

# Santa Rosa Symphony

2023  
2024  
SEASON

## NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 25, 2023

**Santa Rosa Symphony Family Series returns with  
*Carnival of the Animals – A Halloween Extravaganza*  
Sunday, October 29, 2023, at Weill Hall, Green Music Center**

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) —Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) begins the 2023-2024 Family Series season with *Carnival of the Animals* at 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at Weill Hall, Green Music Center. Conducted by Bobby Rogers, the SRS Youth Orchestra conductor. On the program, *The Seahorse and the Crab*, an underwater adaptation of the beloved tale, *The Tortoise and the Hare*, composed by First Symphony Projects Michael Djupstrom. Béla Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances*, a suite of six short piano pieces composed in 1915. A whimsical and humorous musical suite, *The Carnival of the Animals*, composed by Camille Saint-Saëns, features 14 animal-themed movements, each representing how unique animal mannerisms and sounds can come to life through music.

Kymry Esainko, piano, Amy Zanrosso, piano, Clark Houston Lewis, narrator, and Roustabout Theater actors join us for this performance. These concerts are designed to be fun and educational for all ages and are a great way to introduce children to the magic of classical music. This affordable concert series includes a complimentary Instrument Petting Zoo one hour before each performance at 2 pm, which provides an opportunity for youngsters (and curious adults) to handle and play orchestral instruments.

### The Santa Rosa Symphony's 2023-2024 Family Series features two additional concerts:

Sunday, January 14, 2024: Charlie Brown Goes to the Symphony

Sunday, April 28, 2024: Exploring Beethoven's 5th with FLC!

The 2023-2024 Santa Rosa Symphony Family Series is **underwritten by Victor Karen Trione, and Irene Sohm.**

### BIOGRAPHIES:

#### **Bobby Rogers**, SRS Youth Orchestra conductor

Rogers is a graduate of Sonoma State University (B.A. in Music Education and Jazz Performance), Sacramento State University (M.A. in Wind Conducting), and Boston University (M.M.Ed. in Music Education). He was the Region Three finalist for California Teacher of the Year in 2009, Claus Noble Educator of Distinction in 2010, and Program of Excellence for the top program in Yolo County in 2015.

Rogers studied conducting with Craig Kirchoff of the University of Minnesota, John Whitwell of Michigan State University, H. Robert Reynolds of the University of Michigan and USC Thornton School of Music, Mallory Thompson of Northwestern University, Jack Stamp of Indiana State, and Dr. Robert Halseth of Sacramento State University.

#### **Kymry Esainko**, piano

Pianist Kymry Esainko is known for his wide-ranging musical versatility. Principal pianist for the Santa Rosa Symphony since 2002, he has worked with many conductors including Francesco Lecce-Chong, Bruno Ferrandis, Jeffrey Kahane, Joana Carneiro, and John Adams, performing on piano, celesta, harpsichord, portativ organ, and synthesizer.

Esainko's work as a vocal and choral accompanist has taken him to concert halls around the world including Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, the KKL in Lucerne, and Basilique Sainte-Clothilde in Paris. He recently toured with Persian tombak player Homayoun Shajarian and has accompanied artists as varied as vocalist Ute Lemper and cellist Johannes Moser. Back home in Oakland, Esainko enjoys accompanying the Pacific Boychoir Academy, which his son Kai attends, as well as the Piedmont Children's Choirs which his daughter Stella sings in, and the Oakland Symphony Chorus. He can also be found playing piano with various symphony orchestras including Marin, Oakland, Monterey, and the Sun Valley Summer Symphony. An avid chamber musician, he has formed trios with fellow SRS colleagues Kathleen Reynolds, Alex Volonts, Laura Reynolds, and Carla Wilson, performing at Schroeder Hall, the Maybeck Studio in Berkeley, and Preston Hall in Mendocino. A versatile jazz and improvisatory pianist, Esainko has played for Matt Small's Crushing Spiral Ensemble, the Full Spectrum Big Band, and the Club Foot Orchestra, which performed an original score to Fritz Lang's Metropolis at the SFJAZZ Center and a marathon silent film retrospective at SF's Castro Theatre.

Esainko was born in San Francisco and grew up in Sacramento, CA. He started playing piano at the age of 7 and much, much later, graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music with degrees in piano performance and American history. He studied classical piano with Frank Wasko, Peter Takacs, and Sanford Margolis, and jazz piano with Neal Creque and Ed Kelly. He lives in Oakland with his vocalist/trombonist wife Becca, his son Kai, daughter Stella, and a menagerie of cats and dogs.

### **Amy Zanrosso, piano**

Amy's playing has been hailed as expressive, magnetic, and masterful but since no one at the New York Times has said this, she's not allowed to put it in quotes. Her first touch of a keyboard was a two-octave electric organ that her parents had found who knows where. She enjoyed picking out tunes like O Sole Mio and Ode to Joy until her cousin decided to show her Heart and Soul on an acoustic piano. That's the moment Amy fell in love. Thanks to her attentive and industrious Italian immigrant mom, piano lessons started at the age of 6, and by the age of 15, Zanrosso had made the decision to make music her life. A few years later she was accepted into the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada where, in Bruce Vogt's studio, she realized that she had way too much to learn and would always be in awe of the absolute force that is music. Bruce's wisdom and humor still influence her life today and she will always be thankful for his guidance in those early years of learning what playing the piano really meant.

After her Bachelor's, Zanrosso furthered her studies for a few years in Italy and then completed a master's degree at McGill University in Montreal. Her life was filled with a wealth of chamber music and was rounded out by some Broadway musicals, German cabaret, and several years in an Argentine tango quintet. In 2014, Zanrosso moved from Montreal to the Bay Area with her partner Dave, and her dog Roscoe. She is currently based in Oakland. Since the big move, Zanrosso went on tour to China with the GRAMMY award-winning Pacific Boychoir, rehearsed Beethoven's 9th Symphony with Gustavo Dudamel at the podium, and was the pianist for Chorissima, the five-time GRAMMY award-winning San Francisco Girls Chorus Premier Ensemble throughout the 2017-18 season.

Like performing, Zanrosso finds teaching to be a highly rewarding part of a musician's life. She is a faculty member and chamber music coach at the Pre-College Academy of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as well as at The Nueva School in Hillsborough, CA. She is constantly fueled by her fantastically inspiring students and enjoys forcing her favorite composers on them as well as telling them what to do. Zanrosso is looking forward to all the superb music, musicians, students, and enthusiastic audiences that will come her way in the future.

### **Clark Houston Lewis, narrator, founding Artistic Director of Roustabout Theater (2005-present)**

Clark Houston Lewis received his graduate degree from The Juilliard School in choral conducting. Lewis conducted repeatedly at Lincoln Center and established himself as a professional coach for both classical and pop singers in New York. Immediately after graduating, Lewis was discovered in an acting class and was picked up by the J. Michael Bloom agency and began working as an actor in New York. Lewis acted Off-Broadway and at regional theaters along the east coast, as his coaching work expanded to include leading actors and singers performing in Broadway shows from Chorus Line and Best Little Whorehouse in Texas to Cloud Nine.

Lewis moved to Los Angeles and continued coaching while directing shows at noted theaters. Clark's coaching clients continue to work on Broadway (Chicago, Parade, Cyrano, et al.) and in national tours (Les Miserables,

Sesame Street Live, et al.) as well as in numerous films and TV shows. Clark founded Roustabout Theater in Sonoma County in 2005 with the mission to create a world-class regional theater in the heart of wine country, bringing in the best actors, directors, and designers from around the country to perform and teach.

### **Roustabout Theater**

Roustabout Theater's mission is to create a vibrant regional theater and unparalleled actor training program in Sonoma County. They are the resident theater company of the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California and their Apprentice Program is one of the leading theatrical training and performance programs in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Roustabout Theater has served thousands of the community's families and theater lovers through productions, classes, and scholarship programs.

### **SPONSORS:**

The 2023-2024 Santa Rosa Symphony Family Series is **underwritten by Victor and Karen Trione, and Irene Sohm.**

### **AT A GLANCE / CALENDAR LISTING:**

**WHAT:** [Santa Rosa Symphony Family Series](#)

**WHO:** [Santa Rosa Symphony](#)

[Bobby Rogers](#), conductor

Kymry Esainko, piano

Amy Zanrosso, piano

Clark Houston Lewis, narrator

Roustabout Theater, actors

### **WHEN:**

October 29, 2023 at 3 pm: *Carnival of the Animals*

(Complimentary Instrument Petting Zoo one hour prior to concerts at 2:00 pm)

**WHERE:** Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

### **TICKET PRICES:**

\$20 adult, \$10 child (12 and under)

3-concert subscription package: \$54/adult; \$27/child (age 12 and under).

Family packs start at \$144 (minimum of 4 subscriptions, 2 of which are for children)

**TICKETS:** [srsymphony.org](https://srsymphony.org) or (707) 546-8742 (Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, opening at 10:30 am Wednesdays)

### **ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY**

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California, and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong, the Symphony's fifth music director in its 94 years, began his tenure in 2018. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education, and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), Discovery Dress Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series, a four-concert Pops Series, and special concerts.

Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming in the 2012-2013 season from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

The Symphony is recognized as having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

