


California Youth Symphony

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

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CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY
Leo Eylar, Conductor

Festive Overture.....Dmitri Shostakovich
Violin ConcertoErich Wolfgang Korngold
Christine Lee, violin
Dance Suite Béla Bartók
Ryan Murray, conductor (March 15)
Chichester Psalms.....Leonard Bernstein
Ryan Murray, conductor (March 8) – Leo Eylar, conductor (March 15) – Bren Altenbach (boy soprano)

Sunday, March 8, 2020
2:00 pm
Amaral Family Center
Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Sunday, March 15, 2020
2:30 pm
San Mateo Performing Arts Center
San Mateo High School
600 N. Delaware Street, San Mateo 94401

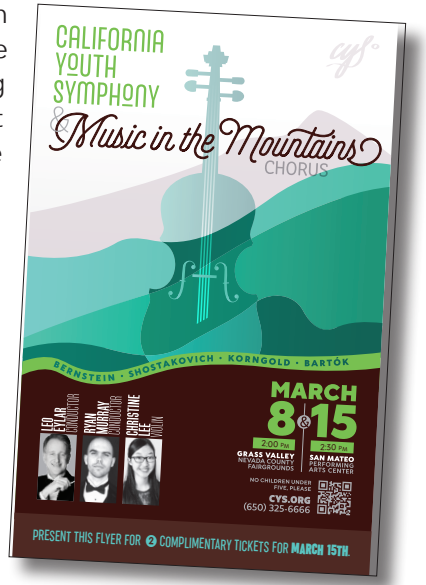
Tickets available at the door or from any CYS member
CYS, 441 California Ave. #5, Palo Alto, CA 94306 • tel. 650/325-6666 • www.cys.org

No children under five, please • For Senior Citizen Ticket Information Contact: judy@cys.org

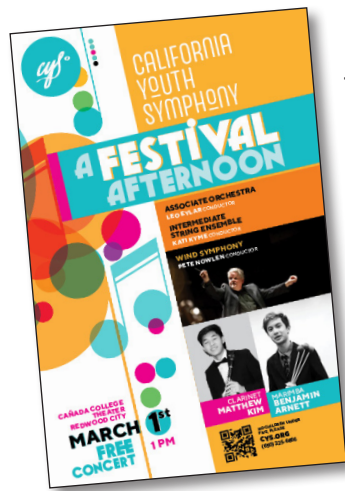


MARCH (CONCERT) MADNESS
The first three weekends of March offer music lovers some fabulous opportunities to enjoy California Youth Symphony music – concerts in San Mateo, Redwood City and the Sierra Foothills involving four of our stellar ensembles. Check out the details in this issue and be sure to join us for what is sure to be a marvelous musical month.

MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS AND IN THE BAY
After our widely acclaimed concert in Grass Valley, CA last season, in conjunction with Music in the Mountains, we are delighted to have been invited to perform there once again. This year's concert on Sunday, March 8, which will be repeated the following Sunday, March 15 at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, will mark an historic first for CYS: for the first time in Maestro Leo Eylar's 30-year tenure as Music Director the orchestra will join forces with a full chorus to perform Leonard Bernstein's deeply moving and profoundly beautiful choral masterpiece *Chichester Psalms*. The Music in the Mountains Chorus of over 100 members, under the direction of Maestro Ryan Murray, will collaborate with CYS on both March 8 and 15 as we perform this choral/orchestral gem. Our program also features Christine Lee, our Young Artist Competition winner (who is also our Concertmaster!), performing Erich Wolfgang Korngold's Violin Concerto, composed in 1945 and first performed by the legendary your breath away with its lush and lyrical themes from Korngold's Hollywood film career. It is a *tour de force* for both soloist and orchestra. Also featured on this program is Bartók's *Dance Suite*, yet another virtuosic work for orchestra that is based on Bartók's study of European folk music. Beginning in 1904, Bartók began to make trips throughout central and eastern Europe, as well as Turkey and North Africa, carefully recording peasants with his very primitive (and new) recording device. He would eventually write down many of these 'tunes' and incorporate them into his compositions, and his *Dance Suite* is one of the finest examples of how Bartók assimilated folk music into 20th Century classical music.



JOINING CYS
The California Youth Symphony is dedicated to the artistic development of a new generation of musicians and to building audiences to support them. Members of the California Youth Symphony receive invaluable training and have wonderful opportunities to enhance their musical growth, experiment, study new works, develop leadership skills, and perform great repertoire at a high level of excellence. CYS offers seven programs: two levels of string ensemble, two levels of wind ensemble, our Wind Symphony, our Associate Orchestra and our Senior Orchestra. Auditions for new members in all of our programs run from March 28 to April 18. **Application deadline is March 1.** For full information and to download an audition application, please go to our **website - www.cys.org/auditions.**



A FESTIVAL AFTERNOON

The California Youth Symphony is pleased to continue our very popular March Festival Concert series on Sunday, March 1 at 1pm in the Theatre at Cañada College, Redwood City. We'll feature our Intermediate String Ensemble under the direction of Kati Kyme, the Wind Symphony under the direction of Pete Nowlen, and the CYS Associate Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Eylar. Maestro Nowlen will lead the Wind Symphony in an ambitious program including works by Hisaishi, Shostakovich, and Silvestri. The Associate Orchestra is delighted to offer the complete five-movement Suite from John Williams' original *Star Wars* score to celebrate the latest installment of the *Star Wars* series in theaters, as well as Gliere's ever-popular and exotic *Russian Sailor's Dance from The Red Poppy Ballet*. In addition, the orchestra is excited to perform *Ongheya*, composed by noted Bay Area composer Jean Ahn. We will also be highlighting the program with two of three winners of our Associate Orchestra Concerto Competition. Clarinetist Matthew Kim will perform Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, and percussionist Benjamin Arnett will perform the Finale from Ney Rosauro's

Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the full gamut of the California Youth Symphony's rich and varied musical program. Don't miss it!

2020-21 YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Each spring the California Youth Symphony holds its Young Artist Competition to select soloists for the following season. This year's Competition will be held at Stanford University, Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, on Sunday, May 3, 2020. The Competition is open to pianists and instrumental soloists under age 19. Two young artists will be chosen by a panel of three judges to perform with the CYS Orchestra during the November or March concert series of the 2020-21 season. A monetary award will also be presented to the winners. The application form and detailed information is available on our website - www.cys.org/yac. The deadline to submit the completed application and \$55 audition fee is April 12, 2020 at 11:59pm.

CYS TO TOUR SOUTH AMERICA

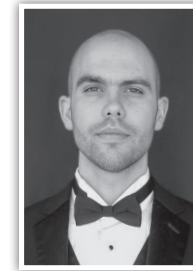


We all know that the California Youth Symphony was the first youth orchestra to tour internationally, in 1963. In June of this year CYS will continue that proud tradition when we mount our 23rd international tour, visiting Argentina and Chile. Music Director Leo Eylar and Orchestra Manager Carmina Eylar returned from their August inspection tour of the two countries raving about the unparalleled quality of the tour's concert halls and the unique opportunities to meet and perform with local young musicians, as well as the warm welcome they received from local musicians and tour organizers. Maestro Eylar has selected some outstanding repertoire to share with South American audiences. But don't despair - our local audience will also get a chance to experience the tour repertoire at our **Tour Preview Concert, Sunday, June 21 at 2:30pm in the San Mateo Performing Arts Center**. In addition to works by Strauss, Bernstein, and Rimsky-Korsakov, we are very excited to be performing a new work by the noted contemporary Argentinian composer Gerardo Gardelin. *Raíces (Roots)* is a symphonic poem which was recently premiered to great acclaim and makes use of Argentine folk music ideas as well as very catchy and propulsive rhythms. At the Tour Preview Concert CYS will also select the Benefit Raffle winners. The CYS Benefit Raffle is a fabulous opportunity to win valuable prizes while helping the organization to raise much needed funds. If you have not yet purchased your raffle tickets (or would like to purchase more!) they will be on sale at all CYS concerts.

NANOSEED

A number of CYS musicians who attend the Harker School are putting together a benefit concert to raise funds to help alleviate poverty in rural China. Dubbed "Nanoseed" the concert will feature a variety of instrumental music, singing and dance by students from around the Bay Area. The concert will be Friday evening, March 13 at Harker's Rothschild Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$25. More info at nanoseed.org.

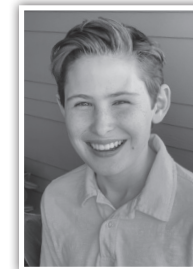
OUR GUEST CONDUCTOR AND SOLOISTS



RYAN MURRAY will conduct Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* on CYS' March 8 concert, and Bartók's *Dance Suite* on March 15. Murray is the Artistic Director and Conductor of Music in the Mountains, the recently appointed Conductor of Sacramento Youth Symphony's Premier Orchestra beginning in September 2020, the Associate Conductor for the Modesto Symphony, and Music Director for the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra, with which he made his debut at Carnegie Hall. Murray is also the Music Director of Opera Modesto and directs the orchestra and opera at California State University, Sacramento as well as the orchestra at California State University, Stanislaus. He previously served as Music Director of Fresno Grand Opera, as well as serving as a staff conductor for the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute and the Opera Academy of California. Murray was the 2016/17 winner of the American Prize in Opera Conducting and was a finalist for the 2018 American Prize in Youth Orchestra Conducting. He was also a 2014 winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors.



CHRISTINE LEE, 17, is a winner of the CYS Young Artist Competition held last spring at Stanford University. She'll be performing the Korngold Violin Concerto with the CYS Orchestra on March 8 and 15. She is currently a senior at Saratoga High School. She began playing the violin at age five and currently studies under Zhao Wei at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Since 2010, she has won numerous awards and competitions and was a recent prizewinner of the 2019 National Young Arts Foundation. She was also selected as a violinist in Carnegie Hall's 2019 National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, where she toured three European countries last summer. Christine also participates in volunteer activities such as helping underprivileged children through fundraising via UNICEF, teaching music to special needs students and helping in her school volunteer program to teach violin to elementary school students.



BREN ALTENBACH, 12, sings the role of boy soprano in the CYS presentation of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* on March 8 and 15. Bren has been performing since age four. He regularly sings solos for the Lake Wildwood Women's Chorus. In the summer of 2018, he played the lead of James in Sierra Stages production of "James and the Giant Peach," performing 16 shows to many sold-out audiences at the Nevada Theater. Professional classical solo engagements include Music in the Mountains' 2017 production of Dan Forrest's Requiem and, in May 2018, the part of David the Shepherd in Honegger's oratorio *King David* in Los Angeles. Bren loves running, gaming, boy scouts, playing with friends, and spending time with family. He also plays piano and is planning to learn the trumpet.



MATTHEW S. KIM, 16, is a winner of the CYS Associate Orchestra Concerto Competition. He will perform Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with the Associate Orchestra on March 1. Matthew is a junior at Sacred Heart Preparatory School, Atherton. He started clarinet at the age of nine. In February 2016 and 2017 Matthew performed with the California All-State Honor Concert Band, as first clarinet. As a soloist, he won Grand Prize in the Silicon Valley Youth Music Competition, first place in the Golden Classical Music competition in New York, and 2nd place in the US. Open Music completion. As part of a trio, he won awards at the US International Music competition, Santa Cruz competition, and American Protege competition. Matthew studies clarinet under Debra Gardner. During the summer, he serves as a camp counselor for Bridge, a summer program for underprivileged students. Year round, he volunteers to prepare and serve food to the homeless in San Jose.



Percussionist **BENJAMIN ARNETT**, age 14, is a winner of the CYS Associate Orchestra Concerto Competition. He'll perform the Finale from Ney Rosauro's Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra with the Associate Orchestra on March 1. Benjamin's musical journey started when he was five years old at U Music Educational Foundation. He debuted his solo marimba performance in 2017 at Percussive Art Society International Convention (PASIC) in Fresno, California. He has studied under Galen Lemmon and now studies with Tammy Chen and Artie Storch. Benjamin participated in the USIMC and is a 2019 winner of the Junior Bach Festival. He is a freshman at Washington High School, Fremont. He is also a competitive swimmer who enjoys reading comic books, playing computer games, skiing, and playing basketball. In his free time, he volunteers at Friends of Children with Special Needs.