



TEMPO

Newsletter of the San Antonio Symphony League

November
2011

President's Message:



How can the holidays be upon us when we just turned off our air conditioners??!! And, didn't our League season just kick off—yet so much has been going on! Lynette Nelson helped us open our season with fun and excitement at the Vela Bar in October; Joan Whiteley gathered belles and their moms to assist with musical crafts and the Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo during Halloween Spooktacular;

Dotty Huffman and her team of volunteer cooks provided scrumptious lunches for our musicians during double rehearsals; and our YPC docents and ushers brought 3rd, 4th and 5th graders together to experience *Scheherazade*.

There is always something happening in the League. Our senior belles are anticipating and preparing for their Symphony Ball presentations. Our Music at the Museum committee is well into their preparations for the 12th annual happening in collaboration with San Antonio Museum of Art docents. League members are welcoming guest artists as they transport them between the airport and their downtown accommodations.

Then there are new initiatives that are just getting off the ground or in the planning stages. The League will have its own website in late Spring and soon after, we will be on Facebook. We are branching out to introduce symphonic music to new audiences, such as school PTAs, high school orchestras, Boy and Girl Scouts, to name a few. We will be hosting Symphony musicians in selected homes to introduce themselves and play for attending guests. But, first, we are excited to announce this year's fun-draising opportunity that we all can rally around —**Birdies for Charity** (see article within). Won't you join us in these events? Just four hours of your time will create the momentum needed to make one event successful or profitable.

As we look forward to the holidays, let us continue to count our blessings as we share time with friends and family-and enjoy the music of the season.

Received from the SA Symphony

The League received the following note card dated October 14, 2011. We thought you would like to know.

Dear Ms. Rafferty and League Members:

Thank you for everything you do on behalf of the Symphony, from your financial generosity to the awesome lunches, to your thunderous applause.

We appreciate you all!

Sincerely,
SAS Musicians and Staff

Martin Kushner, Editor

Upcoming Events

December 7, 2011
10 am - 11:30 am
SASL Holiday Coffee
Home of Mrs. Nancy Pawel

January 12, 2012 - 11:30 am
Orchestra Hospitality Luncheon
Majestic Theatre Rotunda

January 21, 2012
9 am - 5 pm
Future Stars Preliminary Round
Majestic Theatre

January 23, 2012 - 5:30 pm
Music at the Museum XII
San Antonio Museum of Art

January 28, 2012
9 am to 11:30 am
Future Stars Final Round
Trinity University
Ruth Taylor Recital Hall

January 31, February 1-2, 2012
9 am to Noon
Young People's Concert #3
"Heroic Beethoven"
Trinity University
Laurie Auditorium

February 25, 2012
42nd Symphony Ball - 6:30 pm
Hyatt Hill Country Resort

March 1, 2012 - 11:30 am
Orchestra Hospitality Luncheon
Majestic Theatre Rotunda

March 3, 2012
10 am - 1 pm
Paint to Music Drop Off
Steinway Gallery

March 24, 2012 - 9 am
Paint to Music Judging Day
St. Mary's Hall

Annual Holiday Coffee Coming December 7th

The San Antonio Symphony League will ring in the holiday season at our annual Holiday Coffee on Wednesday, December 7, 2011. Mrs. Tom E. Pawel and her daughter, Charlotte Pawel, will open their home at 123 Geneseo Road in Terrell Hills from 10:00am until 11:30am. Always the League's most popular social event, this year's holiday coffee will delight all our guests with silvery sparkles and twinkles.

Mrs. Nancy Pawel – a renowned ceramic artist famous for her castles and inventive ceramic glazes – joins her daughter and many friends in welcoming League members and our friends to her home. Mrs. Pawel will incorporate her legendary art with classic holiday décor in her newly remodeled home. Guests are invited to enjoy holiday treats and sweets provided by Symphony Belle Moms and the League Board in both beautiful dining areas of the Pawel home. Her Asian-inspired dining room is replete with antique and priceless “blue and white” ceramics while the new and second open-designed dining area displays beautiful contemporary American art. This year's “Silver Bells” theme offers a classic and sparkly element to the morning's celebration.

Submitted by Lynette Farrimond Nelson, VP Social

SASL Members LOVE Season Opening Event!

Cool weather, good friends and great food & wine – the Season Opening Reception of the San Antonio Symphony League greeted more than 65 guests at the Vela Wine Bar on October 6. We were thrilled to see the energetic and enthusiastic support for our Symphony League and, indeed, the San Antonio Symphony.

Kathy Rafferty, SASL president, welcomed long-time loyal members and new members alike at this lively celebration. Several parents of the newest Symphony Belle class were among the celebrants. League officers briefed guests on project and program plans for the new season, including educational, volunteer and social events. Maestro Sebastian Lang-Lessing and his lovely wife Britta Funck also greeted guests and both Jack Fishman (Symphony CEO) and SLL shared plans and agenda for this year's exciting concert season.

Guests to the reception enjoyed delicious catering by Paloma Blanca including their popular seafood and citrus ceviche, homemade stuffed jalapenos, their famous quesadillas and, of course, fine wines, premium cocktails and margaritas. Thanks to Richard Peacock for his generosity and his staff's attention to detail. The candlelit atmosphere encouraged relaxed conversation and proved to be an ideal venue for friend-making for symphony lovers across San Antonio.

Submitted by Lynette Farrimond Nelson, VP Social



Sebastian Lang-Lessing shares his artistic design for this year's symphonic season.



42nd Annual Symphony Ball “An Enchanted Evening at the Alhambra”

The San Antonio Symphony League's forty-second annual Presentation Ball will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012, at the Hyatt Hill Country Hotel. We will present twenty-one Belles, and celebrate with Spanish cuisine, fine wine and dancing to the music of Max Class and the Class Act.

Individual seats for adults this year are \$250.00 per person, with tables of ten costing \$2,500.00. Individual tickets for teens are \$200.00 per person, with teen tables for ten costing \$2,000.00.

We are also offering additional sponsorship levels to help raise amounts that the San Antonio Symphony League will ultimately be able to donate to the San Antonio Symphony. The additional sponsorship levels, and benefits associated with these sponsorship levels, are:

ALESSANDRO CIRCLE PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$10,000

Seating for 10
Full page recognition in Program
Recognition as a Symphony Alessandro Circle Platinum Donor
Dinner with Maestro Sebastian Lang-Lessing
Wine Tasting with a Symphony Guest Artist
Four (4) tickets to a Symphony performance

MAESTRO SAPPHIRE DONOR: \$ 7,500

Seating for 10
Full page recognition in Program
Recognition as a Symphony Maestro Sapphire Donor
Wine tasting with a Symphony Guest Artist
Four (4) tickets to a Symphony performance

MAESTRO GOLD DONOR: \$5,000

Full page recognition in Program
Recognition as a Symphony Maestro Gold Donor
Four (4) tickets to a Symphony performance

MAESTRO BRONZE DONOR: \$3,500

Recognition as a sponsor in Program
Recognition as a Symphony Maestro Bronze Donor

The 2012 Belle Class includes the following wonderful young women:

Miss Megan Rose Anderson, Miss Courtney Allison Barnard, Miss Sophie Rose Bekendorf, Miss Brennan Leigh Bowman, Miss Teresa Marie Browning, Miss Frances Lee Caldwell, Miss Ellen Schlegel Cromack, Miss Anna Myriam-Victoria Fiallo, Miss Macarena Gaona, Miss Marissa Garcia, Miss Caroline Grace Howard, Miss Rea Rarouf Cleland, Miss Margaret Anne Massari, Miss Alexandra Lilia Medellin, Miss Allie Marie Reilly, Miss Victoria Madison Rohde, Miss Emily Kate Rosenbloom, Miss Emily Elizabeth Moody Scott, Miss Anna Loye Stell, Miss Alexandra Catherine Strange, Miss Natalia Asha Zacarias.

We look forward to seeing you at “An Enchanted Evening at the Alhambra,” and appreciate your support of ...OUR San Antonio Symphony!

Submitted by David Kinder, VP Ways and Means

Music at the Museum In January

Music at the Museum XII will be held on Monday evening, January 23, 2012 at the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA). This wonderful event is a joint project between the SAMA Docents and the Symphony League. Sharon Kucerek and myself are the League representatives on the committee this year and we are pleased to announce that plans are well underway for this event. There will be a silent auction to include a hand-picked series of contemporary local artists, Tiffany Christmas Ornaments, a special Italian Chef's Dinner for 8 at your home prepared by Chef Gustav Valadez Ortiz and more! There will be a Wine Pull again, where for a small donation, one can be surprised by a nice selection of wines. Musical offerings will be performed by John Carroll, Bassam Nashawati, Sharon Kuster, John Silantien and the SAS Mastersingers. Wonderful hors d'oeuvres and wine will be part of the full evening for your donation of \$50.00 per person. A VIP Reception featuring Symphony CEO Jack Fishman will take place immediately following the performance. The newly appointed SAMA Director Katie Luber will also be introduced to those attending the VIP Reception. Cost is \$100.00 per person to include the concert, special desserts and cordials. Both the concert and the VIP Reception sold out last year, so please make sure to RSVP early. Look for your invitation right after the holidays. We are also soliciting nice bottles of wine for our Wine Pull, so if you can spare a bottle or two, let me know! See you at the 12th annual Music at the Museum!

Submitted by Maureen Hillman, Committee Co-Chair

Symphony Belles Assist Symphony

As part of their community service requirement, Symphony League Belles participate in various activities that assist the San Antonio Symphony and the Symphony League. Here are two examples. On October 23, 2011, the San Antonio Symphony participated in a day-long KRTU Jazz Festival at the Sunken Garden in Brackenridge Park, while Belles assisted children (young and old!) enjoy their time with the Instrument Petting Zoo. The following week, a number of Belles volunteered at the SAS Halloween Spooktacular Family Concert, adding to the excitement of the young attendees' musical afternoon. We thank all these wonderful Belles for their assistance.



2014 Belle Taylor MacNaughton

Halloween Spooktacular



2013 Belle Chloe Connors



At Jazz Festival

2014 Belles McKenna Blockstone, Mary Morgan Casillas and Isabella Hancock

League Kicks Off Fundraising Drive Valero Texas Open's Birdies for Charity

For the first time ever, the San Antonio Symphony League is participating in **Birdies for Charity**, an exciting fundraising program linked to the Valero Texas Open, the 3rd oldest tournament on the PGA tour schedule. Our goal is simple: obtain pledges on behalf of the San Antonio Symphony League. All donations are tax deductible and 100% of the money collected will be donated to the Symphony. The fundraising program just kicked off and runs through April 17, 2012. Golf San Antonio, which manages the Valero Texas Open and Birdies for Charity, pays all costs to run the program.

Here's how it works. We request pledges of one penny or more per birdie. [In golf, par is the target number of strokes required to get the ball in a particular hole; a birdie is one stroke less than par.] The value of the pledge is based on the number of birdies made during the upcoming April 2012 Valero Texas Open. Last year, 1,950 birdies were made. Or we can accept a flat contribution, with \$20 being the suggested minimum. There are other exciting options and incentives that we will be sharing with you in the near future.

This drive is a new way for Symphony League supporters to expand their outreach far beyond the regular base—and a fun opportunity to let family, friends, work associates, school PTAs and neighborhood HOAs learn about the League and how it supports our Symphony.

We will debut **Birdies for Charity** at our Dec 7th Holiday Coffee, when pledge forms will be available. In the meantime, visit <http://valerotexasopen.org/charities/birdies-for-charities/> to learn more. Thank you in advance for your support!

Meet the New SAS Assistant Conductor Akiko Fujimoto

Ken-David Masur is leaving San Antonio for conducting positions in Munich and San Diego. His final POPS concerts will be the Holiday Pops, and his final Classics appearances will be in March. Ken-David has done a great job, especially taking on extra responsibility during the music director search years. You may fondly remember his fabulous concert opening our 70th anniversary season with Carmina Burana!

The process to replace Ken-David started back last season. We posted ads and received many resumes and videos. The musician's Artistic Advisory Committee and Music Director Sebastian Lang-Lessing reviewed these applicants and invited four finalists to conduct in October. The finalists led rehearsals over two days and the orchestra participated by filling out surveys. Sebastian Lang-Lessing selected Akiko Fujimoto and she begins her appointment as Assistant Conductor in January 2012.

A native of Japan, Fujimoto attended high school in California and graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts in music and psychology. She holds Master of Music degrees in conducting from the Eastman School of Music and Boston University.

Hailed as "a very talented conductor who knows her score and her musicians" (Virginia Gazette), Akiko Fujimoto has most recently served as the Conducting Associate for the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the William & Mary Symphony Orchestra, and Music Director of the Williamsburg Youth Orchestras.

As a member of the Virginia Symphony conducting staff, Fujimoto conducted the VSO in classical, holiday, and educational concerts including the Virginia Symphony's 2009-2010 series of Young People's Concerts and the Virginia Beach performance of the Classics concert featuring the world premiere of Behzad Ranjbaran's Concerto for Violin, Viola and Orchestra. Fujimoto has also conducted the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and National Arts Centre Orchestra as well as conducted the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as part of the Orkney Conducting Institute.

Submitted by Jack Fishman, Symphony CEO



Eric Green Photography

From Jack Fishman, San Antonio Symphony CEO

Music for the Holidays



What would the holiday season be like without music? UNTHINKABLE! The music of Tchaikovsky, Handel and many others are an integral part of the way we celebrate. Music, like the smell of roasting turkey, evokes wonderful memories. This season there are four different Symphony holiday offerings.

We are partnering with Ballet San Antonio to produce Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet *The Nutcracker*. Annual holiday performances of this work are a much bigger tradition in America than in Europe. I remember my first performances of *The Nutcracker* vividly. My parents took my brother and me to Lincoln Center to see the New York City Ballet. My brother had a cold, we sat right under a draft and he came down with pneumonia! He was about four or five years old, and he refused to attend any more ballet after that experience. For years, he claimed ballet caused the pneumonia!

My second memorable performance of *The Nutcracker* was when I took my daughter when she was about three and a half years old. The loud and fierce battle of the mice and the growing Christmas tree scared her to death! It was years before I could convince her it was safe to attend again. And yet, I still look forward to *The Nutcracker* every year. As a musician, I've played dozens and dozens of performances. Yet, every year it seems fresh. I think it is the best work Tchaikovsky wrote. We perform *The Nutcracker* Thanksgiving weekend and the first weekend in December at the Majestic Theatre.

I've also got great memories of Handel's *Messiah*. Growing up, I listened to my parent's eclectic LP collection. I remember a lot of Stravinsky, Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger. We also had the original Broadway cast recording of Charles Schultz's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. But, the recording I remember best is the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's *Messiah*. I played it countless times.

Now that I look back, it is not the performance style for Handel that I enjoy now. Baroque performance practice research has come a long way since the 1970s and the ultra-romantic sounds of the Philadelphia Orchestra with a massive choir are no longer in fashion. One of the practitioners of this new, leaner, more authentic style is guest conductor Patrick Dupr  Quigley. Quigley conducted our *Messiah* performances last season and they were fantastic. He brings a great cast of soloists to join our orchestra and the San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers. The schedule is:

Friday, December 2 at University United Methodist Church
Saturday, December 3 at Trinity Baptist Church
Sunday, December 4 at Coker United Methodist Church

All three concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. We are not performing the entire 3-hour *Messiah*. The music will cover primarily the Christmas portion, plus a few choruses from the other two sections. The concert should last about one hour and twenty minutes, without an intermission.

The final offerings in our holiday lineup are the Holiday POPS and a Holiday Family Concert, both conducted by Ken-David Masur. This will be Ken-David's final Pops appearance, as he moves on to work with the orchestras in Munich and San Diego. His final concert will be a Classics weekend at the end of March. The San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers will also be performing on these concerts.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Grace Caldwell Presented at the Austin Jewel Ball

Grace Caldwell, daughter of Lisa and Wade Caldwell, represented the San Antonio Symphony League at the 57th Jewel Ball in Austin this fall. The Women's Symphony League of Austin sponsors this three-day annual event. Festivities commenced with a black tie dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel where Austin's King Brio was introduced. The weekend continued with bow practices, dinner at the Austin Club and lunch at the Headliners Club culminating with the formal presentation, dinner and dancing at the Palmer Events Center for over 1000 attendees. Young women and their escorts representing symphony organizations across Texas were invited to participate and be formally presented as Visiting Jewel couples, in addition to the Austin Symphony League's royalty. Grace was honored to serve as the Emerald Jewel of San Antonio. Her escort was Mr. Casey Monroe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Monroe. To the right, Grace is shown with her father during after dinner dancing. Funds raised from this event benefit the Austin Symphony Orchestra, its programs and music education opportunities for the children of Austin.



Submitted by Lisa Caldwell Grace and Wade Caldwell

Smiling Faces - 2015 Freshman Belles



Thirty-four Freshman Belles enjoyed beautiful weather and an ice cream social at the home of Joy Fuhrmann, Belle Development Chair, on Sunday, October 16th. What a great opportunity for these young ladies to get to know each other and hear all about the San Antonio Symphony and the San Antonio Symphony League! They are excited about understanding their belle track responsibilities in their upcoming years before they are presented as Symphony Belles their senior year of high school. These belles will be formally introduced to the League on April 1st, when they model down the runway at Julian Gold during the League's Spring Fashion Show.

Submitted by Joy Fuhrmann, Belle Development Chair

From Membership

As of November 10th, I am proud to report that the San Antonio Symphony League has 56 new members this year and that there are 404 paid members for the 2011/2012 Season. And, more importantly, our membership and the excitement about the San Antonio Symphony League keeps growing.

Submitted by Agnes Lowe, VP Membership

Additional members since publication of Directory:

Mrs. Guy (Ginger) Cohoe 254 Wildrose Ave. San Antonio, TX 78209 (210) 822-3011	Joseph & Karen Newton 7903 Thornhill San Antonio, TX 78209 (210) 863-5540 karen@accommodatingcook.com
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Dr. Jeffrey & Lisa Rosenbloom 6 Penny Lane San Antonio, TX 78209 (210) 822-8890	Arthur & Lorrie Uhl 216 Claiborne Way San Antonio, TX 78209 (210) 288-6926
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**WORKING
TOGETHER.**

**SUPPORTING
EACH OTHER.**



San Antonio Symphony League

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Ballet San Antonio and the San Antonio Symphony Collaborate to Present The Nutcracker

- When:** November 25, 26 & 27 and December 2, 3 & 4, 2011: Friday & Saturday at 7 p.m., Saturday & Sunday at 2 p.m. with an additional matinee performance on Nov. 25 at 2 p.m.
- Where:** Majestic Theatre
- Tickets:** Tickets from \$16.75 to \$61.75 for adults. Children under 12 are half-price. Visit the Symphony Box Office or call (210) 554.1010 or online www.sasymphony.org or www.balletsantONIO.org. Patrons can also visit any Ticketmaster location, www.ticketmaster.com or call (800) 745-3000 for tickets.

Ballet San Antonio and the San Antonio Symphony collaborate again for nine performances of Tchaikovsky's beloved holiday ballet, *The Nutcracker*. As part of Ballet San Antonio's education concerts, there will be two additional daytime performances during the school day. All the concerts take place in the beautiful and historic Majestic Theatre. Ken-David Masur will conduct and principal dancers Sarah Aujon and Carlos Hopuy will perform the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. They will be joined by new principal dancer, Ian Morris, and soloist Saki Yabumoto. The choreography is by Mayra Worthen and the production will feature more than 80 children performers.

Every year there are new surprises, but the production always stays true to the tradition of this holiday classic. It is a show that is loved by young and old and one that you will not want to miss.