



November 15, 2022

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**Artistic Director**

Dear Friends of Santa Barbara Strings,

Our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality music education to young string players continues, unwavering. We were pleased to be nominated, once again, as 'Best of Santa Barbara – Independent Magazine' Classical Ensemble and honored to have received the 'Runner Up' designation having competed against many adult, professional community ensembles!

Our current season is well underway with El Montecito Presbyterian Church serving as gracious host. This season is one of growth for both our students and our program. Three levels of string orchestras: Toccatà, Sinfonietta, and Vivace rehearse weekly as do our chamber ensembles. Our chamber music students will participate in a master class in December and then perform in recital in the spring. Over the summer, a new program called the 'Early Strings Training Program' was designed to serve as a launchpad for families of beginners in need of instruments, private lessons, and monthly group instruction. This new program encompasses families of all socioeconomic backgrounds and involves five of our string faculty members providing both one-on-one instruction and group lessons under the directorship of teaching artist, Isaac Kay. We have been especially grateful to have this program inclusive of many families for whom private instruction would not have been a financial possibility.

We just concluded one of our favorite rehearsals of the season, our Halloween celebration in which all orchestras participate in costume and perform pieces such as 'Rosin Eating Zombies from Outer Space' and an 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish round converted into 'Spooky Spiders' with specialized string techniques taught to include as many haunted sounds as possible. Repertoire to be performed on our upcoming December 11<sup>th</sup> Winter Concert includes Grieg's 'Holberg Suite' and Mozart's only work composed for string orchestra, the 'Adagio and Fugue'.

Every year, we are gratefully stunned for the willingness and commitment of people like you, who support our work. Our tuition fees only cover approximately 30-40% of our operating budget in any given year. A quote from our board president, Linda Burrows, "Artistic Director Mary Beth Woodruff is a rarity - a world class artist who has created a heralded career as a soloist, chamber player, concert master **and** a world class music educator whose passion for music and the positive development of young people transforms their lives as they study and perform music in the dynamic multi-tiered progressive orchestras and chamber groups of her signature program, Santa Barbara Strings." Our mission is not just to train string players at the highest level but it is to use the power of music to work towards empathy, teamwork, resiliency; to create a human voice of wholeness, unity and one aimed towards beauty itself. As with many non-profit youth organizations, we keep tuition low so that our programs will be accessible to as many families as possible and we provide financial assistance where needed. **Therefore, we need your help to keep our program going!** Please consider a tax-deductible donation to Santa Barbara Strings. Your gift today allows us to continue enriching the lives of young people in our community. Thank you for your support!

Very Truly Yours,

The Santa Barbara Strings Board of Directors