



# Music Matters

# June 2015



Joe Svehla, President of Pacific Symphony League with Sandy DiSario, "Heartstrings" volunteers at a Pacific Symphony Family Music Morning. (above) (below) Volunteers Dr. Ralph Bloch, left, and Mary Fran Kusch discuss the program *Beethoven Upstairs* with concertgoers!



## President's Message:

A significant number of League members volunteered for the Class Act Youth Concerts on May 27, 28, 29 and June 1, this year. In addition, League members generously made donations to cover a large portion of the cost of nearly 500 lunches served to Class Act volunteers, musicians and cast members over the four-day period.

During the early years of the program, League members were able to supply all of the volunteers needed for Class Act Youth Concerts. That is no longer possible because about 100 volunteers are now required each concert day. The Class Act program began 20 years ago with seven participating elementary schools. Today it serves 30 schools.

Similarly, the Musical Carnivals at Family Musical Mornings require up to 50 volunteers per concert, and Symphony in the Cities concerts need up to 40 volunteers.

While League members can no longer meet such large volunteer event requirements, we do supply volunteers for many other Pacific Symphony education and community engagement activities. Examples are Pacific Symphony Youth Ensemble concerts and auditions, OC Can You Play With Us?, the Irvine Chinese School Happy Moon Festival, Open Rehearsals, the Festival of Children at South Coast Plaza, team members serving several Heartstrings clients at Family Musical Mornings concerts, and volunteers for Heartstrings client Age Well Senior Services.

The Symphony Shop, fully staffed by League members at all Classical, Pops, Family Musical Mornings and Summer Festival concerts, is an outstanding example of League volunteerism.

Pacific Symphony's volunteer requirements will continue to grow and expand into new areas of activity. While we may not be able to meet all of these future needs, we can be proud of our continuing dedication and the 25 years of volunteer service and financial support given by the League to Pacific Symphony.



# The Decade-long Volunteer: Loren Ehlers



Pacific Symphony rehearses on Wednesday evenings before the classic concert series. Around 9:00 p.m. the musicians start to flag, run out of steam, or air, and just need a snack. The break is only twenty minutes, not enough time to leave the concert hall to find food. Some musicians bring something from home to tide them over and survive the demands of the second half of the rehearsal.

More than ten years ago, to solve this very human problem, Symphony President John Forsythe enlisted the aid of Vesta Curry, a dedicated symphony volunteer. She called upon two young friends, Loren Ehlers and Michele Saffell, to help her. Vesta made peanut butter sandwiches, (known as Vesta burgers) Michele baked and Loren bought veggie trays and bottled water from Ralphs super market with the small allowance John gave them. It is served on the Segerstrom Concert Hall dock. And the musicians really ate it up.



Chris Kollgaard, string bass

Now, the musicians are stronger and hungrier than ever. But Vesta and Michele are gone. Only Loren Ehlers remains, and he is carrying on the work even though he now counts a town in China, a two hour flight from Hong Kong, as his home. He returns to the dock every scheduled rehearsal. He brings ham-and-cheese croissants, peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches on wheat and white bread. There are bran muffins, French madeleines, cookies and the traditional fruit and veggie trays. Ralphs is still the market of choice for the Symphony Dock Snack Shop.



Loren Ehlers, left, Brandon Rueda, right



Loren Ehlers and Linda Owen, violinist

Brandon Rueda, Director of Orchestra Operations, provides long fold-ing tables to hold all the offerings and helps Loren set up the spread. And then the two men wait for the twenty-minute rush. When the satisfied musicians are called back to the rehearsal stage with only scraps left on the trays, Loren and Brandon clean up. Leftovers are assembled for a “one for the road” grab at the end of the rehearsal.

Loren has maintained the “Symphony Dock Snack Shop” just as he and Vesta and Michele started it, but without the flowers from Michele’s garden. It’s all food now and a quick bite of conversation.



Jessica Pearlman Fields, oboe

**Hurrah, Volunteers! Hours of work volunteered by supporters of non-profits are considered to be worth \$26.34 an hour. Members of Pacific Symphony League have volunteered approximately 3,545 hours this season, which at the going rate\* is a gift of \$93,375 to Pacific Symphony.**

\*2013 California rate



Former Pacific Symphony Intern, a volunteer position, **Rachel Schlesinger**, left, is now a part time employee of the Education department of Pacific Symphony. When Rachel began her association with Pacific Symphony, she was also earning a Masters degree in oboe performance at USC. In this picture, Rachel waits with **Virginia Boureston** before the Heartstrings program in Laguna Woods.

The summer months are busy ones for the volunteers of Pacific Symphony.

Teams of volunteers will stuff more than 3000 envelopes with tickets and brochures for Symphony subscribers for the Marketing Department. They will participate at booths at “Symphony in the Cities” to help children with introductions to musical instruments. The Symphony Gift Shop will be open at the summer Irvine Meadows, (formerly Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre.) And the volunteers will meet to make plans for the new fall Symphony season. ✦

Pacific Symphony Harpist **Michelle Temple** (right) points out features of her harp to a client of Age Well Senior Services, a Pacific Symphony Heartstrings partner, and to **Virginia Boureston**, right, past chair of the Pacific Symphony Board of Counselors. (“The Board of Counselors is dedicated to furthering the mission of Pacific Symphony through active involvement as subscribers, donors and volunteers.”) Virginia’s role, as well volunteer **Betty Everett’s**, was to evaluate the influence the performer’s music had on the clients of the Senior Services. The volunteers listened carefully to **Cindy Ellis**, flute, and **Michelle** as they planned their program and after the performance to hear how the music had influenced not only the clients but the musicians and therapist as well. ✦





Joe Svehla, left, and John Forsyte, President of Pacific Symphony, greet and thank League members for their sponsorship of tonight's concert at an intermission reception.

*Pacific Symphony League Sponsors Friday, May 8, performance of Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with Barry Douglas, pianist and John Nelson, conductor.*



League members who attended the reception: Above: fom left to right, Linda Sholik, George Neiiendam, Susan Faludi, Joe Svehla, Sandy DiSario, Gabrielle Genereux, Lynne Worley and Ingrid Shutkin.



Tim Molnar, Symphony Board of Directors member, a new friend, and Susan Faludi and Joe Svehla.



Jacki Williams, left, and friend at the League Reception

*All photos on this page by Volunteer Stan Sholik*

**Pacific Symphony League** will elect its new Board at the June 8 General Luncheon meeting. Nominations were made at the April General meeting: Joseph Svehla, President, Eveline Eng, Membership and Finance, Sue Baker, and Hani Feller, Programs, Linda Sholik, Secretary, Boker and Jaye Yaruss, Immediate Past Co-Presidents, Members at Large: Claire Burt, Sandy DiSario, Betty Everett, Petrina Friede, Cindy Guziak, Barbara Sue Johnson and Sharon Stewart. Elected officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. Elected Members at Large shall serve as Chairs of Standing Committees as appointed by the President.

# Opera Focus raises funds for Opera initiatives of Pacific Symphony



Laila Conlin,  
Co-chair of Opera Focus

Opera Focus is an official branch of Pacific Symphony League. The purpose of the group of opera lovers is to support the major opera and vocal initiatives of Pacific Symphony through raising funds through fabulous dining events and bridge games. As their bulletin explains, "Each host underwrites all expenses of their event for the Festival of Fine Dining. Each event will benefit Pacific Symphony's operas through the guest contributions in attending these events."

Guests may purchase individual reservations to as many events as desired. Events are limited to the number of guests specified by the host and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt of your donations. (If you would like to know the dates of the 2015-2016 events, contact Laila Conlin at 949-720-9979 or Bev Spring, 714-505-9980.)

The 2015 year started on September 27, 2014 with a Champagne Brunch at the Monarch Bay home of Betty and Bill McClellan.

## La Traviata 2014

The contribution was \$80. and 20 guests were expected.

The second event occurred on October 31, 2014, was a Halloween Bridge Lunch in Irvine at the home of Bev Spring and co-hosted by Mira Craig. Fourteen guests were expected at 10:30 a.m. for a contribution of \$65. each.

In November, Susan and Jason Zwolak hosted a "Taste of New Orleans" brunch at 11 a.m. Twenty casually dressed guests were present for a contribution of \$80.a piece.

## Carmen 2015

On December 7, 2014, Barbara Roberts and Mira Craig hosted a Hawaiian Christmas Dinner for 9 guests. The contribution was \$100. The event was held at Dover Shores. A second December event on the 16th was a Christmas Bridge Luncheon.

On January 23, 2015, a New Year Bridge Luncheon was held in Corona del Mar. Harriet Selna was the hostess. Twelve festively attired guests appeared at 10:30 a.m. for a contribution of \$65.

Event 7 occurred on Saturday, January 24, 2015, a supper and song cocktail party in Orange. Phoebe and Robert Lambeth were hosts. Only ten guests could be accommodated for a contribution of \$100.

On February 15, 2015, Dr. Burton Karson spoke about "Carmen" in

## La Bohême 2012

Corona del Mar for savories and wine. Thirty guests were served for \$60.

In March, a Gourmet French Cuisine was held at Chez Hunter in Corona del Mar. Gini Cassara and Tim Hunter were the hosted eight guests for a contribution of \$100. each.

Laila and Bill Conlin hosted a dinner party featuring a tour "Down Operatic Memory Lane" on April 18. After dinner, Bill and Laila presented a program recapturing the semi-staged operas of Pacific Symphony.

Event 12 was a luncheon on Friday, May 1, 2015. Betty McClellan was the hostess for 10 guests. The contribution was \$65.00.

On May 30, cocktails with *Music by the Sea* in San Clemente was offered for 35 guests and a contribution of \$80.

And finally, the last event of this year will be a "Stonehenge Solstice Dinner " in Irvine at the home of Beverly Spring on June 20. Twenty guests will appear in Hippy Attire for a contribution of \$100.

At this writing, Opera Focus had raised \$55,334 for Opera productions of Pacific Symphony.



Bev Spring,  
Co-Chair  
Opera Focus



# Symphony Gift Shop

Many cultural organizations maintain a store where visitors can purchase special items as a token of a special visit to a special place. Most of those organizations are the sole occupants of their home building. Pacific Symphony shares the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall with other cultural organizations. Therefore, the Symphony Shop of Pacific Symphony is an activity of the volunteers of the Pacific Symphony League.



Robin Morsk, Kathy Mills, Marcy Dordahl-Jones, Sharon Stewart convene the Symphony Shop on a Friday night in May in front of the picture windows of the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

The Symphony shop uses the highest number of volunteers of any of the activities of the League. The volunteers arrive even before the ushers and stay even after the ushers have vacated the hall and gone home. Yearly, it raises around \$20,000 for the symphony. It “pops up,” meaning that it is set up and taken down for every performance. The merchandise is stored in a closet and taken to foyer tables to display. The shop is available for Family Musical Mornings as well as classical and pops concerts. An advantage of the shop being a “pop up” is that it can pop up anywhere, and it pops up at the Irvine Meadows, formerly Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre, for the Pacific Symphony Summer Festival programs. It carries just what one needs, blankets and sweatshirts for foggy evenings, and visors and summer jewelry for warm evenings. And there is always something for the kids!

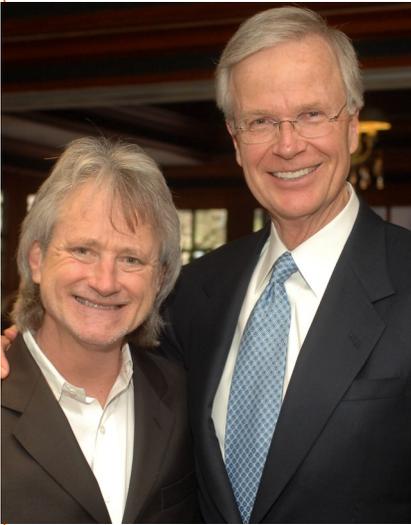


Shop Chair, Sharon Stewart

Sharon Stewart, Kathy Mills, Cindy and Jim Guziak, Robin Morsk, Susan Baker, Isabelle Prescott, Susan and Jon Ramage, Lynne Worley, Linda King, Dorcas Preston, Susan Faludi, Eveline Eng, Jacki Williams, Jaye and Boker Yaruss, Linda Sholik, Mary Fran Kusch, Betty Everett, Lesley Henegar, Barbara Sue Johnson, Janice Smith form the Gift Shop volunteer team.

We also have a few "Volunteers in Education" who are prospective members of the League: Arlene Casaw, Diana Penza, and Marcy Dordahl-Jones. ✦





## Pacific Symphony League celebrates Carl St.Clair's birthday at Center Club luncheon, June 8

Carl St.Clair will be introduced by John Evans, the former President of the Board of Directors, who was instrumental in Carl coming to the then young Pacific Symphony twenty five years ago.

John Evans joined the "big board," the Pacific Symphony Board of Directors, just as the search for a new conductor was underway. John served as President of the Board for many years and now is a member of the executive committee. He spent his professional life with the Wells Fargo Bank Corporation which sent him all over the world. Now retired, he has settled in Newport Beach and dedicates much of his time to Pacific Symphony.

Carl has put his touch on much more than the baton. As Music Director, he is very influential in choosing the soloists as well as the particular compositions that appear on the many Pacific Symphony programs. As Carl once remarked while introducing a composer's work, that he had spent a solid eight hours communing with the composition and through the music found a better concept of the composer's vision, even of the composer himself.

All the projects of the Education department of Pacific Symphony enjoy Carl's insight and inspiration. He includes the community in the educational idea, conducting the OC Can You Play with Us evenings and participating in the pre-concert events for children. "The *arts-X-press* began with Music Director Carl St.Clair's passion for arts education. To honor the memory of his son Cole, Maestro St.Clair sought to establish an arts-based program having a lasting and major impact on the community, as well as making a real difference in the lives of young people. *arts-X-press* is the result of his vision. St.Clair continues to play an integral role in the formation and realization of this project," the symphony's web page reminds us.

If you would like to attend this luncheon, open to all Pacific Symphony fans, just call Tania Batson, Associate Director of Individual Giving at 714-876-2374. ✦

## "Arioso" Plays for Pacific Symphony League Salon, May 31

The final event of the four special Salon Series concerts will feature **Arioso**, Cynthia Ellis, flute, and Michelle Temple, harp. The concert will take place at the home of Jerry and Kathy Dunlap at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, May 31.

Salon Series events are open to members of "Salon Series," an activity of Pacific Symphony League. For a donation of \$300, patrons receive invitations to very personal concerts featuring soloists with Pacific Symphony such as Ben Pasternak in January 2015 or Symphony musicians such as Cynthia and Michelle in May.



Photo by Prasad of Newport Beach

Flutist Cynthia Ellis and Harpist Michelle Temple formed their duo in 2005 out of a shared passion to explore the vibrant and colorful repertory for this instrumental combination. *Arioso's* debut CD will be released on the Centaur label this fall.

For more information about Salon Series 2015-2016 contact Tania Batson at 714 876-2374. ✦

# Honor your friends and family with a Pacific Symphony Tribute!



## Tribute Contribution Form

Thank you for your donation to Pacific Symphony as a tribute gift. Pacific Symphony will send an acknowledgment of your donation to the family of a memorial gift or to the honoree advising of your tribute. Donation amounts will not be shared. Your tribute will appear in the Pacific Symphony program for one year from time of gift received by Pacific Symphony.

I would like to make a donation to Pacific Symphony Annual Fund:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send notification of donation to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Exact way donor name to be listed in the program: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

Credit Card  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form along with your check (payable to Pacific Symphony) or credit card information to:  
Pacific Symphony, Attn: Development, 3631 South Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Ana, CA 92704-8908  
Main (714) 755-5788 Fax (714) 755-5789 [www.pacificsymphony.org](http://www.pacificsymphony.org)**

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