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VETERANS DAY

A colonel's memories

Veterans Day spurs
WWII recollections
for Los Altos'
Billy Russell

By Bruce Barton
Town Crier Staff Writer

Many longtime residents already know Billy Russell as a key figure in the growth of the Los Altos community, from becoming a



Serial burglaries pick up speed

By Eliza Ridgeway
Town Crier Staff Writer

What began as a few seemingly random home burglaries in June has escalated to 15 nighttime burglaries Los Altos police are calling a serial spree. Two homes were hit in

Areon quartet introduces modern flute performances

By Shannon Barry
Town Crier Staff Writer

For the four members of Areon Flutes, their journey has been one of shared musical inspirations and goals. After two years as a professional expandable flute chamber music ensemble, they have reached a musical sisterhood.

This relationship led Tamara Maddaford, Kasey LeBow, Amelia Vitarelli and Jill Heinke to perform in September in front of a crowd of 150 people for their New York debut concert at Carnegie Hall.

Areon's music uses modern musical language, featuring innovative programming for duos, trios and quartets.

LeBow, Vitarelli and Heinke teach at West Valley Music in Mountain View.

It may seem Areon is on the fast track, but LeBow and Vitarelli said it has taken years of hard work and dedication to their musical studies. Instead of becoming overwhelmed by their accomplishments, Areon continues

making new strides to share their vision of the potential of chamber music, Vitarelli said.

"Audiences always associate chamber music with strings," LeBow said. "When you see chamber music, which is typically a string quartet, a lot of time, especially for the younger generation, they say it's boring."

Areon's music, which offers a unique collaboration of living composers and modern musical language, features innovative programming for duos, trios and quartets. Set and costume changes are integrated into their onstage performance, which adds a sense of theater and whimsy to their music, said Dr. Kenneth Salisbury, professor of computer science and surgery at Stanford.

"The best part about Areon is that everything about how we perform and the entire program

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FLUTES

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is what we think of as classical music, where we think classical music is going," LeBow said. "So we really make it our own voice."

During the performance, LeBow performed a duet with Vitarelli and Maddaford performed a duet with Heinke.

These pairings allowed them to showcase their contemporary range and demonstrate how their personalities meld.

"We are very much in touch with the onstage interaction and looking at each other and how we move together and how we connect," LeBow said. "And it creates this kind of energy that really can't be described unless you're feeling it onstage."

Jill Felber, flutist and the Areon Flutes coach, has known some of the members for 10 years and said it has been great to see the connections they have made with each other.

"The ensemble has a great rapport with each other, on and off the stage," Felber said. "Audiences witness their spirit and excellent communication with each other and can sense the commitment and honesty to the music they perform."



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Areon Flutes, from left, Tamara Maddaford, Kassey LeBow, Amelia Vitarelli and Jill Heinke, is an expandable chamber music ensemble formed in 2005.

Even though they have reached a certain level of success, the members are constantly moving toward new goals to keep a fresh ear and outlook on life. Their ambitions reach beyond personal fulfillments.

"My goal is to inspire the next generation," Vitarelli said.

To provide outreach to the community, Areon offers a variety of programs and is currently looking at ways to expand its outreach programs to schools in the area. Areon's Chamber Music Institute, located in Mountain View, began the first week of November. It provides coaching and performance opportunities to elementary through college-age students.

In addition, Areon serves as

artists-in-residence for the El Camino Youth Symphony, sponsors a summer flute institute in Mountain View and holds an International Chamber Music Competition and an International Composition Competition.

Bringing dedication and innovation to their music, both Vitarelli and LeBow said Areon has kept them busy, but they are proof positive musicians can achieve their aspirations.

"It has its definite hard points," LeBow said, "but sometimes I think when people say I'm just a starving artist, I think they're just not trying hard enough. Because we've made it work."

For more information, visit www.aronflutes.com.