

■ WHERE'S GREGORY?

MIM artistic director wraps up in Atlanta

BY JENNIFER DAHLGREN

Special to The Union

When not in western Nevada County, Music in the Mountains artistic director Gregory Vajda has gigs throughout the world.

Vajda (pronounced VOY'-da) conducted four performances of "La Bohème" with the Atlanta Opera earlier this fall. Last week, he conducted two performances of the Symphony Silicon Valley's concert, "Gypsy Airs," featuring Hungarian Lajos Sarkozi, a 19-year-old violin prodigy.

The Silicon Valley gig is an example of how Vajda is connecting the foothills to artistic organizations across the country.

"When the principals of the MIM orchestra played the 'Gypsy Airs' program with Sarkozi and me in Grass Valley for Summer Fest 2009, they immediately talked to the management of Symphony Silicon Valley," said Vajda. "The musicians, many of whom also play in the Symphony Silicon Valley, told management that this is a 'must have' program.

"'Gypsy Airs' was selected to be one of five 'must hear' concerts in the Bay Area by a major music critic," Vajda added. "I am proud that one of my first-ever concerts designed for MIM is

now being presented to a wider audience."

When local music icon Paul Perry retired after serving nearly 30 years as both artistic director and choral conductor, Music in the Mountains retained two talented artists to fill those roles.

"In contrast to having an i n t e r s i d e n c e director and conductor, we now have individuals in those roles who also fill positions with other organizations," said Perry. "So rather than running into them at the grocery store, we benefit from the rich experiences they get with other organizations."

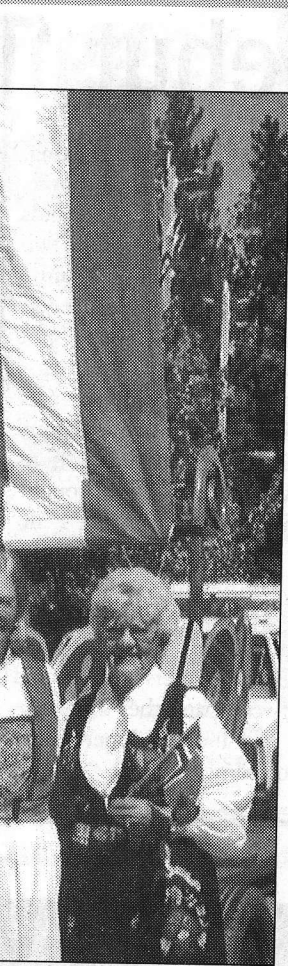
Vajda's international work has earned him a "Where's Waldo?" reputation among MIM supporters, harkening back to the cartoon character drawn in locations around the world.

He also is conductor with the Oregon Symphony Orchestra and is a regular guest at major summer festivals on both sides of the Atlantic.

Jennifer Dahlgren, who operates Dahlgren Communications in Nevada City, sings in the Music in the Mountains Festival Chorale.



Gregory Vajda



Submitted photo

Fenson and Else Sanzone.

culture

re of our activities, continue to share our heritage, culture and fraternalism, and encourage participation.

What are your major fundraisers and dates?

Viking Fair: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, by Gate 1.

Events will include traditional Scandinavian vendors and a rosmaling artist Julie Droivold, nordic "white buns," traditional baked breads, lefse-making demonstrations and lefse, fresh sandwiches, open-faced sandwiches, meatballs and lingonberries. Live music will be offered (piano and Patsy Hannebrink on accordion), Walter

Cal Fire: Residential burning OK to resume

SUBMITTED TO THE UNION

Cal Fire's Nevada, Yuba and Placer counties unit announced this weekend cooler weather and decreased fire danger allowed the agency to reduce

of their fire at all times."

Cal Fire officials will coordinate with local Air Pollution Control Districts on the daily burn day status. Residents must obtain a valid burn permit and burn only on permissive burn