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**John Larry Granger gears up for his 20th and final season at the helm of the Santa Cruz County Symphony.**

## New Symphony season will be Granger's last

By **WALLACE BAINÉ**

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As the conductor for the Santa Cruz County Symphony for 20 years, John Larry Granger is accustomed to taking bows. But one of those bows in the upcoming symphony season will take on a special meaning, because it will be his last.

With the symphony's announcement of its new 2011-12 season this week also came the news that Granger is retiring as the symphony's conductor and musical director after the end of the season.

Granger will be taking the opportunity to program music special to him and to bring in musicians with whom he's

formed lasting relationships, including such Santa Cruz talents as pianists Aaron Miller and Chetan Tierra, and the Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus under the direction of Cheryl Anderson.

The first of five concerts of the season takes place Oct. 1 and 2 with guest soloist Sheryl Staples, violinist and concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic. On the program will be Rossini's "William Tell Overture," Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto" and Dvorak's "Symphony No. 8."

The second show is a special concerto concert, featuring Miller, Tierra and Klein Competition winner violinist Nikki Chooi, each playing concerti from Mozart,

Tchaikovsky and Beethoven, respectively. That show takes place Nov. 12 and 13.

On Jan. 28, Granger welcomes San Francisco Symphony organist Jonathan Dimmock to perform as guest soloist on Poulenc's "Organ Concerto." Saint-Saens and Delius will also be part of the program.

And the final show of the season, and Granger's career in Santa Cruz, will take place May 12 and 13 and feature Nielsen's "Maskarade: Overture," Mendelssohn's "Psalm 42" and Vaughan Williams's "Dona Nobis Pacem."

For more information on the 2011-12 season, go to [www.santacruzsymphony.org](http://www.santacruzsymphony.org) or call 462-0553.