

## NJRO - Report of November 6, 2011

What a good crowd we had! Twenty-one was my count. Either word is getting out, or everyone felt like playing some music this evening, or maybe there just wasn't anything good on tv. Roll call (hope I don't miss anyone!): Firsts: Herb Steiner and Jennifer Seligman (2 players who sounded like a full section!), seconds: Noriko Kubo and 2 newcomers, Jim Jordan and Ken Kalmanson, trading his clarinet for the violin tonight. Violas: Ellen Hill and yours truly. Celli: Innes Borstel and Ruth Lepp. Basses — 3 of them! Bob Whiteley, Dave Shapiro and a familiar face from past orchestras, Margaret Blewett. Libby Schwartz covered the horn section; Laura Paparatto and another newcomer, Laura Malkin covered the flute section. Oboes: Alice Marcus, Doris Danielson and Steve Lepp and clarinet Donna Dixon. Maestro Steve Culbertson produced some wonderful reading (and sang some missing bassoon parts!) and Evan Schwartzman performed a Beethoven piano concerto, and filled in for missing parts in the other readings.

We opened with [Beethoven's Coriolan Overture](#), a musical interpretation of a man on the horns of a dilemma, and whose fate is sealed with his choice (the link says it better than I can). Evan shone at his best with his presentation of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. His cadenzas mesmerized the orchestra as shown in the photos below. Then we read Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1 "Classical" which was a new experience (speaking for myself). While I was familiar with it, and recalled all the flying leaps of the first violin part in the 2nd (?) movement, I really wondered if it was playable. Well, it's no walk in the park, but with a little work, it is quite playable.

Just wanted to extend a special welcome to the new folks who joined us this session: Margaret Blewett, Ken Kalmanson (who also played at the SOMA rehearsal), Jim Jordan and Laura Malkin. Glad you came, and hope you can join us again! Watch for the reminders.



A good crowd!



Three basses! A rare treat!  
Whiteley, Blewett and Shapiro.



Violist's-eye view of the 2nd violin section: Kalmanson, Jordan & Kubo



Maestro Culbertson watches and waits to bring in the orchestra right after an LvB #3 cadenza.



A mesmerized string section during Evan's cadenza during the LvB #3 (Hill, Lepp, Borstel)



A happy oboe section: Marcus, Lepp and Danielson.



