

Ghidossi-DeLuca leaves symphony

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PD FILE, 2006
Linda Ghidossi-DeLuca

When the Santa Rosa Symphony opens its 2010-2011 season on Saturday night, the audience will notice a handful of young musicians seated side-by-side with the professional musicians.

The 11 principal players from the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform with the symphony for the first piece, Verdi's Overture to "The Force of Destiny."

Longtime subscribers to the symphony may also notice that well-known teacher and principal violist Linda Ghidossi-DeLuca has not returned. After a two-year leave of absence, Ghidossi-DeLuca resigned from the symphony this summer, citing personal and professional reasons.

"This decision is bittersweet," she wrote in her letter of resignation. "I want to thank Maestro Ferrandis and the musicians and staff of the Santa Rosa Symphony for a most amazing musical adventure."

Along with her husband, Ghidossi-DeLuca has relocated to Kanab, Utah, where she teaches strings in the elementary, junior and high schools and participates in music festivals.

The Santa Rosa Symphony will hold auditions for the principal viola seat and other vacancies in the orchestra this spring. In the meantime, assistant principal violist Meg Titchener will continue to serve as acting principal.

Ghidossi-Deluca founded the Young People's Chamber Orchestra (YPCO) in 1998, modeling it after San Francisco's New Century Chamber Orchestra, where she served as principal violist. She served as music director of the YPCO through the 2007-'08 season.

The YPCO has chosen two finalists for the position of music director: violist Aaron Westman, who will conduct the orchestra's fall session, and violinist Dawn Dover, who will conduct the spring session beginning in March 2011.

Westman has performed as a soloist with the American Bach Soloists and performs regularly with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. He has a master's degree in music Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, with a double major in viola performance and early music.

Dover has a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and is an original member of the New Century Chamber Orchestra. She has performed with the San Francisco Symphony for more than 12 years.

George Thomson, who served as interim director of the SRS YPCO for the past two years, has accepted a position as an orchestra director for a high school in Keizer, Ore.

-- Diane Peterson

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