

Idyllwild Town Crier - Concert Review: Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra's
New Music Concert
May 10, 2014
By ART CONNOR

It was the three-movement viola concerto following the intermission that registered the highest peak of the night's achievement, in addition to the soloist's undoubted mastery of his particular instrument. Mr. Neubauer admittedly reflected his East Coast pedigrees in both execution of the difficult score (with predecessors in Bartok and Walton, as well as the Barber "Violin Concerto") and his rapport with both conductor and composer (who both received congratulatory bows following the proceedings). The concerto itself was presented in both leisurely and forceful manners, according to the general outlay, which could be described as "neo-Romantic" — especially in the last two movements where virtuosity of both orchestra and solo player were most likely to outdo each other. Mr. Askim kept the players on an even keel throughout, as in the first part of the program, and his audience accolades were well-deserved.