

## Holiday Concert at Los Gatos JCC

San Jose Wind Symphony performs *The Danserye*

By Chris Wiley 12/12/07 9:51 am [2,211]

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Photographs by **Chris Wiley**

The **San Jose Wind Symphony**, under the direction of **Dr. Edward C. Harris**, performed in concert at the Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center Dec. 11, with special guests **Camerata California**. The gala was attended by over 100 music lovers, and the program included Giovanni Gabrieli's *Sonata XIX (a 15)*, selections from Susato's *The Danserye*, Handel's *Royal Fireworks Music*, Beethoven's *Turkish March* (from "The Ruins of Athens"), Mendelssohn's *Overture for Band*, and Holst's *Second Suite for Military Band in F Major*, concluding with *Fanfare and Allegro* by 20th century composer Clifton Williams.



Conductor **Dr. Edward C. Harris**, Music and Artistic Director of the San Jose Wind Symphony

Camerata California is a vocal and instrumental ensemble from the Bay Area that performs sacred and secular music from medieval through the early Baroque eras. Before presenting the program, the group, dressed in festive renaissance garb, explained the history of some of their instruments. **Lettie Smith** showed the audience a baroque rankett, considered the oldest woodwind instrument and the original oboe. **Sam Kiteley** presented the viol (also called viola da gamba) that is in the family of bowed, fretted, string instruments developed in the 1400s and used primarily during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Other musical instruments included the recorder, the crumhorn and various percussion instruments.



Dr. Harris welcomes Camerata California: **Lettie Smith, Jennifer Randolph, Sam Kiteley, Mike Megas, and Sally Terris**

The San Jose Wind Symphony will celebrate its 50th year in 2008, and Dr. Harris is in his 6th season as music and artistic director with 55-member orchestra. The SJWS is well-known to Los Gatos music-lovers for their concerts on the Los Gatos High School lawn every 4th of July. SJWS musicians are volunteers. Quite a few members are professional musicians and music teachers, but many are amateur musicians, drawn from a diverse assortment of backgrounds, including engineers, financiers, attorneys, librarians, doctors, nurses, and even a fireman.



Brass (l to r): massage therapist **Eliane Margairaz**, musician **Chris Wilhite**, retired R&D manager **Chuck Morehouse**, librarian **Laura Shea-Clark**, architect **Jeff Bowsby**, and money manager **Allen Frische**

The longest-lived member of the band is **Miriam Rowan**, 86 years young, a retired music teacher and church organist. She first learned to play the piano by ear, at which point her parents gave her formal lessons in which she learned to read music. In middle school, she became interested in wind instruments and liked the French horn the best. Miriam has been known to play the French horn with one hand while playing the piano with the other--while telling a joke or two.



Miriam Rowan, 86, with her French horn

"We believe that music and the arts improve the quality of life for all citizens and are grateful for support from businesses, organizations, and individuals who agree," SJWS says. The program thanks many individuals and businesses for their support. Los Gatos names on the list of benefactors that stood out included **Joe and Joanne Rodgers** and **The Indian Store**.



Clarinetists **Walker Blount** (left), a retired electrical engineer, and **Clarence Savage**, a musical instrument craftsman

The San Jose Wind Symphony will perform at the Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center again April 13, 2008 at 3 p.m., featuring timpanist **Galen Lemmon**.



Special horns (l to r): **Chris Wilhite**, trumpet, **Eliane Margairaz**, trumpet, librarian **Leanna Goodwater**, French horn, music teacher **Stan George**, trombone, and music teacher **Jeff Yaeger**, tuba



**Lettie Smith**, of Camerata California, displays a *rankett*, the original oboe



San Jose Wind Symphony: **Linda Jansen** on string bass (far left)



Flautists **Lorie Boardman** (left) and teacher **Ilene Finger**



**Lettie Smith**, of Camerata California, answers questions after the performance



**Dr. Harris** is in his 6th season with SJWS



Recording engineer **Tom Johnson**



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