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Kenneth Klein conducts the award-winning county-symphony.

^{Cabrillo Music Festival} County symphony, Cabrillo festival capture prestigious music awards

By RICK CHATENEVER

Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — The county's two premier musical organizations — the Santa Cruz County Symphony and the Cabrillo Music Festival — have both won prestigious awards in a national competition.

The local orchestra and music festival were recognized in the 1984 American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) Awards for Adventuresome Programming. The Cabrillo Festival won in the "festivals" category while the county symphony took a second in the "urban orchestra" division, it was announced Monday.

It is unprecedented for a county of Santa Cruz' size to take two of the possible 16

awards presented across the U.S., according to Cabrillo Festival spokeswoman Melissa Eikner Scholl. The only other double winner this year was the city of Minneapolis.

The awards will be presented in Toronto in June at the national conference of the American Symphony Orchestra League.

The awards for "adventuresome programming" recognize musical ensembles playing works composed since 1945. The Cabrillo Festival was named for the third consecutive year, notably for the U.S. premiere of Hans Werner Henze's community opera "Pollicino, or the New Adventures of Tom Thumb," as well as other works by Henze and Aptos composer Lou Harrison, played during the 1983 season.

The Santa Cruz County Symphony was recognized for a season which included Corigliano's "Promenade Overture," Barbara's "Conzanetta for Oboe and Strings," local composer Josef Sekon's "Lemon Ice" and Doris Hays' "Southern Voices."

Symphony Manager Michael Stamp said the ensemble was "very honored. It's really an exciting thing to be chosen. It speaks well of our board's commitment to new music and to the vision of music director (and conductor) Kenneth Klein."

Since taking the county orchestra podium three years ago, Maestro Klein has showcased other new works, including "The Dragon and the Phoenix" by local composer and former county symphony Director George Barati, and the world

premiere of "Afterlife" by David Cope of the UCSC music faculty.

Santa Cruz' double win "indicates that we have a more sophisticated audience than other cities," according to Scholl. "Other orchestras don't play new music because they can't sell it at the box office. But both the music festival and county symphony regularly sell out their performances. Programming contemporary music has ceased to be a marketing risk for us."

In addition to the Cabrillo festival's award, its music director, Dennis Russell Davies, shared in another of the ASCAP prizes. The American Composers Orchestra of New York, which Davies serves as music adviser, took a "Special Prize" for strongest overall commitment to contemporary music for the second consecutive year.

S.C. Sentinel May 8, 1984