

# SYMPHONY OF THE REDWOODS

## HOLIDAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

**Dear Friends of the Symphony,** I enjoy listening to symphonies and chamber music in my home. Often I play recordings of music that I have heard at Cotton Auditorium and Preston Hall. And, while I am always thankful for the solace that music brings, however it comes, listening at home doesn't compare with the brilliance and excitement of being in the presence of musicians performing the music, while in the company of an audience of friends and acquaintances. Be assured that the Board of Symphony of the Redwoods is working to be ready to once again fulfill our mission of providing live orchestral and chamber music.

- Terry Knaus, SoR Board Secretary



### NEW BOARDMEMBER PROFILE: **SUSAN ARCHULETTA**

The board welcomes Susan Archuletta! As one of the original members of Symphony of the Redwoods she brings us roots to the past and a greater understanding of how it all

began. She is a violinist but also plays several other instruments, including Indian flutes! Susan recently returned to the Mendocino Coast after spending many years in Berkeley raising her children and promoting live music on stage and in the schools. Please read her full [Bio](#) on our website. The board is delighted to have her join us and are looking forward to many years of productive and fun-filled work together.

### UP CLOSE and CLASSICAL

**From Bizet to Ravel** explores the music of a group of prize-winning French composers who frame the development of orchestral writing in the Romantic period

[Listen](#)

PODCAST by DR PHILLIP LENBERG



### Musical Inspiration Quiz



Terry Knaus is the author of our latest quiz featuring geographical locations that inspired composers.

In December, watch our website for the next Quiz - the Holiday edition – By Tess Albin-Smith!

Click [Here](#) to take..... **The Quiz**

### An Interview with:

### VIRGINIA SHARKEY, VIOLINIST

By Eva von Bahr

**Eva:** When did you start playing with SOR?

**Virginia:** I began playing with the orchestra when I moved to the coast from McNab Ranch in 1987. Marcia Sloane said I would like the musical community here but I did not understand her word “community.” I felt welcomed and learned very quickly that the Mendocino Coast music community was nothing that I had experienced before. Allan Pollack is fantastic. We meet for nine weekends of the year and create music together —that’s 18 days a year times 33 years so after a while you become a

boardmember of a family, just like any family with its joys, ecstasies and crazy uncles.

**EvB:** Where did you grow up, how did you begin playing?

**VS:** I grew up in Ohio and Indiana and started violin in the 5th grade in New Castle, Indiana. The public school had a string program that was available to kids who could discriminate differences in pitch. We were ushered into a room filled with instruments to choose. I remember a cello standing against the wall to the left of the door and I thought, "Oooh, wow" but I knew that I wanted to play the violin. Being entrusted with one of those beautiful instruments and actually allowed to take it home was such an amazing gift, as was the opportunity to learn in the public school string programs. I also played in the Ball State University College Orchestra in high school and kept on playing and taking lessons through college.

**EvB:** What other groups do you play with?

**VS:** The only other group I am a member of now is the Mendocino Music Festival. I have played in that orchestra since the very start except for a few years here and there.

**EvB:** How did you get here?

**VS:** My studio for 11 years was in a loft in Manhattan on the Lower East Side waterfront. The reward of a painting grant allowed me to go to Europe for the first time and living in Schloss Brunnenburg in the Alps in Italy, so near Venice and Munich spoiled me, and on my return I could no longer live in the grayness of New York City. Love took me to Mendocino Co.

**EvB:** So you are a professional artist?

**VS:** I understood myself to be an artist at the age of five.



Playing and teaching violin has been my "day job" as a painter. Better than waitressing! Music, the most abstract of art, surely has influenced my inclination for abstraction. I am interested in what is essential. It's no wonder that one of my first collectors was and is a physicist. I have been working on how to portray various aspects of time: the seasons, the days, the feeling tone produced by color and line of evening, of morning, of noon. What is the space that one feels in music? These are some of my current explorations.

**EvB:** Where can we see your work?

**VS:** It is online at [partnersgallery.com](http://partnersgallery.com) and [virginiaharkey.com](http://virginiaharkey.com). Also you can see it in person by emailing me at [vs@pacific.net](mailto:vs@pacific.net).

**EvB:** How has Covid-19 affected you?

**VS:** I was planning on going back to NYC this spring for a few months as I did last year, to paint there in a studio and be enveloped in the art world. That plan collapsed, obviously. My studio here is nearby in downtown Mendocino and I have had more time to focus and work. It is sad that the orchestra has had to go silent and my gallery, Partners, had to leave its physical space but we are online now as is most everyone these days. I feel very fortunate to live in this beautiful "community."

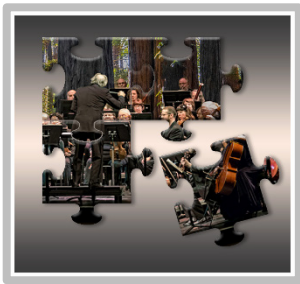


# SHOP the SYMPHONY STORE

## SYMPHONY OF THE REDWOODS 2021 CALENDAR

FEATURING PHOTOS BY LARRY WAGNER

\$20.00



## SYMPHONY OF THE REDWOODS 500-PIECE PUZZLE

PHOTO OF SYMPHONY IN THE REDWOODS

\$35.00

## SYMPHONY OF THE REDWOODS THE SET: 1 CALENDAR & 1 PUZZLE

\$50.00



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