



S.F. Opera Capriccio Quartet to Appear in Return Performance Sunday, January 28 at 4 p.m.

The Gualala Arts Chamber Music Series is very pleased to present the Capriccio Quartet, members of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, in a return visit for an afternoon of light-hearted fun and pure musical enjoyment.

This concert will be similar to last February's Capriccio performance at Gualala Arts, which elicited a standing ovation and roof-raising applause. About that performance, music critic Iris Lorenz-Fife wrote a special report to the *Independent Coast Observer* titled "What a joy to have them, the Capriccio Quartet," in which she wrote, in part, "The members of the Quartet put so much heart into their presentation that I was swept up in the

drama...rich...lyrical...glorious blending...the passion, the acting, and the singing of the final offering moved me to tears."

The program will include popular selections from Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, Massenet's *Werther*, Dvorak's *Rusalka*, Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman*, Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, and Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Tales of the South Pacific*.

Members of the Capriccio Quartet are soprano Virginia Pluth, mezzo-soprano Sally Porter-Munro, tenor Richard Walker, and baritone Frederick Matthews. The quartet is directed and accompanied on piano by Ian Robertson, who also serves as narrator. The Quartet was formed in 1991 when these members were chosen to preview the forthcoming San Francisco Opera fall season. We are happy to have them perform in Gualala as part of our concert series.

Tickets are \$20 for advance purchases, or \$25 on the day of the concert. Children and young people ages 7 through 17 are admitted free. Advance tickets are available at the Gualala Art Center or at the Dolphin Gallery in Gualala. For advance credit card purchases by telephone, call the Arts Center at 707-884-1138. For further information visit the website gualalaarts.org. Those unable to furnish their own transportation may call the Arts Center to request rides to the concert.

Magic Explained by Marty Covington Monday, January 8 at 7 p.m.

In this presentation, entitled: "Why We Love (and Hate) To Be Fooled: The Gift of Magic!" Marty combines his life-long interest in the history and art of magic with recent psychological research regarding the potential dangers as well as the powerful benefits of magical thinking to one's well-being. He will explore the question of how it can be – even when people know they are being tricked, that the experience of magic can nonetheless be entertaining, informative, even enlightening. Yet, at other times, being fooled can lead people to feel betrayed, angry, and outraged. Finally, Marty will explore the possibility that a magical experience can be so personally powerful that the question of being tricked or not becomes largely irrelevant, completely overshadowed by the feelings of wonder, surprise and awe that people typically associate with miracles. Is this the true gift of magic?

Marty cautions that this is not a magic show for the entertainment of children. No rabbits will be produced from hats, but a few magic demonstrations will be presented to illustrate the main points of the presentation.

Martin Covington is Professor of Psychology at the University of California at Berkeley, and holds the prestigious Berkeley Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education. He is also Senior Research Psychologist at the Institute for Personality and Social Psychology. He is author of eight books and numerous research articles and papers concerned with his various research interests including human motivation, creativity, problem solving and thinking, the fear of failure, and self-esteem dynamics. He is Past President of the International Society for Test Anxiety Research.

Marty joined the Berkeley family as a first-year graduate student in 1957, and he has taught continuously at Berkeley for the past 49 years. Marty and his wife, Bette, have had a home on the Sea Ranch since 1975.

