



Symphony Notes

A publication of the Livermore-Amador Symphony and Guild, Vol. 62, No. 4, May 2025

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor

Presents

Celestial Sounds

Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Lara Webber, Conductor

7-7:15 *Inside the Music* preconcert talk by Lara Webber.

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

Opening from *Also sprach Zarathustra*

Richard Strauss

Mars, Venus, and Jupiter, from *The Planets*

Gustav Holst

“Clair de Lune,” from *Suite bergamasque*

Claude Debussy

“I Sang to You and the Moon,” from *Chicago Songs*

Kurt Erickson

“Song to the Moon,” from *Rusalka*

Antonín Dvořák

Heidi Moss Erickson, soprano

“Aux étoiles” (To the Stars)

Henri Duparc

***Star Wars* Suite**

John Williams

Imaginative and evocative lighting designs created live
and projected throughout the theater by *The Mad Alchemist*.

**Scientists from Quest Science Center and Las Positas College in the lobby at intermission.
Tri-Valley Stargazers and telescopes in the courtyard at intermission and after the concert.**

*The audience and performers are invited to enjoy a post-concert reception
in the 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.**



LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Celestial Sounds

Saturday, May 31

Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Inside the Music: 7-7:15

Bankhead Theater Livermore

Some Notes about the Concert

Lara Webber, Music Director and Conductor



Our season finale celebrates the wonder of the universe with thrilling music inspired by the moon, the planets, and the stories they arouse. Imaginative and evocative lighting designs created live and projected throughout the theater by **The Mad Alchemist** will set the scene throughout the evening. The brilliant soprano **Heidi Moss Erickson** will serenade us with songs to the moon by **Dvořák** and Bay Area composer **Kurt Erickson**.

This concert marks the first time LAS will perform the complete ***Star Wars Suite*** by the great **John Williams**. This iconic music is also some of his most expressive and beautiful. There are few melodies out there more emotionally rich than those associated with the characters of Leia and Yoda, or more powerful than Darth Vader's "Imperial March." Williams was inspired in writing his ***Star Wars*** score by **Gustav Holst's** famous symphonic portrait, ***The Planets***. Fascinated by astronomy and astrology, Holst's music captures the dramatic character of the mythological gods for whom the planets were named: Mars—bringer of war, Venus—bringer of peace, and Jupiter—bringer of Joy! Delicate and expressive music of French composers **Debussy** and **Duparc** conjure up moonlight and contemplate the magic of the starry night.

And that's not all! **Quest Science Center** and **Tri Valley Stargazers** will join us with captivating presentations in the lobby and telescopes in the courtyard to bring us ever closer to the planets and the stars.

Come join us for a truly out of this world event!



Heidi Moss Erickson, Soprano Soloist

We welcome back Heidi Moss Erickson, who performed with LAS in May 2016 and April 2022. She has appeared with numerous other Bay area companies including Opera Parallèle, Oakland Symphony, Peninsula Symphony, Diablo Symphony, Fremont Symphony, Livermore Valley Opera, Opera San Jose, and the Sacramento Choral Society. She is a champion of new music and has collaborated with several renowned composers including David Conte, Daron Hagen, Jake Heggie, Kurt Erickson, Henry Mollicone, Tarik O'Regan, and Erling Wold. She has also received recognition in major vocal competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (NYC First Place Winner), the Liederkrantz Awards, the MacAllister Awards, and the KDFC competition, which resulted in a performance with pianist Lang Lang. In 2019 she was awarded the prestigious "Best in the Bay" award for her Richard Strauss recital. Moss Erickson holds bachelor's degrees in voice and biology from Oberlin College (where she and Lara Webber met), and a master's degree in biochemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. She was a research scientist for 10 years before relocating to the Bay area and pursuing a music career. She became interested in the science of singing when stricken with a rare facial paralysis in 2007, leaving the right side of her face partially paralyzed. This inspired her to learn more about the relationship between vocal physiology and facial musculature which she teaches to her voice students.

A Message from LAS GUILD PRESIDENT PJ Wells

PJ Wells and Linda Miller—Harmony & Historic Home Tour



Last newsletter I talked of marching into spring—and what a spring it's been! Since our last issue, we enjoyed another evening fundraiser at Cuda Ridge Winery with the music of the Jammies (Tim Barry, Leslie Grunewald, Brad Herbert, guest Jim Hurley, and more), gift basket drawings, beautiful nibbles, and generous donations. The Dino family continues to support the Symphony with our sincere gratitude.

The April 11 Red Violin soirée fundraiser and subsequent Bankhead Theater performance on April 12th came through town like a comet! About 60 people attended the soiree the night before the concert, and both were spectacular. The relationship between Elizabeth Pitcairn, the Red Violin, and

our own Lara Webber is a phenomenal link to history, music, and lasting friendship. Kudos to the Guild members who worked tirelessly on food (Sandra Hodzic team), venue (Triska family, Linda Miller), ticketing (Judy McMurry), and wine donation (Wood Family Vineyards, Carol Beck). [See photos on p. 7.]

Shortly after the concert we hosted “April Gems” at the Bothwell on the evening of April 24th. After a brief business meeting to vote on the slate of Guild officers for the 2025–2026 season, we heard from 4 talented contestants from the Symphony’s youth competition. Many thanks to Anne Badders for her outstanding work on this program throughout the year—she is committed, meticulous, and oh-so-capable. And the performers were exceptional and delightful. All brought family and a healthy appetite to enjoy our dessert table afterwards!

We embraced May with the Harmony & Historic Home Tour May 10th in a partnership with the Livermore Heritage Guild—special thanks to Anne Anaya for bringing the two groups together at long last. Ticket holders enjoyed touring outside and inside 8 historic Livermore homes, selected by the Heritage Guild, while our own LAS orchestra volunteers played music at the homes. Musicians were joined by other musical friends who lent their talent staffing this large, community, fund-raising event. And our wonderful Guild volunteers from both nonprofits donated their time and talent as docents, ticketers, bakers, planners, and fixers of all. Estimated foot traffic exceeded 350 and ticket sales approximated 300 people. Well done!

Coming next: please join us at Beeb’s on May 22nd for lunch, introduction of our 2025–2026 Guild board officers (yours truly PJ Wells—President, Linda Miller—Vice-President, Judy McMurry—Treasurer, Sally Swanson—Secretary), and enjoy entertainment provided by our LAS principal oboe, Eva Langfeldt, and Catherine Jennings, flute.

We wrap up the season with *Celestial Sounds* on May 31st. The concert is an exploration of science and astronomy: the skies and stars align in an immersive experience! It promises to be an LAS orchestra first as we rocket into our summer break. Join us!

Come out and play, enjoy the music, and our talented orchestra in the season finale 🚀 !

PJ Wells

2024–2025 President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

A Message from LASA PRESIDENT TIM BARRY



Dear Fellow Symphony Lovers:

This fabulous season comes to a crescendo at our May 31st *Celestial Sounds* concert, complete with a psychedelic light show in the theater and Quest Science Center interactive sessions, displays and local Stargazers' live telescope demos in the courtyard at intermission and following the concert. I always appreciate how much effort it takes to present these concerts—from the musicians' and our conductor's hours of preparation, to the Symphony Guild's coordination of the after-concert reception and information table in the lobby, to the marketing committee's work in promoting the concert.

It has truly "taken a village" to put this season together this year. From the Music Committee and its excellent job last year establishing the program for each concert, to our wonderful Music Director Lara

Webber and our talented musicians' preparation and musicianship, to our energetic and supportive Symphony Guild with go-getter President PJ Wells, to the hard-working boards and committees of both the LASA board and Guild board to keep the "trains running on time," to our excellent financial team (Guild treasurer Judy McMurry, accountant and musician Audrey Horning, and LASA treasurer and musician Ursula Goldstein), to the committee led by Anne Anaya that has produced exciting new additional marketing efforts, to the supportive Bankhead Theater staff and management, to our loyal season subscribers, to the many generous donors large and small, to our unsung heroes such as LASA secretary Marcia Elchesen and Guild secretary Sally Swanson, and finally, to the season's concert-goers we all work so hard to please, I give you my congratulations and warmest thanks for a job well done!

I'm finishing my last term as your president, and I have learned so much from so many of you. I wish to thank the LASA board and Lara Webber for the incredible experience it has been and a true highlight of my life. YAY Symphony! GREAT SEASON!

Musically yours,

Tim Barry

President

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association

LASA Board Members 2025–2026

Anne Anaya
Anne Badders
Tim Barry
Carol Boster
Marcia S. Elchesen
Alan Frank

Stu Frazier
Ursula Goldstein
Leslie Grunewald
Stacy Hughes
Nick James
Jean King

Denise Leddon
Nancy McKenzie
Nissa Nack
April Nissen
Jeffrey Schneider
Lynn Seppala

Leslie Stevens
Clark Streeter
Linda Tinney
Brandon Tran
PJ Wells
Beth Wilson



LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

2025–2026 CONCERTS

Regular Evening Concert Series

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

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

February 14, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

April 11, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

June 6, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Purchase your season subscription now for best prices!

See Season Preview flyer in this issue for details.

Early subscription purchase prices are available

at our May 31 concert and until July 15, 2025.

Season brochures have been mailed to LAS supporters.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra

Free Summer Concert—Open to the Public!

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Saturday July 26, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore

Brilliance at the Bankhead Saturday Evening August 23

A Gala Fundraiser for Livermore Valley Arts

Livermore-Amador Symphony will perform with LeAnn Rimes

An international, multi-platinum-selling artist and award-winning songwriter, LeAnn Rimes has sold over 48 million records worldwide. Don't miss this evening with one of music's most celebrated icons, accompanied by our own Livermore-Amador Symphony!

Tickets on sale now at <https://livermorearts.org> or 925-373-6800.

Livermore-Amador Symphony

POPS on the Green, Saturday September 27, 3–4 p.m.

POPS returns outdoors on the Shea Stage in the Bankhead Plaza! Bring a picnic or snack and maybe something to sit on while you enjoy the music by our wonderful symphony. Open to the public, free admission, but we do collect donations. Pops is sponsored by the LAS Guild, with all donations going to support the Symphony. ***Join us!***

🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵 LAS YOUTH PROGRAM NEWS 🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵

LAS School Outreach Concerts in Livermore, Thursday April 17



On Thursday, April 17, LAS orchestra members played two concerts at Sunset Elementary School, followed by lunch for the orchestra provided by the Symphony Guild at the home of Nancy McKenzie, and a final concert at Leo R. Croce Elementary School.

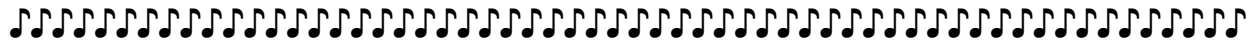
As usual, Lara Webber introduced the instruments of the orchestra and each piece, with much audience participation. The music began with students invited to sing along to the "Star-Spangled Banner". Then came the Farandole from Bizet's *L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2*; the students, coached by Webber, could sing its main theme by the time the entire orchestra played. Next was part of Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, with a lovely duet of English horn and flute suddenly interrupted by trumpets and followed to a wild galloping conclusion. Esmail's "Ram Tori Maya" followed, featuring singers from the Cantabella Children's Chorus. Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" from *Peer Gynt* was next, with stealthy tiptoeing through the troll king's hall leading to a wild chase by the trolls. After part of "Mars" from Holst's *The Planets*, the concert ended with music that seemed to be familiar to all: a *Star Wars* medley by John Williams.

Thanks to Carol Boster and Lara Webber for photos, and Judy Eckart for description.

Awards for High School Seniors, Presented at the December 6th Concert

The Symphony Association administers four awards to recognize high school seniors who have made significant contributions to school and community musical activities. Winners receive a \$500 award. Applications will be available in late summer from the Symphony's website: <http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/awards.html>. If you have questions, contact Awards Committee Chair Nissa Nack nissanack@comcast.net or (925)-484-1942.

The Competition for Young Musicians will be held in October 2025 and is open to instrumentalists and vocalists who live in Alameda County, Contra Costa County, the City of Tracy, or the community of Mountain House, California. Piano and String applicants should be 19 or younger as of February 14, 2026. Vocal, Wind, Brass, Percussion and Harp applicants should be 22 or younger as of February 14, 2026. The winners will perform as soloists with the Symphony at its February 14, 2026, concert and will be awarded \$750. For more details, see the Symphony's website <https://livermoreamadorsymphony.org/competition.html>. If you have questions, contact Competition Committee Chair Anne Badders competition@livermoreamadorsymphony.org.



SPRING GUILD ACTIVITIES



Violin Soloist Elizabeth Pitcairn Soirée April 11

See Guild President's Letter, p.3



April Gems soloists: Hiroshi Corro (piano), Charlotte Trinh (harp), Edward Xiong (piano), Matthew Lin (violin)

Photos courtesy of PJ Wells



See Guild President's Letter, p.3
**Left to right:
Judy Eckart, Jackie McBride,
Ursula Goldstein, and Sandra Baker.**



Photo courtesy of Rita Szollos



GUILD MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026

Get Ready for a NEW SEASON!

Please complete and return the 2025-2026 Guild Membership Form. Invite a friend to join the Guild too! The form is included in this *Symphony Notes* and is also available on the Symphony's website. You may turn it in at the luncheon May 22 or mail it to Guild Treasurer Judy McMurry at the address on the form. If you have any questions, please call me 925-443-7398.

~ Linda Miller, Membership Chair ~

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY and GUILD
CALENDAR 2024–2025**

***Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert
Celestial Sounds***

Heidi Moss Erickson, soprano soloist

Saturday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.

Inside the Music, 7–7:15

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 11:30 a.m.

Guild Spring Luncheon with introduction of 2025–2026 Guild Officers

Beeb's Restaurant, 915 Clubhouse Dr., Livermore (See p. 7 and flyer on last page.)

Saturday, July 26, 2025, 7:00 p.m. (See page 5.)

LAS Youth Orchestra Concert, free to the public

First Presbyterian Church, 4th & L Streets, Livermore

Saturday, August 23, 2025 evening (See page 5.)

Brilliance at the Bankhead Gala, LeAnn Rimes, accompanied by LAS

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 3:00 p.m. (See page 5.)

POPS on the Green Concert, outdoors on the Bankhead Plaza, free to the public

December 6, 2025

3:00 p.m. Free Family Holiday Concert

8:00 p.m. Evening Concert, *Joyful Sounds of the Season*

Bankhead Theater, Livermore

See next page for LAS 2025-2026 Season Preview flyer!

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

Symphony Notes is published four times a year for members of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, Orchestra, and Guild. Symphony Association President: Tim Barry; Guild President: PJ Wells; Editor: Marcia Elchesen. PO Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551; 925-789-5724.

Website: www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LivAmSymph/>.

Livermore-Amador Symphony

2025–2026 Preview

Lara Webber, Music Director & Conductor



Pops on the Green September 27, 2025

Concert from 3 to 4 p.m.

Our annual Pops concert, sponsored by the Symphony Guild, will be on the lawn in front of the Bankhead Plaza on an autumn afternoon. Bring a picnic or snack and maybe something to sit on while you enjoy the music from our wonderful Symphony. Admission is free, but we do collect donations. All donations go to supporting the Symphony. Join us at 3 p.m. on Saturday September 27.

Family Holiday Concert December 6, 2025

Concert from 3 to 4 p.m.

In coordination with the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and in partnership with Valley Dance Theatre, the Symphony Association presents a family concert inside Livermore's Bankhead Theater. Sign up through the Bankhead 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.

Joyful Sounds of the Season December 6, 2025

Concert at 8 p.m. (no preconcert talk)

Warm your heart with festive music perfect for the start of the holiday season. Christmas carols infuse the music of composers Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Quinn Mason. Beloved Bay Area violist Jenny Douglass is our soloist in the lyrical music of Vaughan Williams. Tchaikovsky transports us to the wintry world of the Snow Maiden. Put yourself in the holiday spirit with the symphony!

Forbidden Love February 14, 2026

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

Spend Valentine's evening with the symphony. Hear Elgar's musical love letter, and immerse yourself in passionate music of Delius and Prokofiev inspired by the Shakespearean lovers Romeo and Juliet. Emerging artists take center stage as we feature the winners of our annual Competition for Young Musicians in this evening of musical romance that will sweep you off your feet.

Spring Awakenings April 11, 2026

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

Embrace the joy and renewal of springtime with music inspired by the vitality of this beautiful season. Guest conductor Geoffrey Gallegos leads the orchestra in a vibrant program featuring Copland's "Appalachian Spring" and music of Delius, Glazunov, and Schumann that brings the sounds of nature to life.

Dramatic Voices June 6, 2026

Inside the Music, 7–7:15 p.m.; concert at 7:30 p.m.

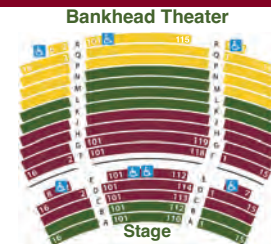
Steve Sanchez, captivating performer and virtuoso clarinetist, joins us for a season finale that packs a punch! The intensity and expression of Samuel Barber leads us into Oscar Navarro's second clarinet concerto, which is cinematic in its scope and jazzy in its sensibilities. Pioneering American composer Amy Beach transports us through musical imagery and Scottish folk song to her Gaelic roots in Scotland. A dramatic finish to a beautiful season of music.

Programs subject to change.

Season Tickets

Dec., Feb., April, and June concerts.

Live at
The Bankhead



| Section | A | B | C |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ADULT | <input type="checkbox"/> \$166 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$112 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$156 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$133 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$105 |
| Early Purchase: by July 15, 2025 | | | |
| YOUTH (under age 22) | \$0 in all sections | | |

Tickets: \$ _____

I want to retain my seat(s) from the 2024–2025 season.
Retention of seats is guaranteed only for renewals received by July 31, 2025.

Payment

Write a check payable to **LVPAC**, or pay by credit card:

Amex Discover MC Visa

Account # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature: _____

Contact Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____ Seat(s) in the 2024–2025 season

Bring or mail this form (no subscription orders by phone) **to the Bankhead Theater Box Office, 2400 First St., Livermore CA 94550, or email its image to boxoffice@bankheadtheater.org**

Donation Please consider a tax-deductible contribution.
Write a check payable to Livermore-Amador Symphony and send it to PO. Box 1049, Livermore CA 94551-1049; or pay by credit card at livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

New Giving Levels: Virtuoso Circle, \$5,000 or more; Ovation Circle, \$2,000–\$4,999; Maestro Circle, \$1,000–\$1,999; Baton Circle, \$500–\$999; Concerto Club, \$300–\$499; Sonata Club, \$200–\$299; Overture Club, \$100–\$199.

New Donor Recognition: Overture Club donors, for example, become members of the LAS Association and are recognized on printed programs for a year. All Circle donors are, in addition, invited to an annual Conductor's Luncheon. Ovation Circle donors may sponsor a concert soloist. For full details, please visit our website or see our 2025–2026 season brochure.

Single-concert tickets go on sale **August 1, 2025**, at \$46, \$39, or \$31 for adults, and free for youth under age 22.

For further information please call 925.789.5724 or see livermoreamadorsymphony.org.



LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY

Join the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild provides support to the Symphony.

The Guild produces and distributes concert-season brochures, hosts receptions, raises funds (organizes and runs estate sales, plans and produces the annual Pops concert), and more.

Members gather for a prelude event in September, for meetings in January and April, and for a luncheon in May. Music is a part of each gathering. Please join the Guild!

Yes, I'll help, and I'd be especially willing to:

- Sort and price items prior to garage/estate sales
- Organize musical entertainment for meetings
- Chair a committee / serve on the board of directors
- Purchase and organize refreshments
- Order/pick up flowers for concert soloists
- Assist at receptions at Guild meetings, etc.
- Drive Guild members to events/concerts
- Please note that I need a ride to events/concerts**
- Work at garage/estate sales
- Plan new fundraisers and activities
- Telephone members
- Recruit new members
- Transport sale items, etc.
- Provide my house for a reception
- Staff a table at concerts

Annual Dues and Requirements

Active Member \$20.00 Active members are those who have paid their annual Active membership dues and agree to participate in Guild functions, activities, and all fund-raisers, as outlined in Guild policies. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

Associate Member \$35.00 Associate members are those who have paid their Associate membership dues and agree to participate in Guild fund-raisers. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

Friend of the Guild \$50.00 Friends of the LAS Guild. Friends are those members who have paid their Friends membership dues. They are invited, but not required, to participate in Guild fund-raisers and activities. They will receive all notices of Guild activities and meetings, and have voting privileges at Guild membership meetings.

I am joining as a Friend of the Guild, but please **contact me** about opportunities to help with Guild activities as they arise.

I am joining as a Friend of the Guild; please **do not contact me** to ask for additional assistance.

Make checks payable to Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild or L.A.S.G.

Please write *Active*, *Associate*, or *Friend* on the check.

Bring check and form to the May luncheon or the September prelude party or send to:

Judy McMurry
L.A.S. Guild
583 Bell Avenue
Livermore CA 94550

Unless you indicate that you wish otherwise, the information below will be included in a directory distributed to Guild members and LAS Association Board members.

I am a renewing member and my contact information is unchanged

Name

Street Address

E-mail Address

City

Zip Code

Home Phone Number

Mobile Phone Number

For more information, contact Linda Miller at (925) 443-7398.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild cordially invites you to attend the



Annual Symphony Guild Spring Luncheon

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 11:30 am

Beeb's Restaurant at Las Positas Golf Course

915 Clubhouse Drive, Livermore

No money required to reserve your seat

Renew your annual Guild membership during the luncheon!

Enjoy a lovely luncheon with old and new friends of the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild while listening to fine music.

RSVP to Tim Barry by May 12

teabarry10@gmail.com or (925) 518-9070

(See Luncheon Program below)

Program

Lunch (No pre-pay necessary)

Please enter the banquet room at the side door, not the main entrance to the restaurant. No admission fee. Then order and pay for your food at the restaurant counter. Your order will be delivered to your table. Take a peek at the Beeb's menu ahead of time <http://beebatlaspositas.com/bar-and-grill-menu.html>

Guild Annual Business Meeting

We will introduce our new Guild Board at a short meeting, share the annual report of activities and offer membership sign ups and renewals.

Musical Performance

Livermore-Amador Symphony/Prometheus Symphony principals

Catherine Jennings, flute and Eva Langfeldt, oboe

Tell a friend. Open to all. We hope you can join us!