



TEMPO

Newsletter of the San Antonio Symphony League

September
2012

President's Message



Summer vacation is over but it's still hot and dry—obviously, Mother Nature hasn't read the calendar! At last, our kids are back in school and we're all adjusting to our 'new normal' routines. Summer didn't slow down our League volunteers, as they have been busy creating new programs or enhancing old ones. You will read about many of them in this issue.

Our Challenge Grant was an overwhelming success! Supporters of symphonic music throughout the city allowed our \$25,000 to triple in size, which excited another donor to place a similar challenge with the Symphony. Our very own website www.sasleague.org is up and running, complete with everything you want to know about the League, the Belle Program, upcoming events—and a photo gallery! Our Music at Home parties are in full swing, with more on the horizon. If you're interested in hosting a party in your own home, we have all the details enclosed in this issue.

Lastly, a good majority of League volunteers, year after year, concentrate their efforts on youth education in partnership with the Symphony. The outcome and benefits of providing music education to our youth have been documented, as reflected in several education articles contained within.

Our League season officially kicks off at La Fonda On Main, Thursday, Sept 27th. Invitations will be coming but mark your calendar now! Join us as we raise our margarita glass in celebration of friends, community outreach and our wonderful Symphony!

Martin Kushner, Editor

Upcoming Events

Sept. 27 -- 6:30 to 8:30 pm
SASL Season Opener Reception
La Fonda on Main

Oct. 5 & 6 - 8 pm
SAS Season Opening Concerts
Majestic Theatre

Oct. 17 - 10 am
New Member Orientation
Home of Kathleen Meriwether

Oct. 17 - 11:30 am
Orchestra Hospitality Luncheon
Majestic Theatre Rotunda

Oct. 19 & 20 - 8 pm
SAS League Appreciation Concerts
Classical Series
Majestic Theatre

Oct 31 & Nov. 1 - 9 am to Noon
Young People's Concert #1
"Dvorak in the New World"
Trinity University
Laurie Auditorium

Nov. 2 & 3 - 8 pm
SAS League Appreciation Concerts
Pops Series
Majestic Theatre

Welcome to YOUR website!

www.sasleague.org

The San Antonio Symphony is proud to announce the launch of its very own website! This media, in addition to our Facebook page, has been created to offer you the latest in what's happening within the League. It's a way to pass the word along to friends and stay connected with the upcoming events and volunteer opportunities available to our members. Use it, like it, share it. And let us know what you want to see on it!!

www.sasleague.org

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**** TOGETHER, WE MAKE IT HAPPEN ****

Celebrate Beautiful Music, Gorgeous Weather & Great Food

Margaritas and Music - the perfect duet! You are invited to the San Antonio Symphony League's Season Opening reception on Thursday, September 27 at La Fonda on Main, 2415 North Main Avenue. Together, we will celebrate our rich heritage of great Mexican food and great symphonic music!

This iconic San Antonio landmark, in the heart of Monte Vista, is certainly an ideal venue to celebrate our Symphony's continued growth and popularity in our arts and music community. The evening will begin at 6:30pm and feature margaritas, imported beer and many of La Fonda's new and legendary culinary masterpieces.

La Fonda owner - and yet another San Antonio icon, Cappy Lawton - will offer guests delectable hors d'oeuvres—including empanadas, flautas, guacamole and much more. A cash bar will be available for all beverages - of course, we will toast the season with San Antonio's favorite - margaritas!

Invitations will be mailed to all members in early September. You are welcome and encouraged to invite guests and prospective SA Symphony League members. Attendance is \$25.00 per person - members and non-members. Please RSVP to Lynette Farrimond Nelson at (210) 829-5097 or lfnelson@live.com.

Submitted by Lynette Nelson, VP Social

Season Closer - Installation of Officers

What fun! On May 17th, Dr. Alice Viroslav kindly opened her beautiful home to the San Antonio Symphony League for the final membership meeting of the 2011/2012 Season. The purpose of the meeting was to celebrate an amazingly successful season and to formally install the League's officers for the upcoming season.

More than 40 members enjoyed Dr. Viroslav's lovely home and hospitality as well as light hors d'oeuvres and wine from Central Market Catering. Maestro Sebastian Lang-Lessing shared his insights and passion for this year's season and his objectives for music, audience and projects for the coming year. Symphony League President, Kathy Rafferty, gave a thorough overview of League activities this year and presented a **\$50,000** check to the Symphony, representing the final payment of the League's **\$100,000** financial commitment to the Symphony's 2011/2012 season. In addition, it was announced that the League pledged an additional \$25,000 to serve as a challenge grant for additional fundraising. Finally, new League officers were installed and the 2011/2012 Board was thanked for their dedication and service to the League and the Symphony.

Every aspect of the evening was a joy. A big THANK YOU to Dr. Viroslav.



Mother & Daughter League
Members Rose Marie Banack
& Courtney Schultz

Symphony CEO Jack Fishman
accepts SASL check from
President Rafferty



Did you know that young music students are more likely to...

(From Jack Fishman's Blog - August 13, 2012 - mysa.com)

- score 57 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math section of the SAT than students with no music participation?
- schools that have music programs have significantly higher graduation rates than those without music programs (90.2 percent compared to 72.9 percent)?

Young people who participate in the arts for at least three hours on three days each week through at least one full year are:

- 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- 3 times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools
- 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair
- 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance
- 4 times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem

Young artists, as compared with their peers, are likely to:

- Attend music, art, and dance classes nearly three times as frequently
- Participate in youth groups nearly four times as frequently
- Read for pleasure nearly twice as often
- Perform community service more than four times as often

So, the next time you hear that schools are cutting back on arts programs go to the nearest window and scream out WE ARE MAD AS HECK AND WON'T TAKE THESE ANTI-YOUTH CUTS ANY MORE!

(The above statistics came from research conducted by Stanford University and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.)

So... How Can the League Help?

What follows on the next two pages are some thoughtful insights from SASL members who are actively involved in the League's various education programs. Their passion for education is amazing and we hope you will be moved to participate in these important volunteer activities.

Why I'm a League Docent

Living in San Antonio, I so treasure our San Antonio Symphony and the privilege of promoting and celebrating the music they play. And so, as a League volunteer, I have a great desire to "get the word out," especially to the young children of our community, to hear this wondrous music which has stood the test of time. (I think many people will agree—much of today's music will not stand such a test).

Classical music is difficult to access—it's hard to find on the radio and almost non-existent on T.V. It can be hard to comprehend. And then there is the whole culture of attending a symphony concert, which is difficult to comprehend when all you see is the behavior of the audience at the latest rock concert. People, especially children, need help to comprehend what a composer is saying to them, and how he/she is saying it.

Four times each school year, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders from several city (and home) schools take a field trip to Laurie Auditorium to enjoy the Symphony's Young People's Concerts. Weeks before, volunteer League docents visit the school classroom to introduce the children to what they will be experiencing at the concert. Training is provided in advance and each docent is assigned 1-2 schools each year. Frequently, we are accompanied by a member of the orchestra and their instrument!

Why am I a Docent? As a retired pastor, I reflect "How shall they hear without a preacher?" And this: "When people light a candle, they don't put it under a bushel but on a candlestick." I simply want to be a candlestick.

For more information about being a League docent, call Genie Sobin at (210) 695-5757 or Jeremy Brimhall at (210) 554-1006. Let's join with our Symphony so that the music may find its path among our young people this year!

Submitted by Don Wilkinson

(Continued on next page)

Sharing the Musical Experience with Children

Remember listening to *Peter and the Wolf* as a child and being introduced to the sounds of different instruments in the orchestra? Do you remember who the bassoon represented or the oboe? If so, have you shared this memorable experience with your children or grandchildren?

The San Antonio Symphony provides a fun and inexpensive way for families to experience classical music together through the Family Concert Series presented on Sunday afternoons at Laurie Auditorium (Trinity University).

This season, the Symphony will present four wonderful concerts designed to please all members of the family:

- October 28, 2012 “Halloween Spooktacular” features music of Mozart and Berlioz. Everyone is invited to wear costumes, with prizes awarded.
- December 28, 2012. “Holiday Magic” will highlight seasonal holiday music with the Children’s Chorus of San Antonio. A special feature will be the game “Name (and Sing) that Holiday Carol.”
- January 27, 2013. “Inside the Symphony – the Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra” (using Benjamin Britten’s work of the same name) will illustrate how a symphony orchestra is not unlike a professional sports team.
- May 19, 2013. “Columbus and his Musical Voyages” will showcase music from Spain.

During pre-concert activities, children are invited to participate in many arts and crafts and other projects designed to enhance their concert-going experience. The Symphony’s mascot “Count Basie” will be on hand and loves to have his picture taken. Then, there’s the “instrument petting zoo,” where children have the opportunity to play different instruments under the guidance of professional musicians.

Sound like fun? Sometimes, it’s more fun for parents, watching their children’s excitement before and during the concert!

As if all this weren’t enough, the concerts are very reasonably priced. Individual tickets are \$16 for adults and \$8 for children. Subscriptions to all four concerts are available online at discounted prices of \$48 for adults and \$24 for children. Additional discounts are available to first time subscribers! For more information, go to sasymphony.org and click on Education.

One of my favorite memories of attending a Family Concert was when my husband and I went with one of his younger colleagues and his family. The two young children, aged four and six, had their own seats between their parents and waited politely for the concert to begin. As soon as the lights dimmed, however, each child found a parent’s lap. By doing this, a wonderful listening experience was enhanced into a time to cuddle and bond with Mom and Dad. Although this family has long since moved away, I’d like to think that today, the children feel comfortable listening to and enjoying classical music.

This is the goal of the Family Concerts: to give the priceless gift of music to the next generation. League members who have the opportunity to pass on this great legacy are truly fortunate.

Submitted by Christine Frank Green

League Challenge Grant a Huge Success!

Lets face it, the Symphony can always use an extra few dollars to help meet expenses and balance the budget. One of the League’s goals is to provide financial assistance in the form of an annual donation which, depending on our finances, has been \$100,000 or more each year.

As we all know, national and state funding for the Arts has been significantly cut due to economic and budgetary limitations. So, as the end of the 2011/2012 season came to a close, the SASL Executive Committee reviewed our financial position and determined that we could increase our donation by an additional \$25,000! David Kinder, SASL VP for Ways and Means, suggested that we make the additional donation in the form of a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant of up to \$25,000. The Symphony sent out e-mails, letters and more and the response was truly amazing. The \$25,000 goal was reached in a matter of days and, based on the League’s challenge, an anonymous donor matched our challenge with an additional \$25,000 challenge! Within 6 weeks, the San Antonio Symphony received a total of over **\$140,000** in additional contributions!

We are all proud of the outcome of this effort and thank everyone who contributed to the financial health and continuing excellence of our San Antonio Symphony. And, a special thanks to David for coming up with the challenge grant concept. It really paid off!



Kathy Rafferty presents Challenge Grant check to Jack Fishman and Symphony Board Chairman Denny Ware.

From Jack Fishman, San Antonio Symphony CEO

Go for Baroque!



Baroque era music is something that isn't played very often by professional symphony orchestras. The orchestra as we know it wasn't the main musical organization until the period that followed the Baroque... the Classical era... the time of Haydn and Mozart. Haydn's nickname was Papa Haydn, and he is considered the father of the symphony.

The Baroque era in music was from about 1600 to 1750. Baroque music characteristically features intricate ornamentation and complex counterpoint. Counterpoint is when a composer writes multiple lines at the same time that are all equally important. A Bach fugue is a good example of brilliant counterpoint. In other eras, composers focused more on single melodies with accompaniment of lesser importance and lesser complexity.

This season the San Antonio Symphony will play a bit more Baroque music than we have in the past for two reasons. On the Classics series, we will offer Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* on March 22 & 23, 2013. Violinist and conductor Jimmy Lin will be the star. But, the big reason for the increase in Baroque music is the addition of a new Baroque series.

The Baroque series will be conducted by Akiko Fujimoto and will include three concerts on Sundays at 7 pm at the San Fernando Cathedral. The concerts will include solo appearances by four Symphony musicians. The concerts will be:

November 25, 2012: Christmas Baroque featuring violinist Bonnie Terry

January 20, 2013: *Passione: Italian Baroque* featuring cellist Kenneth Freudigman

April 21, 2013: *Fiesta Baroque* featuring violinist Sayaka Okada and oboist Hideaki Okada

The first concert will feature two Christmas Concertos by Torelli and Corelli. Violinist Bonnie Terry will be featured in J. S. Bach's Violin Concerto No. 1. The second concert will feature cellist Ken Freudigman in the Tartini Cello Concerto. There will also be a Scarlatti Sinfonia and a Concerto Grosso by Corelli. The final program in the series will feature both members of the Okada Family in J. S. Bach's Concerto for Violin and Oboe and Handel's Water Music.

THANKS FOR THE HELP!

The numbers are all in and the League's Challenge Grant in May was a success far beyond expectations. In addition to the League's \$100,000 gift, an additional \$25,000 was offered if we could match it by the end of the season. This challenge netted an additional \$115,000 in donations, for a total of over **\$140,000** in new gifts! **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

Music at Home

The San Antonio Symphony League's new program Music At Home is your opportunity to host a party, support the Symphony and get to know a Symphony musician—all in the comfort of your own home.

Here's how it works:

- Host a 90-minute "party" in your home and invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers etc.
- Theme, size, food and beverages are up to you....depending on size of your entertaining room, perhaps 20-40 guests for an intimate, engaging time for all!
- A musician from the San Antonio Symphony will attend your party, play his/her instrument and share his/her musical journey with your guests.
- Due to the musicians' schedule, parties will be held on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening.
- Sit back and enjoy a fast, but entertaining evening in your own home. An example: first half hour for cocktails and appetizers; next half hour of musical entertainment; last half hour, perhaps coffee and dessert.
- League President Kathy Rafferty or Committee Chair Terri McDowell will attend your party to make introductions and talk briefly and informally about the San Antonio Symphony. (This is relationship building.....not selling tickets)

This new audience development event is a wonderful way to provide community outreach, support the Symphony and get to know a musician in a comfortable, informal setting.

Please pass the word around to your friends and consider hosting or co-hosting a Music At Home Party. It will truly be a very special evening ...and... the next time you attend a symphony concert, you will "know" one of the musicians. I do hope you will help support this program.

Remember, this is your party, at your home, with your personal guests. If you are interested in hosting a party or for more information, please contact Terri McDowell, M@H Chair, at terrimcdow@aol.com or 423-802-0880.

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Freshman Belle Enrollment Still Open

Every year, the San Antonio Symphony League sponsors a new class of belles, who participate in Symphony belle service hours and other Symphony social activities throughout their four years. During their senior year, belles are escorted down the runway by their fathers as they are presented at the exquisite Symphony Ball — a beautiful culmination of an unforgettable time for the lovely assembly of Symphony belles and their families.

The Class of 2016 Belle Enrollment is still open to a handful of high school freshman young ladies. For more information on the League's Belle Program or if you know of an interested freshman, please contact Joy Fuhrmann, Belle Development Chair, at tfuhrmann@aol.com or (210) 771-9735.

Membership Update

Our annual membership drive is over. We started at the end of March with a letter to all our members and followed up with a reminder in May. Our members were superb in responding and renewing within the requested time period. The directory committee is now hard at work so that we can get the directory to you in September.

If you have not renewed your membership, complete the membership form on **PAGE SEVEN** or contact me at 210-216-0729.

We look forward to welcoming our new members at future SASL events: Harry and Jimmie Balling, Nancy Black, Adrien Frank, Anita Garcia, Steve and Kim Gilbert, Gale Gregory, Rick and Lecia Hollis, Edgard and Kathryn Howie, Jean Muller, Leslie Norton, Christopher and Catherine Ross, Jamo and Stacey Rubin, Courtney Schultz, Diane Sinclair, Sonia Swimley, and Linda Yarborough.

Please encourage friends, family, coworkers to join the League. Don't forget, SASL members receive a 20% discount on their Symphony ticket purchases.

ANNUAL SASL APPRECIATION CONCERTS ARE COMING!

The San Antonio Symphony has announced League Appreciation Nights on October 19 and 20 (Classical Series) and November 2 and 3 (Pops Series). Are you interested in helping us during one of these nights? All you need to do is be at the League's table during the intermission and talk to interested music goers about the League. We need your help for this important League promotion event, so if you want to volunteer, please contact Penny Wiederhold at 271-7555 for more information. A concert ticket for the evening is yours if you volunteer to assist.

Submitted by Agnes Lowe, VP, Membership



The 2012-2013 SASL Executive Board

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P. S. Throwing a Music at Home party can be loads of fun. Just ask San Antonio League members Marcia Holliman and Sonny Swimley. Last week, they hosted a such a party at the ARC ((Army Residence Community) for 40 friends and residents.

Violinist Bassam Nashawati wowed the group with his musical talent and warm, engaging personality. Bassam happily answered questions, chatted with the guests, and even played a few requests from the group. Everyone went away much more appreciative of what the Symphony offers through many senses. Even more, they all made a new friend in the Symphony orchestra.

This is such a “feel good” event. Start planning your party soon.

Submitted by Terri McDowell, Music at Home Chair



Applause from a full house!

League’s Annual Tax Report Available for Review

The San Antonio Symphony League is registered with the US Government as a Tax Exempt Organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code. Each year we are required to submit to the IRS a Form 990, which provides both financial information and other documentation about our organization. The Form is prepared for the League prior to formal submission to the IRS and must be made available to our membership, and the general public. Anyone interested in reviewing the League’s 2012 Form 990 may contact Treasurer Martin Kushner at (210) 223-2814.

Submitted by Martin Kushner, Treasurer



Co-Hosts Marcia Holliman (l) and Sonny Swimley (r) with SAS violinist Bassam Nashawati