

Chico Guild-Northstate Symphony

April 2011 Newsletter

Helga Ruge, Editor

Although the blooming almond orchards, flowering trees and shrubs were a lovely sight to behold the balmy air has not wafted our way as yet, but rain or shine, the Guild's important events have succeeded as planned and then some.

The YAA 2011 on February 13 attracted as talented a group of young musicians as ever whose polished performances delighted the appreciative audience. The three judges, Maestro Kyle Wiley Pickett, Molly Mahoney and Cara Okano Herrick chose the most outstanding among them to receive first and second prizes. In the High School Division, Greg Manuel, flute, placed first and Will Buchholtz, cello, and Nellie Ponarul, violin, placed second. Rafael Delsid, tenor, won first prize and Naoko Terakado, piano, placed second in the College/University Division. We look forward to the concert in the fall when the two top winners will solo with the NSS. The YAA committee worked its magic again by seamlessly handling the various tasks with precision and enthusiasm. Margaret Bergman, Stephaney Hardie, Phyllis Dilts, Mary Lou Shrum, Joan Mc Dowell, June Gibson and Victoria Simone-Letcher deserve our thanks.

Last year's winners Anthoni Polcari, cello, and Molly Mahoney, mezzo soprano, acquitted themselves well and earned the audience's admiration and vigorous applause for their performances at the February 20th NSS concert entitled: *Beauty Rising*, an eclectic but pleasing choice of concert pieces masterly conducted by Maestro Kyle. It befell your editor, who is also the chair of the YAA, to present the young artists with flowers and cash awards on behalf of the Guild and the Redding League while juggling the microphone and her notes simultaneously. Fortunately, Anthoni came to the rescue and no glitch occurred.

On the occasion of his 90th birthday, longtime former Chico Symphony conductor Dr. Walter Dahlin was honored for his work with flowers and a well deserved tribute. Many in the audience and some of us in the Guild had affectionate memories of his carrying the torch for choral and symphonic music. The Mozart Mile fundraiser was his idea. It is still going strong after more than 25 years. Congratulations from the Guild are in order.

All the months long planning, soliciting and collecting items for the silent auction and raffle for our major fundraiser, Scholarship Fanfare Plus - Mad about Music and the invitation to young musicians to entertain us came together beautifully on March 10 at Butte Creek Country Club. Bonnie Hilbert, our president and chair of the event, and Jan Burnham in charge of the auction kept us

focused and the results were spectacular. The tables in black with white overlays, white napkins and vases with yellow daffodils looked elegant. Each place had a black and white program, the art work done by Royce Hardie and the formatting done by Joan Mc Dowell, our new computer whizz, who also created the Concerto Program. The names of all the committee members, donors, event sponsors, service providers and credits are contained in the program. They deserve our sincere thanks. As the guests checked in they were given a list of all the donated items which helped greatly with finding them on the artistically arranged auction tables. While they were busy bidding the Chico Jazz Collective played just the right kind of music to put the bidders in the best of moods to choose what struck their fancy and open their wallets for the cause. The Trio was followed by our young piano star Jonathan Culbreath until the speeches began. Bonnie welcomed the guests and thanked everyone for coming and supporting our work. Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts Dr. Joel Zimbelman made appropriate remarks and expressed his appreciation for the Guild's tireless support for the NSS and young artists. The Maestro spoke glowingly of the growing excellence of the orchestra and the joy of leading it. He too thanked the Guild for our important contribution. President Zingg's address was the icing on the cake of support from the highest level. It was much appreciated.

After a delicious dinner with glasses of good wine and more last minute bidding our young musicians began the Concerto Program with a Beethoven Sonata for violin, cello and piano. Their performance was remarkable; they are only sixteen, Nellie, Will and Jonathan. Will accompanied by his mother Barbara Janzen then played a virtuoso piece for cello by Davidov that brought the house down. Will had to take several bows. Last, the Chico Jazz Collective, Chris Navarrete, trumpet, Robbie Delgado, percussion and Nathan Ferguson, string bass entertained us with two classic pieces to conclude the musical program for the evening. Will, Chris and Robbie are also members of the NSS. The short biographies reveal a deep commitment to the study of classical and jazz music by our young artists and a diversity of interests ranging from sports to philosophy. Kyle must have been smiling to have such young talent in his orchestra.

In the last newsletter of this concert and Guild season you will learn the result of the election of new officers. They will need all the support we can give them. We are a small group doing herculean things. In order to continue in that vein we need to grow our membership. Men are welcome too. Invite your friends and neighbors to a meeting. They will like what they hear: music, and feel: enthusiasm for keeping our beloved orchestra alive.

The Guild mourns the loss of active former member Gladys Harrold, a fine pianist and composer who died at age 100. A donation in her memory was made to

the NSS.

Marilyn Kruschke, our out-of-town member, received the Fanfare programs and auction items list and was with us in spirit. She sends her greetings. .



Cellist Will Buchholtz next to his father Dr.Louis Buchholtz and Dr.David Kistner



Helga Ruge with Scholarship Fanfare Plus musicians

Barbara Janzen, piano, Nellie Ponarul, violin, Jonathan Culbreath, piano, Helga Ruge, Chris Navarrete, trumpet, Robbie Delgado, percussion, Nathan Ferguson, bass