

Music to aid nonsavage beasts

- Annual Mozart for Mutts and Meows concert June 9 benefits Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society

By Martin Snapp

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

The Berkeley City Club will be filled with chamber music June 9 at the third annual Mozart for Mutts and Meows concert, a benefit for the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

The concert will feature some of the Bay Area's premier musicians: Wanda Warkentin, principal cellist with the Santa Rosa Symphony; violinist Christina Mok, concertmaster of the Stockton Symphony; pianist Miles Graber, chamber music coach in the preparatory division of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; and Maria Tamburrino, principal flutist with the Midsummer Mozart Orchestra.

Tamburrino's husband, maestro George Cleve, founder and music director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival and former music director of the San Jose Symphony, will be the master of ceremonies.

The annual concert was founded in 2004 by Tamburrino and Cleve after their beloved cat, Hobbes, died. A few months after his death, they adopted two new felines, Winston and Alfie, from the Humane Society.

"We were devastated when we lost Hobbes, but Winston and Alfie have made a special place in our hearts," said Tamburrino. "We were trying to think of a way to thank the Humane Society for all they did for us. Then George said, 'I've got it! Let's organize a concert!'"

This year's program, as always, will be all-Mozart, including a sonata for flute and piano, a trio for violin, cello and piano, opera duets transcribed for flute and piano, and the famous variations for violin and piano, "Ah, vous dirai-je Maman," better known as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

"It's the least we can do for such a wonderful organization," said Cleve. "They do so much with so little."

The event will also feature a silent auction to benefit Claude's Fund, named after the Humane Society's late office cat. The fund pays for medical care for animals rescued by the Humane Society from overcrowded shelters.

Among the items: a VIP tour of Pixar Studios in Emeryville; club box tickets to a Giants-Dodgers game; passes to the Chabot Space & Science Center; and tickets to Kung Pao Kosher Comedy's fourth annual George Bush Going Away Party.

"This year is our 80th anniversary," said Humane Society Executive Director Mim Carlson. "So we're going to have a big birthday cake for Mozart, too."

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If You Go

- WHAT: "Mozart for Mutts and Meows," an all-Mozart chamber music concert to benefit the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.
- WHEN: June 9 from 7 to 10 p.m.
- WHERE: Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave.
- COST: \$75.
- TICKETS: Call 510-845-7739, Ext. 19. Space is limited.
- INFO: Visit <http://www.berkeleyhumane.org>.