

An Interview with the Chamber Orchestra's new Executive Director

# Kevin A. Marvin - Fire & Ice!

**H** IRED BY THE SANTA BARBARA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA BOARD just one year ago as it's new Executive Director, Kevin A. Marvin arrived from Denver, where he had had a career in banking and some years running a small

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MUSIC PREVIEW

nonprofit, with a challenging mandate: 60 days to create a season of celebration. "During those 60 days we sold subscriptions, we sold sponsorships, and we put on a heck of a party for about 120 people on the front plaza of the Lobero," Marvin recalled during a recent SKYPE video interview. "We had professional Tango dancers from *Dancing With The Stars* that evening. We also had tapas (and sangria), and we had great weather! The night came off wonderfully. Obviously, that was just the bow on the present, which was the chamber music that night that Maestro Ohyama put on for the community. It was a wonderful, magical evening, and it led to a true season of celebration, a renaissance of the organization that showed record numbers of single ticket holders and also participants in the Family program. So with this momentum moving forward, we decided that each year we should have a great opening weekend."

This season, the 37th for the orchestra, the theme is "See the Music," which will manifest colorfully at the season-opening party Saturday, October 3rd on the Lobero Theatre's front plaza before the opening curtain of the Chamber Orchestra's 2015-2016 season, which begins at 7:30pm. "This year's party we're calling 'Fire and Ice,' a tribute to *The Firebird* (Stravinsky) which will be played in the concert," Marvin explained. "The party will center around components of fire and ice with ice sculptures and we'll also have



State Street Ballet dancers will perform during *Fire & Ice*

Photo by David Baremore



Kevin A. Marvin



The Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra led by Maestro Heiichiro Ohyama

two performances by dancers of the State Street Ballet including Kate Kadow, their principal ballerina, who will be performing something from *The Firebird*. We'll also have something from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We have a wonderful caterer, and a roving violinist. It's a little bit of a secret, but I'll share with you that Tesla Automobile will also be there, we believe. So we'll have two Tesla's on display if everything goes right. If not, we'll still have a wonderful party."

Throughout its long history in Santa Barbara, there has been one steadfast master at the helm who has drawn the faithful back to Chamber Orchestra concerts at the Lobero Theatre year after year, the orchestra's conductor for nearly all of the past 37 seasons, Heiichiro Ohyama. His commitment to making outstanding world-class music with his orchestra has never faltered.

The Chamber Orchestra's four-concert regular season at the Lobero Theatre will feature two of Santa Barbara's favorite soloists, violinist

Martin Beaver on March 22nd and pianist Alessio Bax on May 17th. There will also be a chamber music concert at the Museum of Natural History on February 9th and a "Music-Dialogue" performance at the University Club on April 5th.

"We would love to expand our audience and share what we do with others," Marvin enthused. "There is something very, very special in the connection between Heiichiro and the musicians. The performances they bring us are world-class."

Tickets for the *Fire and Ice!* party which begins at 5:30pm on Sat, Oct 3rd are \$75 and can be purchased by calling 966-2441. Single tickets for the 7:30pm concert are \$54 / \$64 and can be purchased by calling the Lobero Theatre box office at 963-0761.

To view the entire Chamber Orchestra season visit [www.sbco.org](http://www.sbco.org).

To watch the entire SKYPE video interview with Kevin A. Marvin visit [www.bravocalifornia.com](http://www.bravocalifornia.com)

**Daniel Kepl** has been writing music, theatre, and dance reviews for Santa Barbara publications since he was a teenager. His professional expertise is as an orchestra conductor.

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