

California Youth Symphony

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

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**THE CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY
BEGINS ITS 63ND SEASON**

25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR MAESTRO LEO EYLAR

The California Youth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Leo Eylar, proudly kicks off its 63rd season with concerts on Sunday, November 16 at 2:30pm in the Flint Center, Cupertino and Sunday, November 23 at 2:30pm in the recently remodeled San Mateo Performing Arts Center. This year we are celebrating our beloved Maestro's 25th anniversary at the CYS helm, and it promises to be an especially exciting and rewarding season. The November concerts will begin with the *Cuban Overture*, a masterpiece by George Gershwin, perhaps America's most beloved composer. The work was inspired by the infectious sounds of the rumba that Gershwin heard on his 1932 visit to the island. 2014 CYS Young Artist Competition winner, cellist Catherine Kim, will be featured in Ernest Bloch's haunting *Schelomo*. The concert will conclude with Sergei Prokofiev's orchestral masterpiece - his Suite No. 1 from his ballet *Cinderella*. Tickets for the concerts will be available at the door the day of the concert, or by visiting our website - www.cys.org.

LEO EYLAR INTERVIEW

"25 Years of Leadership for CYS"

This season the California Youth Symphony celebrates Maestro Leo Eylar's 25th anniversary as Music Director. Under his leadership the organization has grown to encompass eight music ensembles, including two full symphony orchestras - the California Youth Symphony Orchestra and the CYS Associate Orchestra. He has led the CYS Orchestra on 12 international tours. It was an uncertain beginning for the promising young conductor in the fall of 1990. An unexpected illness had forced the sudden resignation of CYS Music Director Lauren Jakey, and Leo assumed the reigns with only a few weeks before the first concerts. His hard work and talent led to a directorial debut that the local press described as "a triumph" and "inspirational". We had the chance to speak with Leo recently and learn his current thoughts about CYS.

(Complete interview continued on page 3)



CYS Debuts New Web Page

After months of preparation, CYS has just launched an exciting new version of its website. Please check it out at www.cys.org and let us know what you think.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY
Leo Eylar, Conductor

Cuban Overture.....George Gershwin
Schelomo Ernest Bloch
Catherine Kim, Cello Soloist
Cinderella, Suite No. 1 Sergei Prokofiev

Sunday, November 16, 2:30pm

Flint Center, Cupertino
DeAnza College Campus
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino

Sunday, November 23, 2:30pm

San Mateo Performing Arts Center
San Mateo High School
600 N. Delaware St., San Mateo

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

Available at the door or from any CYS member

CYS, 441 California Ave. #5 Palo Alto, CA 94306 • tel. 650/325-6666 • www.cys.org

No children under five, please

For Senior Citizen Ticket Information Contact: Deanna Gerner dgerner@gmail.com

Cello Soloist Catherine Kim

Sixteen year old cello soloist Catherine Kim was one of the two winners of the 2014 CYS Young Artist Competition held last spring at Stanford University. She will perform Ernest Bloch's *Schelomo* with CYS on November 16 at the Flint Center and November 23 at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center.

Catherine made her debut with the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra at age 10, only three years after beginning her cello studies. She has since performed with the Peninsula Symphony as the winner of the orchestra's concerto competition. She has performed three times at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall most recently as a prize winner in the New York International Artists Association Competition.

In 2013, Catherine won 1st prize in the MTNA State Competition. She represented the state of California in the MTNA Southwestern Division and received 2nd place. Her additional awards include first prizes in the AFAF Golden Era of Romantic Music International Competition, VOCE Solo Competition, ASTA Solo Competition, and CMTANC Competition.

As an avid chamber musician, Catherine is also a member of the award-winning cello quartet, Konpeito. Konpeito appeared on NPR's Emmy Award winning program "From the Top" in 2014, and their YouTube recording of Hisaishi's *Path of the Wind* (from Miyazaki's *Totoro*) has accrued over 10,000 views.

Catherine is a senior at Gunn High School in Palo Alto and studies with Jonathan Koh at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In her free time, she likes social media and has a following of 30,000 Facebook fans. She also enjoys running and holds the fastest 800-meter time on Gunn's Hal Daner Track.



HOLIDAY CONCERTS

December is always a busy month for CYS as each of our eight groups will be featured in a free Holiday Concert. On Sunday, December 14 at 2:30pm Leo Eylar will conduct both the Senior Orchestra and the Associate Orchestra in concert at the Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. A variety of classical music, as well as traditional holiday favorites, will be performed. A special treat will be Georges Hùe's *Fantasie* for Flute and Orchestra, featuring Jessica Chen, last year's winner of the CYS Associate Orchestra Soloist Competition. A week earlier, on December 7, the CYS String Ensembles and the CYS Wind Ensembles will present their Holiday Concerts - also in the Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College. At 2:00pm the Junior and Intermediate String Ensembles, under the direction of Kati Kyme, will perform works by Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn and others. At 3:30pm the Wind Ensembles (Introductory Winds, Wind Ensemble One and Wind Ensemble Two) under the direction of Rosita Amador, will present their program which includes works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, and Grieg. All of the Holiday Concerts are free of charge and no ticket is needed for admission.

Holiday Soloist Jessica Chen

Jessica Chen, winner of last year's CYS Associate Orchestra Soloist Competition, has played the flute for nine years and studies privately with Jill Heinke. She is principal 2nd of the California Youth Symphony and first chair of Homestead High School's wind ensemble and symphony orchestra. Recently, Jessica participated in the National Flute Association High School Flute Choir and was 1st chair of the NCBA All-Northern Honor Band. In 2013, she participated in the Music For All Honor Orchestra of America and was in the All-County Honor Band. Jessica has also won awards in various competitions, including the Burlingame Music Club competition and the Peninsula Symphony Young Artist competition. Jessica is currently a junior at Homestead High School and enjoys playing Quiz Bowl in her free time.



LEO EYLAR INTERVIEW - "25 Years of Leadership for CYS"

Congratulations on your 25th anniversary as CYS Music Director. How has the organization changed under your tenure?

I would point to two major items that I am most proud of, namely the overall growth of the organization and the continuous upward swing in terms of musical quality over the past 25 years. CYS has grown to encompass a much larger number of ensembles, and these ensembles are providing musical education at the highest level to a greater number of talented young musicians. As a music educator, I find that both compelling and highly rewarding. In addition, the artistic level of all groups has continued to rise to truly amazing heights. Senior orchestra repertoire currently includes music that would have been unthinkable to me 25 years ago, and Associate Orchestra repertoire now includes many works formerly only in the Senior orchestra domain. This also holds true with our ensembles. It is truly gratifying to see the musical level continue to rise higher and higher!

What are your fondest memories leading CYS?

Wow, that is a tough question! Here are but a few: performing for a packed house at the Sydney Opera House on July 4, 1992; the many collaborative concerts and social interactions with music students from Japan, Switzerland, Argentina, New Zealand, and numerous other countries; and the 25 years of summer camp fun (including baseball!) all stand out prominently in my mind. However, I would say that the most important thing and the most rewarding as well is simply witnessing the development of a young musician from the time they first join CYS (often at a very young age!) to their graduation from high school and the orchestra, and seeing the amazing musical transformation that takes place. There is no greater reward than that!

You've led the orchestra on 12 international tours. What role has touring played in development of the orchestra?

Touring is of course a very important part of the CYS experience, and something that students fondly remember for the rest of their lives. International touring adds musical perspective and cultural importance to what we do as an organization. The ability to bring music to other countries, collaborate with other youth symphonies, and work with conductors from other countries is quite important with regard to the overall development of musicianship and maturity in our students. My aim has always been to train students to be well-rounded musicians, and touring certainly plays a large part in achieving that goal.

A lot has been written recently about the important role that music education can play in a student's overall development.

What are your thoughts on this topic?

Music is important in terms of general educational development for a number of compelling reasons, all of which have been corroborated by numerous studies. Right off the bat, we can say with some assurance that studying music and playing an instrument at a high level of expertise requires an intense sense of discipline, which comes in handy in all areas of education and study. Playing in a symphony orchestra of 100 members requires the ultimate in terms of shared responsibility and teamwork, and working toward a common goal. This also has huge implications for general personal development and success in any field. Perhaps most important, as far as I am concerned, is the fact that a solid and broad musical education helps create a well-rounded human being and keeps alive the liberal arts and cultural values: that is to say, civilization!

The CYS program has grown to encompass 8 ensembles including 2 full orchestras. How do you see the program developing in the future?

My goal is to continue to foster the musical excellence of this incredible organization and to reach even higher levels of performance in all ensembles. Personal goals for the future include Associate Orchestra touring, stronger outreach to the community, and enhanced musical education for all students.

2014 Summer Music Tour a Huge Success

After almost two years of preparation the California Youth Symphony senior orchestra toured the Adriatic Coast and the Czech Republic from June 24 to July 5. It was the orchestra's 20th international tour since CYS became the first youth orchestra to tour in 1963 with its famous trip to Japan. The current tour saw the orchestra present concerts in Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Prague. CYS received a warm response from enthusiastic audiences at each venue - and of course the musicians, chaperons and staff enjoyed touring one of Europe's most scenic and interesting locales.

