Avant Garden Party

New Music Works afternoon fundraiser celebrates 33 years

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For the 33rd straight year, Santa Cruz’s New Music Works will host an event that a particular kind of person might characterize as heaven. The Avant Garden Party is a Sunday afternoon of intriguing and amazingly diverse musical performances and other artistic delights set amidst the background of beautiful gardens with delicious goodies and, yes, lots of wine. St. Peter isn’t tearing tickets at the gate, but maybe he should be.

The Avant Garden Party rolls around again on Sunday, from 2 to 6 p.m. at The Garden in Soquel. The event is a fundraiser for NMW, the musical organization devoted to exploring new musical landscapes. This year, India Joze major domo Jozseph Schultz will be on hand to serve food, free with the price of admission, along with wines from Bonny Doon Vineyards and Alfaro Family Winery, and gung-fu tea pouring provided by Hidden Peak Teahouse.

Musical performances this year include Tango e Choro, a quartet led by Jack Bowers exploring Brazilian and Argentinian jazz; the Singing Wood Marimba Ensemble, led by Laura Mellon performing marimba songs from Zimbabwe; Long-time NMW musician Michael McGushin and his string quartet with Santa Cruz Symphony’s former concertmaster Terri Baune; the Cabrillo College Latin Music Ensemble, featuring Latin dance music, led by Michael Strunk; and master guitarist and looper Bill Walker on the electric guitar.

Tickets are $35 advance; $40 at the door for general audiences; $30/$35 for seniors; $15/$20 for students. Advance tickets can be found at brownpapertickets.com. Details: newmusicworks.org.