

## Santa Barbara Symphony

# A Round of Thanks!

**THE SANTA BARBARA SYMPHONY** took a delicious moment out to share its gratitude and excitement at an appreciation luncheon at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse on September 24th held for the Symphony's Business Council members. During the event, several local businesses who support the Symphony were honored.

In addition to providing a sizzling lunch, which Executive Director John Robinson said was chosen to reflect the sizzling year of programming ahead, the Symphony received a \$10,000 check from Citibank for its Musical Mentors program.

"We can't forget these things. It is easy to be distracted, but these types of programs are critical," shared Citibank's Tony Poretta. "We



**John Robinson**, Exec Director, SB Symphony; **Gillian Launie**, President, Board of Directors, SB Symphony; **Tony Porretta**, Central Coast Area Retail Director for Citibank; **Rashi Kallur**, Citibank Community Relations; and **Brandee Hostler**, Financial Center Manager for Citibank; present a \$10,000 check to the Symphony for the Musical Mentors program.

are committed to families, communities, and children." Robinson paid special thanks to Citibank's Rashi Kallur, who "pushed us to develop the program," which will expand in scope again this year.

Business Appreciation Awards were presented to three long-time supporters: Nick Rail Music was recognized for Rail's generous donations of instruments, maintenance, repairs, and accessories to the Music Van since its beginning in 1970s.

Roby Scott was called up front to receive the Media Support Award for KDB 93.7 FM Classical Music for its generous and historical support in broadcasting performances, interviewing artists, and providing air time to announce Symphony concerts and events.

Montecito Bank & Trust's Mary Ellen Tiffany accepted the Bank's Overall



**Peter Frisch**, Exec Director Grand and SB Mayor **Marty Blum**



**Roby Scott**



**Nick Rail**



**John Robinson**, Exec Director SB Symphony; **Mary Ellen Tiffany**, Montecito Bank & Trust; and **Scott Estby**, Montecito Bank & Trust



**Kris Kassberg**, General Manager, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse



**Nicole Hager**, Classic Wines of California; **Robin Eschler**, Development Director SB Symphony; and **Chris Garay**, Classic Wines of California

Contribution Award for their years of leadership on the Board and committees, their contributed time to build the Business Council, and their support for educational programs, community concerts including July 4th, the International Percussion and Guitar Festivals and the Symphony subscription concerts.

Citibank has supported the Musical Mentors program, which provides for disadvantaged youth to attend Symphony concerts with adult mentors, for several years. Girls Inc. has been a partner in this program helping to identify eligible youths and their mentors. This year's Musical Mentor program will extend to also provide funding for foster children to attend, as well directly through Children's Welfare Services.

The luncheon also featured a

presentation by three Music Van docents during which Business Council members took the opportunity to try their hand at playing an instrument, just like third grade students experience each school year.

The mission of the **SB Symphony** is to be a highly respected symphony orchestra, performing great works with passion and excellence and to be an indispensable partner to the community, providing enrichment through inspiring concerts, music education programs, and access for all. For more information visit: [www.thesymphony.org](http://www.thesymphony.org).