

Civic Grant to fund upgrade of Civic

5.2 million 8-99
\$276,000 to benefit
Cabrillo music fest

BY DAVID L. BECK

Mercury News Senior Arts Writer

The Cabrillo Music Festival, still aglow from a popular and critical success last summer, has another reason to smile: a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation for \$276,000 to upgrade the sound, lighting and acoustic setup at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

The new equipment will bring the auditorium's capabilities up to the level attained for last summer's production of "Mass," said festival administrator Ellen Primack. The equipment that will be permanently installed cost \$10,000 to rent.

The grant will also complete the acoustic upgrading of the hall with reflective side-wall panels, an overhead sound canopy and a rear sound wall. The money is expected to be in hand by November and the work completed in time for next summer's Cabrillo Music Festival.

The Civic is also the permanent home of the Santa Cruz County Symphony, as well as being a popular concert and exposition hall. The symphony, First Night Santa Cruz and other groups supported the festival's grant proposal, Primack said.