



THE GOLD COUNTRY TIMES

The Art, Music, and People of the Gold Country

Vol 10 No. 130

APRIL 2012

FREE

English Grandeur, A Tribute to the English Romantic Tradition

A Review by Jennifer Benton
Staff Writer

Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra under the musical direction of our very own Donald Kendrick (Founding conductor of the 180 voice Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra, Director of Choral Activities at CSUS including his direction of the Graduate Degree Program...his credits go on and on) delivered a most memorable and uniquely superb performance at the Sacramento Community Center Theater on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

The one night only English Grandeur program brought the SCSO back to their original home and delighted attendees with this rarely performed repertoire, featuring works by two of England's foremost composers of the 20th century: Ralph Vaughan Williams (This work, Five Mystical Songs [written by George Herbert], was composed in 1911 for the Worcester Festival, and became Williams' first composition reflecting any type of religious poetry. Although Mr. Williams was a self-proclaimed agnostic, he still found musical inspiration in biblical verse and working with this collection left him drawn to religious setting or biblical texts and its integration with music for the duration of his career) and Sir William Walton (Belshazzar's Feast, performed tonight, came to be considered one of Walton's most famous works, and one of England's most revered.). His 60-year career did not lend itself to a long list of completed works as the composer, who was mostly self taught, was a slow worker and perfectionist.

In preparation for the concert, I began to speak to chorale members, Mr. James McCormick (SCSO's President), and fellow members of the press. I found one common thread: "Belshazzar's Feast is rarely performed outside of Europe", is what they all would say. This comment, being heard from so many sources, intrigued me. I pride myself on being a lover and supporter of the arts and having this opportunity to see such a rare performance was exciting yet I felt the need to know WHY the performance was so rare so I set out to find an answer from chorale member and community supporter, David Felderstein, whose enthusiasm shined through his



Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra perform a uniquely superb performance. Photo by Ronnie Johnson courtesy to the Gold Country Times

performance that night and continued throughout his explanation of the rarity of this repertoire. David has been in the SCSO for 16 years (since the founding in 1996) and sang in the Sacramento Choral arena for 19 years prior to that (total of 35 years). According to Mr. Felderstein, there are a multitude of reasons for the years between performances, beginning with the complexity of the piece which requires an enormous orchestra, leading to a huge cost burdened onto the SCSO, another reason for the rarity of hearing it live. This cost came in at the tune of \$75,000, which required a full house to break even. They fell short of their goal by 800 seats, which by any measure, was a phenomenal turnout.

In addition to volunteering hundreds of hours to perform with said chorus, the members additionally pay dues to co-sponsor their events in an effort to continue offering a professional caliber chorus

during these poor economic times. An orchestra of this size is costly and requires a chorus who can not only perform at the level of expertise required to properly convey the emotions of the songs but who can sing with their entire bodies to project enough sound as to not be drowned out by the tremendous power being delivered by the musicians. Felderstein reflects excitedly, "I have been singing since

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Ironstone Vineyards Appoints New Social Media Marketer

Murphys, Ca - It is with great pleasure that the Kautz family of Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys, CA welcomes Sara Davis on board as their Social Media Marketer. President Stephen Kautz states "Sara's skills and visions will oversee the duties of social media marketing for not only our award winning wines, tasting bar and fine dining, but the numerous events we offer at Ironstone Vineyard" Some of these include the spectacular concert series, Wine Club, Garden Club and of course, the upcoming Mother's Day Brunch and Annual BBQ competition.

Sara is currently completing her BA at CSU Stanislaus in the field of Communication Studies. With six years of experience in the hospitality industry and extensive knowledge of social media, Sara is committed to reaching out through the channels of social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Sara's understanding of the benefits of social media will enhance Iron-

stone's commitment to customer service. For example, social media encourages direct communication and offers realtime updates, opening additional channels so we can listen and give importance to the customer's opinion.

Above all, Ironstone Vineyard wants current and future customers to be assured that we are dedicated to offering outstanding customer service through all media outlets available. Welcome Sara to our family! For more details on upcoming events, visit online at www.ironstonevineyards.com

Local Jackson Resident Makes Nichols College Dean's List

The Dean's List gives recognition to those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included in the Dean's List, a student must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.2 for at least 12 credit-hours and receive no grade below a C+ during the semester. A student who earns a grade point average of 3.6 or higher is awarded Dean's High Honors.

Congratulations to the following student: Dustin Timm of Jackson, CA, earned Dean's High Honors. Nichols College strives to develop tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business education.

Founded in 1815 in Dudley, MA, the College's business program is paralleled by a comprehensive program in teacher preparation and liberal arts. On the graduate level, Nichols College offers a Master of Business Administration and Master of Organizational Leadership.

This year is not a Do-Over; it's an opportunity to take your next big step

The 4th Annual Hospice "Take a Chance on Love" Valentine Raffle was a huge success, raising nearly \$16,000 in ticket sales. Proceeds help provide quality end of life care to patients and families in Amador & Calaveras Counties. www.hospiceofamador.org

In This Good News Issue ...

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