



August 1, 2017

President's Waypoint: The New York Philharmonic Concert

We have many events and gatherings at the college that typically focus on ourselves and our work. Last night, we had a seminal college event that focused externally on our community. In partnership with the Music Academy of the West, the City of Santa Barbara, and the SBCC Foundation, the College hosted a concert for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra!

Founded in 1842, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra is the oldest of the U.S. orchestras. It is considered one of the "Big Five" orchestras in America and has won a dozen Grammy awards and other recognitions from around the globe. The orchestra is led by Conductor Alan Gilbert, who assumed his role 2009. If it wasn't special enough to have the New York Philharmonic at La Playa Stadium playing to a sold-out crowd of 8,000 community members, including 800 children, last night was particularly special as it was the final farewell of Conductor Gilbert. He played all his favorites, with a spectacular finale, Ode to Joy, punctuated with a beautiful fireworks show off the Santa Barbara shore!

I certainly want to thank all of the partners involved in putting on the show. However, beyond the glad-handing of figureheads, I want to thank personally Luz Reyes-Martin's Office of Communications, who coordinated media coverage, photography, and videography to fully memorialize the magical evening. I also want to thank our facilities staff who worked so closely with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, sound system professionals, lighting specialists, and other folks in building a mega-stage the likes of which we have never seen before. Wow, what a structure! Apparently, it was modeled after the one used for the Central Park NY Phil concert! In any case, the facilities staff and crews, including Grounds and Security, led by respectively, Rob Morales, Mark Broomfield, and Erik Fricke did a first-class job for us! Thank you all so much for your effort and for being unsung heroes!

For those of you who attended the concert, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. I know the community was thrilled with the concert and all the effort we put into it. It was definitely a waypoint I will never forget!

Together forward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony', written in a cursive style.