

# The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

## Pizarro: Expect to be surprised by culture one of these days

By Sal Pizarro  
spizarro@mercurynews.com

Posted: 11/15/2010 04:38:46 PM PST

Updated: 11/15/2010 08:37:02 PM PST

Shoppers at Valley Fair were busy doing their part for the economy Saturday morning when some of their fellow mallgoers suddenly burst into song.

The same thing happened Saturday afternoon while attendees at the National Arts Marketing Project Conference were having a coffee break at the Fairmont Hotel's Market Street Foyer.

Contagious caroling? No, these were Random Acts of Culture, a program funded by the Knight Arts Foundation in several communities, including San Jose.

In this case, it was a "flash mob" of singers from the Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale who serenaded strangers with uplifting songs, including "Amazing Grace."

Symphony Silicon Valley President Andrew Bales is coordinating the local effort and says future "random acts" over the next few months probably will include poetry and ballet.

Stay alert. You never know when some of this culture stuff might sneak up on you.

GOOD SHOW: If San Jose felt particularly artistic over

the weekend, that was probably because of the 600-plus people here for the big conference held by Americans for the Arts.

"All of these young people involved in the arts wanted to come here to San Jose," said Bruce Davis, executive director of Arts Council Silicon Valley, which helped organize the National Arts Marketing Project locally.

Attendees spread word on Twitter about the good time they were having soaking in San

Jose. Saturday night, they packed the San Jose Museum of Art for a party, hit the galleries in the SoFA District and enjoyed some truly local culture, like karaoke at 7 Bamboo in Japantown.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS: They're readying the good cheer at the historic villa in Saratoga for this weekend's Yuletide at Montalvo events.

The marketplace, running Friday through Sunday, features handcrafted items for sale by more than 40 local artists. There also will be special guests, including antiques guru Steven Wayne Yvaska (Friday), interior designer Valentina Cirasola (Saturday) and author Carol Firenze (Sunday).

A champagne and wine Yuletide Gala is scheduled for Friday night, and champagne high teas are set for Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

For details on the events, all hosted by the volunteers of the Montalvo Service Group, go to [www.montalvoarts.org/events/series/yuletide](http://www.montalvoarts.org/events/series/yuletide). You also can call 408-961-5823 to reserve a spot at a specific event.

Got a tip? Call Sal Pizarro at 408-627-0940 or e-mail him at [spizarro@mercurynews.com](mailto:spizarro@mercurynews.com).

Advertisement

### Own a new computer for just \$29.99\* per week!

And improve your credit score at the same time!

Give us a call today!

# 1-877-294-3988

\*Prices start at \$29.99 but may vary by model.



Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

# The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

Contact Sal Pizarro at [spizarro@mercurynews.com](mailto:spizarro@mercurynews.com) or 408-627-0940.

Advertisement

**Help people in need.**  
Donate your car, boat or RV  
**Free Towing ■ Tax Deductible**



**FREE**  
3 day vacation to over  
80 destinations.

Call Toll-Free  
**1-877-225-9384**



Heritage  
for the Blind

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™