



Music at Kohl Mansion

Press Release

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**Music at Kohl Mansion announces publication of *Notable Excitement*, the story of a grand mansion that became a convent, a haunted house, a high school and a concert series.**

**Burlingame, CA, October 11, 2013** - A European chateau, a lavish palace, a convent, a grand chamber haunted by a ghost—these are but a few of the backdrops that form the colorful tapestry of Music at Kohl Mansion. The just-released *Notable Excitement: 30 years of Music at Kohl Mansion* by Liz Dossa recounts the captivating history of the longest-running chamber music series on the San Francisco Peninsula. The Mansion has seen world premieres, a catastrophic earthquake, the debuts of stars destined for international fame, and, always, intimate music played live by the world’s finest classical musicians – at Kohl, there is “always a sense of event” according to cellist Emil Miland, a frequent performer. The book may be ordered at [www.musicatkohl.org](http://www.musicatkohl.org) or by phone at (650) 762-1130.

A critic claimed in 1984, “Chamber music has come out of the closet at Kohl.” Written by its founder, Liz Dossa, *Notable Excitement* captures that musical “coming out” in the historic Kohl Mansion. The FOG and Amelia Trios, the Miró, Cavani, St. Petersburg, Daedalus, Ying and Alexander String Quartets, among many others, have made multiple appearances. Simply “the best acoustics anywhere and visually stunning as well” raved a recent visiting ensemble from New York City.

Through extensive interviews, concert-goers, artists, board members and staff –past and present– describe the profound ways the music has affected them. They recount the stormy night when the lights went out, animated conversations over canapés after concerts, lean years that nearly silenced the hall, deep and lasting friendships that have formed – inspired by the transformative experience of great music, memorably shared.

The book, lovingly written by the series’ creator and long-time leader, unveils a triumphant success story via the remembrances and anecdotes of those who have cherished the music throughout its first thirty years.

The longest-running concert series on the Peninsula exclusively dedicated to chamber music, Music at Kohl Mansion continues to flourish today thanks in large part to the early believers interviewed in the book.

Liberally illustrated with photographs and sidebar stories of people and events that have marked important milestones, *Notable Excitement* features an introductory tribute by Sandy Wilson, founder and cellist of the Alexander String Quartet, and a preface by musicologist Kai Christiansen, well known to Northern California chamber music aficionados. The book is available at [www.musicatkohl.org](http://www.musicatkohl.org) or by phone (650) 762-1130.

### **About Music at Kohl Mansion**

Housed in a beautiful Tudor-style estate built in 1914 in Burlingame by Frederick Kohl, son of a wealthy business tycoon, and his wife Bessie, Music at Kohl Mansion was founded in 1983 to offer quality chamber concerts on the San Francisco Peninsula. Excellent acoustics, ideal size and the intimate atmosphere of the Mansion's Great Hall make it a superb chamber music venue. This year marks the 31st consecutive season of world-class chamber concerts in the historic Kohl Mansion. Located just 15 miles south of San Francisco, Kohl Mansion has become a favorite destination of chamber music lovers from throughout the Bay Area. Music at Kohl Mansion is an independent non-profit, 501 (c) (3) charitable organization operating in collaboration with and on the campus of Mercy High School, Burlingame, Karen Hanrahan, President. Major support for *Notable Excitement* was provided by the Sam Mazza Foundation and the Hind Foundation.

### **About the Author**

Liz Dossa co-founded Music at Kohl Mansion with Sister Amy Bayley and was executive director from 1983 to 1992. She has since served as executive director of the Peninsula Symphony and communications manager of the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest, a post she currently occupies. With Sister Suzanne Toolan, she co-authored *I Am the Bread of Life*, profiling a remarkable career in music. Liz has written numerous articles for publications including Stanford Magazine, Peninsula Magazine, San Francisco Chronicle, San Mateo Times, Strings Magazine, Chamber Music America, San Francisco Catholic, and the Oakland Voice.

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High resolution photos and book excerpts available upon request: [publicity@musicatkohl.org](mailto:publicity@musicatkohl.org); (650)762-1130. Schedule an interview with author Liz Dossa: [publicity@musicatkohl.org](mailto:publicity@musicatkohl.org); (650)762-1130.

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