

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 28, 2023

**Francesco Lecce-Chong conducts the Santa Rosa Symphony  
for the final 2022-2023 Season Family Series Concert *Becoming Mozart***

*Travel through time and learn of Mozart's journey to becoming a classical music icon*

**April 16, 2023 at 3 pm, Weill Hall, Green Music Center**

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — The Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS), conducted by Francesco Lecce-Chong presents *Becoming Mozart* the third and final performance in this season's Family Concert Series. Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 3:00 pm, Weill Hall, Green Music Center. Joining him will be Elizabeth Prior, viola, and SRS Artistic Partner, and Jeff Coté, actor. Highlights of the performance begin with the opening notes of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* through the final excerpt of the "Jupiter" Symphony with overtures of *Don Giovanni* and *Marriage of Figaro* and several concertos featuring SRS musicians in-between. The concert runs for approximately 60 minutes. Affordable tickets are \$20/per adult and \$10/per child. Complimentary Instrument Petting Zoo with a plethora of orchestral instruments begins at 2 pm.

While the orchestra performs more than nineteen excerpts of his quintessential works, learn of Mozart's journey to becoming a classical music icon, from his humble beginnings, through his struggles and triumphs. With history, drama, music, and fun, this engaging concert is an ideal addition to all children's education.

*"Our Principal Violist, Elizabeth Prior, and I look forward to co-hosting a family concert celebrating Mozart through his own letters. His letters give us the best insight into this brilliant prodigy - his hopes, dreams, successes, failures... and infectious sense of humor. Concert-goers of all ages will enjoy some of Mozart's greatest musical creations as well as see several of our musicians take turns in the spotlight."* **Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

**INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO**

This concert also includes a complimentary Instrument Petting Zoo, which provides an opportunity for youngsters (and curious adults) to handle and play with a plethora of orchestral instruments including violins, cellos and trombones. Starts at 2 pm.

**PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:**

**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor  
**Elizabeth Prior**, violinist, and SRS Artistic Partner  
**Jeff Coté**, actor

*Excerpts from;*  
*Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*

Symphony No. 1  
String Quartet in D Major  
Overture to *Lucia Silla*  
Violin Concerto, No.3  
Piano concerto K271 in e flat major  
“Table Music” Flute Concerto No. 1 in G  
“Paris” Symphony No. 31  
Sinfonia Concertante  
Overture to *Idomeneo*  
Abduction of the Seraglio No. 11  
String Quartet K. 168  
Piano Concerto No. 20  
Overture to *Marriage of Figaro*  
Overture to *Don Giovanni*  
Piano Concerto No.17 in G major  
Clarinet Concerto in A major  
“Jupiter” Symphony No. 41

### **BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Elizabeth Prior**, viola and Artistic Partner

Santa Rosa Symphony Principal Violist Elizabeth Prior is the 2022-2023 Season Artistic Partner. As such, Prior, in addition to performing in the December concert for Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Flos Campi* [*Flower of the Field*]: Suite for Viola, Orchestra and Chorus, will develop a Santa Rosa Symphony Family Concert, serve as a visible ambassador for the orchestra, and to the Symphony's patrons and donors. Prior has been the principal violist with the Symphony for 11 years. She is also a member of the New Century Chamber Orchestra, a season substitute with the San Francisco Ballet, and associate principal violist with the Marin Symphony. She also performs regularly with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony. A native of South Africa, she was a prizewinner in the International String Competition in Pretoria and gave her debut at Carnegie Hall with the Russian Chamber Orchestra.

**Jeff Coté**, actor

Jeff Coté, theater actor and Board President of 6th Street Playhouse in Santa Rosa, has performed in numerous productions in Sonoma County venues, such as 6th Street Playhouse, Lincoln Arts Center, and Spreckles Performing Arts Center with roles including Rooster Hannigan in "Annie" and Bob Cratchit in "A Christmas Carol." In addition, Coté narrated "Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill" at the Cinnabar Theater. Upcoming roles include Atticus in "To Kill a Mockingbird" at 6th Street Playhouse. A 1988 Santa Rosa High School graduate, Coté studied music with Dan Earl and theater with Elizabeth Craven. He continued his theater studies at Sonoma State University, graduating with a minor in 1992 before earning an MFA in Acting from Indiana University.

### **SPONSORS:**

The 2022-2023 Santa Rosa Symphony Family Series is sponsored by **The Alan and Susan Seidenfeld Charitable Trust**, and **Victor and Karen Trione**.

High-res photos and interview opportunities: Francesco Lecce-Chong, Elizabeth Prior

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

**WHAT:** [Santa Rosa Symphony Family Series “Becoming Beethoven”](#)

**WHO:** [Santa Rosa Symphony](#)  
[Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor](#)

Elizabeth Prior

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 3:00 pm, doors at 1:30 pm. (Instrument Petting Zoo at 2:00 pm)

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

**TICKET PRICES:**

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

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

**ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY**

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California, and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong, the Symphony's fifth music director in its 95 years, began his tenure in 2018. Alan Silow, President & CEO, began his tenure in 2002. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education and community service.

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

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

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

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