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Music

The Pragmatists

Right: Jennifer Duston, Stacy Street, Susan Muscarella, Betty Harwood, Helen Sheaff, Dominique Piana

Most of the women here aren't just administrators, they're musicians. And they'll do what it takes to get what they want: more music. The dual track allows people like the Oakland East Bay Symphony's Jennifer Duston to see things from more than one point of view. So does

Stacy Street, whose upbeat attitude has been instrumental in keeping the California Symphony in tune. Improvisation is also key, as Susan Muscarella knows, making lemonade out of lemons all the way to a brand-new building in the Berkeley Arts District for her Jazzschool. Betty Harwood has worn all the hats in 22 years with the Diablo Light Opera, from singer to marketer. Doing the work of 10 people a day is also par for the indefatigable British-born Executive Director of Festival Opera, Helen Sheaff. And although the intimate Pleasanton Chamber Players is barely a year old, already Dominique Piana, the group's founder and harpist, finds herself taking charge all the way to showtime.

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