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LETTERS

We encourage you to share your opinions. Letters are limited to 300 words and guest columns are limited to 600 words.

All submissions are subject to editing.

Please include a phone number for verification purposes.

Email to editor@morganhilltimes.com.



Around Town

ROBERT AIROLDI



TALENT Musicians and singers celebrated the next generation of local musical talent alongside experienced performers.

South Valley NextGen Concert unites symphony, singers, alumni and students

Seasoned musicians and rising stars shared the stage Saturday afternoon at the Gilroy High School Dr. Deborah Flores Student Center, where the South Valley Symphony's "NextGen" concert filled the hall with orchestral and choral sound.



Robert Airoidi

Joined by the South Bay Singers, Gilroy High School Choral Ensembles, alumni vocalists and emerging piano soloist Sora Corro, the performance celebrated the next generation of local musical talent alongside experienced performers.

Part of the symphony's 52nd season, the program opened under music director Anthony Quartuccio with Jean Sibelius' "Finlandia" and Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor, featuring Navaroli Young Musician Competition winner Corro as soloist, before shifting after intermission to a major choral collaboration.

South Bay Singers artistic director

and Gilroy High choir director Jonathan Souza took the podium to conduct the combined forces of South Valley Symphony and the full chorus in Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Serenade to Music" and John Rutter's "Gloria," in a partnership that grew out of South Valley Symphony's invitation to bring these ensembles together.

Featured soloists included Chicago-based soprano Sarah Schroeder and Gilroy High alumni Elizabeth Resendiz (Class of 2017) and Alexander Green (Class of 2017), both former students of Souza, along with bass Andrew Hathaway (Class of 2013), returning to celebrate Gilroy's choral legacy.

For Gilroy High's singers, the event marked a milestone in a season that will culminate in a featured Carnegie Hall appearance this spring, drawing new attention to the vocal program and to Souza's leadership.

Organizers described the concert as "a community collaboration," bringing together audiences and performers across generations and from South San

Jose, Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy, Hollister, and across the Bay Area for an afternoon of "radiant choral and orchestral artistry" in the heart of Gilroy.

Flag football competes for nationals in Morgan Hill

Want to see flag football at its best? According to Jeff Dixon, organizer of NFL Flag Football, the regional tournament at the Outdoor Sports Center on March 22 will feature 78 teams of youngsters in age groups from ages 8-18. The winner of each age bracket will go to the championship in Indianapolis.

Dixon's local flag football league has been going since 2004 and he helped facilitate girls flag football leagues, which is now one of the largest participation sports in South County.

"High school girls flag football has taken over," Dixon said. "Now 39 states have sanctioned flag football teams."

Locally, Live Oak and Sobrato high schools held their first season last fall.

"It resonates that flag football is really emerging," he added.