

SYMPHONY OF THE REDWOODS



FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



Dear Music Lovers,

It's been a full year since we had our last symphony concert. Little did we know at the time that it was going to be our last chance in 2020 to join together in person and celebrate great music. It's been hard for most of us but somehow we are keeping it all going. At the Symphony, our musicians are practicing, the office is open and diligently working, and your volunteer Symphony board is meeting every month to make sure that we are staying on solid financial ground and to plan for the reopening of the arts, and more. Our website is updated almost weekly and [Dr. Lenberg's podcast](#), Up Close and Classical, accessible there, continues to inspire and uplift. The [Symphony Facebook page](#) has gotten new life and is a great place to visit thanks to board member Abigail Strock. We are currently conducting our winter fundraiser: the sale of beautiful Symphony calendars (on sale right now) and a 500-piece puzzle featuring the stunning picture of the orchestra in front of a backdrop of the redwoods. Both are [available for purchase through our website](#). This fundraiser, in addition to all of you who continue to donate and support SoR during these difficult times, are insuring that we will hit the ground running when live music can return. My heart is overflowing with gratitude.

The theme for [this month's website quiz](#) is Love. What could be more fitting! Let's spread a little more love and hope this cold and dark February.

Lots of love to you all, Eva von Bahr

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE:



PAUL SWEIGART

Paul Sweigart has been with the Symphony Board of Directors since 2017. His insights into financial matters are invaluable and his involvement with several other local non-profits helps us all stay connected as a community which is what Symphony of the Redwoods

is all about. Paul's favorite thing is planning fundraisers, doing much of the coordination before, during and after. We're all very grateful for having Paul "on board"! Click [here](#) to read Paul's Bio.

Don't Know Much About
SoR History ?



We've Got a [Click](#) for That !

UP CLOSE and CLASSICAL

From Bizet to Ravel: part 2

The second of a two-part episode, *Bizet to Ravel: part 2* continues the journey from the middle of the 19th to the early 20th century. From the belle époque through the first world war, this was a period of rapidly changing social, industrial, philosophical, and artistic waves and revolutions.

[Listen](#)

PODCAST by DR PHILLIP LENBERG

CLICK TO TAKE

THE QUIZ

The Love Edition

Answer the Mysteries of Love within Timeless Music

AN INTERVIEW BY EVA VON BAHR with **CELLIST BILL FLETCHER** and **VOLUNTEER SALLY FLETCHER**

Eva von Bahr: When did you move up to the Mendocino Coast?

Bill & Sally Fletcher: We moved here on Thanksgiving Day 2005. We had been thinking for some time to relocate from Southern California where we had lived all our lives. We wanted to live in a forest and, for us, there's no more beautiful forest than the redwoods. We had never been to this area before when we started exploring the North Coast. We found our perfect home in Little River.

Eva: What is your business?

Bill: We have had several careers. Sally and I met at Sounds Good Recording - the recording studio I had built in West Los Angeles. She began working there running the office and we ended up together as a couple. However, the business we brought with us up to the Mendocino area was Science & Art Products.

One of our passions was night sky photography and viewing - through many types and sizes of telescopes. After we sold our recording studio we decided to develop products with our astronomy images on them for science museum and observatory gift shops, telescope stores and college bookstores. It was something we could do out of our home and was a lot of fun sharing our love of astronomy with so many people.

Eva: Do you play anything Sally?

Sally: Yes, I learned to play the piano during my elementary and high school years and have played ever since. I played for the youth symphony way back when and now Bill and I enjoy playing together here at home.

Eva: How long have you been playing the cello, Bill?

Bill: I played trumpet in middle and high school and in college. I continued playing in various groups and bands, adding bass guitar, on into my twenties. Then

our recording business stole me away from music performing for a few decades. I didn't start with cello until after moving here when I started to take lessons with Marcia Sloane.

Eva: When did you start playing with SOR?

Bill: I got invited to perform with the Symphony in 2014. It was a fantastic experience to sit in the middle of the orchestra - adding to the music being played by these wonderful musicians all around me. I was hooked after that performance and have had the good fortune to play with SOR ever since.

Eva: When did you start volunteering with SOR, Sally?

Sally: I think it was the same year, 2014, that I began volunteering my time putting together the Musicians Luncheon after the Children's Concerts. I was the concessions coordinator for the Mendocino Music Festival already. It's great to be able to support all the great music we have up here on the coast.

Eva: What do you think SOR means to the community?

Bill: Well, we were just talking about that. After spending so much time recording music, Sally and I have become avid audiophiles, and we listen to music of all kinds almost every night. But it's so clear to us that there's something very special about being at a live concert of classical music that even the best recordings can't capture. So many people in our community seem to appreciate that very much and return time after time to experience each unique creation of these classical pieces.

Eva: How has Covid-19 affected you?

Bill & Sally: Though we have lost live music in our lives and have not been able to visit family that live far from here, it has not affected our daily lives as much as we thought it would. We've had the chance to do lots of projects around the house and spend some real quality time with the trees.





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