



Clint Weisman

## Mari & J. Patrick McAlister

Mari and J. Patrick McAlister moved to Santa Barbara with their family in 2000 from the Beverly Hills area and became involved with the Lobero during the next couple of years. Mari begins, “I love the Lobero because it’s so intimate. It’s really special. I think we are really lucky to have it in our community.” Mari has been involved with the Lobero Theatre Associates, the Lobero’s women’s auxiliary group, for eight years now. Patrick agrees, “It’s a great venue to have in downtown Santa Barbara. What we like about it is the small nature of it, the intimacy, and the historical aspect.”

The McAlisters have brought their daughters, Megan and Lauren, to the Lobero many times. They have fond memories of seeing *The Nutcracker* with the girls when they were young, as well as the annual presentation of *It’s Magic!* and still enjoy seeing shows as a family. “We brought our daughters to the Steve Miller Band at the Lobero. They LOVED that.”

Mari and Patrick say they are looking forward to more evenings out now that they are “empty nesters,” with Megan and Lauren both away at USC. The couple recently attended the Lobero Theatre Foundation’s presentation of *Come Fly Away*, a thrilling dance show by Twyla Tharpe set to the music of Frank Sinatra, at the Granada this past November. Mari in particular loved it, adding, “It was fantastic!”

What else are the McAlisters doing now that their girls are off at school? Patrick is serving on the Board of St. John’s Hospital, located in Santa Monica, California. Patrick and Mari are both on the Board of The Harold McAlister Charitable Foundation, based in

Beverly Hills. The Foundation, started by Patrick’s grandfather in 1959, has a history of supporting healthcare and education, although they like to include the arts and other causes when possible. Patrick has been managing the Foundation’s portfolio since 1998, and he and Mari both personally take the time to follow-up with charities, doing site visits and making sure that the money is being spent as anticipated. As Patrick says, “It’s good to get involved when you have the time.”

In addition, Patrick has also spent time on the Boards for the Page Youth Center, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, and Laguna Blanca School. Mari served on the Parent Auxiliary for Laguna Blanca School and was involved with the National Charity League with their daughters.

With any spare time remaining, you might find this active couple riding their horses on the trails in Hope Ranch. Mari often rows out on Lake Casitas, and Patrick enjoys golf, tennis and has been a sailing enthusiast since he was five. In fact, the McAlisters plan their vacations so they can be on the water, taking trips to Catalina, the Channel Islands, and the San Juan and Gulf Islands in the northwest.

The Lobero Theatre staff is looking forward to seeing more of the McAlisters in the audience this season, and promises to do our best to try to book The Eagles, just for them.