

# Clef Notes

January 2024  
Judy Proud, Editor



Making a Difference Through Music

Music is an essential part of almost every event and  
**The Monterey County Pops!**  
celebrates the moment.

**ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE !!!**

## 2024 Calendar

❖ May 27, Memorial Day – Monterey City Hall,  
Colton Hall lawn

❖ July 4, Devendorf Park, Carmel  
Concerts are Live Streamed at  
[www.montereycountypops.org](http://www.montereycountypops.org)  
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Elementary School Programs featuring  
Peter and the Wolf in the a.m. and  
Residency School Programs for middle and high schools  
with clinics from 1 to 6 p.m. then  
FREE public "side-by-side" concert at 6:30 p.m.

❖ March 13, North Monterey County High School  
❖ April 15, North Salinas High School  
❖ May 2, Greenfield/King City

The public is invited to attend and give your support  
to the students and our orchestra!!!

### THE SHOW MUST GO ON....

How does it all happen...*attention to detail and planning ensures that every MCP! concert is a truly memorable experience for our audience.*

At our music venue, we take pride in our meticulous process that ensures every concert is a success. Let's take the example of our annual July 4th concert in Devendorf Park in Carmel.



*Join us for an unforgettable concert experience  
and be a part of the MCP! mission to  
bring music to everyone in the community.*

The concert day starts early in the morning with our Operations Director and crew setting up the seating for the orchestra and Patrons of the Pops! reserved section, along with sound technicians, equipment, and the live-stream video crew. The musicians arrive around 10:30 a.m. for rehearsals, and the pre-concert entertainment starts at around 2:00 p.m. followed by the actual concert at 3:00 p.m.

But the process doesn't start on the day of the concert and a lot of behind-the-scenes work must be accomplished. Our Music Director collaborates with the Board to propose a concert and obtains approval. The Music Director then selects the musicians and contracts with them as needed for the program of music.

Our Operations Director has diligently coordinated the logistics such as obtaining event permits, coordinating with the city and/or venue for insurance, parking permits, traffic cones, banner placement, tents, chairs, trash containers, food vendors, ushers, and donation collections.

While our Marketing Committee has been promoting the concert through various media such as press releases, social media, flyers, print media, TV/radio media, local Chambers of Commerce, and service organizations. Visit our information table at the venue on the day of the concert to learn more about MCP!



Susan, Doug, Ron, Ken, Joan



Judy, Elise, Paulette

Our Board members actively hand out programs, collect donations, and mingle with the crowd to let them know about MCP! and all that we do.

MCP! is excited to announce its new initiative to bring its music to senior residents and other organizations that may not be able to attend in-person concerts. With the ability to live stream on our website, these facilities can now watch our concerts live on their TVs and bring their residents together to enjoy our music. MCP! will also welcome seniors being transported to the concert from many of our local senior care facilities and reserve accessible seating.

## WITH APPRECIATION...

Monterey County Pops! receives Arts Council for Monterey County Grant along with many other non-profit organizations. The Arts Council for Monterey County awarded \$109,000 in Arts and Cultural Impact Grants in 2023 with The County of Monterey and its Board of Supervisors provided funding.



Steve diCarli, President of the MCP! was among other 22 recipients.



Thanks to funding from



## “POPS! PROS TEACH”

Are you interested in learning a musical instrument but never had the time? Well, here is another chance to learn from professional musicians in your home! Music lovers of all ages will enjoy the series.

The presenters are engaging and creative and their styles vary with each class.



Monterey County Pops! to ensuring young people throughout the county to have access to personalized lessons, professionally taught. Board Member Doug Lee and Founding Orchestra Conductor / Music Director Carl Christensen worked together with the production wizards at Access Media Productions to create – “Monterey County Pops! Pros Teach.”

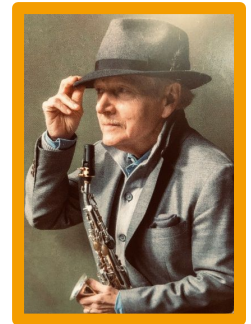
*“We believe this unique collaboration is the first of its kind on the Central Coast,”* explains Lee. *“Monterey County Pops! with the professional musicians presenting the clinics all holding degrees in music performance and music education and have many years of experience performing professionally. They were thrilled to be part of this great service, and we are also proud to be involved with the professionals at Access Monterey Peninsula!”*

The sessions focus on broad, general techniques of playing each instrument – equipment choices, position, breathing, tone quality, articulation, and intonation. The history and traditions of each instrument are also given and explained.

The programs can be viewed on MCP!’s website [montereycountypops.org](http://montereycountypops.org) where print materials referenced in the videos are available for download.

## MEET OUR MUSICIANS...

**Mark Russo**, a professional musician, performer/writer, and teacher graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. His commitment and discipline to music has given him the opportunity and array of woodwinds to include flute saxophone, clarinet, and oboe.



As a professional, he has toured with Vic Damone, Mel Torme, Albert King, and Albert Collins. He has also performed with world-class tenor player Pete Christlieb from the tonight show band. He performed with American Musical Theatre and Theatre works of Mt. View. He has also produced two Christmas albums on the M&M Productions label as well as three Swing CD compilations. He is an active performer in Classical, Jazz, and Blues.

The Mark Russo Quartet has been playing in and around the bay area for many years. Most recently the group has played for the San Jose Jazz Society series in Santana Row and the SAP open at the HP Pavilion in San Jose. They play straight-ahead Swing, Jazz, Latin, Brazilian, and originals. Within the last couple of years, Mark has recorded two quartet CDs entitled The Mark Russo Quartet and Casual Instincts. The group also plays for private and public events.

As a solo performer, Mark Russo performs as a solo saxophone artist playing contemporary jazz. He is accompanied by very cool and hip music tracks. The styles include Latin, Bossa Nova, Brazilian, ballad and original.

*“My experience with the Monterey Pops organization has been always positive. It is a very professional organization along with being diversified.”*

Mark Russo’s website is [markrusso.bandzoogle.com](http://markrusso.bandzoogle.com) or contact him at [misterr.rmusic@gmail.com](mailto:misterr.rmusic@gmail.com)

