A Campaign for UCSB Arts & Lectures Concert
Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott Create Musical Euphoria!

Hearing The World Differently
Review by Daniel Kepl / CASA

WIDE-RANGING, culture-busting infatuation with human diversity distinguishes Yo-Yo Ma as one of the great cellists of this or any generation, and also one of the most spirited humanists. His performances, regardless of the repertoire, celebrate a Silk Road of worldwide artistic consonance and cultural conflation. Appearing in recital at the Granada Theatre last Thursday with his long time recital partner, pianist Kathryn Stott, Yo-Yo Ma performed a program that was subtle, even a little quirky, but consistently offered the listener fresh opportunity to hear things differently.

Captivating a full house with an evening of arrangements, Ma’s objective might have been to refresh listeners’ aural perception of the already familiar. Igor Stravinsky’s Suite italienne for Violin and Piano (1932-33), for example, is the composer’s re-coloring of five sections from his popular 1920 ballet Pulcinella. The last work on the program was Johannes Brahms’ Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 108 for Violin and Piano, re-voiced for cello, and Manuel de Falla’s Siete canciones populares españolas, G. 40 (1914) expressed the vocal line through the cello, leaving the texts of the seven songs to the imagination. Arrangements for cello and piano of dances by Heitor Villa-Lobos (Alma brasileira), Astor Piazzola (O’Ninio), and Camargo Guarnieri (Danza negra), and Olivier Messiaen’s apocryphal Louange à l’Éternité de Jésus from his Quartet for the End of Time – the only piece on the program written specifically for cello and piano – gave the audience ample pause to reflect on borders and boundaries.

Walking onto the Granada stage like the comfortable friends they are, the two greeted the audience with disarming smiles of real pleasure then quickly dug into the Introduzione of the Stravinsky suite. Pointillist clarity, in consort with neo-classic execution and wit, gave the movement an irresistible energy. Pianist and cellist played delightfully refined musical tit for tat during the next two movements, the former (Serenade) moving along in a mutual concordance of elegance and humor, the latter (Aria) hauntingly mysterious and deliberate. The Tarantella was presented in a straightforward manner, neither artist needing to prove any virtuoso points, which made the realization all the more thrilling. Likewise, the Minuetto e finale sailed by like a magnificent clipper in full sail, its brass portals polished and gleaming in the sun.

From Russia to South America, the mood and sound colors became more temperate for a trio of short dance pieces by Villa-Lobos, Piazzolla, and Guarnieri. Jazzy, sultry, sensual, syncopated but never hurried, romanticism oozed from the cello, frequently laced with lovely bubbles and slides in high harmonics: delightful. Manuel de Falla’s Seven Popular Spanish Songs once again captivated the enthralled audience by the gentle nature of Ma’s playing; a pin could have been dropped hearing on the Granada carpeting, so intimately vocal was Ma’s playing, while Stott’s detailed pianism added color and punctuation.

The fifth and most plaintive section of Olivier Messiaen’s mystical eight-part work for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano, the Quartet for the End of Time, was offered after the intermission. Composed in 1941 while the French composer was interned, as a prisoner of war by the Germans, the Praise to the Eternity of Jesus section of the 50 minute meditation is written specifically for cello and piano, and was performed figuratively at least, as one long down bow. To confirm the adaptability of all things, Ma and Stott ended their Santa Barbara program with a transcription for cello of Brahms’ Violin Sonata in D Minor, Op. 108, a performance of the four-movement work that was beautifully Mozartean. Brahms would have been thrilled.

PHOTO BY PRISCILLA

By Mark Whitehurst, PhD / CASA

PASSIONATE AND DIVINE MUSIC played by the compassionate Yo-Yo Ma, a musical genius and international star, accompanied on the piano by Kathryn Stott, was a special presentation by UCSB Arts & Lectures at the Granada Theatre last week.

A frequent guest and intimate friend of UCSB Arts & Lectures, Yo-Yo Ma performed an unforgettable concert at the Granada Theatre, enthusiastically taught a master class at the Lobero Theatre, and attended a private reception.

“Arts & Lectures is about culture and how it helps us to find meaning for life... this gives us a clearer sense of why the world exists,” commented Ma, at a post-performance reception and intimate dinner for Arts & Lectures supporters, at the Miller McCune Founders Room.

The dinner reception provided the opportunity for Arts & Lectures Campaign Chairs Sara Miller McCune and Dan Burnham to announce a gift to the endowment from Anne and Michael Towbes of $750,000. “It is my pleasure to introduce two philanthropists who have given an incredible gift to the endowment,” stated Miller McCune.

“We know that this gift is for our future and the future for the students,” stated Anne Smith Towbes, following a round of thankful remarks from the Campaign Chairs, UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang, and Celeste M. Billeci, Miller McCune Executive Director for Arts & Lectures. Yo-Ma’s performance had the room abuzz with praise and admiration.

“I loved watching his face... it reflected so much passion,” commented Lynda Weinman, of lynda.com and Corporate Season Sponsor of UCSB Arts & Lectures. Upon seeing the Chancellor Dr. Yang, Ma immediately greeted him and Dilling Yang with a hug and warm words. Yo-Yo Ma later announced, beaming to the gathering, “I will always remember the only donation from a chancellor to the Silk Road Project.”

Kathryn Stott, piano accompanist to Yo-Yo Ma for over 30 years, commented on playing with the master cellist, “We try to reinvent the music each time we perform.”

The recital sponsor was Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree, who welcomed Ma and received a welcome back from him in the form of a dozen roses. “I give you these roses for your generosity and because they match your hair,” graciously and playfully related Yo-Yo Ma, while hugging and posing for picture with her and Chancellor Yang.

Presiding over the fun and festivities, Billeci thanked everyone and commented about the gift, “This is an investment in who we are... It is a wonderful gift to the endowment!”

The post-recital reception was hosted by UCSB Arts & Lectures Campaign Co-Chairs Dan Burnham and Sara Miller McCune seen here with donors Anne Smith Towbes and Michael Towbes.

UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang, Dilling Yang, Yo-Yo Ma, Hiroko Benko, and Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree

Yo-Yo Ma, Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree, and Kathryn Stott

The post-recital reception was hosted by UCSB Arts & Lectures Campaign Co-Chairs Dan Burnham and Sara Miller McCune seen here with donors Anne Smith Towbes and Michael Towbes.

UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang, Dilling Yang, Yo-Yo Ma, Hiroko Benko, and Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree

UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang, Dilling Yang, Yo-Yo Ma, Hiroko Benko, and Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree

UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang

Milton Warshaw; Celesta M. Billeci, Miller McCune Executive Director for Arts & Lectures, and Maxine Pilyon

Laura Fried and UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang

Tim and Audrey Fisher

See more ©2014 Photos by Priscilla, www.SantaBarbaraSeen.com
Contact her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com • (805) 969-3301
SB Players Take NYC

Santa Barbara is about to invade New York! Actually, a group of theatrical fanatics who’ve dubbed themselves the Santa Barbara Players.

The drama denizens are all friends of Montecito dynamic duo Rob Sternin and Prudence Fraser, the creative forces behind such TV hits as The Nanny and Who’s The Boss?, who are opening previews of their new show Under My Skin at the Off-Broadway Little Shubert Theatre on April 5, prior to an official opening May 15.

In this new comedy, when a twist of fate leads to love and laughs when New York’s most eligible bachelor and a single working mother hilariously experience each other’s lives and see things from a very different perspective, two years ago when a staged reading for a selected few was organized in the McCune Founders Room at the Granada before its world premiere at the Pasadena Playhouse last season.

Rob, who started rehearsals in Manhattan last week, says the show, helmed by lead producer Marla McNally Phillips and co-producer Marcy Carsey, both Montecito residents, and starring Tony nominee Kerry Butler, Megan Sikora and Matt Walden, is wonderful, with the new director, Kirsten Sanderson, who was Blake Edwards’ protégé for the last 17 years of his life, bringing a great deal to the project.

“It’s hard to describe our feelings at this point: ecstatic, excited, thrilled, freaking out!” says Rob. “It is truly amazing to be rehearsing a show in New York, across the street from Rocky, the Musical, upstairs in a theater where The Fantasticks has been playing [since 2006]. This truly is the realization of a lifelong dream.

“And none of it would be possible without so much support from the hometown crowd: Rich and Luci Janssen, Anne and Michael Towbes, Ralph and Melissa Iannelli, Doug Inland, and all the others.”

Readers familiar with Rob and Pru’s other projects, will doubtless not be surprised by their latest. The Santa Barbara Players are no strangers to the stage, having produced over 200 shows in less than a decade. And as a rule, no project is too small, no stage too humble.

In the case of Under My Skin, the project was brought to life by a group of friends who simply wanted to do something together. And as a result, they’ve created a show that is both funny and touching, a story that is both universal and personal, a tale of love and laughter that is at once familiar and unique.

And so it is that the Santa Barbara Players have taken their show to New York, and in doing so, have brought a little bit of Montecito to the Big Apple. And who knows? Maybe this is just the beginning. As Rob so aptly put it, “It’s hard to describe our feelings at this point: ecstatic, excited, thrilled, freaking out!”
Ironically, in her track “Ur So Gay,” she previously sang about electric cars: “You don’t eat meat and drive electrical cars, you’re so indie rock it’s almost an art.”

**SBOC Noire**

Los Arroyos on Coast Village Road was socially gridlocked when the Santa Barbara City College Foundation campaign threw a VIP bash for major donors.

So far this year, $104,000 has been raised, giving the college cheerleaders a lot to shout about as guests were taught the energetic moves of the local cheer and had their attempts filmed on video – for better or worse – for posterity.

Among the guests were former mayor Marty Blum, Craig Case, Perri Harcourt, Peter and Gerd Jordano, Leeuria, Marybeth Cartly, Matt Jacobson, Silvio di Loreto, Ron and Ellie Freeze, Steve and Sheila Cushman, Norm and Jane Habermann, and Cathy Feldman.

**Carousing at the Coral**

Planned Parenthood celebrated its 50th anniversary with a coral and ivory-themed gala at the Coral Casino with 225 guests, raising more than $250,000 for the organization, which provides health care to nearly 38,000 patients each year at its five health centers in the tri-counties.

Mary Olson emceed the boffo bash, which included Cirque du Soleil-style circus performers strutting their stuff on the oceanside terrace before dinner with wines donated by Montecito tonysome Robert and Gretchen Lief.

Those enjoying the sunset soirée included Nancy Alexander, Leslie Bhutani, Laura Capps, Stanley and Betty Hatch, Janet Garufis, Susan Jordan, Penny Jenkins, Bob and Jennifer Larkin, Kurt and Nancy Ranshoff, mayor Helene Schneider, Lindsay Soleimani, Michael and Anne Towbes, and Jennifer Voss.

Yo-Yo Returns

There was not a seat to be had at the Granada when cello legend Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Kathryn Stott at the Granada (photo credit: Kimberly Citro)

Yo-Yo Ma, a frequent visitor to our Eden by the Beach, were principal sponsor Leslie Ridley-Tree, Lynda Weiman and Bruce Heavin, chancellor Henry Yang and his wife, Dilling, Sara Miller McCune, Hiroko Benko, and Dan and Meg Burnham...

Tastings & Treasures

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum was packed for the 11th annual Harbor Tastings & Treasures fundraiser, which garnered $60,000 for the institution’s educational and curatorial programs.

The event featured more than 30 of our town’s finest purveyors of wine, spirits, beer, and gourmet cuisine, which was judged by Michael Hutchings, Christine Dahl and News-Press co-publisher, Arthur von Wiesenberger.

Longtime volunteers Andrew Cooper, David Denniston, Ron Godar, Brooke Sawyer, and Lorelei Snyder were also honored.

Silent and live auction prizes included a private tour of the Reagan Ranch, use of the museum’s fourth floor for the July 4th fireworks, and a private cruise aboard the Condor Express.

Among the 225 guests were Roger Aces, Willard and Jo Thompson, Hiroko Benko, Michael and Kathleen Cooper, Patrick and Missy DeYoung, Catherine Remak, and Bud and Sigrid Toye...

**Wintry Wedding**

It was certainly a white wedding, most of it snow, when Montecito store owner Kimberly Phillips tied the knot with Michael Hayes III in New York last month.

Kimberly, owner of the interior design emporium Maison K on Coast Village Road, chose as her venue the Christ Chapel in Riverside Church, given her grandparents married there in 1930.

Janet Adderley, founder of the Santa Barbara Youth Ensemble Theatre, was maid of honor, while Francis McDonough was best man.

Montecito jeweler Daniel Gibbons designed the wedding ring.

Afterward, the reception was held at Bergdorf Goodman, the top department store just a tiara’s toss from the Plaza Hotel, with guests including John Saladino, Roger and Diana Phillips, Kenny and Elizabeth Slaught, Carol MacElhenny, and many friends from California, New York, Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., and Connecticut.

The couple honeymooned in Paris and will be jetting to Tahiti in due course...

**Obsessed with Obsession**

The Arts Fund’s latest exhibition Obsession, featuring seven local artists, has been drawing them in at the Funk Zone gallery.

---

**STEVENS & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

**MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE**

**Quality Coverage • Personal Service • Friendly Staff**

805-683-3636 or 1-888-467-4811

5266 Hollister Ave. Ste. B-214
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93111
Ca. Lic. #0773817

[www.sbhealthins.com](http://www.sbhealthins.com)

---

**DISTINCTIVE REAL ESTATE**

Luxury Real Estate Specialist

[www.DistinctiveRealEstateOnline.com](http://www.DistinctiveRealEstateOnline.com)

WGragg@DistinctiveRealEstateOnline.com