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NEWS RELEASE

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Santa Rosa Symphony *Bellissimo!* Gala evokes festive elegance of Italy Oct. 8 party features soprano ensemble Bella Sorella and live auction

The Santa Rosa Symphony's annual fundraising dinner party and auction, titled "Bellissimo! An Elegant Evening with Italian Flair," will evoke the lushness and vibrancy of the Italian compositions that open the Symphony's 2010-11 season. Setting a festive mood for the weekend to follow, the black tie gala takes place Friday evening, October 8 at 6 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club.

On the entertainment program is **Bella Sorella**, named Vocal Group of the Year by the 2007 Los Angeles Music Awards. These outstanding artists, sopranos Nova and Susanna Jimenez accompanied by violinist Joyce Lee and pianist Danielle Naler, will delight the revelers with Italian songs. Of the ensemble, the *Contra Costa Times* has written: "Bringing opera out of the opera house and into new and unusual venues...the 'beautiful sisters' of Bella Sorella are 'un-diva,' informal and audience-friendly."

Wines for the dinner and reception are provided courtesy of **Francis Ford Coppola Winery**.

Live Auction Sampling

Among the Gala's live auction items are a 10-day Mediterranean cruise (Athens to Barcelona) with luxury accommodations in a veranda cabin on the Oceania Marina; a weekend getaway to a San Francisco pied-à-terre with opera tickets to see Placido Domingo in *Cyrano de Bergerac*; a 7-day stay at La Pietra, a classically-restored Italian villa on the border of Tuscany and

Umbria; a shopping experience at Susan Graff Ltd in Healdsburg; a collection of the Best of Class winners from the Sonoma County Harvest Fair, and much more.

Proceeds from “Bellissimo!” support the Symphony’s artistic and educational programs, including the two-part educational focus on Training Young Musicians and Music for Our Schools. SRS maintains four youth orchestras; In-School Performances by professional symphony musicians; a classical music listening program in more than 20 schools; Free Concerts for Youth at Wells Fargo Center (nearly 7,000 in attendance last year); *It’s Elementary* music intensive program for four area public schools; and Keeping Score teacher training.

Tickets

Gala tickets are \$225 per person (tax deductible amount \$175), with guests seated at tables of 10. Call (707) 546-8742, purchase online at santarosasympphony.com, or come in person to the Symphony Patron Services Office at 50 Santa Rosa Avenue.

—**Photo of Bella Sorella available upon request**—

CALENDAR LISTING

What: Black Tie Fundraising Dinner and Auction: “Bellissimo!”

Where: Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club

Who: Santa Rosa Symphony

Date and Time:

Friday, October 8, 2010, 6 p.m.

Black Tie; Wine Reception; No-Host Cocktail Bar

Entertainment:

Bella Sorella

Cost: \$225 per person (tax deductible amount \$175) (tables of 10: \$2,250)

Tickets: Online santarosasympphony.com, by phone (707) 54-MUSIC [546-8742], or in person at the SRS Patron Services Office, 50 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.