



**Rick Robinson** led much of the program, a mishmash of ensembles.

**Burgers, beers & Bach** — Lake George Music Festival's crazy, wild casual classical night at the Boardwalk Restaurant in Lake George on Monday. *Chronicle photos/Cathy DeDe*



**Not the typical bar scene here** — Marimba, cello, hipster hats and music scores.



**Alexander Lombard** introduces the show while co-director Barbara Kolárová (far left) texts, as encouraged.

## Meanwhile in Bolton, more classic classics

**Cathy DeDe adds:** On a more traditional note, another fine offering from the Lake George Music Festival was Saturday night's Chamber Concert at the Sembrich Museum in Bolton Landing.

Like all the other Festival offerings, it was free. The place was full more than half an hour before the music started.

The centerpiece was the world premiere of "Oars in Water," an art song commissioned by the Festival from poet Jeanne Minahan and composer Michael Djupstrom.

My taste for Art Song is limited. There's a flatness to it that doesn't speak to me. Still, how interesting to hear a piece, in



English, about rowing out for a picnic.

More to my liking: Composer Rick Robinson's modern string sextet "Mighty Love," a stirring Korngold Piano Quintet, and a gorgeous Piano Quartet by Robert Schumann.

Wild, how this Festival can put a bunch of mostly young musicians together and so quickly have them create real magic.

# LG Music Fest promised fun, and delivered

By Cathy DeDe

Chronicle Managing Editor

ESPN was playing on the big screen the whole time. Folks were texting, talking, ordering burgers and wings while — were those violas in the back of the room? A marimba-cello duo? Was that someone laughing out loud or hooting along to Mozart? Did that brass quintet really go from Baroque to Spaghetti Western themes to — Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance?"

Yes! Yep. We were ROTFL.

The occasion was the Lake George Music Festival's Late Night Classical Concert, Monday, Aug. 18, 9 to 11 p.m. at the Boathouse on Lake George.

The intent, instigator and director Rick Robinson intoned, slam poetry-style, at evening's start: To knock classical music off the pedestal, have some fun, bring the music where the people are.

Most — but not all! — of the young folks in the packed crowd were Festival musicians themselves. Oldsters like me made up some third of the highly engaged audience. It's a good start. It was, indeed, totally fun, appropriate, even edifying, in ways both traditional (good music, all strains, well played) and new (singing with Mozart, did we really dare DO that?).

I'm glad director Alexander Lombard and his cohorts brought the fun and fine music out to play in such a way.

## **Finale is today, Aug. 21!**

The Lake George Music Festival concludes today, Thursday, Aug. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Shepard Park, Lake George Village. The Festival Symphony Orchestra, all 68 musicians, will perform Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, plus works by Wagner and Glazunov.

Music director Roger Kalia conducts.

The weekly fireworks over Lake George follow at 9:30 p.m.

Concert rain location: Lake George High School.