

# Brunch at the Biltmore

## 1st Annual Spring Fun-Raiser for the Santa Barbara Symphony

By **Kerry Methner** / CASA

**P**ASSION FOR THE SYMPHONY was the melody while fundraising and brunch harmonized at the Santa Barbara Symphony's 1st Annual *Brunch at the Biltmore*, otherwise labeled a *Spring Fun-Raiser*, in the Four Seasons Resort Biltmore Hotel's Loggia Ballroom.

The sounds of a cello quintet greeted guests. Santa Barbara Youth Symphony members provided the music. They were Tessa Chu, David Crandell, Chloe Dautch, Andrew Hsu, and Julian Lord.

Masterminded by Andy Granatelli and friend A.C. Moore, who drew Granatelli into the project, the event featured passionate performances and food that raised a desire for more! Also included among the planners and committee members who made the event a success were Diane Calvert and Gillian Launie, President of the Symphony Board.

The object of the festivities was to raise funds to benefit the Symphony and its outreach and educational programs.



Always A Star: **Jane Russell**



Celebrities **Kirk Douglas** and **Ernest "Ernie" Borgnine**

Granatelli began his presentation with remarks about refinement, with self-deprecating humor and a command of the room. He continued, "We have celebrities galore." According to Granatelli he knew of at least 30 among the 260 person audience. But, also true to form, he chose several for special recognition. As he called the honorees Ernest Borgnine, Kirk Douglas, and Jane Russell forward, he shared, "I'm so proud of my friends. They're Hollywood Icons; the best of the best! Here they are - and you're looking at them!"

Borgnine chuckled as he took the stage, "We have half of the Vikings!"

Over the years Granatelli has continued lending his star power and his resources to support the arts and Santa Barbara. The Santa Barbara Symphony is just one of the many organizations he has served.

After Granatelli introduced the honorees, tenor Matt James regaled

the audience with a spirited medley of *America, the Beautiful* and *God Bless America* as well as *La Donna e Mobile* from *Rigoletto*. Then Caroline Campbell, violinist and Miwa Gokufu, Director of Artistic and Concert Operations at the Symphony, performed several violin and piano duets.

There was no room for tamped down feelings at this event. Music, food, libation, and a welcoming crowd invited enthusiasm and support. Granatelli drew on the well-spring of emotion to get the auction started, encouraging each table to shout, when one of its members raised their number to bid on one of the auction items. The enticement for enthusiasm was free tickets to the upcoming Symphony concert for the loudest table.

Among other items, lucky bidders won a July 4th Baton and original framed John Philip Sousa autograph; a private plane excursion to Harris Ranch; a Gourmet Dinner Party; A Hawaiian Vacation; a Greener Yard; and a chance to be "Immortalized in History" on a world premiere fanfare score by Bruce Broughton.

For more information about the S.B. Symphony visit [www.the-symphony.org](http://www.the-symphony.org).



**Andy Granatelli, Caroline Campbell, Miwa Gokufu, A.C. Moore, and Gillian Launie**



**Margaret and Marie Lloyd; John Robinson, Exec. Director SB Symphony; and A.C. Moore with Andy Granatelli**



Back: **James Cavins, Dr. Joey and Maxine Di Bartolomeo, Judy and Ken Frank.** Front: **Evelyn Cavins, Diana and Ralph MacFarlane, and Lacy David**



The cello quintet from the SB Youth Symphony: **David Crandell, Chloe Dautch, Tessa Chu, Andrew Hsu, and Julian Lord**



**John Palminteri, Andy Granatelli, and Julia Di Sieno**



Actor **Christopher Lloyd** with Composer **Bruce and Belinda Broughton**



**Marlyn Bernard Berstein, Eric Boehm, and Lois Allison**



**Alice Faye Eichelberger Cleese and Mayor Marty Blum**



**Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree and Maestro Nir Kabaretti**



**Jo and Barry Berkus**



**Father Virgil Cordano**



Front: **Robby and Dolly Granatelli, and Parker and Carolina Montgomery.** Standing: **Judy and Hardy Hearn, Lori and Vince Granatelli, Matt James, and Joyce and Bob McConnell**

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