

Pacific Chamber Orchestra: 'Beethoven – The Heroic' this weekend



Trio Foss

Photos provided

Submitted by Lawrence Kohl

Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, performs Beethoven's Eroica

Symphony No. 3, Coriolanus Overture and the "Triple" Concerto with Trio Foss as soloists May 18-19.

"The pathways Beethoven creates from the third Symphony onward allow us to re-

experience our own Hero's journey," Kohl says. "As a humanist, he believed the Hero redeems humanity through the arts, including music. Although deaf by 1820, he fervently composed on climaxing with his towering Ninth Symphony, surely a Hero's journey. With Eroica, Beethoven both upset and energized the musical world by the range of emotion this symphony expresses. His special genius unites a wide range of emotions with perfectly constructed music. Inspired by the Roman General Coriolanus, Beethoven created a musical canvas baring the emotions of the Hero's Journey in his Coriolanus Overture."

Beethoven's "Triple" Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano features Trio Foss – a fusion of virtuosity, personalities, backgrounds, and nationalities, drawing the audiences into deeply personal interpretations to the gems of the literature for violin, cello and piano and new works of our time. SF Classical Voice describes the trio as "[a]n extraordinary musical combo, and it's difficult to imagine hearing a better live performance."

The members are: Nina Flyer, Pacific Chamber Orchestra's principal cellist, who has toured, recorded and taught throughout Europe,

Scandinavia and America. She records frequently for the TV and Motion Picture Industry. She is a Grammy nominee, a worldwide proponent of contemporary music and was cello and chamber music professor at the University of the Pacific, Conservatory of Music, for 20 years, assistant concertmaster of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra; Icelandic violinist Hrabba Atladottir performed regularly with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and Deutsche Oper and did a world tour with the Icelandic pop artist Björk. In New York she performed with the Metropolitan Opera and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. She is also a lecturer in Violin at UC Berkeley; and Pianist Joseph Irrera, who has concertized across the globe with appearances at Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center. Internationally he has performed throughout Germany, Bul-

garia, Italy, France, and Costa Rica. The acclaimed Irrera Brothers Piano & Violin Duo has appeared throughout the United States, Europe, and Central America. They have two critically acclaimed recordings and their third album is currently in production.

The members of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra also appear in such prestigious groups as the San Francisco Symphony, Opera and Ballet Orchestras, touring Broadway shows, and feature films recorded at Skywalker Ranch. They are touring soloists and chamber musicians. Performances for "Beethoven – The Heroic" are at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 24 Knox, Lafayette and at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 19 at Bankhead Theatre, 2400 First Street in Livermore.



Beethoven image

Info: Tickets may be purchased online at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org and additionally for the Livermore performance by calling or visiting the Bankhead box office (925) 373-6800 located at 2400 First Street, Livermore or www.bankheadtheater.org. For information and videos about PCO, go to www.PacificChamberOrchestra.org.

Rossmoor Scholarships awarded to local students



Photo provided

Acalanes High School winners of this year's Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation awards, Unubold Munkhold and Ashley McClusky, pose with RSF Trustee Lonna Wolf.

By John T. Miller

A pair of Acalanes students, Ashley McClusky and Unubold Munkhold, won \$3,000 scholarships from the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation to assist them with their college expenses.

The two were honored at a luncheon at the Rossmoor Event Center along with 46 other students from central Contra Costa County on April 28.

McClusky plans to major in environmental studies at Loyola Marymont University in Los Angeles, choosing the campus because she "liked the small class sizes and the increased availability of the professors."

She has been active in environmental activities, taking part in a Forestry Challenge in Santa Cruz and a summer volunteer trip with Global Student Embassy to Ecuador where the group planted trees and worked with local students on environmental issues. McClusky says, "The trip to Ecuador helped me see that

it's really important to be part of an activity that helps others."

In her sophomore year at Vintage High School in Napa, family issues compelled her to move in with her grandmother in Lafayette and she is finishing her high school education at AHS. With little other financial support, she plans on doing work-study, using student loans, and perhaps an outside job to help pay for her education.

She praised Jada Paniagua, her AP Environmental Science teacher, with helping nurture her interest in the subject. "Her lectures were always informative and interesting and the class convinced me that this is what I should do," said McClusky.

Munkhold will be attending the University of San Francisco where he plans to major in architecture with a possible minor in psychology or civil engineering. USF appealed to him because "it was close to home and offered good financial aid. They also were very inviting and wel-

comed my application. I look forward to living in the dorms," he says.

His parents immigrated to California from Mongolia – with a stop in Poland – when he was 5 years old. They helped foster an interest in architecture. His electives at AHS reflect that interest and included wood shop, physics and digital design.

Munkhold participated with the North Coast Section champion volleyball team his junior year and is currently a brown belt in karate. He hopes to continue with karate while in college.

In addition to nearly perfect attendance, he has excelled in AP English and AP Spanish. He lists Natalie Moore, his junior English teacher, as being most influential in his academic development.

Moore says, "Uno's willingness to take risks in both classroom discussions and in his writing reflected his kindness, skill, and strength. He combines both intellect and humility and is more than de-

serving of any and all opportunities and scholarships."

In addition to the \$3,000 scholarships awarded to the 48 students, the RSF, in its 52nd year, also gave out an additional \$2,500 to 10 of the students for Named and Add-On Awards. Funds are raised from Rossmoor residents, memorial

gifts, and private community organizations.

Students can apply through the counseling offices at their schools, which include Acalanes, College Park, Concord, Las Lomas, Mt. Diablo, Northgate, and Ygnacio Valley high schools, and Diablo Valley College.

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