



Daily Republic  
**Diversions**

Friday, January 3, 2014 SECTION B

This week  
THINGS TO DO

'Her' a funny, out-of-body experience **B2**

## Finding 'happy' way to celebrate 32nd birthday

**T**oday, I turn 32. I'm not really sure how to celebrate in pop culture fashion because as a number and an age, 32 is dull.

It's an inconsequential age. It doesn't have its number in the rafters with the famous birthdays, such as 18, 21 or 40.



**Nick DeCicco**  
For those about to rock

It's one more than the amount of flavors at Baskin-Robbins, but one less than the number of revolutions for an LP.

According to Wikipedia – and why wouldn't you trust an online encyclopedia that any nerd with an Internet connection can edit? – 32 is

the ninth happy number, which, I hope, is as cheery as it sounds.

It's also the atomic number of germanium, a metal that looks like it crashed from outer space. When you think about it, outer space is what a birthday celebrates. It's the number of laps a person has made around the sun on this planet.

While 32 may be a dog as a number,

See DeCicco, Page B5



**Divisa Ensemble, clockwise from back left, Tomiko Tsai, Adrienne Malley, Stephanie Ng, Quelani Penland and Sara Styles, will perform at the First Presbyterian Church Sunday.**

Courtesy photo

## All-female ensemble performs Sunday

AMY MAGINNIS-HONEY  
DAILY REPUBLIC

**FAIRFIELD** — The all-female Divisa Ensemble is one of two groups performing at Sunday's "Chamber Music Gems," hosted by the Vallejo Symphony.

The five-piece unit features a flute, oboe, violin, viola and cello. Their name is taken from the musical term *divisi*,

which indicates the musicians are divided into two or more separate sections. Vallejo concertgoers will see that Sunday as the group will perform, as a duo, trio, quartet and quintet.

Their first piece will feature the viola and cello performing Rebecca Clarke's "Lullaby," described as "melodious and dreamy" by viola player Stephanie Ng. The second is Clarke's "Grotesque," which Ng calls "cheeky and fun."

The flute, oboe and cello will perform on "Dream Dances," a collection of serious and funny songs. It was penned by Peter Schickele, also known as PDQ Bach. Schickele jokingly refers to himself as Bach's 21st of 20 children.

The quartet will be featured on "The Flute Quartet in D Major."

"It's probably the most familiar

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### DIVERSIONS

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4:30 p.m. weekends, weekdays by appointment only, 1635 Mason Road, Fairfield. 864-2089.

**Jelly Belly:** Free tours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, One Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield. 428-2838, www.jellybelly.com.

**Ledgewood Creek Winery:** Tasting room open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 589 Abernathy Road, Fairfield. 426-4424, www.ledgewoodcreek.com.

**Mankas Potters at The Clay Station:** Open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, 2529 Mankas Corner Road, Fairfield. 422-4942.

**Sepay Groves:** Taste olive oils, vinegars, jams and jellies, open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, 370 Chadbourne Road, Fairfield. www.sepayoliveoil.com, 434-8222.

**Six Flags Discovery Kingdom:** Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through April 6, also open Jan. 20 and Feb. 17; 1001 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo. www.sixflags.com/discoverykingdom.

**Stars Recreation Center:** Bowling, QZar laser tag, happy hour, open 24 hours daily, 155 Browns Valley

## Female: Symphony hosts 'Chamber Music Gems'

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piece on our program," Ng wrote in an email to the Daily Republic. "Though the myth is that Mozart did not like writing for the flute, he showed great genius in this composition, highlighting the instrument as well as showcasing the strings that also play."

The piece features the flute, violin, viola and cello.

All five women will perform "The Petite Suite Champetre" by Dutch composer Jan Koetsier.

"One can hear elements of dawn, pipes, rustling winds and bells in the quintet," Ng wrote.

Ng has always loved music and likes to play it even more, she

### MUSIC

## Preview

### "Chamber Music Gems"

Featuring the Divisa Ensemble, Avenue Winds and pianist Eric Zivian

3 p.m. Sunday  
First Presbyterian Church,  
1350 Amador St., Vallejo  
643-4441

www.vallejosymphony.org  
www.divisaensemble.com

said. Like many youth, her introduction came via the piano. She then tackled violin, playing in the Young Person's Symphony

Orchestra under the direction of Vallejo Symphony conductor David Ramadanoff.

"I started viola because I wanted to play chamber music in a program that did not need anymore violins," Ng wrote. "To participate, I had to play another instrument. But it was a happy circumstance because the viola suits me a little better as it is an inside voice; less flashy, but still essential."

"Plus, it's interesting hearing music sort of from the inside out. I also love the deeper sound and timbre of the viola; sometimes it reminds me of something luscious, like chocolate. (But maybe more like creamy milk chocolate,

since the viola is not as deep as a cello.)"

Ng said all ensemble members are friends in addition to being fellow musicians. Chamber music is a democracy, she wrote. "When it comes to musical decisions, like what pieces we play, tempi we take, or even colors we decide to wear, everyone has a say."

Responsibilities are shared. Each member brings their individual strengths. "We are all good musicians so that's a great place to start from," Ng wrote.

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