

HOME & Garden

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NEWS-PRESS

SECTION **D**

life@newspress.com

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*A growing
crescendo*



Lou Greer Frost, a Garden Club of Santa Barbara member, used a white protea to create this modern mass design that could suit the "I Got Rhythm" category for "Fascinating Rhythms, The Music of Flowers," the club's juried show. The stick in the design was found on a beach and depicts rhythm.

PETER VANDENBELT / NEWS-PRESS

Music inspires Garden Club show

By **DAVE MASON**
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Everyone from The Beatles to Kermit the Frog is inspiring musical blooms at the Garden Club of Santa Barbara's new juried show.

"Fascinating Rhythms, The Music of Flowers" takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday at — where else? — the Music Academy of the West, 1070 Fairway Road, in Montecito. Admission and parking are free.

Entrants must make their floral designs fit the song that inspired the category. So for "Me and My Shadow," the 1927 classic by Al Jolson, Billy Rose and Dave Dreyer, the floral arranger must have flowers in two containers. Get it? One container is the shadow.

And for "It's Not Easy Bein' Green," the Joe Raposo song that Kermit the Frog immortalized in 1970 on "Sesame Street," contestants must make sure the entire floral design is green.

The Garden Club varies the locations of its shows and arranges for each one to fit its setting, said Laura Kuhn, the Santa Barbara resident co-chairing "Fascinating Rhythms." The theme for the last show, which was in 2010 at El Presidio de Santa Barbara, was "Celebrate Santa Barbara."

Mrs. Kuhn told the News-Press the music theme is appropriate for the Music Academy, which sits on the former Miraflores estate. "Miraflores" is Spanish for "look at the flowers."

"The idea of a flower show is to interpret the title and theme of the show," Mrs. Kuhn said. The 30 judges are from other clubs, which, like the Santa Barbara group, are affiliated with Garden Club of America. They'll award many awards — first-, second- and third-place ribbons and honorable mentions, along with several best-in-shows and special awards.

This year, more than 40 members of the Santa Barbara club, along with 10 or so from other clubs, have entered the show, and some have flowers in more than one category.

While music actually won't be performed at the show, you'll see the name of the song inspiring each category by each plant.

The music theme is carried out in all the floral, photography and horticulture categories. The names inspire creativity, said Bobbie Kinnear, the co-chairwoman in Montecito. "They (contestants) have to listen to the song and think about what the composer was saying."

Noted Mrs. Kuhn, "One of my favorites, probably because I thought of it, is this category where we have cut specimens. You cut the perfect rose, the perfect iris, the perfect whatever." The song that inspired the category? Pete Seeger's "Where Have All The Flowers Gone?" (1955).

Mr. Seeger, who died Jan. 27, sang folk music, which is ideal for a flower show. It's American roots music.

A 1967 rock classic by Paul McCartney and John Lennon inspired another category — "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." The idea is to incorporate a musical instrument with three or more rooted plants, Mrs. Kuhn said. "That's not easy. What do you do? A toy piano? That's pretty unusual."

For the "Symphonie Fantastique" category, inspired by Hector Berlioz's 1830 work, contestants can go dramatic with a contemporary design, Mrs. Kuhn said. "That can be as far out as you want!"

Susanne McEwen, a past club president, noted the categories encourage originality. "They're not your standard floral

FYI

"Fascinating Rhythms, The Music of Flowers," the Garden Club of Santa Barbara's floral show, will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday at the Music Academy of the West, 1070 Fairway Road, Montecito. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call co-chairwoman Bobbie Kinnear at 969-0876.

Please see **MUSIC** on **D8**



PETER VANDENBELT / NEWS-PRESS

Garden Club of Santa Barbara members Bobbie Kinnear, left, and Laura Kuhn, examine roses at Mrs. Kinnear's home in Montecito. They're co-chairwomen of "Fascinating Rhythms, the Music of Flowers."

They're not FTD!

■ MUSIC

Continued from Page D1

arrangements. They're not FTD. No!" she said with a laugh.

To score big in one category, you have to think small. Flowers can't exceed five inches in any dimension for "Little Things Mean a Lot," a 1953 standard by Edith Lindeman and Carl Stutz.

The other categories include one inspired by "The Four Seasons," the 1723 classic by Antonio Vivaldi. Entrants put together a table setting with a floral arrangement depicting a season. "You can pick winter and do Christmas, pick fall and do a mountain theme," Mrs. Kuhn said.

For "I Got Rhythm," the 1930 classic by George and Ira Gershwin, entrants create a modern mass design. The flowers are in distinct blocks of colors.

The music theme remains distinct in the show's photography categories.

"Waltz of the Flowers," from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" (1892), is the name of the color category. "On the Street Where You Live," a song from Frederick Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner's 1956 Broadway hit "My Fair Lady," inspired the black-and-white category in which entrants take pictures of flowers and other plants at the Music Academy of the West.

Want to think outside the frame? Then "Come to My Garden." Marsha Norman and Lucy Simon's song from the 1991 musical "The Secret Garden" inspired the category for pictures manipulated in Photoshop, where you can merge dream with reality.

The theme continues with an exhibit that the Garden Club did in partnership with the Santa Barbara Beekeepers Association for the show. It stresses the importance of helping bees and other pollinators survive in the community, and the exhibit is listed by the Garden Club under an 1899 composition by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. It's known for its wild, fast violins.

Get ready for "Flight of the Bumblebee."