

San Bernardino Symphony: It was exciting! - Highland Community News: Entertainment

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By EmmaMae
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The one word to describe the San Bernardino Symphony Concert last Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, is “exciting!” The evening began with a “passing of the torch” from Judith Valles, now immediate past president of the Board of Directors, to Dean McVey— As he spoke, he demonstrated the creative spirit he brings to the Symphony Board.

Then, just a look at the stage with the full orchestra assembling, and two raised towers for the Big Drum, and on the other side of the stage, colorful bongos and a gong (later used during the concert.)

Maestro Anthony Parnther, took command center stage to a round of applause.

All the music was stirring, beginning with Aaron Copeland’s Fanfare for the Common Man.

Then the Tchaikovsky played brilliantly, received a standing ovation. After intermission, the audience was ready for the very special California premier of Big Sur: the Night Sun, with exciting choreography. Soloist Kenyon Sayers-Rood was outstanding with her lovely voice and bird songs. Her large white hat was symbolic of the moon, and missed during the final bows. Emiliano Campobello, Native Flute and Viviane Guzman, flute, both in striking, pure, white costumes stage right, and stage left; percussionists Marcie Chapa and Jayson Fann were in their places on the platforms above the orchestra.

Composer John Wineglass, took his position at the Steinway Grand Piano, to welcoming applause.

As with the opening selections, the audience was enthralled with this tribute to California’s Big Sur.

Igor Stravinsky’s Berceuse, from The Firebird, brought the audience to the third standing ovation with “Bravo! and Bravissimo!” echoing through the theatre.

The next conductors in these two years of auditions for the choice of a permanent musical director to follow popular Frank Fetta will have a very high standard to meet. This was definitely Maestro Anthony Parnther’s evening to remember. He was in command from the moment he walked onto the stage!

Dec. 2, 2017, Corey Hirsch will be the next guest conductor, with a concert of Holiday Scenes. He, too, has many awards and credits for his work, as has each of the 10 candidates for the permanent position.

The audience will again have a survey to take to assist in the final choice. Season tickets are still available at the California Theatre. Call (909) 381-5388.