



Part of the Old Spanish Days receiving line ready for guests are Erika Ranchietto portraying 2015 Saint Barbara; Ysabella Yturralde, 2015 Jr Spirit of Fiesta; Alexandra Freres, Spirit of Fiesta 2015; Rhonda Henderson, Segunda Presidenta; and J.C. Gordon, Primero Presidente (photo by Priscilla)

– who tells me he invested in four new tailored outfits to celebrate his term in office – the Spirit of Fiesta, **Alexandra Freres**, her junior counterpart, **Ysabella Yturralde**, and 17 past presidents.

Around 550 guests, including **Si Jenkins, George Leis, Larry Gosselin, Craig Case**, and film festival director **Roger Durling**, dressed head to toe in **Tom Ford**, joined in the celebrations, emceed by ubiquitous KEYT senior reporter **John Palminteri** and featuring opera star **Eduardo Villa** serenading Stimson's dentist wife, **Kathy McClintock**, with "Besame Mucho."

Maw Money

It may have been the final week of the Music Academy of the West's 68th summer festival, but it certainly went out on a high note.

Highlight of the festivities was the popular Cabaret gala at Fess Parker's Doubletree under veteran music director **Gerald Sternbach** and voice program director Marilyn Horne, with **Lee Luria** as chair, which raised more than \$600,000.

Some 450 guests turned out for the 18-year-old fest with 49 fellows from the academy's acclaimed voice and instrumental program performing a thoroughly entertaining array of music from classical to Broadway to pop.

Council member **Jan Hill** conducted the live auction, which included a private salon recital by renowned pianist **Jeremy Denk** at a five-course dinner party at the home of academy

president **Scott Reed**, five nights in New York at the Four Seasons, with two premier seats at the New York Philharmonic and a post-concert VIP reception, and a Hahn Hall stage dinner for 12 with Marilyn and collaborator, **Martin Katz**.

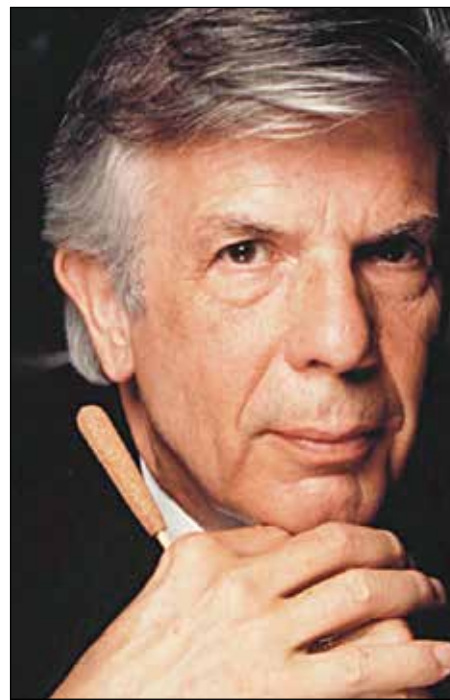
Among those checking out the boffo bash, produced by Montecito event planner extraordinaire **Merryl Brown**, were **Geoffrey and Joan Rutkowski, Mike and Anne Towbes, Jamie and Marcia Constance, Bob and Alex Nourse, Annette Simmons, Morrie and Irma Jurkowitz, Glen and Gloria Holden, Brian Hodges, Seymour and Shirley Lehrer, Bob and Val Montgomery, Carter and Victoria Hines, Robert Weinman, Ed and Sue Birch, John Saladino, Christopher Lancashire and Catherine Gee, Dwight Coffin, Mary Collier, Janet Garufis, Leslie Ridley-Tree, David and Sharon Bradford, and Selby and Diane Sullivan**.

The festival, which featured 200 musical events over the past eight weeks, wrapped at the Granada with the Academy Festival Orchestra under international conductor **Christoph von Dohnanyi**, with works by Webern, Ligeti, Wagner, concluding with Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D Major.

Royal Rubble

London Bridge may not be falling down, but it seems some of the British city's major landmarks are crumbling, including Queen Elizabeth's home, Buckingham Palace.

Her Majesty may have to move out



Christoph von Dohnanyi conducts Music Academy's summer festival finale

of the stately pile for a year under plans to carry out \$225 million worth of urgent repairs.

If she leaves, it will be the first time a monarch has been forced out since Queen Victoria designated it as an official residence in 1837 on her succeeding to the throne after the death of her uncle, King William IV.

Surveyors called in to assess the royal residence say it needs a major top-to-toe overhaul after years of neglect.

They have suggested the cheapest option would be to move out the sovereign and all of her 426 staff in one go, so all the work can be done at once.

The queen and **Prince Philip** would live at Windsor Castle, their weekend home. Currently, she spends three days a week working at the palace, spending an increasing amount of time at Windsor, where she conducts royal engagements with greater frequency.

Although parts of the palace suffered damage during World War II, even the Blitz did not force the Royal Family to move out.

Stay tuned.

Sightings: Ex NBC *Today* show host **Ann Curry** and her husband, **Brian**, lunching with **Jeff and Hollye Jacobs** at Tydes... Former UCSB basketball star **Alan Williams** at El Mercado De La Guerra...**Carol Burnett** noshing at Pierre Lafond's Wine Bistro

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings and other amusing items for Richard's column should email him at richardmin eards@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the *Journal*.

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