

# RPARTS & LEISURE

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## Season ends on a joyful note

### Santa Cruz County Symphony to perform last concert for 2010-11

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

The Santa Cruz County Symphony will conclude its 53rd season with what may be the most recognized of all symphonic works: Ludwig Von Beethoven's majestic Symphony No. 9, also known as "Ode to Joy," performed in collaboration with the Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus.

Symphony No. 9 was Beethoven's last completed symphony; written when he was profoundly deaf and only three years before his death. It also represents the earliest example of a composer incorporating voices to create a choral symphony.

At the conclusion of the 1924 Vienna premiere, Beethoven received thunderous applause; but at the symphony's first London performance, he was criticized for the innovative final movement, deriding it as eccentric and shocking.

Uplifting, thrilling and inspiring, "Symphony No. 9" is a remarkable work to experience in concert. The dramatic finale is set to the text of Friedrich Schiller's poem "An die Freude" ("Ode to Joy"), a paean to enlightenment that incorporates a full symphonic chorus and four featured soloists.

"Ode to Joy" will be presented Sat-

urday at 8 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Mello Center in Watsonville.

Ticket prices range between \$20 and \$65 and can be purchased by calling 420-5260 or visiting [www.santacruztickets.com](http://www.santacruztickets.com).

Pre-concert talks will be held one hour before each concert and will be open and free to concertgoers.

The Civic Auditorium is located at 307 Church St. in Santa Cruz; the Mello Center is located at 250 E. Beach St. in Watsonville.

For information, visit [www.santacruzsymphony.org](http://www.santacruzsymphony.org).



Contributed

"Ode to Joy," which features a choral symphony, will be the last concert of the Santa Cruz Symphony's 2010-11 season.