chairs the Competition committee.

STUDENT AWARDS

Four high school students will receive cash awards of \$500 at the December 6th concert. The Symphony Association administers these awards to recognize local high school seniors who have made significant contributions to school and community musical activities. The awards are not based on students' musical ability or plans to pursue further music education. Bios for the winning students will be featured in the December 6 concert program and on the LAS website. Association board member Nissa Nack chairs the Awards committee.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra

On July 26, the Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra performed its annual free public concert at First Presbyterian Church Livermore, followed by a reception in the church's courtyard. Over 40 youths participated. LASYO is coordinated by Betsy Hausburg and sponsored by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association. The orchestra was led by Music Director Don Adkins.

School Concert Outreach Assemblies

In April, the symphony orchestra will perform concerts for the student bodies of two elementary schools in Livermore and Dublin. Association board member Stacy Hughes chairs the Youth Outreach committee.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY and GUILD CALENDAR 2025-2026

Saturday, December 6, 2025
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concerts:
3:00 p.m. *Free Family Holiday Concert*
8:00 p.m. *Joyful Sounds of the Season*
Jenny Douglass, viola
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
January Gems Guild Winter Business Meeting
With performances by selected runners-up from Competition for Young Musicians
Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore

Saturday, February 14, 2026, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:
Forbidden Love
With performances by the winners of the Competition for Young Musicians
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:
Spring Awakenings, Geoffrey Gallegos, guest conductor
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 7:00-7:20 p.m. (at LAS rehearsal)
Association Annual Meeting–Board member election
East Avenue Middle School Music Room, 3951 East Ave., Livermore

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Guild Spring Business Meeting & Reception-Election of officers
Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore

Thursday, May 21, 2026, 12:00 noon
Guild Spring Luncheon, with introduction of 2026-27 officers
Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 7:30 p.m. (Inside the Music, 7–7:15)
Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert:
Dramatic Voices, Steve Sanchez, clarinet
Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Symphony Notes is published four times a year for members of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, Orchestra, and Guild. Symphony Association President Anne Anaya; Guild President PJ Wells; Editor Marcia Elchesen. 925-789-5724; PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551. Nonprofit Tax ID 23-7001614. Website: www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org