

California Youth Symphony



441 California Ave.
Suite Number 5
Palo Alto, CA 94306

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CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY

Leo Eylar, Conductor

La Valse Maurice Ravel

Violin Concerto No. 1 Niccolò Paganini

Ethan Tsai, Violin

Circus Polka Igor Stravinsky

Suite from Der Rosenkavalier Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)

Sunday, March 18, 2:30pm

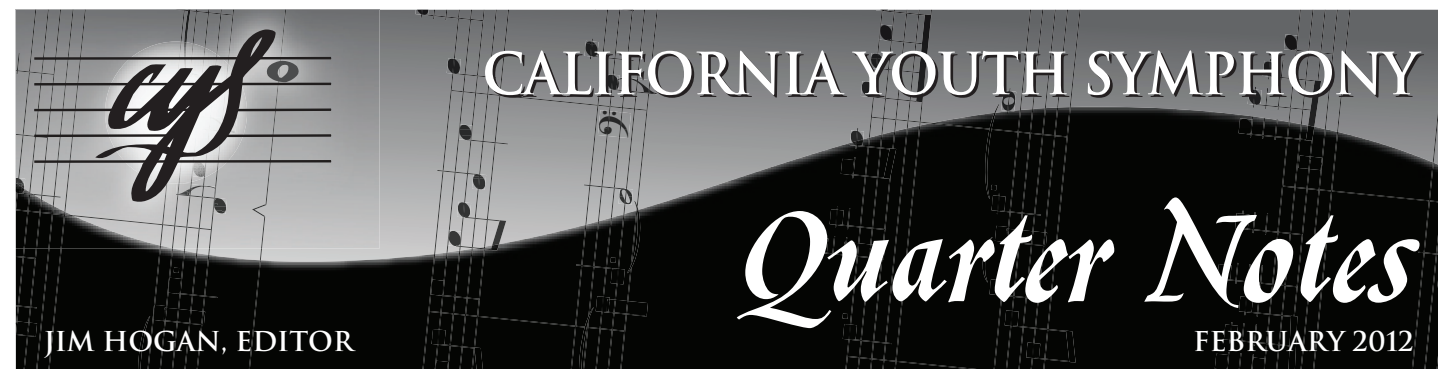
Flint Center, DeAnza College

Stevens Creek at Highway 85, Cupertino

TICKETS: Adults \$15, Students and Seniors \$10

Available from www.brownpapertickets.com, at the door or from any CYS member
CYS, 441 California Av. #5 Palo Alto, CA 94306 tel. 650-325-6666 www.cys.org

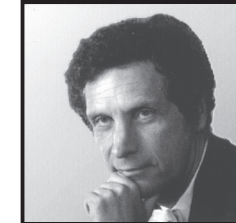
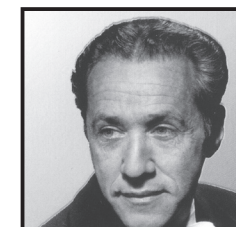
No children under five, please



California Youth Symphony Continues Its 60th Anniversary Season

The California Youth Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Leo Eylar, continues its 60th anniversary season by featuring CYS Young Artist Competition winner, violinist Ethan Tsai on Sunday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Flint Center in Cupertino. Tsai will perform the spectacular Violin Concerto No. 1 by Niccolò Paganini. One of the greatest of all violin virtuosos, Paganini wrote a concerto to demonstrate his prowess, and it has challenged violinists and dazzled audiences for the past 200 years. The concert will also feature the orchestral suite from Richard Strauss' enormously popular opera, *Der Rosenkavalier*, evoking the lilting waltz rhythms of late 19th century Vienna. The concert will begin with Ravel's *La Valse*, the piece that earned CYS raves for at the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival at Davies Hall in January. Stravinsky's *Circus Polka* will complete the program.

Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 students and seniors. A \$30 family ticket admits two adults and up to 4 children. Tickets will be available at the door the afternoon of the concerts. For more information visit www.cys.org.





CYS Young Artist Competition Winner Ethan Tsai

Ethan Tsai, winner of the 2011 CYS Young Artist Competition, will perform the Paganini Violin Concerto No. 1 with the orchestra on March 18 at the Flint Center. Ethan is currently an 11th grader at Crystal Springs Uplands School. He started learning violin at the age of 6 under the tutelage of Li Lin and has received many awards since, including: the Menuhin/Dowling Young Musician's Award in 2004; First Place and Best Chinese Piece Performance from CMTANC Youth Music Competition in 2005; State winner for String Solo from the California Music Teachers Association (VOCE) 2006 and 2011; Laureate of the Junior Bach Festival, 2007 and 2010; Winner of the American Fine Arts Festival string competition, 2010; Winner of the United States Open Music Competition Showcase Violin Concerto, 2011; and recipient of the Margaret Brady Study Grant by the Y.E.S. Foundation in 2011. In December 2008, Ethan made his international concert debut with the Guangzhou Philharmonic in Guangzhou, China. In November 2009, he was invited to perform with the Hong Kong Youth Symphony as the soloist at their annual concert in Hong Kong. Ethan has also been an active member of the San Francisco Youth Orchestra since 2008. Aside from music, Ethan loves sports. He was named the most valuable player on his school junior varsity soccer team, and was the team captain and most valuable player on his school badminton team. Ethan also enjoys reading, computer games, biking, swimming, and golfing in his leisure time.

CYS 60TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI REUNION

MAY 19, 2012

Reunion Orchestra, under Leo Eylar's baton, will play at Palo Alto's Spangenberg Theater.

Following the Reunion Concert, dinner, socializing and reminiscing at the Fremont Hills Country Club, Los Altos Hills.

Cost for the concert and dinner will be \$50, with a special discount price of \$35 for alumni who are still students.

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WINNING SOLOISTS FEATURED BY ASSOCIATE ORCHESTRA

The California Youth Symphony Associate Orchestra, under the direction of Leo Eylar, will present its Winter Concert in the Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills at 2:00pm on Sunday, March 4. The program will feature winners of the 2012 Associate Orchestra Soloist Competition, Shea Ketsdever, cello and Jeffery Chan, french horn. There is no admission charge for the concert.



JOINING CYS

CYS will hold auditions for membership in all of our programs for the 2012-13 season on April 13, 14, 20, 21.

We'll hold our annual Young Artist Competition, to select soloists for next season, on May 6.

Please visit our website, www.cys.org, for application information.

NEW ZEALAND TOUR UPDATE

In June CYS will visit New Zealand on its 19th international tour. Literally hours after Music Director Leo Eylar conducted CYS at the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival in Davies Hall last month he left on an inspection trip of New Zealand. We caught up with him recently to ask how things went.

Can you recap your trip? How did things go?

Fantastic. We flew into Auckland and then followed the itinerary of the tour, visiting Rotarua, Wellington, Christchurch and Omaru. We got to meet all the key organizers and look at the concert venues and hotels. In Auckland we visited with the American Consulate staff. They will be helping to coordinate our concerts throughout the entire country. They'll also help to arrange school visits in Auckland. Our performance there will be in Holy Trinity Church, a very beautiful and popular concert venue.

Next we went to Rotarua, the center of traditional Maori culture. CYS will visit a school of traditional Maori arts and crafts and a small CYS group will play for the students. We'll also give a full concert at the Town Hall. The concert will open with a performance by local Maori musicians and dancers.

In Wellington, the capital, we met with staff at the US Embassy, who will be working with the Auckland Consulate to coordinate and promote our concerts. We'll be giving a special Fourth of July Concert in Wellington Cathedral.

The next day, we'll have a 10 hour bus ride to Christchurch that includes a four hour boat crossing of the Cook Straights that separate the North and South Islands. In many ways the Christchurch visit will be the highlight of the tour, because we will be collaborating with the Christchurch Youth Orchestra and their maestro, Luke DiSomma. We'll be doing two concerts - one in Christchurch and one in a fabulous little opera house in Omaru, about 150 miles to the south.

Will the two orchestras play together?

Yes, we'll each do a portion to the concert and at the end we'll join forces for a combined piece.

Who will conduct the joint piece?

That's the nice thing about doing two concerts with CYO - Maestro DiSomma will conduct the collaborative piece at one concert and I'll conduct at the other.

The musical part of the tour sounds great. Are there additional activities planned?

Of course! Just to mention a few adventures - we'll visit a sheep farm, and maybe even shear a sheep or two. We'll have a couple of boat rides, including a harbor cruise in Auckland. We'll have a traditional Maori meal, followed by a Maori music and dance show. We'll visit the Antarctic Centre in Christchurch and the Underwater World in Auckland.

Will audiences here at home get a chance to enjoy the music you are bringing to New Zealand?

Absolutely! We'll have a Tour Preview Concert on Sunday, June 24 at 2:30pm in the Smithwick Theater at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills - two days before we leave for New Zealand.



"ASTONISHING" YOUTH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

On January 15 CYS once again shone in the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival in Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. This was the third edition of the Festival that CYS helped to found in 2009. This year's Festival was sponsored by the San Francisco Symphony as part of its 100th anniversary celebrations and featured six outstanding youth orchestras from around the Bay Area. San Francisco Chronicle critic Joshua Kosman wrote that "the cumulative effect of the afternoon was little short of astonishing", as the near capacity audience joined in to help raise funds for disadvantaged youth. For those of you who missed CYS' stunning rendition of Ravel's La Valse at the Festival, you'll have one more chance, as the orchestra reprises its performance on March 18 at the Flint Center.

Raffle a Huge Success

CYS would like to thank everyone who participated in the New Zealand Tour Raffle. The first prize - an all expense trip for two to Paris - was won by Andrew Chandler of San Francisco. The other prizes were a new Apple iPad 2 and a sailing cruise on the Bay with Maestro (and Captain!) Leo Eylar. There was a flurry of late sales by the audience at our annual Holiday Concert on December 11, just before the drawing at intermission. Coupled with lots of enthusiastic participation throughout the entire fall, the Raffle raised over \$21,000 to support the New Zealand Tour.

Bravo!