

**The Valdosta Symphony Guild**  
**Volume II**

THE

VALDOSTA

SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA

1994-1995

THE

FIFTH

SEASON



The **Valdosta Symphony Orchestra** is a University-Community orchestra employs some eighty musicians, including Valdosta State University faculty and students, area professionals, and guest artists. Supported by the Board of Directors and the Valdosta Symphony Guild as well as Valdosta State University and hundreds of patrons, the Orchestra has become an important part of the cultural life of the region. The VSO has recently been approved for inclusion in the Georgia Council of the Arts Touring Roster for 1995-96.

**Conductor James Plondke** joined the VSO in 1993 and also holds an appointment as Professor of Music at Valdosta State University. Dr. Plondke's degrees are from the University of Illinois, Northwestern University and the University of Wisconsin. A noted musical scholar, guest conductor, and music educator, Dr. Plondke also supervises the South Georgia String Project.

The **Valdosta String Quartet** includes Orchestra members Nina Lutz, Concertmaster; Alan Asher, Principal Second Violin; Alysio DeMattos, Principal Violist; and Stephen Taylor, Principal Cellist. The busy members of the Quartet are also on the VSU Music Faculty and provide leadership for area string classes. The Quartet is available for concert presentations in addition to many performances in Georgia and Florida schools.

The **South Georgia String Project**, sponsored by the VSO, now includes thirteen elementary and middle school string classes and a program of private instruction in string instruments. Total enrollment this fall is expected to be over two hundred in grades four through eight.

The **Valdosta Youth Orchestra** is an outgrowth of the South Georgia String Project and includes the most advanced young string musicians in the area. Under the leadership of Dr. Plondke, the Youth Orchestra performs two public concerts each year in addition to several in-school performances.

All Concerts 8:15 p.m.  
Whitehead Auditorium  
Valdosta State University

Telephone: (912) 333-2150

# 1

November 5, 1994

## "REVELATIONS"

Sinfonia from Cantata, BWV 29      J. S. Bach  
"Wir danken dir, Gott ..."

Symphony in C Major      Franz Joseph Haydn  
The premiere of a lost symphony,  
re-discovered by Maestro Plondke

Symphony in C Minor      Camille Saint-Saens  
"The Organ Symphony"

David Lowery, Organ Soloist



"The King of Instruments"

# 2

January 21, 1995

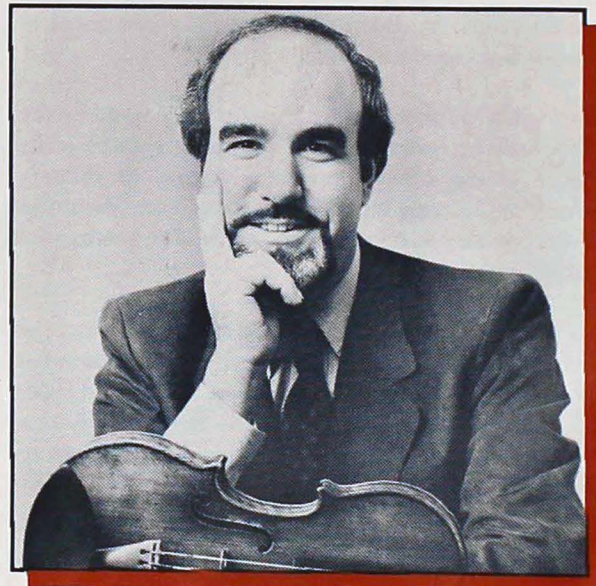
## "AMERICANA"

Two Fanfares      John Adams

Suite from      Aaron Copland  
"Appalachian Spring"

Concerto for Violin, Op. 14      Samuel Barber

Glenn Dicterow, Violin Soloist  
Concertmaster, New York Philharmonic



"... the great American Stylist"

(Washington Post)

# 3

March 11, 1995

## "AGELESS CLASSICS"

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Concerto for Trumpet      Tomaso Albinoni  
"St. Marc"

Martin Berinbaum, Trumpet Soloist

Suite from      Igor Stravinsky  
"Pulcinella"

Ancient Airs and Dances      Ottorino Respighi

Concerto for Trumpet      Johann N. Hummel  
in E Major

Martin Berinbaum, Trumpet Soloist



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"... the sweetest trumpet this side of Gabriel."  
(High Fidelity)

# 4

May 6, 1995

## "ROMANTIC LEGACY"

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Overture to "Fidelio"      Ludwig van Beethoven

Concerto for Piano in A Minor      Edvard Grieg

William Wolfram, Piano Soloist

Overture Solennelle, "1812"      Peter I. Tchaikovsky



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"... a young virtuoso of the first rank."  
(New York Times)

## VALDOSTA SYMPHONY GUILD

Rose Ware Lee Griffin Sue Cox Electa Ricket Polly Talley Pam Elkins Martha Gibson	Frances Hatcher Irene Heller Marilyn Henderson Judy Hinton Judy Hollis Mary Erneste Houston Mary June Huggins Kathie Illges Susan Johnson Tish Johnson Diane Joseph Susan Kaiser Marilyn Kemper Paula Kimmel Jain Ann Lane Carolyn Laurie Gayle Manderson Jani Martin Carolyn McCall Laurie McCall Helen McClure Jane McLane Kim Megow Galen Mirate Betty Moore Nancy Morris Barbara Parks Nancy Parrott Camille Peoples Jeannie Pennington	President President Elect Parliamentarian Recording Secretary Corresponding Secretary Treasurer Executive Secretary Mary Payne Perry Anne Plageman Jean Plondke Karen Powell Gloria Price Bonnie Rainey Lorre Resch Denise Retterbush Ann Richbourg Electa Ricket Jeanne Rountree Ann Schutt Elizabeth J. Simpson Eloise Smith Marie C. Smith Bootsie Smotherman Jane Staland Jeanette Strickland Beth Sullivan Polly Talley Lib Tart Suzanna Taylor Georgia Thomson Beth Thornton Sue Tittle Rachel Wainer Rose Ware Betty Webb Susan Whitfield Sally Woods
Pam Akins Sandy Alvarado Jane Autrey Gloria Bailey Joan Bailey Carol Bennett Martha Blackburn Joye Bradley Sue Braun Dee Broadfoot Ann Burnette Shirley Caldwell Frances Copeland Sue Cox Susan Crago Mary Crane Nancy Dewar Martha Dover Carolyn Eager Pam Elkins Sarah Ellerbee Sandra Fletcher Lou Gabard Kathy Garrett Peggy Gayle Martha Gibson JoAnn Giddens Patti Girardin Ann Godbee Lee Griffin		

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kay Autrey Lee Bennett Vivian Brannen Carolyn Christian Mary Dasher Dorothy Dewar Mary Dickey Louise Hanes Catherine Holt	Eleanor Howard Barbara Jenkins Ann Lackey Roline Little Emily McCall Gretchen McCoy Katherine Mixson Liz Mixson Mary Young Oliver	Dorothy Pearlman Maura Schlairet Anita Shelton Jane Shelton Suzanne Sullivan Sharon Thompson Joyce Welch Louie White Helen Wright
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# Violinist playing,

The Valdosta Daily Times

# teaching at age 90

By KRISTINE HARNAGE  
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — A local woman said the secret to living to 90 and still being in good health is to take care of your body, eat properly and have positive thoughts.

Elizabeth "Libby" Richter ought to know. At 90, she still enjoys driving her Mustang convertible, working in her yard and playing and teaching the violin.

Mrs. Richter was honored at the final concert of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's fourth season in May. She retired from the orchestra after performing with it since its founding in 1991. The orchestra's oldest member, she was also recognized and toasted at the gala champagne breakfast following the concert.

"Mrs. Richter was one of the select members of the Valdosta community to play in the orchestra," said Dr. James Plondke, conductor of the VSO. "Her skills were a great asset to the orchestra in establishing a symphony of high artistic standard for the region. She donated her time and talent in service to the symphonic art and in nurturing a symphony orchestra for Valdosta.

"She also has had a significant impact in supporting student musical endeavors in the community. Through music, Mrs. Richter leaves a legacy of commitment to the orchestra and the Valdosta community. I know she will continue her love of music in the years ahead. I hope we



Elizabeth Richter, a spirited 90-year-old who has been playing the violin 80 years, also teaches violin lessons. — Times Photo Mike Tanner

will see her at all the symphony concerts."

Mrs. Richter is continuing her love of music. She still plays chamber music with different groups of friends from the orchestra, she still teaches

violin to a few students, and a few weeks ago, she performed in a string quartet at a local wedding.

"I'm not really retired," she said. "I get such a pleasure out of playing, I plan to play until I'm 104 or longer, if

I live longer than that. I still have good health, so who knows?

"I not only play the violin, I also play the viola, the cello and the piano. I played the viola with the Valdosta Symphony sometimes. I love

the tone of the viola but have more experience on the violin — I've been playing it for 80 years. I also love the cello but really don't have the strength to carry it around and play it anymore."

Mrs. Richter, a native of Seattle, Wash., was raised by her grandmother. It was her grandmother who started her in violin lessons when Mrs. Richter was 10.

At age 17, Mrs. Richter went to Juilliard School in New York on scholarship. After two years at the school, she got a chance to go to Europe and left for Paris where she studied at the Paris Conservatory.

She said this was quite an experience, especially flying in a plane over the English Channel in 1927. In Paris, she and a girlfriend from Seattle who played the piano performed in many places together, including having the honor of performing for the Duchess of Devonshire, heir to the English throne.

ern Africa, Bermuda; on cruise ships in the Mediterranean, the Netherlands and on Alaskan cruises; she was a long-time member of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra; and, a couple of years ago, she traveled "down under" to Australia to perform.

"I love to play all the good classics — Beethoven, Mozart and any composition by Brahms," she said during the interview Tuesday at her home here. "I have an extended music library for the violin, viola, cello and piano — probably the biggest of any musician in the area. I've played a lot of music in 80 years.

"The violin is not an easy instrument to learn, but I've never had too much trouble with it. My grandmother saw to it I practiced one hour every day during the school year and two hours a day in the summertime. That was good encouragement — something every child needs. Practice is very important."

It was also in Paris where Mrs. Richter married her first husband. After his death, she married Robert Richter, also a musician, and they had one son: Bob Richter, who is an engineer at Packaging Corporation of America in Clyattville. He and his wife, Pat, a local math teacher, have three children: Robbie, Stephanie and Beth.

The elder Mrs. Richter moved from New Jersey to Valdosta 10 years ago to be near her family.

Mrs. Richter's musical career has taken her around the world and back. She has performed in Russia, North-

When not playing her instruments, Mrs. Richter enjoys driving, working with her flowers; reading, especially biographies and medical books, which she said have given her a lot of good information; and spending time with her family and friends.

"I've had a very interesting life ... a good life," she said. "I've met a lot of good people. I've been very fortunate.

"Having positive thoughts can help anyone have a good, long life. It has always helped me. Everyone should always think 'I can,' and keep working at whatever they want because it works."

**The Valdosta Daily Times**

Oct. 9, 1994



**Symphony Guild**

Officers of the Valdosta Symphony Guild, an organization that works to support the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, met recently to plan its 1994-95 fund-raisers. The Symphony Ball will be in November, and 'Tablescapes and Tea' is scheduled for spring. Pictured above are Electa Rickett, recording secretary; Sue Cox, past president; Rose Ware, president; Pam Elkins, treasurer; Lee Griffin, president-elect; and Martha Gibson, executive secretary. Polly Talley is corresponding secretary. — Special photo



Dr. Plondke and String Students  
Entertain Guild Associates  
at The Landmark  
October 19, 1994





## Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

By KRISTINE HARNAGE  
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is opening its 1994-95 concert season with its first performance at 8:15 p.m. Nov. 5. The performance will be in Whitehead Auditorium, located on the first floor in the Fine Arts Building on Valdosta State University's main campus.

"It will be a season of varied programs and superb guest artists," said Dr. James Plondke, who is returning for his second season as conductor of the VSO. "The VSO is really exciting because so much is going on."

The orchestra is celebrating its fifth anniversary season. In those five years, the VSO has had a significant impact on the artistic and educational life in this community, said Dr. Plondke. The VSO's recent achievements include recognition by the Georgia Council of the Arts and a highly successful Youth Concert Series, serving more than 4,000 children throughout the region.

"The key to our success," said Dr. Robert Welch, executive director and founding conductor of the VSO, "is the outstanding support and enthusiasm of the community and hundreds of VSO patrons."

Two works on the program of the opening concert feature the "king of instruments," the organ, said Dr. Plondke. David Michael Lowery will be the guest concert organist in the "Sinfonia from the 29th Cantata" of Bach and the ever-popular "Organ Symphony" by the 19th century French composer, Camille Saint-Saens.

Lowery, who has appeared as a recital organist throughout the United States and Europe, is also the organist of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

"The excellent pipe organ in Whitehead has undergone some significant repairs during the summer in anticipation of the VSO's opening concert," said Dr. J. David Morris, VSO general manager.

The combination of the distinguished and majestic tone character of the pipe organ with the symphony orchestra is unusual, said Dr. Plondke. He said, at times, the organ assumes a concerto-like role in Saint-Saens' symphony, making it a unique work in the symphonic repertoire.

"Since arriving in Valdosta, I have had many patrons request to hear this work," Dr. Plondke said. "It is unusual for so many people to request the same piece. Programming is very challenging and difficult, but the symphony fit well into our season plans and with interest in the community keen, it seemed like a natural concert selection."

Also on the program will be the modern premier of the "Symphony in C Major" by Joseph Haydn, which has not been performed since the 1780s. Written in 1773, the symphony was "recovered" by Dr. Plondke as a portion of an extensive research project.

"Any new work by Haydn, the 'father of the symphony,' is considered important in musical circles," he said. "Besides, it is a joyful, fun and thoroughly eloquent composition perfectly reflective of its time and place. It fits right in with the opening-night festive character of our evening. Most of our programs this season were built on audience suggestions and ideas."

The VSO has 80 members this year, including several new ones. Dr. Plondke said his goals this year are to continue performing at a high standard, to please the audience as well as inform them, to bring a wide variety of pieces to the stage that are crowd pleasers as well as challenges to the orchestra, and to continue to increase the VSO's audience base and visibility in this region.

Season tickets are available in the College of the Arts Office in the VSU Radio House directly across the street from the Fine Arts Building.

For more information, season brochures or ticket reservations, call 333-2150.



at left, Dr. James Plondke conducts the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra during a practice last week at Valdosta State University's Whitehead Auditorium.

Times  
photos  
by  
Mike  
Tanner



Jonathan Bishop, left, performs with other members of the horn section.

First  
performance  
8:15 p.m.  
Nov. 5  
Whitehead  
Auditorium,  
Valdosta  
State  
University



Above, Dr. Alysio DeMattos,  
principal violist of the  
Valdosta Symphony  
Orchestra;



Olivia Severson, far left,  
plays the cello in the  
Valdosta Symphony  
Orchestra.

# Symphony offers four public concerts

By KRISTINE HARNAGE  
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is offering four public concerts during its 1994-95 season.

All concerts will be held at 8:15 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building on Valdosta State's main campus.

The first concert is Nov. 5 and will feature guest artist David Michael Lowery, organist of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

The distinguished concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, Glenn Dicterow, will be the VSO's guest artist on their second program, Jan. 21. The program will be an "Americana" concert, featuring works exclusively

by American composers. Dicterow will perform the "Concerto for Violin" by Samuel Barber. The orchestra will perform Aaron Copeland's beloved "Appalachian Spring Suite."

On this program the orchestra will also perform "Two Fanfares" by the widely-regarded American composer, John Adams. The fanfares have won wide critical acclaim, said Dr. James Plondke, conductor of the 80-piece VSO. The fanfare titles, "Distant Trumpet" and "A Short Ride in a Fast Machine" accurately describe the character of the music, Plondke said.

The season's third program, March 11, will feature the Canadian trumpet virtuoso, Martin Berinbaum. Berinbaum will present two concer-

tos for the audience, the baroque masterwork, "St. Marc Concerto," by Albinoni and the early 19th-century "Trumpet Concerto" by Johann Hummel. The orchestra will present the "Pulcinella Suite" by Igor Stravinsky and the "Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No. 1" of Ottorino Respighi.

"Both of these popular early 20th-century works were built on the melodies of an earlier age," said Plondke. "With masterful technique and colorful orchestration, the 'ageless classics' find a new guise, and a vivid expression."

The final program of the season, May 6, will feature a return performance of pianist, William Wolfram. Dr. Plondke said Valdosta audiences

will remember Wolfram's stunning performance of the Chopin E Major Concerto, filling-in on short notice for the ill Richard Fields.

"The reaction of the audience and musicians in the orchestra was so strong that we knew we must have him back," said Plondke. "Wolfram will perform one of the most consistently popular romantic piano concertos, the 'A Minor Concerto' of Grieg. Also on the program is Beethoven's Overture to his only opera 'Fidelio.'"

"The VSO's fifth season celebration will conclude with a performance of the '1812 Overture' of Tchaikovsky. This is one of the most popular and beloved classic of all time. It is sure to be an audience-pleaser. The over-

ture was written by Tchaikovsky to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Russian victory over Napoleon. It has become an international musical metaphor for victory over tyranny."

Dr. Plondke said with the final concert of the season falling so close to the 50th anniversary of VE day at the close of World War II, it seemed like the perfect time to program the work. He added that the orchestra may also have an American surprise for the audience.

Parking is available in the lot on Oak Street across from the Fine Arts Building. Season tickets are available in the College of the Arts Office in the VSU Radio House. Call for ticket reservations at 333-2150.



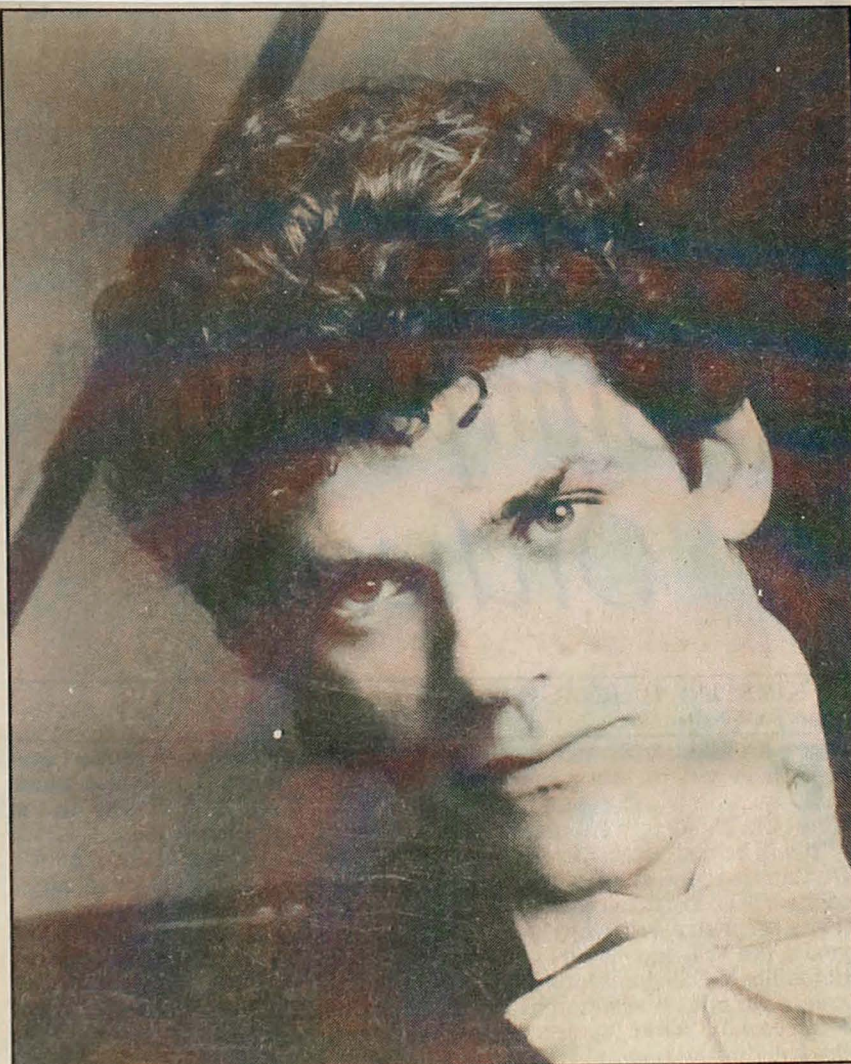
DAVID LOWERY



**Glenn Dicterow, N.Y. Philharmonic concertmaster, will be the second concert guest artist. — Contributed photo**



**Martin Berinbaum, Canadian trumpet virtuoso, will be the third concert guest artist. — Contributed photo**



**William Wolfram, pianist, is the fourth and final concert guest artist. — Contributed photo.**

**V**aldosta

**S**ymphony

**O**rchestra



**Fifth Season  
First Subscription Concert  
November 5, 1994**



Rose Ware, chairman of the Symphony Ball, and Lee Griffin, co-chairman, make plans for the Nov. 19 event at the Valdosta Country Club. — Contributed photo

The Valdosta Daily Times

## Symphony Ball slated Nov. 19 at country club

VALDOSTA — The Symphony Ball presented by the Valdosta Symphony has been set for Nov. 19 at the Valdosta Country Club.

This will be the fourth year for this annual event.

The ball is one of the two fundraisers that the Guild sponsors to benefit the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with a cocktail reception followed by dinner and a live auction. The auctioneer will be Ed Perry assisted by Judge Mac McLane and Gill Autrey. The evening will continue with dancing to music provided by the Ed Barr Orchestra.

Rose Ware, president of the Guild, will serve as chairman of this year's ball, and Lee Griffin, president-elect,

is co-chairman. Honorary chairman are Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crane. Crane is a member of the advisory board for the orchestra and serves as its finance chairman.

Other committee chairmen for this event are: auction, Jane Autrey and Ann Burnette; decorations, Sue Cox and Carolyn McCall; favors, Betty Webb; invitations, Bootsie Smotherman; programs, Sandra Alvarado; publicity, Mary June Huggins; reservations, Sandra Fletcher; sponsors, Polly Talley; and storage, JoAnn Giddens.

Tickets are \$50 for a single and \$100 for a couple. A patron's table for eight is \$1,000. Those desiring an invitation to be mailed to them should call 333-2150 during the morning hours from 9 a.m.-noon.

*The Valdosta Symphony Guild  
requests the pleasure of your company  
at the Symphony Ball  
Saturday, the nineteenth of November  
Valdosta Country Club*

*7:00 Cocktails  
8:00 Dinner and Live Auction  
9:00 Dancing  
Ed Barr Orchestra  
Cash Bar*

*Black Tie*

# *Symphony Ball*



*Valdosta Country Club  
November 19th, 1994*



## Symphony ball

Ed and Mary Crane, left, honorary chairmen for the Valdosta Symphony Guild's 'Black and White Ball', enjoy conversation with Rose and Fred Ware at the Valdosta Country Club. Mrs. Ware is the president of the Valdosta Symphony Guild, which supports the local symphony. Saturday night's fifth annual black tie affair hosted members of the Valdosta Symphony and their guests. — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

The Valdosta Daily Times



- **WHAT:** Valdosta Symphony Ball
- **WHEN:** Saturday night, Nov. 19
- **WHERE:** Valdosta Country Club



Joe Glenn Smith holds an item for auction at the Valdosta Symphony Ball.

## High Style



From left above, Suzanne and Jack Sullivan, Laura and Howard Dasher, Gerri and Wade Coleman and Briggs Smith enjoy dinner at the Valdosta Symphony Ball. At top right are Sandy Alvarado and James Plondke, conductor of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra — Photos by Golden Studios

Betsy and Wright Turner admire a painting held by Sue Cox while Virginia Pendleton enjoys chatting with other guests at the Valdosta Symphony Ball.



Couples enjoy dining at the Valdosta Symphony Ball. They are, from left, John McCall, Claudia Collier, William McCall, Mary Grace and William Kay and Carolyn McCall.









# Repertory

Valdosta State University  
Winter 1995

College of the Arts  
Volume 3, Number 2



Some of the students in the  
South Georgia String Project

# Acclaimed violinist guest artist

The Valdosta Daily Times

## with Valdosta Symphony

VALDOSTA — Internationally-acclaimed violinist, Glenn Dicterow, will perform the "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra" by Samuel Barber at the Jan. 21 subscription concert of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

The concert will be presented at 8:15 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium, located on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building on Valdosta State University's main campus. The program will feature works exclusively by American composers.

"Mr. Dicterow is the Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, one of the most prestigious violin positions in the world," noted Dr. James Plondke, conductor of the VSO. "He has appeared as soloist on four continents with the New York Philharmonic and other leading orchestras.

"He made his debut as a soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic when he was only 12! He became concertmaster of that orchestra at the unusually youthful age of 27, and he was appointed concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic in 1980."

"Composed in 1940-41, the Barber Concerto is considered one of the premiere concertos for

the violin composed this century. The concerto is known for its beautiful, lyric melodies and its virtuosic conclusion. During the past several seasons, the VSO has presented a series of the most popular concertos for the violin.

"Violin concertos by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Sibelius have all been performed. The Barber Concerto continues this series of violin masterworks. It is also the one 'standard' concerto which coordinates with the theme of our All-American composer program."

Also included on the program is Aaron Copland's most widely recognized composition, "Appalachian Spring Suite." Copland is considered dean of American composers, said Dr. Plondke. "Appalachian Spring Suite" was written near the end of World War II. Dr. Plondke said the work is a musical depiction of cherished American values, especially those deep-rooted American ideals of unity with the land, reverence, marriage and simple living.

"The work became an instant success and has remained as the foremost American com-

position on the orchestral repertory," said Dr. Plondke. "Originally a ballet, the music is a series of dance episodes. The choreography of the dances also reflected the values inherent in the music. The episodes include a 'Hoe-Down' and a set of variations on the American-Shaker melody 'Simple Gifts.'

"The audience will undoubtedly recognize these selections. In recent years, the popularity of the music has resulted in its appearance in commercials and as theme or background music for television and Hollywood. In this way, it has become familiar to everyone."

The program will begin with a recent work by the highly regarded New England composer, John Adams. The work is titled "Two Fanfares." Each fanfare bears a descriptive title. The first, "Distant Trumpet," is a piece for two solo, off-stage trumpets and orchestra. Valdosta Symphony trumpeters Kenneth Kirk and Steven Meyers will be soloists.

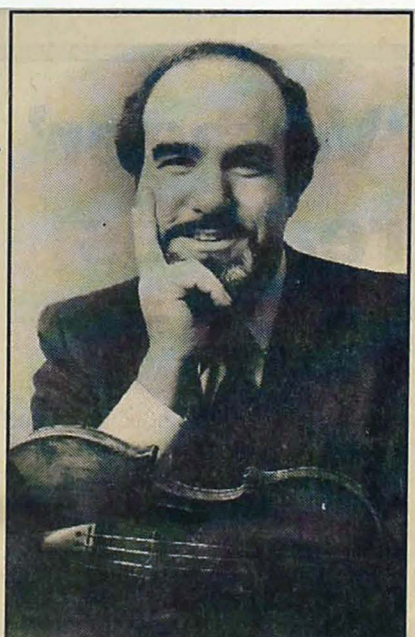
The second fanfare is titled "A Short Ride in a Fast Machine." Dr. Plondke said the title is perfectly descriptive of the work. He said one has the sensation of speed and excitement

throughout the brief piece. "It is a whirlwind piece, technically virtuosic for the orchestra, and great fun for the audience," he added.

"The idea for a program featuring all American composers was the suggestion of a subscriber," said Dr. Plondke, who is in his second year as conductor and artistic director of the VSO. "Not only was this an excellent idea, but it corresponds to the all-Russian and all-French programs of the previous two seasons."

The VSO is in its fifth season. In that time, it has brought several world-class artists to the City of Valdosta. Dr. Plondke said the first concert of this season, in November, was received by an enthusiastic and near-capacity audience. The VSO has also recently been recognized by the Georgia Council for the Arts — one of only four Georgia orchestras (including the Atlanta Symphony) to be so recognized, said Dr. Plondke.

Advance reserved-seat tickets for the Jan. 21 All-American composer concert may be purchased at the Radio House, on Brookwood Avenue, across from the Fine Arts Building, or by calling (912) 333-2150.



GLENN DICTEROW



**V**aldosta

**S**ymphony

**O**rchestra



**Fifth Season  
Second Subscription Concert  
January 21, 1995**

**Orchestra lauded  
for outstanding concert**

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to the members of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra for the outstanding performance at the concert on Saturday, Jan. 21. Congratulations also go to Dean Robert Welch who founded the orchestra and to the present conductor, Dr. James Plondke. It is a compliment to this orchestra that they were able to present a world-renowned violinist, Glenn Dicterow, as the guest artist. An orchestra which performs the Samuel Barber Violin Concerto and Copland's Appalachian Spring with such virtuosity is one to be recognized. I have lived here a long time and I never thought that I would be able to hear such music played by our own symphony orchestra.

My heartfelt thanks go to Valdosta State University, the local governments and all who have worked to make the orchestra a reality. Valdosta has a cultural treasure in the orchestra and we should do everything possible to support it.

**Robert F. Barr  
Valdosta**

The Valdosta Symphony Guild presents:

# TABLESCAPES & TEA '95

Saturday March 4th • 2-6pm

at  
THE CRESCENT

For Ticket Info:

**333-2150**



## Everyone Knows

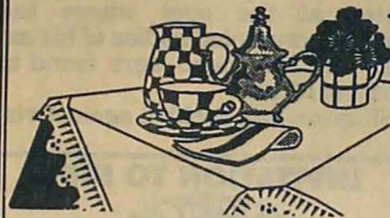
A Beautiful Table Inspires Great Meals

## Everyone Knows

Some of the Best Times Happen Around a Table

*In the South*

*We Know Hospitality is a Way of Life*



Join Us at **TABLESCAPES and TEA** to see beautiful table settings that will feature lots of great ideas for entertaining. Plus, you can enjoy our Delicious Gourmet Refreshments.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1995**

**2 to 6 P.M.**

**AT THE CRESCENT**

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*Valdosta Symphony Orchestra*

*March 4, 1995*

*The Crescent*























## Valdosta Symphony

performing March 11



Canadian trumpet virtuoso, Martin Berinbaum, will be the featured soloist with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra when it presents a concert at 8:15 p.m. March 11. — Contributed photo

VALDOSTA — Canadian trumpet virtuoso, Martin Berinbaum, will be the featured soloist with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra at its third subscription concert at 8:15 p.m. March 11.

The concert will be held in Whitehead Auditorium on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building on VSU's main campus.

Berinbaum will play the "Concerto Saint Marc" by the baroque composer, Tomaso Albinoni. Berinbaum has been a major force in the resurgence of the baroque trumpet repertoire in 20th century concert programs, said Dr. James Plondke, conductor of the VSO.

"The high pitch, clear trumpet tone and rapid notes are very engaging for modern concert audiences," said Dr. Plondke. "Our guest soloist Martin Berinbaum has championed this literature throughout his career."

Berinbaum's debut concert at Carnegie Hall in 1971 was the first concert in New York City devoted completely to the baroque trumpet repertoire. He has since performed several recitals in that famed concert hall, said Dr.

Plondke.

With organist Richard Morris, he has given recitals in more than 800 communities throughout North America. A highlight of these performances was a concert given at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., for the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter. Berinbaum has also appeared three times on NBC's "Today" show.

Berinbaum will also perform the "Concerto in E Major" by Johann N. Hummel. This concerto is one of the most famous works for solo trumpet ever composed, said Dr. Plondke. Also on the program are two famous works from the early part of the 19th century for orchestra. The first is the Suite from Stravinsky's ballet, "Pulcinella," and the second is the first suite of "Ancient Airs and Dances" by the Italian composer Ottorino Respighi.

Tickets for the March 11 subscription concert can be obtained at the College of the Arts office (The Radio House), across Brookwood Street from the Fine Arts Building on VSU's main campus, or by calling (912) 333-2151.

**V**aldosta

**S**ymphony

**O**rchestra



**Fifth Season  
Third Subscription Concert  
March 11, 1995**

# Repertory

Valdosta State University  
Spring 1995

College of the Arts  
Volume 3, Number 3

## Valdosta Symphony Final Concert

The Valdosta Symphony will present its final concert of the season on Saturday evening, May 6, 1995. The VSO will include the "Overture" to Beethoven's opera *Fidelio*; Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, the Grieg *Piano Concerto in A minor*; with pianist Willima Wofram as soloists, and Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*.

"Wofram's technical command of the piano is orchestral in scope. He produces a depth and variety of tone that is both rare and remarkable, and which marks him as an artist of the first rank"

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Winner of a Bronze Medal in the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow, William Wolfram also won the top prize in the University of Maryland International William Kapell Piano Competition, second prize in the Naumburg Competition, and first prize in the Three Rivers Competition in Pittsburgh. He has appeared with a number of symphonies and is an acclaimed recitalist. He was seen on public television, where he was prominently featured throughout a PBS documentary on the Tchaikovsky Competition. All orchestra performances begin at 8:15 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium. For ticket information, contact the Office of the Dean, College of the Arts, (912)333-2150.

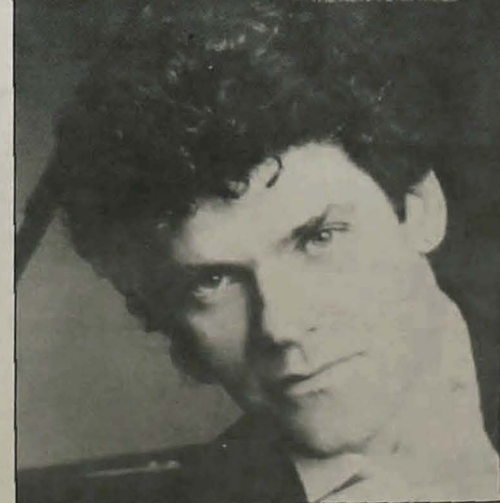


Ann Schutt and Gloria Price were the Co-Chairs of the 1995 *Tablescapes and Tea*. Ladies from throughout south Georgia and north Florida attended this event.

**Valdosta** - A very popular yearly event is the Valdosta Symphony Guild's March *Tablescapes and Tea* at the lovely Crescent. This year 15 tables, demonstrating a wide variety of entertaining, were created by members of the Guild and friends of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, which the fund-raiser benefits.

**Douglas** - The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra performed in Douglas in January, and *The People, Yes* will appear in the spring.

"A young virtuoso of the first rank."  
—THE NEW YORK TIMES



William Wolfram



# VSO and ArtSouth teaching string classes in seven area schools

By KRISTINE HARNAGE  
Times Staff Writer

Since February 1994, students in seven area elementary and middle schools have had an additional course available to them — string instrument class.

A little more than a year ago, the South Georgia String Project, an outreach of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra (VSO) and ArtSouth at Valdosta State University, was implemented in the following schools: Hahira Elementary, Hahira Middle, Lake Park Elementary, Lowndes Middle, Parker-Mathis Elementary, St. John Catholic and Valwood.

Together with students from the VSU Arts Academy, an after-school program of string classes and private instrument tutoring, second year students of this project make up the Valdosta Youth Orchestra (VYO).

"Students must have a minimum of one year of study to be in the VYO," said Dr. James Plondke, a professor of music at VSU who is conductor of the VSO and director of the South Georgia String Project. "Right now we have 141 students in the project but anticipate having more than 200 by fall of this year."

"We started this project as an educational opportunity and cultural enhancement for our region of the state. String instruction is a valued area of education for young people."

Dr. Plondke said string instruction gives students two things: a deep association with (America's) cultural history; and, like other musical studies, a source of non-verbal, intellectual study.

The students participating in the project range from fourth to 12th grade. Instruments the beginning students are learning include violin, viola and cello. Dr. Plondke said string basses will be added to the classes when the students advance to the upper grades and are big enough to handle them.

"A few of the students in the Arts Academy are younger than fourth grade, but our major focus right now is fourth through sixth grade," said Dr. Plondke. "We hope it will gradually expand as the students get older."

"All classes follow the same curriculum. I have a particular interest in a certain pedagogy — the way things are taught and the specific techniques in string playing. Coordinating the curriculum with the instructors of each class is an ongoing process."

Instructors of the classes are VSU faculty members, and they are also members of the VSO. The teachers and schools at which they teach include: Nina Lutz — VSU Arts Academy; Dr. Alan Asher — Lake Park Elementary; Dr. Alysio DeMattos — St. John Catholic School; Steven Taylor — Hahira Middle; Dr. James Barket — Parker-Mathis Elementary; and VSU Arts Academy; Jennifer Barket — Valwood and is an assistant with the VYO; Adrienne Bridges — Hahira Elementary and is an assistant with the VYO; and Dr. Plondke — Valwood and VYO conductor.

Students have classes three times a week at school their first year and twice a week their second year, with their third class being VYO rehearsal. Dr. Plondke said the project maintains a pretty active performance schedule including two major performances each year — concerts given by all the string students together called String Extravaganza (the first one was Feb. 2; the second will be June 1).

The students have also performed at The Landmark for the Symphony Guild, at school PTO (parent-teacher organization) meetings and special events, on WALB's noon program "Town & Country" and Christmas concerts and demonstration performances at the Valdosta Mall. The Hahira and Valwood students also gave a demonstration performance at the Georgia Music Educators Convention in Savannah this past January.

"I think this program is important because the children get several things out of it," said Dr. Plondke. "If they stay with it throughout their lives, it will literally change their view of the world. More specifically, it gives (them) increased motor skills, (they will) think intuitively at a very rapid rate and (they will) have the ability to take the printed page — music, translate that into a physical aspect — playing an instrument, and get an aesthetic result."

"Like a foreign language, it may be easier for young people to learn musical instruments because it becomes a part of them, not a cognitive (thinking) process like with older people."

"Our ultimate goal in this project is that schools will adopt string classes as a viable part of their curriculum. The principals of the schools that have implemented the classes are not only supportive (of the project) but (also) are real leaders in their concern for expanding horizons of students, and the students and parents in the program are pioneers. Eventually, we would like to see this program in all the schools in the 41-county area reached by ArtSouth."



Adrienne Bridges, left, graduate assistant at Valdosta State University and the director of the South Georgia String Project at Hahira Elementary, leads her students during practice at the school last week.



Members of the Parker - Mathis Strings pictured at left, are, from left front, Jessica Monk, Ashley Council, Liz Barton, Rhea Lane, Lauren Tucker, Sarah McMichael and Crystal Gay. Back row, from left, are Paula Williams, Leslie Chatelain, Ian Barlow, Mark Malone, Ashley Donaldson, Chase Garnto and Robbie Jones. Instructor Dr. James Barket, an instructor in the Valdosta State University music department, works with the students.



*Photos by  
Paul  
Leavy  
and  
Mike  
Tanner*

Dr. James Barket, right, works with members of the Parker - Mathis Strings.

# Valdosta Symphony performing May 6

VALDOSTA — Pianist William Wolfram returns to solo with the Valdosta Symphony in the orchestra's concluding program of the 1994-95 season.

The concert will be held at 8:15 p.m. May 6 in Whitehead Auditorium on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building on Valdosta State University's main campus.

"The audience will remember Mr. Wolfram's superb performance with the orchestra last season when he filled-in on short notice for an ailing guest soloist," said Dr. James Plondke, conductor of the VSO. "Wolfram will perform the 'Concerto in A Minor' by the Norwegian master, Edvard Grieg. The concerto is one of the most enduring and beloved in the romantic repertoire. Its themes will be familiar to most of the concert audience.

"Wolfram was so warmly received by the Valdosta community for his performance last year that we knew he must return for an 'encore' engagement."

According to Dr. Plondke, Wolfram is a Bronze Medal winner of the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, the most illustrious competition of its kind in the world. In addition to the Valdosta Symphony, the pianist has appeared with the Pittsburgh, San Diego, San Francisco, National and Indianapolis symphonies, among others. He has also performed on PBS television in conjunction with the Tchaikovsky competition.

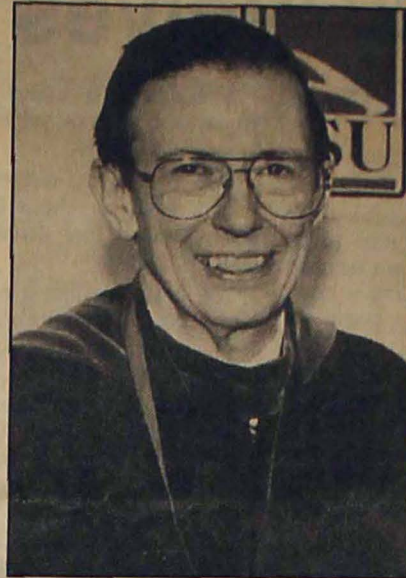
A second "soloist" will also appear on the program. Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, president of Valdosta State University, will narrate "A Lincoln Portrait" by Aaron Copland. "I am highly honored to perform with the VSO and to present this American classic to the Valdosta community," said Dr. Bailey.

"Dr. Bailey is a renowned scholar of American history and political science," said Dr. Plondke. "He is the author of six books and numerous articles on American history, especially the history of the South. He brings to the narration of Lincoln's text much insight into the times and events which shaped Lincoln's words and ideas.

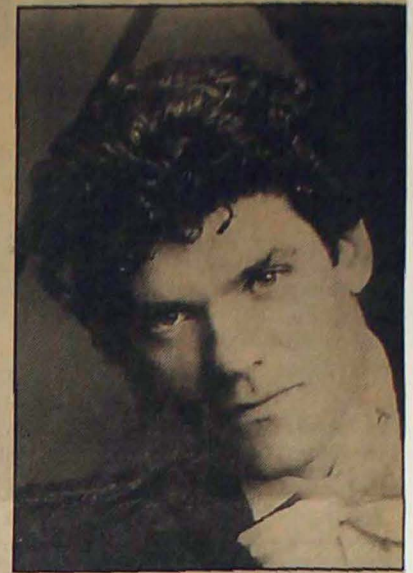
"Copland wrote 'A Lincoln Portrait' in early 1942 at a time when our country was deeply concerned and discouraged over the course of World War II. The piece uses texts of Lincoln to reaffirm the American values of freedom and democracy. It is highly appropriate that we perform this composition during the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II."

The program will also include the Overture to Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture." Bryan Wright, munitions expert at Moody Air Force Base, is in charge of the canons for the final number.

"The inclusion of the canon at the end of '1812 Overture' is always a crowd-pleas-



DR. HUGH BAILEY



WILLIAM WOLFRAM

er," said Dr. Plondke. "We will end the concert with a bang! '1812' will provide a fitting festive conclusion to the Symphony's concert season.

"This program will conclude the VSO's fifth season. In its brief history, the orchestra has had a remarkable impact. It has contributed to the social and cultural quality of life in the Valdosta community and South Georgia/north Florida region, and has brought concert artists of international stature to our city.

"More than 4,000 area students hear the orchestra each year through our Youth Concert Series, a first-time experience for most of

the children. The VSO has also sponsored string instruction through its South Georgia String Project and Valdosta Youth Orchestra programs. The VSO's Board of Directors, Symphony Guild, corporate and community sponsors, as well as patrons and subscribers, have the right to celebrate the outstanding contributions of the VSO."

Tickets for the May 6 concert are available at the Radio House, 203 Brookwood Ave., across the street from the Fine Arts Building; or by calling 333-2151.

**SATURDAY**

May 6, 1995



## The sound of music

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, conducted by James Plondke, performs for several hundred elementary school students from Valdosta and north Florida and surrounding counties. The VSO's last public performance of the 1994-95 season is at 8:15 p.m. today in Whitehead Auditorium, first floor of the Fine Arts Building on the campus of Valdosta State University. — Times Photo by Mike Tanner



Please come to welcome  
New Symphony Guild Members

Wine and Cheese

Thursday, May 23rd

four until six o'clock

at the home of Nancy Dewar

905 Moss Way

Regrets only

Casual

Lee Griffin

Introduction of new members at 5:30

242-8075

The Valdosta Daily Times

12-A Friday, August 23, 1996



**Symphony Guild**

Outgoing President Rose Ware, left, and incoming President Lee Griffin make plans for another year for the Valdosta Symphony Guild. The Guild ended its sixth year with a wine and cheese party at the home of Mrs. James Dewar Jr. New members were introduced and welcomed. Joining the group are Cathy Bradley, Ernestine Clark, Jan Gay, Nancy Hobby, Mary Alice Lewis, Barbara Mize, Nancy Parris, Betty Scruggs, Sharon Swindle, Kelly Smith, Tootsie Tillman and Sara Williams. Officers for the 1996-97 year are President Lee Griffin; President-elect Judy Hinton; Recording Secretary Ann Schutt; Corresponding Secretary Electa Ricket; Treasurer Janice Murphy; Executive Secretary Martha Gibson; and Parliamentarian Rose Ware. The Guild is the principal support for the VSO. — Contributed photo

*THE  
VALDOSTA  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA*



1996 - 1997

The Seventh Season

# Valdosta

# Symphony

# Orchestra



## PROGRAM

### Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

Eighth Season

Fourth Subscription Concert

May 9, 1998

James Plondke, conductor

#### Program

Overture to *Candide* (1954)

Leonard Bernstein  
(1918-1990)

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26 (1921)

Sergei Prokofiev  
(1891-1953)

Andante; Allegro  
Theme and Variations: Andantino  
Allegro ma non troppo

*Daniel Bellack*, piano

#### INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 1 in D Major (1884-88, "Titan")

Gustav Mahler  
(1860-1911)

*Part I: From the Days of Our Youth*  
Langsam. Schleppend

*What Nature Tells Me: Winter Sleep; Spring Without End*  
Kräftig bewegt, doch nicht zu schnell—  
*Under Full Sail*

*Part II: The Human Comedy*

Feierlich und gemessen, ohne zu schleppen—

*The Hunter's Procession*

Stürmisch bewegt

*From Inferno to Paradiso*

Fifth Season  
Fourth Subscription Concert  
May 6, 1995



Valdosta Symphony Guild  
invites you to  
Brunch  
honoring our  
New Members

Saturday, May 20th 1995

11:00 a.m.

Valdosta Country Club

R.s.v.p. 333-2150

by May 15th

\$10.00 per person

# The Valdosta Daily Times



**SUNDAY**

May 21, 1995

## Getting in some practice

Pattann Keaton, 11, and Jeff Newbern, 11, members of the South Georgia String Project, warm up before performing at a brunch honoring the new members of the Valdosta Symphony Guild Saturday morning at the Valdosta Country Club. Behind the two violinists are new members Ginger Keaton and Becky Meadors talking with Dr. James Plondke, conductor of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

# The Valdosta Daily Times

**THIS 'N THAT**

Sunday, May 28, 1995



**KRISTINE HARNAGE**

## VSG welcomes its new members with a brunch

In celebration of the completion of its fifth year, the Valdosta Symphony Guild hosted a welcoming brunch for new members May 20 at the Valdosta Country Club.

New associate members of the guild are: Emogene Dennis and Marion Levine. New active members are: Bette Bechtel, Linda Campbell, Ann Domm, Lucille Fraleigh, Pamela Hughes, Josette Ingram, Kay Jennett, Ginger Keaton, Rebecca Meadors, Janice Murphy, Louise Okuma and Susan Shingler.

# The Valdosta Daily Times

Sunday, October 15, 1995

## Symphony Guild gets new members

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Symphony Guild is beginning its fifth year of support of The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

New members joining The Guild are:

Associate members — Emogene Dennis and Marion Levine.

Active members — Bette Bechtel, Linda Campbell, Ann Domm, Lucille

Fraleigh, Pamela Hughes, Josette Ingram, Kay Jennett, Ginger Keaton, Rebecca Meadors, Janice Murphy, Louise Okuma and Susan Shingler.

The Guild hosts two fund-raising events each year, The Black and White Ball scheduled for Nov. 18 and Tablesapes and Tea which will be held on Feb. 24.





Valdosta State University  
College of the Arts  
Department of Music

***South Georgia String Project***

SPRING STRING  
EXTRAVAGANZA CONCERT

Hahira Elementary School Strings  
Hahira Middle School Strings  
Lake Park Elementary School Strings  
Lowndes Middle School Strings  
Parker-Mathis Elementary School Strings  
St. John's Catholic School Strings  
Valwood School Strings  
VSU Arts Academy Strings

**The Valdosta Youth Orchestras  
The Philharmonia Orchestra  
The Chamber Strings**

Thursday, June 1, 1995  
Valwood Cafetorium  
7:00 p.m.

Today, at 1:30 p.m. the Hahira Elementary School welcomes Dr. Jim Plonke, professor at Valdosta State University, and conductor of the Youth Orchestra at VSU.

There will be a presentation to the third, fourth and fifth grades today, as a preview of free cello and violin lessons which will be made available to the 4th grade students. The lessons will be free.

**HAHIRA  
HAPPENINGS**



**ANN  
HARRIS**

The Valdosta Daily Times

4-A Friday, October 6, 1995

**Plonke visiting Hahira  
Elementary**



**THE**  
**VALDOSTA**  
**SYMPHONY**  
**ORCHESTRA**

**1995-1996**

**THE**  
**SIXTH**  
**SEASON**

**The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra** is a University-Community orchestra employs some eighty musicians, including Valdosta State University faculty and students, area professionals, and guest artists. Supported by the Board of Directors and the Valdosta Symphony Guild as well as Valdosta State University and hundreds of patrons, the Orchestra has become an important part of the cultural life of the region. The VSO has recently been approved for inclusion in the Georgia Council of the Arts Touring Roster for 1995-96 and 1996-97.

**Conductor James Plondke** joined the VSO in 1993 and also holds an appointment as Professor of Music at Valdosta State University. Dr. Plondke's degrees are from the University of Illinois, Northwestern University and the University of Wisconsin. A noted musical scholar, guest conductor, and music educator, Dr. Plondke also supervises the South Georgia String Project.

**The Valdosta String Quartet** includes Orchestra members Nina Lutz, Concertmaster; Patricia Nultemeir, Principal Second Violin; Karin Addis, Principal Violist; and Stephen Taylor, Principal Cellist. The busy members of the Quartet are also on the VSU Music Faculty and provide leadership for area string classes. The Quartet is available for concert presentations in addition to many performances in Georgia and Florida schools.

**The South Georgia String Project**, sponsored by the VSO, now includes thirteen elementary and middle school string classes and a program of private instruction in string instruments. Total enrollment this fall will be over two hundred in grades four through eight.

**The Valdosta Youth Orchestra** is an outgrowth of the South Georgia String Project and includes the most advanced young string musicians in the area. Under the leadership of Dr. Plondke, the Youth Orchestra performs two public concerts each year in addition to several in-school and other area performances.

All Concerts 8:15 p.m.  
Whitehead Auditorium  
Valdosta State University

Telephone: (912) 333-2150

# I

November 11, 1995

## "Musical Mystics"

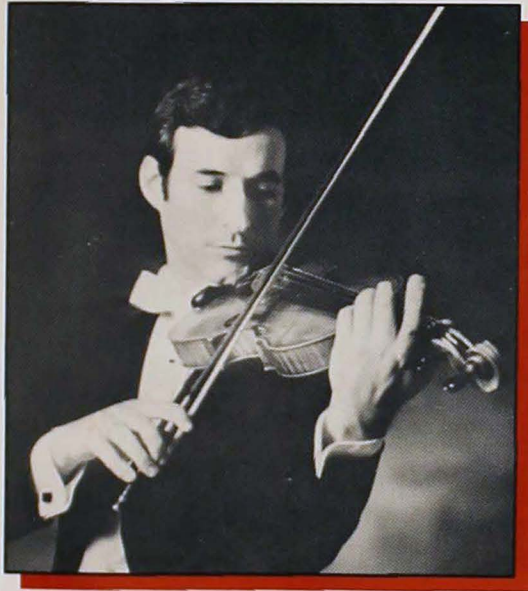
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The Sorcerer's Apprentice Paul Dukas

The Planets Gustav Holst

Violin Concerto Antonin Dvorak

Peter Zazofsky, Violin Soloist



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*"... Exemplary purity of intonation, exquisite taste and admirable depth of feeling, combined with enormous vitality."*

Berliner Morgenpost

# II

January 20, 1996

## "The Romantic Road"

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Overture to "La Clemenza di Tito" W. A. Mozart

Symphony #3, "The Rhenish Symphony" Robert Schumann

Piano Concerto #3 L. v. Beethoven

Claude Frank, Piano Soloist



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*"... Playing of an exalted quality that life seldom offers."*

The Boston Globe

# III "19th Century Heritage"

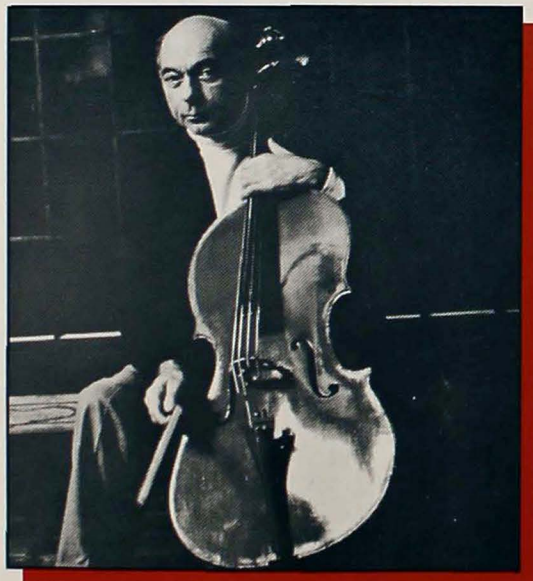
March 9, 1996

Roman Carnival Overture, Heitor Berlioz  
from "Benvenuto Cellini"

Symphony #7 L. v. Beethoven

Cello Concerto Camille Saint-Saens

Janos Starker, Cello Soloist



*"... one of the great virtuoso cellists, and indeed, one of the greatest musicians of this century."*

The New York Times

# IV "From Mother Russia"

May 4, 1996

Russian Easter, N. Rimsky-Korsakov  
Concert Overture

Pictures At An Exhibition Modest Moussorgsky

Piano Concerto #2 Sergei Rachmaninoff

Meng-Chien Liu, Piano Soloist



*"... a rare combination of strength and sensitivity."*

The Toronto Star

## VALDOSTA SYMPHONY GUILD

Rose Ware  
Lee Griffin  
Sue Cox  
Electa Ricket  
Sandra Fletcher  
Pam Elkins  
Martha Gibson

President  
President Elect  
Parliamentarian  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Treasurer  
Executive Secretary

Sandy Alvarado  
Gloria Bailey  
Joan Bailey  
Jo Ann Bassford  
Bette Bechtal  
Carol Bennett  
Martha Blackburn  
Sue Braun  
Dee Broadfoot  
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Sue Cox  
Susan Crago  
Mary Crane  
Nancy Dewar  
Ann Dornn  
Martha Dover  
Carolyn Eager  
Pam Elkins  
Sarah Ellerbee  
Sandra Fletcher  
Lucille Fraleigh  
Lou Gabard  
Martha Gibson  
Patti Girardin  
Ann Godbee  
Lee Griffin  
Frances Hatcher

Lorra Resch Hatcher  
Irene Heller  
Marilyn Henderson  
Judy Hinton  
Judy Hollis  
Mary Erneste Houston  
Mary June Huggins  
Pamela Hughes  
Josette Ingram  
Kay Jennett  
Tish Johnson  
Diane Joseph  
Susan Kaiser  
Ginger Keaton  
Marilyn Kemper  
Jain Ann Lane  
Carolyn Laurie  
Laurie McCall  
Helen McClure  
Rebecca Meadors  
Kim Megow  
Jani Miller Martin  
Galen Mirate  
Betty Moore  
Nancy Morris  
Janice Murphy  
Louise Okuma  
Barbara Parks

Camille Peeples  
Jeannie Pennington  
Mary Payne Perry  
Anne Plageman  
Jean Plondke  
Gloria Price  
Bonnie Rainey  
Denise Retterbush  
Ann Richbourg  
Electa Ricket  
Jeanne Rountree  
Ann Schutt  
Susan Shingler  
Elizabeth J. Simpson  
Eloise Smith  
Marie C. Smith  
Bootsie Smotherman  
Jeanette Strickland  
Polly Talley  
Georgia Thomson  
Beth Thornton  
Sue Tittle  
Rose Ware  
Betty Webb  
Susan Whitfield  
Sally Woods

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kay Autrey  
Lee Bennett  
Vivian Brannen  
Carolyn Christian  
Mary Dasher  
Emogene Dennis  
Dorothy Dewar  
Mary Dickey  
Louise Hanes  
Catherine Holt

Eleanor Howard  
Barbara Jenkins  
Ann Lackey  
Marion Levine  
Roline Little  
Emily McCall  
Gretchen McCoy  
Katherine Mixson  
Mary Young Oliver  
Dorothy Pearlman

Maura Schlairet  
Anita Shelton  
Jane Shelton  
Suzanne Sullivan  
Lib Tart  
Sharon Thompson  
Rachael Wainer  
Louie White  
Helen Wright



Valdosta Symphony Orchestra will open its new season Nov. 11 at Valdosta State University's PE Complex. — Contributed photo

## Valdosta Symphony Orchestra opening new season Nov. 11

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra 1995-96 Subscription Concert Season will feature world-renowned soloists on each of its four programs.

"Two of our soloists, Claude Frank, piano, and Janos Starker, cello, are among the premier artists of our times," said James Plondke, conductor of the Valdosta Symphony. "All of our soloists have the highest international reputations."

The concert season's programs have been scheduled for Nov. 11, Jan. 20, March 9 and May 4 — all Saturday evenings.

The first concert of the orchestra's sixth annual subscription season will be at 8:15 p.m. Nov. 11. The American virtuoso violinist, Peter Zazofsky, will be the soloist, performing Dvorak's "Violin Concerto in A Minor." Zazofsky has performed with most of the major American orchestras as well as the Berlin Philharmonic and the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam. Zazofsky is a winner of the Montreal International Violin Competition and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, Belgium.

Other featured works on the program include "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" by the French composer, Paul Dukas. "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" is familiar to everyone," Plondke said. "It was used by Disney in the cartoon classic 'Fantasia.'"

Both Dukas' music and the Mickey Mouse versions are based on a poem by the famous German poet, Goethe."

The story concerns a young pupil of magic who casts a spell on a broom, bringing it to life in order to carry water to fill a cistern. The spell goes awry when the apprentice does not know the proper incantation to stop the broom's incessant work.

The concluding work on the program will be "The Planets," by the English composer, Gustav Holst. "The Planets" was composed in the early part of this century. The subjects of the symphonic suite are the seven planets, then known — apart from the earth: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. (Pluto had not yet been discovered.)

"Holst was interested in astrology," Plondke said. "Each movement of the music portrays the mystical character traditionally associated with the astrological view of the planet. With our interest in astronomy in the later part of the 20th Century, we have often associated Holst's music with the planets as heavenly objects as well."

The music is regularly coupled with documentaries and commercials involving astronomical and outer space themes.

"Hollywood owes a debt of gratitude to Holst and his



JAMES PLONDKE

music," Plondke said. "Many a motion picture having a space theme uses either 'The Planets' or music composed in the style of 'The Planets.'"

The score of "The Planets" requires a very large orchestra. This concert will be the largest group of instrumentalists ever assembled for a Valdosta Symphony concert. The work also requires two unseen choirs of women's voices.

The Symphony's concerts are usually held in Whitehead Auditorium on the Valdosta State University campus. However, because of the construction to Whitehead now in progress, the November concert will be held in the Valdosta State University's PE Complex.

Later in the season, one of the world's most distinguished pianists, Claude Frank, will perform with the orchestra on the Jan.

20 concert. Frank has appeared repeatedly with the most prestigious orchestras on five continents. Since his debut with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic in 1959, Frank has been internationally acclaimed as master interpreter of the piano works of Beethoven. He will perform Beethoven's "Third Piano Concerto" with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. Other works on the program will include Mozart's "Titus Overture" and the "Rhenish Symphony" of Schumann. This gala concert will herald the VSO's return to the attractively refurbished Whitehead Auditorium.

Jano Starker, one of the most celebrated cellists in the world, will be featured soloist on the March 6 concert. In addition to a solo career which includes concerto performances with every major orchestra in the world, Starker is also a renowned teacher. His visit to Valdosta will include a master class for Valdosta State University string players as well as the performance with the VSO. Starker will perform the Saint-Saens "Concerto in A Minor," one of the most recognized and beloved concertos for the cello.

The orchestra's final program of the season will feature the young pianist, Meng-Chieh Liu, who came to sudden prominence by performing with the Philadelphia Orchestra, filling in for ill Andre Watts on three hours notice. The performance was critically acclaimed and launched the young pianist's

international solo career. Liu will perform the Rachmaninoff Second Piano Concerto with the Valdosta Symphony. Also on the concluding program of the season are two works which will display the VSO virtuosity and feature several orchestra members in prominent solos within the orchestra: Rimsky-Korsakov's "Russian Easter Overture" and Mussorgsky's famous "Pictures at an Exhibition," orchestrated by Maurice Ravel.

"The final concert will have a festive, romantic Russian flare," Plondke said.

Tickets for the 1995-96 Subscription series or for the November concert may be obtained at the VSU Radio House, 203 Brookwood Drive, or by calling 333-2150.

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is a professional orchestra serving the Valdosta community, Valdosta State University, and the entire south Georgia region. The 1995-96 season will be the orchestra's sixth subscription year. The VSO also sponsors a Youth Concert series which annually performs for about 4,000 school-age children, exposing them to symphonic music. In addition, the orchestra has performed tour concerts in other south Georgia and north Florida communities. The VSO sponsored South Georgia String Project, and Valdosta Symphony Youth Orchestra programs have an enrollment of about 200 students. The programs provide instruction and performance experience on string instruments.

## Marietta high school orchestra playing in VSU honor orchestra

VALDOSTA — The Music Department at Valdosta State University will feature the Walton High School Orchestra from Marietta in this year's "VSU Honor Orchestra Clinic" Saturday.

A concert will be held in the Magnolia room of the new VSU University Center at 8 p.m. The event is open to the public without charge. Families with children are especially encouraged to attend the one-hour program in order to familiarize students with string instruments and for the children to see and hear a highly successful string program.

"The concert will also include several members of the Valdosta Symphony Youth Orchestras and a few students from other schools in the State of Georgia," said James Plondke, conductor of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and coordinator of the Clinic Festival. "The 'Honor' orchestra for the event is the Walton High School String Orchestra — one of the largest and strongest high school orchestra programs in Georgia."

The Walton Orchestra program has a 20-year history of excellence. The orchestra has about 100 members. The orchestra has earned Superior ratings in the District 12 Orchestra Festivals and has performed for the Georgia Music Educator's Conference in Savannah. Several of the orchestra's members have been selected for the Georgia All-State orchestra program and the Governor's Honors Program in music.

The orchestra's conductor, Kirk Moss, is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and the University of

Michigan. He is the president of the Georgia unit of the American String Teachers Association. Moss is active in a task force which promotes string programs in the public schools throughout Georgia.

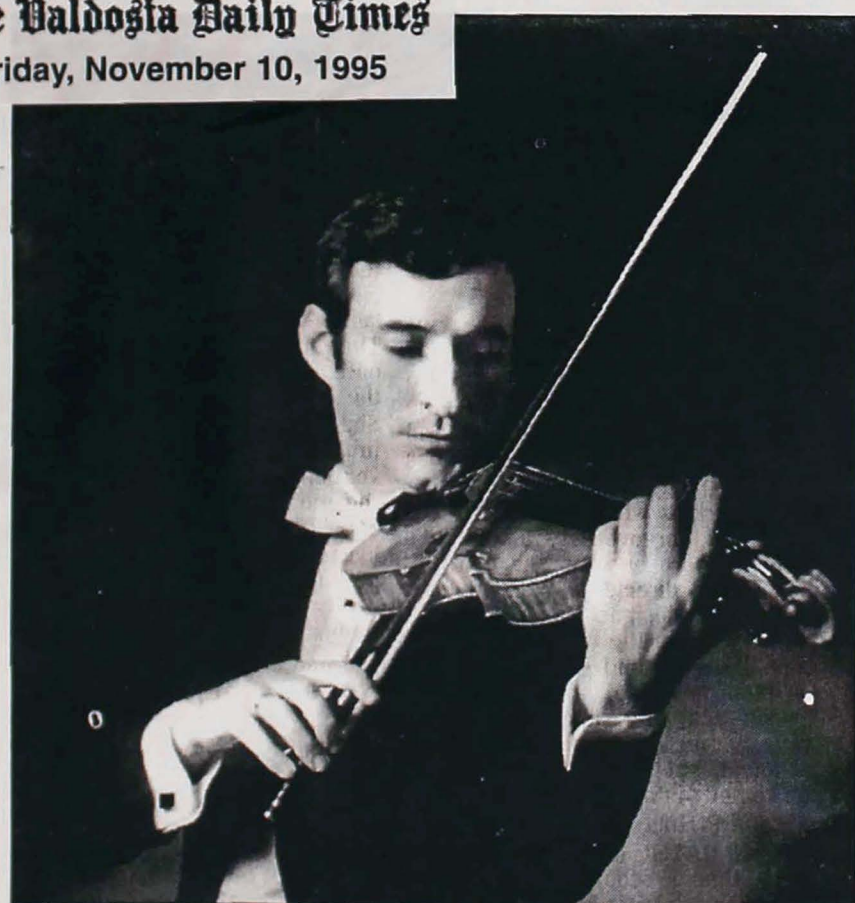
"He is an effective and dedicated spokesman for string education in our state," Plondke said.

The Clinic portion of Saturday's performance will include older members of the Valdosta Symphony Youth Orchestra and a few individual students who are participating in the Clinic weekend from other Georgia high schools. They will join the Walton High School Orchestra in the "Scherzo Theme from Mahler's First Symphony" and two pieces from the movie "Henry V" by the English composer, William Walton. The Marietta orchestra will also perform "Prelude on an Early American Folk Hymn" by Smith, "Fiddle Fiddle" by Leroy Anderson, "Psalm and Fugue" by Hovhaness, "Salzburg Symphony" by Mozart and special arrangement for strings of Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever."

On Monday, the Walton High School Orchestra will also present two demonstration concerts for area elementary schools. To promote string education in the South Georgia region, the orchestra will perform concerts for more than 1,000 children at Lake Park Elementary School and Hahira Elementary School. Both schools support new string classes in the South Georgia String Project, under the auspices of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

**The Valdosta Daily Times**

Friday, November 10, 1995



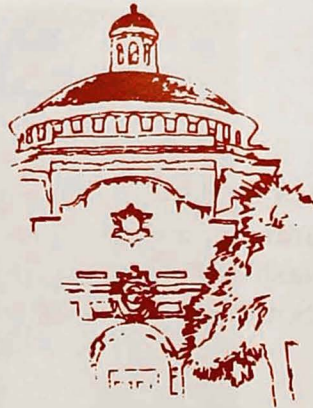
### Peter Zazofsky

The American virtuoso violinist, Peter Zazofsky, will be the featured soloist Saturday in the first concert of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's sixth annual subscription season. He will perform Dvorak's "Violin Concerto in A Minor" in the 8:15 p.m. concert. Zazofsky has performed with most of the major American orchestras as well as the Berlin Philharmonic and the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam. Zazofsky is a winner of the Montreal International Violin Competition and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, Belgium. Other featured works on the program include "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" by the French composer, Paul Dukas and "The Planets," by the English composer, Gustav Holst. The score of "The Planets" requires a very large orchestra. This concert will be the largest group of instrumentalists ever assembled for a Valdosta Symphony concert. The work also requires two unseen choirs of women's voices. The Symphony's concerts are usually held in Whitehead Auditorium on the Valdosta State University campus. However, because of the construction to Whitehead now in progress, the November concert will be held in the Valdosta State University's PE Complex. Tickets for the 1995-96 Subscription series or for the Saturday concert may be obtained at the VSU Radio House, 203 Brookwood Drive, or by calling 333-2150. — Contributed photo

**V**aldosta

**S**ymphony

**O**rchestra



**Sixth Season**  
**First Subscription Concert**  
**November 11, 1995**



Friday, November 10, 1995



## Symphony Ball

Valdosta Symphony Guild members, Pam Elkins and Janice Murphy, discuss reservations for the Symphony Ball. The Ball will take place Nov. 18 at the Valdosta Country Club. Proceeds from the Ball benefit the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. Reservations must be made by Monday. For ticket reservations and information, call Pam Elkins at 244-3775. — Contributed photo

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**The Valdosta Daily Times**

Friday, November 10, 1995



President Rose Ware and Vice President Lee Griffin of the Valdosta Symphony Guild admire an Eddie Norris watercolor donated by the artist for the auction held in conjunction with the ball. — Times photo by Paul Leavy



Enjoying the Symphony Ball are Gerri and Wade Coleman, Mary and Ed Crane, Sandy and Romulo Alvarado, Betty Dow and Charles Templeton. — Times photo by Paul Leavy

## Symphony Ball held

VALDOSTA — White lilies with natural accents such as twigs and Spanish moss along with antique candelabras helped create an elegant setting for the Valdosta Symphony Guild's Ball held Saturday night at the Valdosta Country Club.

More than 200 guests attended the dinner dance and auction which benefit the various programs and projects of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra such as the South Georgia String Project and the Youth Orchestra.

Valdosta attorney Wade Coleman, who serves as chairman of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra Advisory Board, welcomed attendees and

thanked them for their support. During the auction which followed, items such as an antique sideboard, vacations in Highlands, N.C., gourmet dinners and parties in the homes of guild members, and an Eddie Norris original watercolor made this portion of the benefit the most successful one yet, according to Guild member Ann Schutt.

Co-chairmen for the Ball were Rose Ware and Lee Griffin. Committee chairmen were Sue Cox and Sarah Ellerbee, auction; Sandy Alvarado and Gloria Price, decorations; Marilyn Henderson, favors; Sandra Fletcher, invitations; Judy Hinton, programs; Ms. Schutt, publicity; Pam Elkins, reservations and

tickets; Carolyn Eager and Laurie McCall, sponsors; and Nancy Dewar, storage.

The next scheduled performance of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is 7 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Valdosta State University P.E. Complex Gymnasium. A special Pops concert of favorite Christmas music which entire families can enjoy will make up the program for this performance, Ms. Schutt said.

Adult tickets are \$10 each, and student tickets are \$2 each. Tickets will be available at the door or in advance at First Federal Savings and Loan, NationsBank, First Union and Park Avenue Bank. Call 333-2150 for tickets.

*Symphony Ball*



*Valdosta Country Club*

*November 18, 1995*

**V**aldosta

**S**ymphony

**O**rchestra



*Christmas Pops!*

December 9, 1995

## Professional singer performing in Christmas Pops Concert Saturday

By JOE DUNLOP

**B**rand-new Valdostian Linda Edwards says she'll be able to return some of the favors she's received since moving from Dallas, Texas, when she sings with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra this weekend.

She'll be performing in the VSO's first Christmas Pops Concert at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Valdosta State University PE Complex Gymnasium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$2 for students.

For the performance, she'll be singing a variety of classical and traditional music including "Ave Maria," "Do You Hear What I Hear" and "Winter Wonderland."

Ms. Edwards has a long career in music, singing with different national symphonies and large churches. One career highlight came when Conductor Leonard Bernstein chose her to sing with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

in a performance of "Candide."

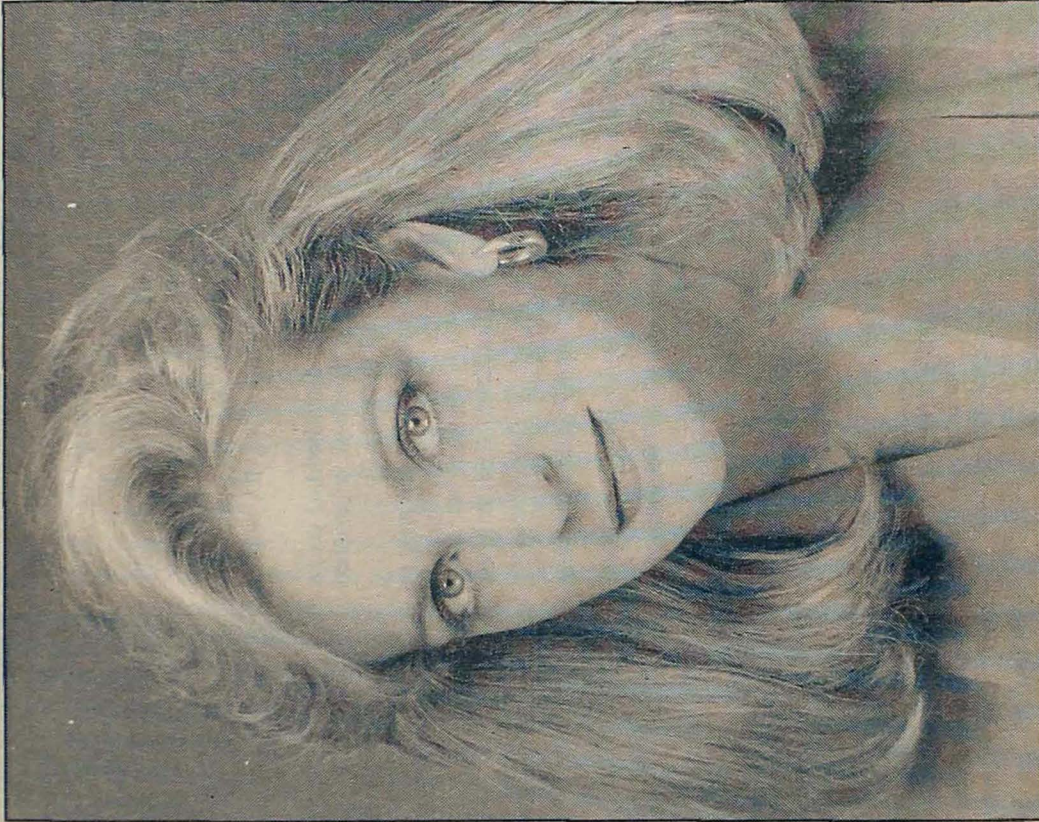
Having sung Bernstein's works to herself in the shower since she was a child, she said it was thrilling experience to have him congratulate her after the performance.

She moved to Valdosta this summer with her husband, Jette Campbell, vice president of The Griffin Corp.

She's looking forward to her first performance with the VSO and hopes to perform with them again, as well as other musicians at the university.

Ms. Edwards is a formally trained singer, with a music degree from Stetson University in Deland, Fla., and a master of music degree with honors in voice from Indiana University.

She has traveled extensively, singing in many musicals, including leading-lady performances in more than 30. She also has had non-musical roles, including "Steel Magnolias." She has a special love for music from the '30s, like the work of composer George Gershwin.



Linda Edwards, who has performed with national symphonies and large churches, will sing Saturday with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra in the VSO's first Christmas Pops Concert. — Contributed photo

She's dabbled with movie roles, but prefers the stage.

"In opera, when you're performing the work of a great performer, I sometimes think to myself, if the composer were sitting out in the audience, I'd want them to be happy with what I'm doing," said Ms. Edwards.

She also keeps in mind the real members of her audience.

"I play for the person in the audience who's never been to the theater and never seen a show before," she said, adding that she wants those people to have a great time and return.

The pops format, according to Ms. Edwards, is a great way to introduce people to the symphony and theatre — "It n't ordinarily come."



## Valdosta Symphony Orchestra performs

Dr. James Plondke, left, conductor of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, is joined prior to VSO's concert Saturday at Whitehead Auditorium by Dr. Robert Welch, center, dean of the Valdosta State University College of the Arts, and Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, president of VSU. — Times staff photo by Mike Tanner



Including the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra in their Saturday night plans are, from left, Jess Taylor, Jessica Sherer, Brooks Johnson, Ryan McDaniel, Ansley Barrett and Hannah Twitty. Ms. Sherer, Ms. Barrett and Ms. Twitty are also members of the Valdosta Youth Orchestra. — Times staff photo by Mike Tanner

**V**aldosta

**S**ymphony

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**Sixth Season  
Second Subscription Concert  
January 20, 1996**

### **ANDREAS KLEIN**

Due to sudden illness, Mr. Claude Frank is not able to perform with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra on this program. Literally on a day's notice, we are pleased to announce that we have arranged to have as a replacement, the eminent virtuoso Andreas Klein.

Andreas Klein is familiar to American audiences through the Public Broadcast System television series called "Intermezzo with Andreas Klein", now in the second year of production. His performances have also been widely broadcast over National Public Radio. Mr. Klein's career has included appearances with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Radio Symphony of Berlin, Stuttgart Radio Symphony as well as with many orchestras in the United States. A native of Germany, Dr. Klein is now based in Texas.

We greatly appreciate Dr. Klein's willingness to alter his own schedule to perform with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.



Polly Talley, left, and Jeanette Strickland, co-chairmen of Tablesapces and Tea, select china for the grand prize table. — Contributed photo

## 'Tablesapces and Tea' set Saturday

VALDOSTA — "Tablesapces and Tea," presented by the Valdosta Symphony Guild and co-sponsored by *Veranda* magazine, will take place Saturday at the Crescent in Valdosta.

This is the third year the Guild and *Veranda* have offered this event to the women of South Georgia and North Florida.

The theme this year is "Celebrations," and there will be 14 spectacular tables, each decorated for a special occasion, displayed throughout the first and second floors of The Crescent.

After viewing the tables, those attending will be served an elegant tea in the dining room of The Crescent.

The hours for Tablesapces and Tea are from 2 until 6 in the afternoon. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased from any Guild member by calling 333-2150 or at the door the day of the event.

All proceeds from Tablesapces and Tea will benefit the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. This year's co-chairmen are Polly Talley and Jeanette Strickland.

### Valdosta Symphony Guild

and

### Veranda Magazine

present

### "Tablesapces and Tea"

Admission \$15.00

- Grand Prize -

Service For Four - China - Herend, Silver - Gorham  
Crystal - Ralph Lauren, Linens - Varnedoes  
\$3,500 Value

Drawing to be held February 24, 1996 - 2 to 6 P.M.  
The Crescent

Do not have to be present to win - Donation \$5.00  
Grand Prize Tickets Available at: Girardin, Varnedoe,  
Betty Webb Collectibles and The Finishing Touch





The "Procediamo Con Lo Spettacolo" table, designed by Dorothy Pearlman and John Miller, director of design for R.C. Jones Int., features Platine d'Or china, Thai Vermaill silver and Baccarat Empire crystal glassware. Before the event, whether it be symphony or the theatre, preface that occasion with the theatrical table setting for an elegant supper. The mirrored table top over gold lame skirt-ing sets the tone to use place-ments of his or your favorite classical music. The cream china features gold and platinum bandings. The repetition of the theme is played out in silver goblets, filled with Russian caviar and a center-piece fashioned from a silver champagne bucket, brimming with two dozen cream roses and pheasant feathers. The demitasse cups were a gift from HFH Prince Khalil Fasi-al Saud.

## 'Tablescapes and Tea'

*presented recently by Valdosta Symphony  
Guild and Veranda Magazine at The  
Crescent to benefit the Valdosta Symphony  
Orchestra. Photos by Craig Packham*

At right, the "Celebrate Easter" table, designed by Kay Jennett, features Coalport china, Du Barry silver by International and Lismore crystal/glassware by Waterford. After the Easter Egg Hunt, follow the bunny trail to a celebration brunch under the Easter Egg Tree. Chairs with hand-painted rabbits surround the table covered with an unusual circle design antique quilt in pastel colors. The leafy design of the china and overall floral pattern of the flatware emphasize the feeling of spring.





The "Bridal Party" table, designed by Valdosta Greenhouses (Jane Stanaland and Lynn Petermann), is accented with Nantucket Basket china by Wedgewood, Chantilly silver by Gorham and sterling silver goblets by Alvin. The table features a delicate pink and white skirt overlaid with a crisp, white Battenburg lace cloth and matching napkins. White metal ribbon candlesticks hold tall pink tapers, garlanded with pink French silk ribbons and pink crimped paper shreds.

The "Wild Things Prowling" table was designed by Betty Webb. "Jaguar Jungle," a hand-painted porcelain china by Lynn Chase LTD, captures the colorful beauty of the South American rain forest on a wide black border edged with burnished gold. On each piece of the place setting, sleek jaguars are surrounded by birds and flowers of the jungle.





*The Valdosta Symphony Guild  
and  
Veranda Magazine*

*Present*

*Tablesapes  
and Tea*

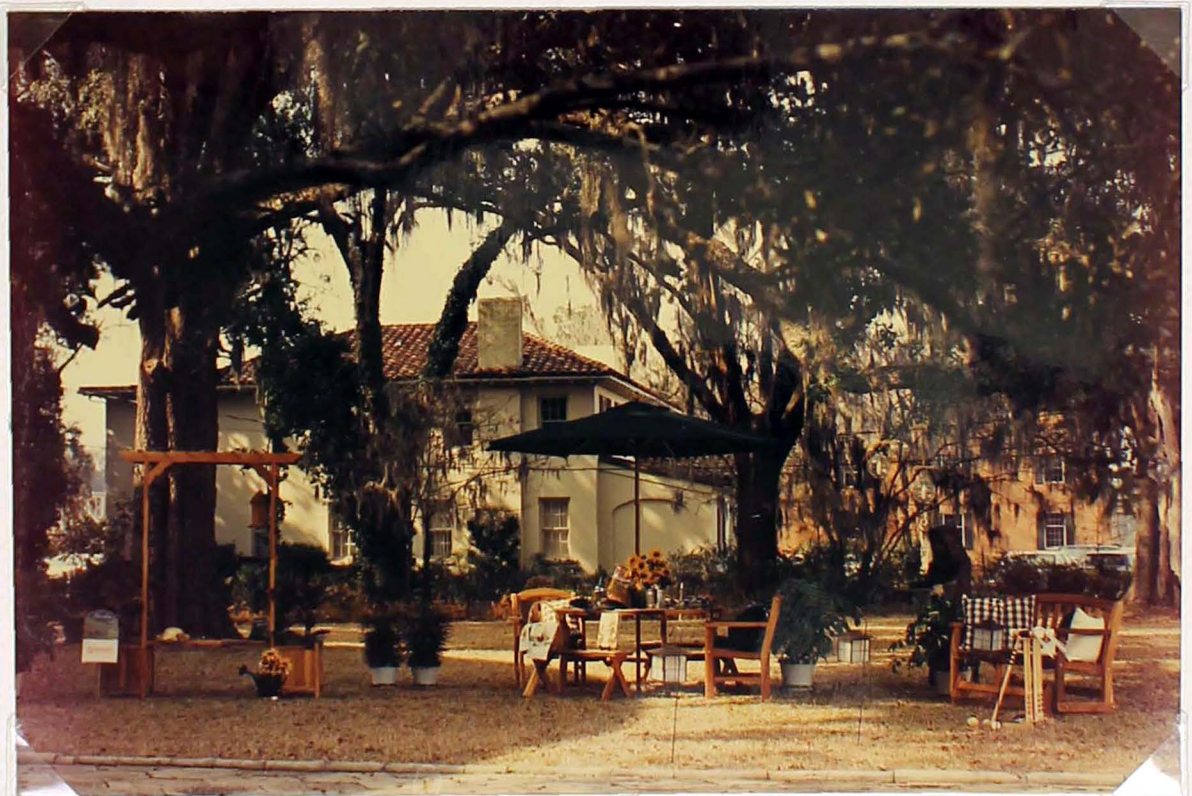
*Benefitting*

*Valdosta Symphony Orchestra*

*February 24, 1996*

*The Present*



















**V**aldosta  
**S**ymphony  
**O**rchestra



**Sixth Season  
Third Subscription Concert  
March 9, 1996**

**The Valdosta Daily Times**

**8-A Friday, March 8, 1996**

## **Cellist Starker performing with Valdosta Symphony Saturday**

By **BEN BUTLER**  
Times Staff Writer

Janos Starker, virtuoso cellist and teacher will highlight the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's performance at 8:15 p.m. Saturday.

"He's recognized as one of the finest cellists of the century," said Dr. James Plondke, conductor and artistic director for the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

Born in Budapest in 1924, Starker studied at the Franz Liszt Academy before World War II. During the war, Starker was detained for a time in a Nazi work camp. He survived the experience and left Hungary for France in 1946.

In 1948, Starker came to the U.S. and for the next ten years, performed as principal cellist in the Dallas Symphony, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony.

While not touring or recording, Starker holds the position of distinguished professor at Indiana University.

Since returning to a solo career in 1958, Starker has played thousands of concerts worldwide, according to a press release.

"He is known for his clarity," Dr. Plondke said. "He has great rhythmic precision and a highly precise, personal playing style. He has a deep understanding of the music and great control of the instrument."

Starker will perform "Roman Carnival Overture" by Berlioz, "Concerto in A Minor" by Camille Saint-Saens and "Symphony No. 7 in A



**STARKER**

Major" by Ludwig Van Beethoven.

Starker's career spans five decades and the Hungarian-born cellist has performed on more than 165 recordings.

Starker has received acclaim for his recordings since the late '40s when he won France's Grand Prix du Disque. More recently, he received Grammy nominations in 1990 and 1993 for his interpretations of the works of Popper and Martinu.

Dr. Plondke, who has heard Starker perform on several occasions, described his work as "superb, focused, vibrant and beautiful."

Dr. Plondke added, "People will understand when they hear him. It's really something you can't translate into words."

Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased at the College of the Arts Office (203 Brookwood Dr.) or reserved by calling 333-2151.

**V**aldosta  
**S**ymphony  
**O**rchestra



**Sixth Season  
Fourth Subscription Concert  
May 4, 1996**

**SOLOIST**



**Ralph Votapek**

Ralph Votapek's distinguished concert career began auspiciously as the first Gold Medalist in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, this country's most prestigious competition for pianists. He was also a winner of the Naumburg Award. Mr. Votapek has appeared with most of this country's major orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony (sixteen appearances with this orchestra alone), the New York Philharmonic, and the Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as the Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and National Symphonies. Abroad, Mr. Votapek's concerto appearances have included London, Lisbon, St. Petersburg, and the Far East. He has made a special commitment to performances in Latin America, presenting recitals and concertos in biennial tours over the past three decades. Please welcome Palph Votapek to Valdosta.

SYMPHONY GUILD

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# Guild sponsors events to raise money for Symphony

By BEN BUTLER  
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Symphony Guild is an organization whose primary purpose is to support the Valdosta Symphony.

Throughout the year, the Guild sponsors events to raise money.

"(Profits from ticket sales) don't nearly cover expenses," said Camille Peeples, co-chair of the Guild's publicity committee. "We raised, last year, right at \$40,000."

All funds go to guest artists and professional musicians the Symphony brings to Valdosta, Mrs. Peeples added.

As a prelude to the Symphony's Nov. 2 performance of Beethoven's Ninth, the guild will unveil the first Valdosta Symphony Orchestra posters.

The posters are prints of an Earle McKey original, "Azalea and Honeysuckle Vines," from the collection of Dr. and Mrs. John Steedley.

The Guild will sell 1,000 limited edition prints for \$20 each.

On Nov. 16, the guild will sponsor the sixth annual Symphony Ball at the Valdosta Country Club. There will be cocktails served at 7 p.m., dinner at 8 p.m. and an auction and dancing to follow. The cost of the Ball is \$50 per person.

The auction includes three original works donated by Georgia artists, antique furniture, dinner parties and golf weekends.

In the spring, the Guild will sponsor "Two Gala Events at the Crescent."

"Tablescapes and Tea," from 2-5 p.m. April 5, 1997, offers community organizations the opportunity to decorate tables according to a theme.

At 7 p.m. the Guild will offer a gourmet dinner at the Crescent. "Tablescapes by Candlelight" offers gourmet food and live entertainment. There are a limited number of seats available, and tickets are \$100 each.

The Valdosta Symphony Guild also sponsors several events designed to increase community involvement.

The orchestra performs youth concerts for area schools on the Friday before each performance. The youth concerts include excerpts from the upcoming show with comments from the orchestra's director, Dr. James Plondke.

"This is a wonderful program, not just for the community, but for the whole area," said Martha Blackburn, co-chair of the Guild's publicity committee.

There are already 1,000 on the

waiting list for the youth concert.

"We've gone from no interest to tremendous interest," Mrs. Peeples said.

There are plans to increase the number of youth concerts, she added.

In addition, the Guild sponsors "Tots & Tunes," a program targeted at children ages 5-7, and "Spaghetti & Strings," a new effort to increase interest in the community among young adults.

For more information about the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and Guild, call Martha Blackburn at 244-2650 or Camille Peeples at 242-4442.



*Valdosta Symphony Orchestra*

*1996 - 1997*



Dr. John Steedley, left, and Polly Talley talk with artist Earle McKey about the print that the Symphony Guild is selling.  
— Times photo by Paul Leavy



## Valdosta Symphony Orchestra unveils its first poster for sale

Before a capacity audience, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra unveiled its first poster ever on opening night of the 1996-97 concert season Saturday on the stage of Whitehead Auditorium.

The poster features a copy of the Earle McKey original, "Azalea & Honeysuckle Vines," from the collection of Dr. and Mrs. John Steedley. The display poster was framed courtesy of Ashley Glass & Mirror Company.

On stage for the presentation of the poster were Sue Cox and Polly Talley, ways and means co-chairmen of the Valdosta Symphony Guild. The Steedleys and McKey were present for the unveiling and were recognized by those present for their generous contribution to the future of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra,

said Martha Blackburn, publicity co-chairman of the guild.

The guild will have 1,000 copies of the poster for sale. Also available will be note paper with the same azalea motif. This is a major fund-raiser for the Valdosta Symphony Guild whose primary purpose is to support the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

Posters and note paper will be on sale at the following locations: Art South, University Park, 906 Slater St.; Covington's; Betty Webb Ltd.; and That Finishing Touch.

All Valdosta Symphony Guild members will be selling the posters and note paper. For corporate or special orders, contact Polly Talley, tel. 244-4049 or Mary June Higgins, tel. 245-1906.

Valdosta Symphony Guild  
requests the pleasure of your company  
at the 1996

# *Symphony Ball*

*For Benefit of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra*

on

Saturday, the sixteenth of November

at the

Valdosta Country Club

7:00 Cocktails (by subscription)

8:00 Dinner

9:00 Auction & Dancing

\$50 per person

*Black Tie*

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# *Symphony Ball*



*Valdosta Country Club*

*November 16, 1996*

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# Symphony Ball

The annual Symphony Ball is given by the Valdosta Symphony Guild for the benefit of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

Last Saturday's event at the Valdosta Country Club included an auction, dinner and dancing, according to Martha Blackburn and Camille Peeples, publicity co-chairmen for the guild.

Times  
photos  
by  
Paul  
Leavy



Jerry and Kay Jennett dance to the music in the ballroom at the Valdosta Country Club.



Partygoers get ready to sit down and enjoy their meal.



Donald and Janice Murphy look over paintings that were auctioned that night.



From left, Dee Broadfoot, Georgia Thomson and Judy and Jim Hinton socialize during the happy hour before dinner.











# VSO performs Feb. 1

By **BEN BUTLER**  
Times Staff Writer

**A**rriba! The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's upcoming performance, "Spain — The French View," will present three popular symphonic works on Spanish subjects, all composed by Frenchmen.

"Spain was an alluring and exotic destination in the inventive mind of romantic French composers," said symphony conductor James Plondke. "Many works were composed to Spanish subjects. Our concert will present three of the most famous — a French travelogue of Spain for the ear."

The VSO will perform "Rapsodie Espagnole" by Maurice Ravel, "Symphonie Espagnole" by Eduoard Lalo and the symphonic suite from "Carmen" by Georges Bizet in a performance Saturday in Valdosta State University's Whitehead Auditorium.

The performance begins at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

Accompanying the VSO for the second time as soloist will be violinist Stephanie Chase.

Ms. Chase, heralded by *The New York Times* as "one of the violin greats of our time," has performed in some of the world's finest orchestras including the Chicago Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the London Symphony and the Hong Kong Philharmonic.

She was a bronze medalist at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, the world's most prestigious solo competition for young musicians. She is also the winner of the Avery Fischer Award for

Career Performers.

Ms. Chase will perform Lalo's "Spanish Symphony" for solo violin and orchestra.

A player of great technical ability, Ms. Chase's performances are "accurate and clean," Dr. Plondke said.

"(The piece) is more a concerto than a symphony," Dr. Plondke said. "The work uses a vast array of characteristic violin techniques."

The work is also filled with melodies "sung" in an expressive manner by the violin, Dr. Plondke said.

"The melodies are of Lalo's invention, but sound as though they could be Spanish folk tunes," he said.

Another work in the program, Ravel's "Spanish Rhapsody," is a kind of concerto for the entire orchestra, Dr. Plondke said.

"Every section of the orchestra has important solo passages," he added. Much like Lalo's work, Spanish rhythms pervade the "Spanish Rhapsody."

After the intermission, the VSO will perform the most famous orchestral passages from one of the most famous operas of all time.

Bizet's "Carmen," written in 1875, contains folk dances, a bull fight and children at play all with a Spanish flare.

"In all the repertoire, these are among the most beloved melodies which our audience will readily recognize," Dr. Plondke said. "Many of the VSO's members will be featured, especially in the woodwind section of the orchestra."

Tickets are available from the ArtSouth office (906 Slater St.) or by calling 333-2150.

**The Valdosta Daily Times**

8-A Friday, January 31, 1997



Violinist Stephanie Chase will be the guest soloist when the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra performs Saturday in Valdosta State University's Whitehead Auditorium. — Contributed photo



*Valdosta Symphony Orchestra*

*1996 - 1997*

# Acclaimed pianist performing with Symphony Orchestra

By **BEN BUTLER**  
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra will host renowned pianist Ruth Laredo Saturday in its third concert of the subscription series.

Hailed as "America's first lady of the piano" by the *New York Daily News*, Ms. Laredo has played all over the United States and the world in the most prestigious venues.

Born in Detroit, Ms. Laredo started playing piano at age 2 and a half and has played all her life.

"I was drawn to the piano early," she said. "I just always played."

She has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Library of Congress and the White House.

Ms. Laredo will perform the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major with the VSO.

In addition the Orchestra will perform Brahms' First Symphony and the overture from Verdi's opera, "La Forza del Destino" (The Force of Destiny).

The performance is at 8:15 p.m. Saturday in Whitehead Auditorium. Tickets for the program \$15 each and are available at the office of ArtSouth (906

Slater St.).

According to orchestra director Dr. James Plondke, Ms. Laredo is a noted romantic interpreter. She is most noted for her recordings of the complete solo piano works of Rachmaninoff and the complete piano sonatas of Scriabin.

However, she's no stranger to Mozart, either.

"People don't have to have just one thing," she said. "I love Mozart and this is one of his most gorgeous concertos."

Nor is she limited to classical piano.

Ms. Laredo just finished a week of performances featuring classical works on the same playbill with works by jazz greats Duke Ellington and Thelonius Monk even though she does not consider herself a jazz musician.

"She's extremely versatile and we felt like with our large orchestra, she would be the perfect choice to introduce this very famous concerto by Mozart," Dr. Plondke said.

Ms. Laredo is confident that anyone with an interest in Mozart will enjoy the show.

"It's just the most beautiful, perfect world that Mozart creates," she said.

For ticket information call ArtSouth at 333-2150.

**The Valdosta Daily Times**  
10-A Friday, March 14, 1997



► At right, renowned pianist Ruth Laredo will be featured when the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra performs Saturday at Valdosta State University.



*Valdosta Symphony Orchestra*

*1996 - 1997*



*The Valdosta Symphony Guild*

*and*

*Veranda Magazine*

*present*

# *Tablescapes and Tea*

*Benefitting*

*Children's Programs*

*of the*

*Valdosta Symphony Orchestra*



*Saturday ~ April 5, 1997*

*The Crescent*

*'Tablescapes  
and Tea'*

# LifeTimes

The Valdosta Daily Times

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

B



Margaret Ellis and Robitoy Farquhar look over 'Dinner at Eight' during the Tablescapes and Tea at the Crescent Saturday afternoon. Lee Griffin chose a number of family heirlooms for her special dinner. Her table features four, seven-branch gold candelabrum and her centerpiece of dendrobium orchids complement her wine and aqua-bordered china, 'Minton Ancestral.' The silver is Gorham 'Buttercup,' and the silver goblets are an antique silver pattern by International.

'Senator and Mrs. West Entertain' by Jeanne Rountree. Designer: Sue Cox. China: Bavarian by Hutschenreuther. Silver: Gorham 'Buttercup.' Crystal: Waterford 'Alana.' This table setting is in keeping with the period in which The Crescent was designed and built. The Bavarian china was handpainted by Lydia Lycett of Atlanta and was very much in vogue. The silver flatware features 'Buttercup,' one of the earliest patterns made by Gorham. A Victorian-styled silver footed reflector and silver basket are used in the floral arrangement.



By DOROTHY B. BROWN  
Times Correspondent

**T**he Valdosta Symphony Guild held its annual "Tablescapes and Tea" Saturday at The Crescent.

That night, the Guild also sponsored its first gourmet dinner benefit at the Crescent.

The 12 exquisitely decorated tables created for the "Tablescapes and Tea" became "Tablescapes by Candlelight" and were used for the dinner. Rose Ware served as chairperson for the dinner and gathered some of Valdosta's finest gourmet chefs to serve on her committee. Sue Cox and Polly Talley are the Guild's Ways and Means Committee, Beth Thornton and Cathy Bradley were responsible for the Tablescapes and Tea, and Judy Hinton is the president of the Guild.

These events are the Guild's major fund-raisers and support the orchestra and the outstanding program of music for children.

Martha Blackburn, assisted by Oris Blackburn, Wilby and Gloria Coleman, and Bubber and Tootsie Tillman, planned the predominately French menu and prepared the food for the five-course dinner. Also serving on the dinner food committee were Gloria Price, Sarah Ellerbee, Betty Bechtel and Ann Schutt of Valdosta and Frances Copeland and Mary Alice Lewis of Madison, Fla.

Some of the highlights of the meal were the French pate a choux, served during the cocktail hour and the first course which consisted of roasted red pepper, eggplant, goat cheese terrine and focaccia bread with olives. The main course consisted of a rolled tenderloin of beef stuffed with sundried tomatoes and parsley with a bordelaise sauce and grilled polenta garnished with a tomato coulis with an abundance of arugula dressed with sherry vinegar. A program of light dinner music was played throughout the evening.

All five courses were served with an appropriate and carefully selected wine. The herbs came from O'Toole's Herb Farm in Madison and were picked up the day of the dinner to assure complete freshness. The breads were baked by the Blackburns. This "Festival of Food, Wine and Music" was a sell-out and will probably be added to the spring benefit permanently.

Among those attending were Valdosta State University President Dr. Hugh Bailey and his wife, Joan, and Dr. James Plondke, director of the Symphony, and his wife, Jean. Serving the diners were The Ambassadors, a select group of students from VSU, assisted by Phi Mu sorority. A large table of Madison, Fla., residents also attended.



**'Dinner with Family' by Mary Blackmon. China: Grandmother's Haviland, handpainted china; Spode 'Passion Flower' and Royal Doulton 'English Renaissance.' Silver: Reed & Barton 'Spanish Baroque' and Reed & Barton 'Frances I.' Crystal: Royal Doulton 'Gold Renaissance,' Lenox 'Mansfield' and Turkish crystal. Ms. Blackmon chose an antique, lace and cutwork-designed cloth for her dining table which features family treasures. The cut-glass centerpiece belonged to Ms. Blackmon's grandmother.**



*Tablescapes By Candlelight*  
*"A Festival of Food, Wine and Music"*

*Cocktails*

*Pâté à Choux Puffs*

*Roasted Red Pepper Eggplant  
and Goat Cheese Terrine  
with Parsley Sauce*

*Focaccia with Olives*

*Vin du Pays*

*Potage Crêcy - Carrot Soup  
with Crème Fraîche*

*Rollled Tenderloin of Beef  
with Bordelaise Sauce*

*Polenta with Tomato Coulis*

*Arugula*

*1994 Côte-du-Rhône - E. Guigal*

*Chocolats Marquise  
with Crème Anglaise Armagnac  
and Candied Orange Zest*

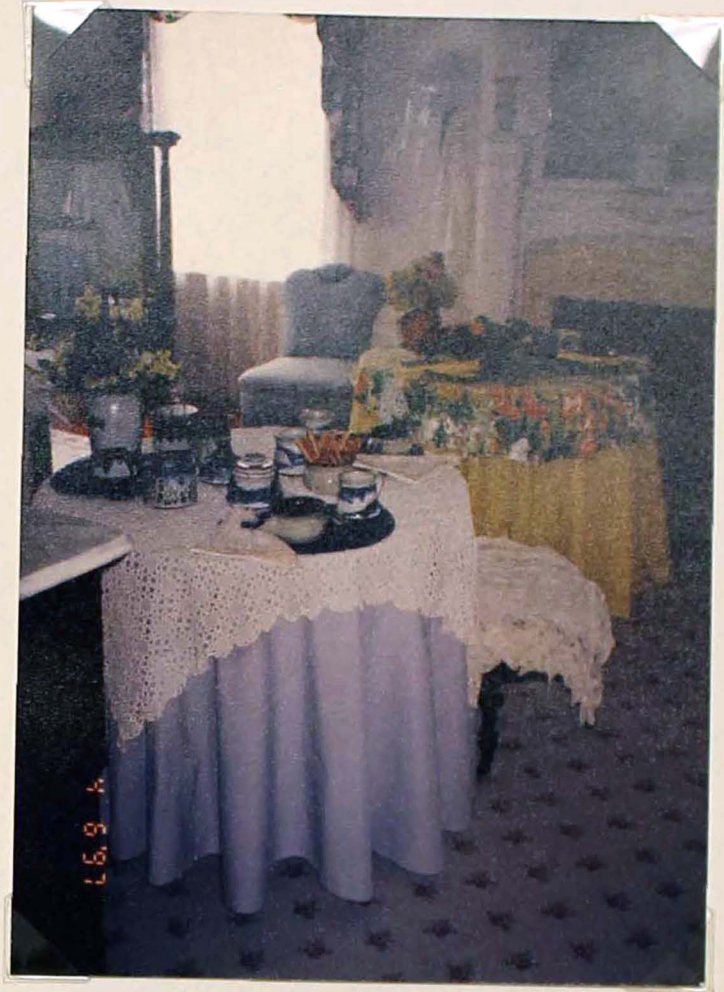
*Brandy Snaps*

*Port and Coffee*



Dressed in their chef uniforms, from left, Oris Blackburn, Bubber Tillman, Wilby Coleman and Martha Blackburn prepare the food for the gourmet dinner Saturday night which followed "Tablescapes and Tea."

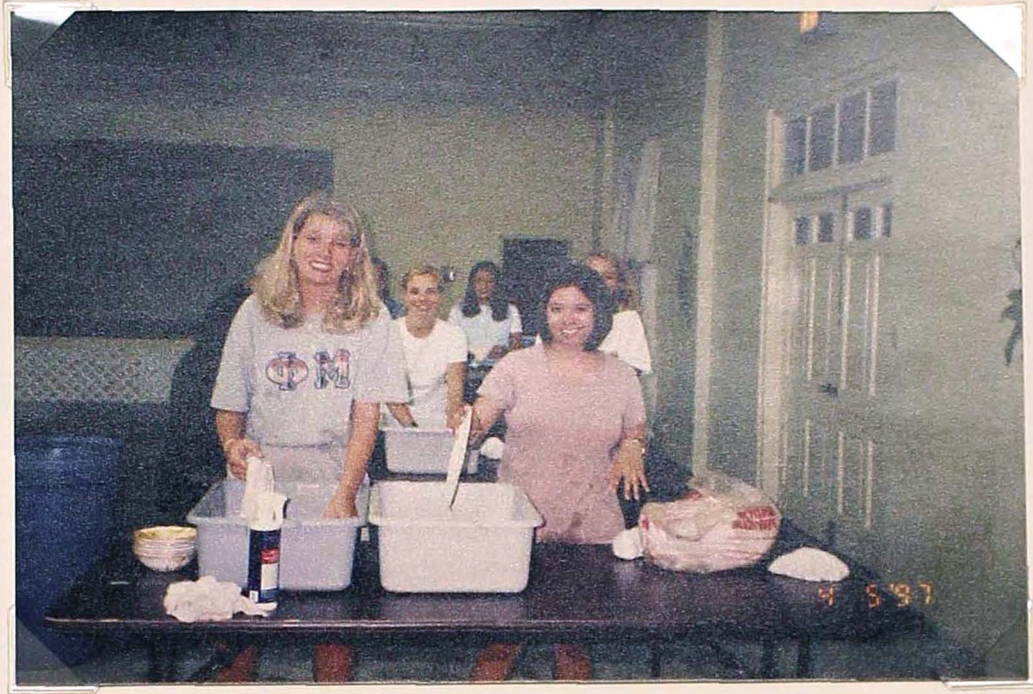














*You are cordially invited to a Tea  
Welcoming*

*New Symphony Guild Members*

*Sunday, May Fourth*

*three until five o'clock*

*The Landmark - 110 North Patterson Street*

*Resp Rose Ware 244-5117*

*Judy Hinton 247-2594*

*Introduction of new members at 4:30*





Valdosta State University  
College of the Arts  
Department of Music

*South Georgia String Project and  
Valdosta Symphony Youth Orchestras*

**SPRING STRING EXTRAVAGANZA  
CONCERT**

**Hahira Elementary School Strings  
Hahira Middle School Strings  
Lake Park Elementary School Strings  
Lowndes Middle School Strings  
Parker-Mathis Elementary School Strings  
St. John's Catholic School Strings  
Valwood School Strings  
VSU Arts Academy Strings**

**The Valdosta Symphony Youth Orchestras  
The Philharmonia Strings  
The Concert Strings  
The Chamber Strings**

Thursday, May 29, 1997  
University Center  
Magnolia Room  
7:00 PM