



California Youth Symphony

QUARTER NOTES

NOV / 2023

CYS OPENS 72nd SEASON WITH WORLD PREMIERE

CYS Joins The California Festival: A Celebration of New Music
Sunday, November 5 @ 2:30 PM

The California Youth Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Leo Eylar, kicks off its 72nd season with a dazzling program featuring the award-winning and internationally recognized Senior Orchestra. We are both honored and delighted to present a world premiere by noted Argentinian composer Valeria Pelka. Commissioned by the California Youth Symphony, *Memorias Argentinas* is a three-movement work inspired by the African roots of Argentinian folk music: in particular, the *chacarera*, *zamba*, and *malambo*. This highly evocative and energetic orchestral tour de force showcases all sections of the orchestra and is sure to please. As a special treat, the composer herself will be in attendance to introduce the composition to the audience!

CYS is honored to be participating in the California Festival, which will take place November 3-19 and will bring together organizations and ensembles from throughout California, including symphony orchestras, chamber music groups, jazz ensembles, choirs and more, all performing new music as part of their broader season programs. CYS also welcomes our Young Artist Competition winner Rin Homma, who will perform Ravel's jazz-inspired Piano Concerto in G Major. Our season opener will also feature music by Manuel de Falla as well as the stirring Symphony No. 1 by Jean Sibelius. The concert will take place on **Sunday, November 5, at 2:30 p.m. at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware St., San Mateo.**



California Festival
A Celebration of New Music

Information about the California Festival of New Music can be found on the newly launched **California Festival website: www.cafestival.org**. In addition to providing a comprehensive list of participating organizations, artists, repertoire, and key venues, the website features an interactive map showing participation throughout the state.



SOLOIST RIN HOMMA

Performs Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major

Eighteen-year-old Rin Homma is a former scholarship student at the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles. Since performing at the San Diego Salute to Champions at age six, Rin has participated in several competitions, winning first place in the MTAC Piano Regional Competition five consecutive times, three of which took her to the state finals. In 2018, she appeared with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra in a three-day tour featuring Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. She also garnered second place in the MTNA (Music Teachers National Association) California Junior

Competition and emerged as a finalist in the 2020 SJIPC (San Jose International Piano Competition). She recently placed second in the 2023 Edith Knox Concerto Competition and first in the 2023 Pasadena Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota Scholarship Competition. Previously a student of Mina Perry, Hans Boepple, and Frank Lévy, she is currently a second-year student of Professor Inna Faliks at UCLA.



CYS HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The California Youth Symphony will present its annual Holiday Concerts on **December 3 (San Mateo Performing Arts Center)** and **December 10 (Foothill College)**. On Sunday, December 3, at 2:30 PM, the CYS Wind Symphony and Wind Ensembles, under the direction of Pete Nowlen and newly appointed Wind Ensembles Director Anthony Lanzino, will feature music by Bernstein, Holst, Williams, Oliver and others. The following Sunday, December 10, at 2:30 PM, the CYS String Ensembles, under the direction of Kati Kyme, and CYS Associate and Senior Orchestras, conducted by Leo Eylar, will present the annual Holiday Concert in the Smithwick Theatre on the campus of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Once again the orchestras will offer the audience a pleasing mix of classical and holiday favorites and will welcome Senior Orchestra flutist Eric Miao, who will perform Carl Reinecke's Flute Concerto in D Major. Admission is free, but advanced ticket reservations are recommended.

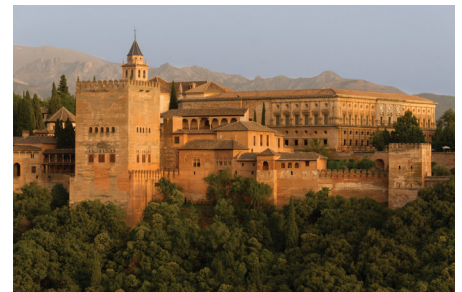


ERIC MIAO *Flute*

Eric Miao, 16, winner of the 2022-23 CYS Associate Orchestra concerto competition, will perform the first movement of Carl Reinecke's Flute Concerto at the Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 10 at 2:30 PM at the Foothill College Smithwick Theatre. Eric began playing the flute at the age of 11 and private lessons at age 13 with Yingying Wang. He is currently studying with SCU and SJSU professor Ray Furuta, and has played in masterclasses with Jill Felber and Isabelle Chapuis. He is a junior at Saratoga High School and participates in the school music program under the excellent direction of Jason Shiuan and Michael Boitz. He is a two-year member of the Santa Clara County Honor Band, as well as the first-place winner of the 2022 American Protégé competition and Saratoga High School concerto competition.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY SPAIN TOUR 2024

In **June of 2024**, the California Youth Symphony Senior Orchestra will embark on a 12-day tour of Spain, with performances in Madrid, Valencia, Granada, and Seville. The concerts will include such works as Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*, Gershwin's *American in Paris*, Pelka's *Memorias Argentinas*, de Falla's *Three-Cornered Hat*, as well as music by noted Japanese film composer Joe Hisaishi. The musicians will have a full itinerary, which includes visits to the world-famous Prado Museum, El Escorial, the Alhambra of Granada, and other cultural landmarks rich in both Spanish and Moorish history. A highlight will be a performance at the International Festival of Music in Granada. Maestro Eylar is excited to re-visit Spain with CYS, as it has been 26 years since our last tour in this remarkable country!



WANT TO JOIN US IN SPAIN?

CYS's Companion Tour is open to friends, families, and supporters who want to travel alongside the student tour and experience the country's beautiful and historic cities. Running from June 23 - July 4, the professionally organized Companion Tour follows a similar travel itinerary but features expanded sightseeing opportunities, upgraded accommodations, and admission to each of CYS's four performances. **Companion Tour registration is due February 1, 2024.** The cost is \$6,000 to join, so don't miss out on this opportunity! **Contact Info@cys.org.**

BENEFIT RAFFLE

In order to raise funds for scholarships and other important items for the upcoming Spain tour, CYS is sponsoring a benefit raffle. The Grand Prize is a trip for two to Paris or London on either Veterans Day weekend 2024 or Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend 2025. **The drawing will be held at Tour Preview Concert on June 22, 2024 at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center.** Tickets are available for purchase from any CYS Senior Orchestra member or at any of our concerts.

ALUMNI GATHERED FOR THE FIRST READING REHEARSAL ON JUNE 11

A kickstart to our alumni outreach program took place on June 11 at Almond Elementary School. Maestro Eylar conducted an orchestra of 75 former (and current!) CYsers in a fun-filled reading session that included music by Tchaikovsky, Schubert, and Brahms. It was a wonderful reunion that spanned over 40 years of participation in the organization. A potluck dinner added to the enjoyment, and it was truly memorable to see former students catching up with each other and digging into some very difficult music, which sounded great! Keep your eyes peeled for our next alumni extravaganza!



WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

2023 is bringing some exciting changes for our CYs staff. First, we'd like to welcome recent UC Davis graduate **Emily Thomas as Administrative Assistant**. Also joining the administrative team are **Finance Specialist Susan Santos** and **Interim Executive Director Beth Schecter**. Beth is an independent consultant specializing in organizational change, transition management, and serving as a nonprofit Interim Executive Director. We are confident that her leadership and knowledge will help guide us through this transitional phase to find a permanent Executive Director.



EMILY THOMAS



SUSAN SANTOS



BETH SCHECTER

JOIN OUR 500 FOR \$500 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN @ [CYS.ORG/DONATE](https://www.cys.org/donate)

We want to thank you, our audience and members, for your continued support of the excellent programming of CYs. Our Annual Campaign provides a large portion of our unrestricted contributed income which is primarily used for tuition assistance. Your expectations and our responsibilities are greater than ever. Whether you attend our concerts or contribute financially, your support enables us to achieve our aspirations on behalf of the many young people who join our orchestra and devote hours to learning and playing beautiful music. Many of our young people come from families who are not able to fully afford tuition yet are deeply committed to being involved. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 through our campaign to support these youth and that 100% of families participate. In return, CYs will continue to foster excellent music education and build discipline and empathy, cultivate respect and teamwork, and bring more compassion to our world so that we can lift each other up through music.

We would be overjoyed if you could make at least a \$500 gift to CYs, but we know everyone's capacity is different! We deeply appreciate a donation of any amount. Please visit our website at www.cys.org/donate to donate today. We hope to see you at one of our many concerts this fascinating season!

WAYS TO GIVE

You can read about the many ways to give below by visiting our website at www.cys.org/support.

- DONATE NOW
- MONTHLY GIVING
- MATCHING GIFTS
- TRIBUTE GIFTS
- GIFTS OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES
- PLANNED GIVING
- SUPPORT OUR BENEFIT RAFFLE

Donations can be made via one of the following:

Online: Visit [cys.org/donate](https://www.cys.org/donate)

Email: Info@cys.org

Phone: (650) 325-6666

Mail: California Youth Symphony
441 California Avenue, #5, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Or Donate Now:



[cys.org/donate](https://www.cys.org/donate)

Through your tax-deductible contributions, you ensure that young people will continue to have the opportunity to share in the joy of music, as they have since 1952. Thank you for investing in the future of music and the next generation of leaders!

California Youth Symphony



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SWEET HELP FOR CYS FROM SEE'S CANDIES



See's Candies, a long-time CYS supporter, is partnering with us for the holiday season to help us raise funds while providing sweet holiday treats for our friends. By using the link below or scanning the QR code on the right, CYS families and friends can order any number of See's famous products (great for holiday gifts or your own personal enjoyment!). See's will then donate a generous percentage of sales to CYS for all purchases made using this link. Be sure to order early; since See's is now gearing up for the holidays, it may take 30 days or so to receive your treats. Please share this information with your friends and families and help make this a sweet holiday season for CYS. **Visit cys.org/sees.**

BAY AREA YOUTH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

Faithful fans know that CYS was a key organizer of the historic, first-ever Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival in January 2009. Now under the auspices of the San Francisco Symphony, CYS is excited to participate again in this youth orchestra festival held at beautiful Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. Proceeds from ticket sales will fund organizations that work with under-served youth. The gala concert, featuring six outstanding youth orchestras from Northern California, will be held on **Sunday, January 14, at 3:00 PM**. To purchase tickets, please visit the **San Francisco Symphony website at SFSymphony.org**. Tickets available in November.

QUARTER NOTES NEWSLETTERS TRANSITION TO DIGITAL DELIVERY

In an effort to adapt to the ever-changing digital landscape, we want our dedicated readers to know that CYS will begin its process of transitioning its Quarter Notes newsletters to digital delivery to help reduce printing costs. Please visit **cys.org/subscribe** to let us know if you wish to continue receiving our newsletters via print only, email only, or both. We wish to continue staying in touch with you!



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