

SYMPHONY OF THE REDWOODS



MAESTRO



Symphony Audience and Musicians Pay Tribute to Allan Pollack

With the news that Allan Pollack has stepped down from his position as Music Director and Conductor of Symphony of the Redwoods after 32 years on the podium, messages of thanks and appreciation have poured into the Symphony office.

Maestro Pollack came to the helm in 1988, and under his direction the Symphony evolved from a small community orchestra into the outstanding symphony orchestra it is today, attracting fabulous musicians and world-class soloists. He has energized musicians and audiences alike and has played a transformative role in musical life on the North Coast.

Please enjoy just a few of the messages of tribute, below, from orchestra and audience expressing profound appreciation for Maestro Pollack's musical gift to the community. They are a testimony to his superb musicianship and commitment to musical excellence as a conductor and educator.



TRIBUTES to ALLAN POLLACK

I was astounded when I discovered the quality of Symphony of the Redwoods. I have lived in larger communities around the country who had symphony orchestras far less impressive than ours. **Larry Wagner**

Your gift to us of live concerts of the world's most beautiful music is beyond remarkable. You didn't do it alone, but it wouldn't have happened without you. **Sharon Hansen**

I remember the joy and satisfaction of watching all those folks leaving Cotton with happier hearts and smiles on their faces. **Kris Stuart**

I left each rehearsal with gratitude, each performance with joy at what we had collectively achieved. **Paula Mulligan**

When I would make the long drive late at night from Sacramento or Berkeley, I remember thinking it was well worth it because we had Allan to lead us. Thanks to his leadership, this small rural community has been blessed with glorious symphony concerts for years. It has been a joy.

Eva von Bahr

Allan always seemed to pulsate with passion, which brought a smile to my heart. **Rella Gadulka**

Every Symphony rehearsal was a music lesson. In between our efforts to improve a tricky passage, Allan often tossed off deep and meaningful insights about the composer or the music. I learned something new at every rehearsal. **Jason Kirkman**

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WHAT'S THE SCORE? from Eva von Bahr

So many things are happening with Symphony of the Redwoods right now. It is truly a very exciting time to be a part of the orchestra's board of directors and volunteer

Firstly, we have [four fantastic summer concerts](#) planned for you because we cannot wait! [Paul McCandless and Charged Particles](#) (jazz) will start it all on July 25th at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. [Kathleen Reynolds](#) (principal flute with SOR and Santa Rosa Symphony) will be joined by Marica Lotter, Jeff Ives, and Corrine Antipa on August 1st, also at the Gardens. The [Arcata Bay String Quartet](#) will perform outdoors at the Mendocino Presbyterian Church on August 8th and this miniseries will conclude with Scott Macomber, trumpet, Bruce Chrisp, trombone, and pianist Sharon Lee Kim playing [Brass at the Gardens](#) on August 15th.



There are no tickets to any of the concerts since there is no charge by Symphony of the Redwoods. This is a way for the Symphony to give back to the community after a long and difficult "quarantine". There is no charge at all for the Concert in the Village, and the Concerts at the Gardens are free with Gardens admission.

Most of you have learned by now that the SOR Board of Directors received Allan Pollack's resignation letter a few months ago. It is the end of an era and he will always be remembered for the incredible and multiple ways he brought live music to the coast and inspired so many of us. His gift to this community is unmeasurable. Please read the article in this newsletter with musicians' notes of thanks and appreciation.

A Search Committee has been formed, consisting of mostly active SOR musicians that will be in charge of the process of finding a new Artistic Director/Conductor. The [application](#) can be found on our website and the committee has already received several prominent candidates. Our plan is for the finalists of our search to conduct our next season's symphony concerts – as a form of auditioning. These will be some very exciting concerts and your feedback will be requested and appreciated. Evaluation forms etc. will be available. We welcome you, the audience to be part of this journey as we slowly and deliberately move forward into a new era for all of us and Symphony of the Redwoods.

Take the **Quiz**
Springtime Edition



Springtime Edition Created by Tess Albin-Smith

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Richard Breen

Richard Breen, board member, volunteer, and sponsor of SOR programming is a true renaissance man! After several successful careers, he has now settled on the Mendocino Coast, to the benefit of us all.



He is currently doing thorough work as the treasurer of SOR, which is only one of the many community groups he volunteers with. He also finds time to study music theory and history, as well as, tending to a flourishing, artistic garden. Please read Richard's [biography](#) on our website.

MORE TRIBUTES

*Allan taught us a lot. I will always remember: "It's better to play the wrong note at the right time, than the right note at the wrong time." This also shows his sense of humor. **Joselyn Bartlett***

*He knows his scores inside out and he knows what he wants from the orchestra. A compliment from Allan is a big deal. Best of all, Allan is not afraid to make fun of himself. **Abigail Summers***

*Allan has an uncanny ability to awaken the very soul of the music in both the players and the audience. I have many times scribbled his quips and comments in the margins of my music so I can remember them and use them with my own students. **Randy Masselink***

*Allan ingrained in me a commitment to the highest standards of performance. This formed the cornerstone of my musical education. One of my greatest joys of returning to the Mendocino Coast has been to participate again in making music under his baton. **Zoe Duff Berna MD***

*I'll never forget one of my first rehearsals, when I looked at the music and told Allan I didn't think I could do it. He said not to worry, that we'd take it apart and work on it bit by bit, and that it would all come together in the end. And amazingly, it did! **Sandy Cosca***

*Allan relentlessly stretched our skills at the rehearsals, and then inspired us to play our hearts out at the concerts. His pursuit of excellence made us all better musicians. It's been a thrill to work at this level. **Marcia Sloane***

*Allan is one of the hardest working people I know. He always emanated energy, confidence, and inspiration to a group of players who oftentimes had never played with each other. And without fail, Allan always delivered electrifying performances, for both audience and orchestra members. **Eric Kritz***

*Every concert was a charge to victory. Allan has a unique ability to rally the forces, with humor, exuberance, and passion. With Allan at the helm, the community, the orchestra, and the audience came together in a triumph greater than the sum of its parts. Mostly, we had a hell of a lot of fun. **Tammie Dyer***

*Boundless appreciation and standing ovation to you, Allan, world-classiest rural maestro, molto vivace dancer on the podium, savvy educator, soulful interpreter, tuner of chaos. Go well, be well, with our bravos ringing in your ears. **Liz Helenchild***

