

LOCAL NEWS

# How do you make it to Carnegie Hall? Through Gilroy, it seems

Conductor Jonathan Souza will lead performers from South Bay Singers, Gilroy High at prestigious concert hall



Jonathan Souza conducts the South Bay Singers at one of their Spring Concerts in May 2025 at Advent Lutheran Church in Morgan Hill. (Photo by Doug Rogers)



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Practice is how you get to Carnegie Hall, the old joke goes. It turns out another way goes through Gilroy.

Jonathan Souza, the artistic director for South Bay Singers and choir director at Gilroy High School, had the opportunity to be part of a MidAmerica Productions series at the prestigious New York City concert hall next month and quickly worked to recruit a South County chorale group.



Jonathan Souza conducts the South Bay Singers at one of their Spring Concerts in May 2025 at Gilroy Presbyterian Church (Photo by Doug Rogers)

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For the April 1 concert, he'll be bringing a contingent of more than 100 performers from South Bay Singers — which covers South San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, San Martin and Hollister — as well as current Gilroy High students, former students and even family members, including his mother and father.

Souza has been impressed with the way the multigenerational chorales have blended while working on the two pieces for the Carnegie Hall performance, Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Serenade to Music" and John Rutter's "Gloria."

"It's been a really neat thing to watch my young singers perform with adult singers," Souza said. "We're really leaning into the community aspects of what this represents."

And while there is a sizable contingent headed to New York City, it's not everyone. Souza thought it was important to have a concert in Gilroy for those students and community members who couldn't make the trip — not to mention all the friends and family who won't be seeing the Carnegie performance.

The South Valley Symphony, led by Music Director Anthony Quartuccio Jr., was willing to collaborate with the chorales on their "next generation" concert on March 14 at Gilroy High. The program will feature the chorales performing "Gloria" and "Serenade to Music," in addition to featuring Sorra Coro, the winner of the Navaroli Young Musician Competition, soloing on piano.

Tickets to that 3 p.m. concert are available at [southvalleysymphony.org](https://southvalleysymphony.org).

**IT'S A (NEW) DATE FOR CAMPBELL LIBRARY:** Pencil in May 9 as the grand re-opening date for the Campbell Library. And using a pencil might be best here, as the building on Harrison Avenue — which originally closed in 2021 for a transformative remodel — had its ribbon-cutting last October and was originally set to reopen back in November. There's something ironic about an entire library being overdue.

But the delay was for a good reason. The project received a \$500,000 grant from Silicon Valley Clean Energy that enabled it to go all-electric, and modifying the already-approved plans meant pushing back things for a few months.

"Many of the brand-new features in the Campbell Library have been carefully thought out and designed to provide a beautiful, welcoming community place that blends the best of modern convenience, flexible spaces, and excellent library services," Santa Clara County Librarian Jennifer Weeks said.



The Campbell Library, photographed in January 2026, is set to reopen after a multi-year, transformational remodel on May 9, 2026. (Sal Pizarro/Bay Area News Group)

The original library opened at 77 Harrison Ave. in 1975, and the renovation was the result of Measure O, which voters passed in 2018. \$20.5 million of its funding came from that measure, along with a \$4.7 million infrastructure grant from the California State Library and the Silicon Valley Clean Energy grant. The Santa Clara County Library District kicked in \$510,000 for interior amenities and programs, and the Friends of Campbell Library did their part with a \$250,000 gift.

**ART AND ABOUT:** An arts-centered magazine might be the last place you'd expect to find an article about elected officials, but [the latest issue of Content magazine](#) features the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Each of the five supervisors is profiled by Danae Stahlnecker and depicted in collage artwork by artist Natalia Drachinskya.

Alexandra Urbanowski, CEO of Content mag publisher SV Creates, [explained in a Medium post](#) that the county deserves the recognition for supporting the arts for the past four decades.

"When the US presidential administration, national economic forces, and dysfunction at the federal level confound us daily, our County Supervisors and County Administration stand up and protect arts and culture as a right for our residents," Urbanowski wrote.

By the way, if you want to show your support for the arts this weekend, don't forget that the South First Fridays art walk is happening in downtown San Jose — both in and around the arty district known as SoFA (South First Area). Galleries will be open late, and many will have performances and receptions for their exhibitions. Get the full lineup at [www.southfirstfridays.com](http://www.southfirstfridays.com).

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