



Josh Nelson, Ted Nash, and Luca Alemanno perform (photo by Priscilla)

works by Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Henry Mancini, Thelonious Monk, Duke Ellington, and Dizzy Gillespie.

Given it was Mardi Gras, guests noshed on Cajun cuisine, including crab cake, hush puppies, and New Orleans-style beignets, while quaffing mint juleps and wine.

Among the musical throng were **Janet Garufis**, **Fred** and **Nancy Golden**, **Eve Bernstein**, **Dan** and **Meg Burnham**, **Sybil Rosen**, **Gretchen Lieff**, **Cody Westheimer**, **NancyBell Coe**, **Dick** and **Marilyn Mazess**, and **Mark Whitehurst** and **Kerry Methner**.

## An American Dream in Santa Barbara

Man's inhumanity to man was vividly on display with Opera Santa Barbara's (OSB) latest one-act production *An American Dream* by **Jack Perla** and **Jessica Murphy Moo** at the Lobero.

The moving 70-minute work, that premiered at the Seattle Opera in 2015, is set in Puget Sound in the 1940s, intertwining the fates and tragedies of

two disparate families, one of incarcerated Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor and a German-Jewish woman fleeing the perils of Nazi Germany and waiting for news of the fate of her parents left behind.

A five-minute montage of Japanese Americans affected by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which approved incarceration of more than 120,000 U.S. residents, two-thirds of them American citizens, started the show conducted by **Eiki Isomura** with moving scenic and projection design by **Yuki Izumihara**, and lighting design by **Helena Kuukka**.


The five principal players – **Ben Lowe**, **Audrey Babcock**, **Nina Yoshida Nelsen**, **Janet Szepi Todd**, and **Paul Chwe MinChul An** – conveyed the tensions of the age, spanning a three-year time period, well.

It was originally planned to stage just one performance, but artistic director **Kostas Protopapas** says OSB felt it important to add another show so that as many people as possible could experience it.

After the opera, major supporters were treated to a bash featuring Japanese cuisine in the theater's rear courtyard.

An American Dream is a moving tale of WWII and the incarceration of Japanese American families (photo by Zach Mendez)





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## Filharmonie Brno Philharmonic at the Granada

Aging Cossack Taras Bulba reigned supreme when Filharmonie Brno Philharmonic, the Czech orchestra conducted by **Dennis Russell Davies**, per-



Dennis Russell Davies leads the Filharmonie Brno Philharmonic (courtesy photo)

formed at the Granada, part of CAMA's international series.

The Leoš Janáček work, a three-part rhapsody for orchestra based on the 17th-century historical novella, concluded the first half on a high note after Martinu's "Sinfonietta 'La Jolla'" with the maestro's wife **Maki Namekawa** on piano.

The entertaining concert concluded with Dvořák's "Symphony No.6 in D major."

The orchestra, founded in 1956, may only come from a relatively small metropolis of 379,000 residents, the second-biggest city in the Czech Republic after Prague, but the sound was larger than life...

## Mardi Gras at the Carriage

Baubles, bangles, and beads reigned supreme at the colorful, energized second annual Mardi Gras bash presented by La Boheme dance group founder **Teresa Kuskey** and social gadabout **Rick Oshay** at the Carriage and Western Art Museum.

The fun fête was so popular that more than two dozen would-be guests had to be turned away because of fire regulations, but the 200 allowed in as the **Michael Gantz** Mardi Gras Band and the Lollipop Pole aerialist dancers – **Caroline Byrne** and **Katya Baty** – entertained, with ubiquitous KEYT-TV reporter **John Palminteri** emceeing, certainly had a night to remember.



Teresa Kuskey, Richard Payatt, Gretchen Lieff, John Palminteri, and Tracy Lehr (photo by Priscilla)



Solstice Parade Executive Director Penny Little participating in the Mardi Gras parade (photo by Priscilla)

Add to that the **Mariano Silva** Afro-Brazilian Dance, King Bee, the drag queen **Belladonna**, **Nilay Engin-Wheat**'s belly dance, trombone comedy from **Madeledda Frossetti**, guitarist **Maitland Ward**, and **Joey Souza** as DJ, and you get the picture as the Mardi Gras King was crowned, along with Bacchus and the Goddess of La Boheme.

Among the Carnival mob, noshing on the Creole cuisine of gumbo and jambalaya prepared by the Big Easy Catering Company, were **Gretchen Lieff** and **Miles Hartfeld**, **Larry Gosselin**, **Donna Reeves**, **Peter Hilf**,



Outgoing Mardi Gras King Adam McKaig with La Boheme's Teresa Kuskey and producer Rick Oshay (photo by Priscilla)