



Search:

Articles-last 7 days

for

Go

News | Sports | TimeOut | Business | Newspaper Ads | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Homes



TIMES POLL

[Back to Home](#) > [TimeOut](#) > [Music](#) >

Friday, Feb 20, 2004

- Do you support gay marriage?
- Past polls
- Suggest a poll

Georgia Rowe

email this print this

Posted on Fri, Feb. 20, 2004

GEORGIA ROWE: CLASSICAL NOTES

S.F. Ballet concertmaster joins Cal Symphony

Sponsored Links

[Internet Survey Builder](#)
Build Internet surveys using only a web browser. Try It!
www.formsite.com

[Free Voting Polls](#)
Interact with your visitors by offering a Voting Poll
www.dream-tools.com

- March 2 election
- Tax guide
- Times Diet Club
- Presidential race

- News
- Breaking News
- Sports
- Classifieds
- TimeOut
- Movies
- Video & DVD
- Dining
- Television
- Theater & Dance
- Music
- Times Book Club
- Fine Arts
- Comics & Games
- LIP
- Celebrations
- Business
- Weather
- Obituaries
- Opinion
- Columnists
- Arts & Entertainment
- Home & Garden
- Health
- Food
- Perspective
- Travel
- Auto Plus
- Real Estate
- CareerBuilder

CONCERTMASTER, chamber musician, author and administrator -- in a career spanning more than 30 years, violinist Roy Malan has achieved an impressive list of accomplishments.

This month, he adds another item to his resume. Malan, who is best-known as the concertmaster of the San Francisco Ballet, has just been named concertmaster of the California Symphony as well.

He's thrilled about the new assignment and says that working with the ~~Walnut Creek-based~~ orchestra under music director Barry Jekowsky will allow him to revisit some of the music he enjoys most.

"I love my work with the ballet," says Malan, who, after 32 years with the ~~company~~, is the longest-seated concertmaster in San Francisco orchestral history. "But I miss very much the symphonic repertoire. So I was delighted when Barry asked me to join. I couldn't look forward to anything more."

In a recent phone call from his home in Bonny Doon, where he moved with his wife five years ago to be near his teaching post at UC Santa Cruz, Malan noted that he and Jekowsky met in the early 1970s. At that time, both were members of the San Francisco Symphony.

"Barry's marvelous," says Malan, who has been a guest soloist with the California Symphony on several occasions. "There's so much emphasis on Baroque and chamber music these days, the symphonies often have to do something of a novelty type to attract audiences. One of the things I like about him is that he plays the classics. He's also quite adventuresome when it's called for. But you don't often have the chance to play the kind of programs that he puts on -- he's always trying for the unusual."

Malan, who was born in South Africa, studied in London with Yehudi Menuhin, and in the United States at the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute, where his teachers were Ivan Galamian and Efrem Zimbalist.

Today, he's one of the busiest musicians in the Bay Area. Around the same time he joined the ballet, he became principal violinist of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. He will continue to perform in both ensembles, in addition to the new post at the California Symphony.

He recently added "author" to his resume, having completed a biography of the late Zimbalist, who was a concert performer, composer, teacher and head of the Curtis Institute. Malan spent 10 years writing the book, which will be released in April.

Malan is also an active chamber music performer. In 1973, he founded the Telluride Chamber Music Festival, which he co-directs with San Francisco Symphony pianist Robin Sutherland. To his surprise, the annual festival in a small Colorado town turned into an international success.

"When we first went there, we started with a budget of \$200," he recalls. "We walked up and down the unpaved road with sandwich boards on our backs trying to drum up some customers. But it took off, and the local arts council decided to help us out. It's a small festival -- we play four concerts in two weeks -- but it attracts enormous crowds. Our 30th anniversary last season was a huge event."

Malan has also been a frequent performer with Avedis, a San Francisco-based chamber series founded in 1985 by flutist

- Academy Awards
- Gov. Schwarzenegger
- Uncivil Servants
- Laci Peterson
- Iraq
- Where we live
- More special reports

- San Ramon Valley Times
- Valley Times
- West County Times
- Brentwood News
- Concord Transcript
- Contra Costa Sun
- Ledger Dispatch

[The Record](#)
[Walnut Creek Journal](#)

[Alameda Journal](#)
[Berkeley Voice](#)
[El Cerrito Journal](#)
[Montclairion](#)
[Piedmonter](#)

[Traffic Conditions](#)
[Contests](#)
[Archives](#)
[Sports Scores](#)
[Ski & Snow Reports](#)
[Movie Times](#)
[Find a Restaurant](#)
[Event Calendars](#)
[Discussion Boards](#)

[Comics & Games](#)
[Ski & Snow](#)
[News by Email](#)

[Search the Site](#)
[Site Index](#)
[Contact Us](#)

[Help](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Place a Classified Ad](#)
[Advertise with Us](#)
[Newspaper Subscription](#)

[Jobs](#)
[Cars](#)
[Homes](#)
[Apartments](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Newspaper Ads](#)
[Yellow Pages](#)

[Fall Fashion](#)
[Danville Life](#)
[More Sections](#)

Alexandra Hawley. He says that his appearances on the series, performed at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, are among the highlights of his year.

This Sunday, Malan will join Hawley, harpist Dan Levitan, violists Paul Hersh and Ryan Mooney, and cellist Gianna Abondolo in an Avedis program that includes works by Debussy, Ferdinand Ries, Jean-Michel Damase and Gunther Schuller.

"Chamber music is every musician's ultimate dream," he says. "It's something that involves different people coming to a consensus of opinion, which is not quite the case with orchestras -- although, with a wonderful conductor like Barry, there's always a sense of input from the musicians and respect for them. But so often, the orchestral tradition, especially in the past, was a dictatorial situation where the musicians felt put upon. That's still pretty prevalent in some places.

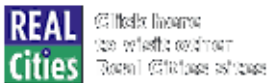
"With chamber music, there's always the sense that you're in charge of your own destiny. And it teaches one to get along with people, which is difficult for so many musicians. Myself included."

The Avedis program is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park in San Francisco. Tickets are \$17 general, \$12 seniors/students. Call 415-392-4400. Malan joins the California Symphony May 16-18 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts; Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and a world premiere by composer-in-residence Kevin Beavers are on the program. Tickets are \$20-\$59. Call 925-943-SHOW.

FEBRUARY IS Black History Month, and the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra will celebrate with two performances this weekend. Saturday at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, Harvey Benstein conducts the ensemble in William Grant Still's Symphony No. 1, "Afro-American." Still, who died in 1978, was the first African-American composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra. The program also includes music by George Walker and Darius Milhaud; Mazella Doerlich will join the orchestra in vocal works by George Gershwin and others. The concert repeats 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Regional Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$4-\$14. 925-943-SHOW.

Georgia Rowe's Classical Notes appears every week in Friday TimeOut. Reach Georgia at growe@atdial.net.

 [email this](#)  [print this](#)



[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [TimeOut](#) | [Business](#) | [Newspaper Ads](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)
[About The Contra Costa Times](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [About Knight Ridder](#) | [Copyright](#)