

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art Women's Board

Musical Masterpieces

By **ANDRIA WATSON** / CASA

BLENDING opera, a historic George Washington Smith Montecito estate, and an appreciation for the art education programs for at-risk and underserved youth in the community, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's Women's Board held a musical fundraiser on Sunday, March 30th.

"Mezzo soprano Cynthia Thurber and pianist Val Underwood gave each of us a wonderful gift—the gift of outstanding and varied music," shared Dr. Ramona Clark, host and owner of *Casa Contenta*, the architectural gem where the event took place. "Henry Eichheim, for whom the house was built, had world famous musicians such as Jascha Heifitz, Gregor Piatigorsky, Dame Myra Hess, and

Percy Grainger perform in the same room. *Casa Contenta* remains a house of music."

Thurber and Underwood performed classical songs to entertain the arts program supporters, including J. Massenet's *Mon Coeur s'oeuvre a ta voix* from *Samson and Delila*, and Cole Porter's *Begin the Beguine*. Porter's *Tale of the Oyster*, got people laughing. The room in which the performance took place was built 85 years ago for the purpose of hearing music in an intimate setting with acoustics that matched musicians' performances.

"What a wonderful afternoon of wine, food, and a talented vocalist in the ambience of a lovely historic home and all for a worthwhile cause," remarked Regina Roney, SBMA Women's Board Member.

Opening remarks were made by Committee member Sigrid Toye, who along with Diane Morgan and Dor Stamphi, welcomed the music and art lovers to the house, informing them that Albert Einstein had passed through the

very same doors.

The Music Academy of the West donated chairs for approximately 65 art and music lovers. Refreshments from Tuttini's were served amongst large fresh bouquets from Lynn's Floral Design, and exceptional Santa Ynez wines were poured from Consilience Wine (Escalera Boulet, LLC).

The benefit, one in a series called *Music,*

Menus & Masterpieces, was sponsored by the Women's Board, and raised money for The Santa Barbara Museum of Art, who provides programs the community's youth to explore and express themselves through the arts.

The Museum is located at 1130 State St and is open Tu-Sun, 11-5. Call 963-4364 for information.



The Doctors Clark, Hosts **Ramona** and **Guy**



Natalie Myerson and **Marilynn Sullivan** with **Suzanne** and **Duncan Mellichamp**



Ray and **Mary Freeman** with **Barbara** and **Wayne Smith**



Mezzo soprano **Cynthia Thurber**



Pianist **Val Underwood**



Committee members **Diane Morgan**, **Sigrid Toye**, and **Dor Stamphi**



Jocelyne and **Bill Meeker** of Meeker Vineyards

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