

# Symphony Spins a Spell of Musical Magic

BY JOAN MOSELEY  
Community News Editor

As some of the musicians of the San Bernardino Symphony walked through the double doors into the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Crest Park on Sunday, they gasped as they realized they would be performing in such an awe-inspiring setting. With the huge floor-to-ceiling glass wall behind them, the orchestra, led by their charming conductor, Carlo Ponti Jr., gave a performance mountain residents and guests sitting in the pews will remember for a long time.

It has been 25 years since the Arrowhead Arts Association first invited the symphony to perform at what was the beginning of the Fall Music Festival events. At the time they had a different conductor and many different musicians; however, as event chairman Ken Ca-



PHOTO BY JOAN MOSELEY/ Staff

San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Conductor Carlo Ponti Jr. took a bow at the end of a thrilling performance at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church on Sunday, Oct. 11. The event concludes the Arrowhead Arts Association programs for the year.

well as Maestro Ponti, stopped to listen and express their admiration for the students' playing.

The quartet is made up of Macall Potter, violin; Paul Perthus, violin; Charlotte Papp, viola; and Gabie Diones, cello.

"We have been coveting this concert event for many years," Maestro Ponti told the audience as he took the stage at the beginning of the afternoon. "We are looking forward to making beautiful music for you."

The audience's enthusiastic applause and standing ovation told him and the musicians they had achieved their goal.

**Below:** Conductor Carlo Ponti Jr. shows his delight and appreciation of the Quartetto di Suona: Macall Potter (violin), Paul Perthus (violin), Charlotte Papp (viola) and Gabie Diones (cello).



PHOTO BY JOAN MOSELEY/ Staff

Rim High School band and strings teacher Jerry Lees shakes hands with San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Todor Pelev prior to leading the orchestra in the national anthem.



PHOTO BY MARY-JUSTINE LANYON/ Staff



PHOTO BY MARY-JUSTINE LANYON/ Staff

Maestro Carlo Ponti Jr. coaxes exactly what he wants—and the score demands—from his musicians.

marella said, there were a few musicians in the current orchestra who played at the original event many years ago.

Watching Ponti conduct was watching an artist at work, not with paints and a paint brush, but with a baton, his own personality and his entire body. His facial expressions were ever changing as he led the orchestra through the program. As Maestro Ponti coaxed the musicians into playing faster or louder, he would lean over to really "reach them." And when he heard what he wanted, his face lit up with a smile. It was easy to see he is a conductor who

leads with his heart.

At times he held the baton so loosely between his long slender fingers it looked like it might fall, but of course, it never did. When the music became more intense, he grasped the baton so hard it looked like it might break, but it did not. During the entire first movement of Franz Schubert's "Symphony No. 3 in D Major, D.200," Ponti was so engaged in his conducting that his feet, encased in highly polished patent leather shoes with his toes pointed outward, were absolutely still. They never moved.

The exciting performance ended with Jean Sibelius' "Symphony No. 2 in

D Major, op. 43." Sibelius, who was Finnish, composed the symphony while he vacationed in Italy in 1900-1901. The major themes of the work were originally conceived for a tone poem based on Dante's "Divine Comedy." Since his death this symphony has become the one most often played.

While the Schubert was delightful, the Sibelius was richer, deeper, more serious—a dramatic and good contrast in the program.

Each year the Arrowhead Arts Association chooses a community member to be the "honorary conductor" to lead the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the beginning of the program. This year the honor went to Rim High School Band and Symphonic Director Jerry Lees, who told this newspaper he was honored to be selected.

One of the major goals of the Arrowhead Arts Association is to bring great music to the mountains and they have done so for the past 25 years. Another major goal is to help provide music lessons and experiences for local students in the Rim of the World Unified School District and they help provide music scholarships so local students can attend a session at Arrowhead Music Camp.

At the performance's conclusion, Camarella asked everyone to bring a friend next year because there were too many empty seats this year.

Following the concert a reception was held in the church social hall for guests and musicians; it gave everyone a chance to mingle, share their highlights of this special event and meet Maestro Ponti. The Quartetto di Suona—made up of local strings students—entertained the guests in the hall. Several of the musicians, as



## The Greatest Buying Opportunity of the Year!!!

Lake Arrowhead Mountain Sunrise Rotary  
Televised Auction  
November 7th 1:00 – 9:00 pm

100's of  
Items

LAKE ARROWHEAD  
COUNTRY CLUB  
NON-EQUITY GOLF  
MEMBERSHIP  
VALUE \$5,340  
ROUND OF GOLF  
FOR FOUR  
INCLUDING CARTS  
VALUE \$320

GIFT  
CERTIFICATES  
GIFT BASKETS  
TOOLS  
AUTOMOBILE  
SERVICES  
HEALTH &  
BEAUTY

BOATS

CONDO'S  
WEEK IN HAWAII  
WEEK IN PALM  
SPRINGS  
(INCLUDES THANKSGIVING,  
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS)  
+ OTHER CONDOS

GET  
HOLIDAY GIFTS

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MOUNTAIN  
RESIDENTS THRU 40+ MOUNTAIN CHARITIES  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE SEE OUR SPONSORS, DONORS  
AND AUCTION ITEMS  
New Items Added Daily

[www.MountainSunriseRotaryAuction.org](http://www.MountainSunriseRotaryAuction.org)

"Thank you to our Sponsors and Donors for Your Generosity"  
Watch for Next Week's Announcement in  
the Mountain News for more details!!