

## MUSIC



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Soprano Anja Strauss is one of the guest soloists at this weekend's Santa Cruz Symphony concerts.

## Symphony brings in guests to tackle 'Ode to Joy'

*Sentinel staff report*

The Santa Cruz County Symphony takes on perhaps the most famous work in the history of Western music this weekend with back-to-back performances of Beethoven's towering "Symphony No. 9."

Among the guest soloists performing with the Symphony Orchestra under the direction of John Larry Granger are soprano Anja Strauss, alto Jennifer Hines, tenor Scott Ramsey and baritone Eugene Brancoveanu. Collaborating with the symphony will be the Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus under the direction of Cheryl Anderson.

Beethoven's final sym-

phony, written while he had grown profoundly deaf, features in its finale one of the most recognized pieces of music in the world in the stunning "Ode to Joy."

The concerts take place Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Mello Center in Watsonville. For tickets and other details, go to [www.santacruzsymphony.org](http://www.santacruzsymphony.org).