



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Additional photos available upon request

PRESS CONTACT

Alyssa Kichula

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Tel: (805) 966-1279 Fax: (805) 966-9888

E-mail: alyssa@sbthp.org Website: www.sbthp.org

Blog: sbthp.wordpress.com Facebook: [facebook.com/SBTHP](https://www.facebook.com/SBTHP) Twitter: twitter.com/SBTHP

***La Pastorela* returns to El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park**



(Santa Barbara, CA)—The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) and *Los Pastores de Santa Barbara* present *La Pastorela* on Saturday, December 17 at 8:00 PM and Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. *La Pastorela (A Shepherd's Play)* is one of Santa Barbara's oldest and most beautiful Christmas traditions. Dramatizing the epic battle between good and evil, the play invokes elements of spectacle, comedy, and fantasy.

La Pastorela is the tale of the *pastores'* (shepherds) journey to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Christ. The shepherds' journey is fraught with temptations, distractions, and peril as the devil tries to prevent them from reaching their destination. While hundreds of unique versions of the play exist, this *pastorela* was transcribed in the mid-nineteenth century by Pablo de la Guerra, the then-patriarch of the local de la Guerra family. Based on performances he witnessed in Santa Barbara, the de la Guerra version is housed at the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library among the de la Guerra family papers. The performance is conducted entirely in Spanish and incorporates Early California song and dance.

La Pastorela is produced and directed by Elvira Tafoya of *Los Pastores de Santa Barbara*. Tafoya has been involved in *La Pastorela* performances in Santa Barbara since 1975 and has successfully collaborated many

times with SBTHP to conduct performances in the Presidio Chapel. According to Dr. Anne Petersen, Executive Director of SBTHP, "SBTHP is honored to host this local Christmas tradition again this year at the Presidio Chapel. Elvira Tafoya and her group of talented actors have transformed a historic script into a living tradition."

Keeping with tradition, *Los Pastores* has recruited amateur actors from the community to take on the ten principal roles in the play. Elvira Tafoya, an accomplished teacher and organizer in the Santa Barbara community notes, "We are excited to have *Pastorela* back at the Presidio. This project gives us the opportunity to keep a Mexican tradition alive and to share it with the entire community."

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Gift Shop at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park or at the door before each performance.

####

CALENDAR LISTING

La Pastorela

Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 8:00 PM

Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

\$6 - SBTHP Members and Children 12 & Under

\$12 - Adults

For more information: (805) 965-0093 or www.sbthp.org

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Gift Shop at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park



La Pastorela (A Shepherd's Play) is one of Santa Barbara's oldest and most beautiful Christmas traditions. Dramatizing the epic battle between good and evil, the play invokes elements of spectacle, comedy, and fantasy. This version of *La Pastorela* was transcribed in the mid-nineteenth century by Pablo de la Guerra and will be conducted in Spanish. Produced and Directed by Elvira Tafoya.

####

ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)—For over fifty years the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) has worked to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara's 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks. The State has purchased the building that housed Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara's Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s

home of Presidio *Comandante* José de la Guerra and his family; the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. In 2009, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. In 2011, SBTHP was awarded the Trustees' Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County's distinctive history. **Learn more at www.sbthp.org.**