

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: September 22, 2009

### **Santa Rosa Symphony “Festival of Remembrance” honors Mexican, Japanese and Jewish composers**

#### **3-concert chamber series begins October 31 with commemoration of Day of the Dead**

(SANTA ROSA, CA) –Santa Rosa Symphony’s *Festival of Remembrance* is a collaborative community event that encourages audience and performers to examine their understanding of three significant cultural/ historical events—Mexico’s Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II; and the Holocaust—in light of the evocative music presented on stage. Included in the programs, along with the SRS Chamber Players, are local musicians, a journalist, a rabbi, an oral historian, and various community leaders. Audio-visual and art exhibits will enhance each one of these unique concert experiences.

The concert series takes place at Sonoma Country Day School’s Jackson Theater at 8 p.m. on three Saturdays: October 31, 2009; February 20, 2010; and April 10, 2010. Tickets are available as a subscription package for \$69 or \$90, and per concert at \$25 and \$32. Call 707-546-8742 (54-MUSIC) or [www.santarosasympphony.com](http://www.santarosasympphony.com). Details follow.

#### **Festival I — October 31, 2009. Una Celebración del Día de los Muertos: Music for Mexico’s Day of the Dead**

The Day of the Dead is one of Mexico’s oldest and most traditional festivals, wonderfully colorful, lively, and macabre. The Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Players honor renowned Mexican composers Carlos Chávez (String Quartet No. 3) and Silvestre Revueltas (String Quartet No. 4, *Musica de Feria*) at this concert. Local favorite [Trio Nuevo Amanecer](#) enhances the musical program with their harmonic vocals and stirring melodies. This group—consisting of Carlos Molino on bass; Alfredo Lopez, Rigoberto Avalos and Mateo Guzman on guitars—has

recorded a debut CD, *Voz y Sentimiento* (Voice and Sentiment), which will be on sale at the performance.

The evening will be introduced by Linda Lemus, a prominent person in the Latino community, who will speak on the meaning and significance of the Day of the Dead. She will present photographic images of Día de los Muertos artifacts and celebrations throughout Latin America. In addition, artwork, sculpture and written memories of loved ones created by students from Sonoma Country Day School will surround a decorated Day of the Dead *ofrenda* (altar) in commemoration of this special day.

Also in the Jackson Theater lobby, Listening for a Change will screen their oral history project, a collaboration with students and teachers from Luther Burbank School. The DVD consists of interviews—done by the children—with resident Mexican-Americans who speak about their life experiences here and in Mexico.

**Festival II — February 20, 2010. Cause and Consequence:  
Music in Remembrance of the Japanese American Internment**

Audiences will hear chamber music by Toru Takemitsu, considered the greatest 20<sup>th</sup> century Japanese classical music composer, and the work of distinguished living composer, Joji Yuasa, whose *Solitude* was written in memory of Takemitsu. This concert takes place just a day after the official “Day of Remembrance,” the date in 1942 when Executive Order 9066 required the incarceration of thousands of Japanese Americans who were sent to 10 different internment camps across the country.

In addition to the Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Players, [Sonoma County Taiko](#) will perform, sharing the primal percussive rhythms of their Japanese cultural art form. Prior to the concert, well-known journalist and local historian Gaye LeBaron joins in discussion with Marie Sugiyama to offer insight and perspective on the California experience of Japanese Americans during WWII. Sugiyama is a local resident who was confined at the Amache internment camp in Colorado. This concert is underwritten by the Sonoma County Japanese American Citizen’s League.

**Festival III — April 10, 2010. Music at the Edge of Life:  
In Remembrance of Jewish Composers Who Perished in the Holocaust**

To open the concert, Rabbi George Gittleman of Congregation Shomrei Torah will speak about the composers and the universality of the Holocaust. The featured compositions—String Quartet No. 3 by Pavel Haas; Concertino by Erwin Schulhoff; Passacaglia and Fugue for Violin, Viola and Cello by Hans Krasa; and string quartet No. 3 by Viktor Ullmann—were written in concentration camps. The music, performed by the Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Players, shows that the spirit of these Jewish artists could not be broken, even under the most dreadful conditions. The April 10 concert is underwritten by the Clarence C. Heller Charitable Foundation.

The Santa Rosa Symphony gratefully acknowledges the James Irvine Foundation for making the Festival Series possible.

[Photographs of Trio Nuevo Amanecer and Sonoma County Taiko available on request]

**CALENDAR LISTING**

**Heading:** Classical

**Who:** Santa Rosa Symphony

**What:** FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE , a 3-concert Chamber Music Series

**Where:** Jackson Theater, Sonoma Country Day School, 4400 Day School Place, Santa Rosa

**When:** 8 p.m. on three Saturdays

**Festival I - Saturday, October 31, 2009**

Una Celebración del Día de los Muertos:  
Music for Mexico's Day of the Dead

Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Players

Trio Nuevo Amanecer

CHÁVEZ: String Quartet No. 3

REVUELTAS: String Quartet No. 4, *Musica de Feria*

Selections by Trio Nuevo Amanecer (Trio New Dawn)

**Festival II - Saturday, February 20, 2010**

Cause and Consequence:

Music in Remembrance of the Japanese American Internment

Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Players

Sonoma County Taiko

TAKEMITSU: Quatrain II

JOJI YUASA: Solitude in Memoriam T.T.

Selections by Sonoma County Taiko

**Festival III - Saturday, April 10, 2010**

Music at the Edge of Life:

In Remembrance of Jewish Composers Who Perished in the Holocaust

Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Players

HAAS: String Quartet No. 3

SHULHOFF: Concertino

KRASA: Passacaglia and Fugue for Violin, Viola and Cello

ULLMANN: String Quartet No. 3

**Cost:** Single tickets \$25 and \$32. Subscription for all 3 concerts: \$69 and \$90

**Tickets:** Online [santarosasympphony.com](http://santarosasympphony.com), by phone (707) 54-MUSIC [546-8742], or in person at the SRS Patron Services Office, 50 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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