



# CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY

## Quarter Notes

JIM HOGAN, EDITOR

OCTOBER 2015

### *California Youth Symphony Presents 64th Season*

The California Youth Symphony, under the baton of Maestro Leo Eylar, opens its 64th season with a pair of concerts – on Sunday, November 15 at 2:30pm at the Flint Center in Cupertino and repeated the following Sunday, November 22 at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, also at 2:30pm. The new season will once again offer a variety of exciting music performed by some of the Bay Area’s most talented young musicians, and featuring award winning young soloists. A special intensity infuses this season as the orchestra prepares for a tour to Italy and Austria in June 2016. The bill for the November concerts includes three of the most spectacular pieces from the first part of the 20th century – Hindemith’s *Symphonic Metamorphosis*, Stravinsky’s *Firebird*, and Rachmaninov’s *Piano Concerto No. 3*. Hindemith drew on themes from the renowned 19th century German composer Carl Maria von Weber to fashion his symphonic work that concludes with “one of the most stirring marches in the entire orchestral repertoire”. The *Firebird Suite*, which Stravinsky drew from his 1910 ballet score, contains some of the most popular and most colorful music that the famed Russian composer ever wrote. The exhilarating Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No. 3* is widely regarded as the most challenging piano concerto in the repertoire. The review of its premiere performance in New York in 1909 stated that “its extreme difficulties bar it from performances by any but pianists of exceptional technical powers”. Fortunately our soloist --18 year old Misha Galant, winner of our 2015 Young Artist Competition – is more than up for the challenge. You really won’t want to miss this!



### **CYS Tour to Italy and Austria**

The California Youth Symphony, the first U.S. youth orchestra ever to tour overseas, will continue its proud tradition next June when the Senior Orchestra travels to Italy and Austria. The tour details will be finalized when Maestro Eylar makes an inspection tour in January, but the itinerary will begin in Mozart’s home town of Salzburg with a concert at the prestigious Grand Hall of the Mozarteum. The orchestra will then head south to Italy for concerts in Verona and Montecatini before finishing up in Rome for the final concert. Of course there will be plenty of time for sightseeing as the orchestra entourage – musicians, staff and parent chaperones – experience this extraordinary destination.

## Piano Soloist Misha Galant

18 year old piano phenom Misha Galant, winner of the 2015 CYS Young Artist Competition, will perform the Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No. 3* with CYS on November 15 at the Flint Center and November 22 at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. Misha is a senior at California High School in San Ramon. He began piano lessons at the age of six with his mother and current teacher, Olya Katsman. Misha's musical heritage includes three generations of pianists, including his great-grandmother who was a student of Maria Yudina, and his great-grandfather who studied with Heinrich Neuhaus in Kiev, Ukraine.

His accomplishments include first prizes in the state CAPMT Bartok and Contemporary Music competition, the state CAPMT concerto competition and Honors Auditions, the Marilyn Mindell Piano Competition, the Pacific Musical Society competition, the Ross McKee Piano Competition, and the San Jose International Russian Music Piano Competition. He was the MTAC concerto competition state winner in 2010 and 2015. As the winner of the Oakland East Bay Symphony concerto competition at the age of 12, Misha performed Chopin's *Concerto No. 1* with the Oakland Symphony on July 3, 2011. In February 2014, he was the winner of the Peninsula Symphony concerto competition and performed Rachmaninov's *Concerto No. 2* with that orchestra. In July of that year he also won a concerto competition at the Foulger Music Festival in Utah and performed the same concerto with the Utah Symphony. Only three months later, Misha won the Livermore-Amador Symphony competition with Rachmaninov's 3rd concerto and performed the finale with the orchestra this past February. Misha was a prizewinner in the first Junior Van Cliburn competition this past June in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Misha has performed for and taken lessons from such notable people as William Bolcom, Leon Fleisher, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Stephen Prutsman, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Boris Berman, and Nelita True. In June 2010, he gave his first full solo recital in Mountain View and has been performing regularly since then.



## HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The California Youth Symphony has a long tradition of presenting free holiday concerts for the community. In recent years we've expanded to two holiday concerts, one featuring our younger musicians in the String and Wind Ensembles and the other featuring our two orchestras. The Ensembles' Holiday Concert will be held on Sunday, December 6 in the Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills. At 1:30pm the CYS Junior String Ensemble, directed by Kati Kyme, will present its program featuring works by Mozart, Shostakovich and Boyce, followed by the Intermediate String Ensemble, with Kati conducting, offering works by Haydn, Brahms, Faure and C.P.E. Bach. At 3:00pm our three Wind Ensembles, conducted by Rosita Amador, will perform works by a wide range of composers including Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Puccini and John Williams.

On Sunday, December 13 at 2:30pm CYS presents our two orchestras – the Associate Orchestra and the Senior Orchestra. The Associate Orchestra will perform selections from Tchaikovsky's magical ballet *The Sleeping Beauty*, as well as music by Khachaturian and the ever-popular *Light Cavalry Overture* by Franz von Suppé. The Senior Orchestra will feature the dazzling and festive masterpiece *Polovetsian Dances* by Alexander Borodin. And of course we will feature traditional holiday favorites, including *Sleigh Ride*, selections from the *Nutcracker*, and other seasonal delights.





**Sunday Friends**  
The Working Alternative to Charity since 1997

## SUNDAY FRIENDS TOY DRIVE

For several years now CYS has sponsored a holiday toy drive for Sunday Friends, an outstanding South Bay nonprofit that serves extremely low income families (sundayfriends.org). This year at our Holiday Concerts on December 6 and 13 there will be donation boxes at the entrance to the Theatre where folks can drop their toys or gifts. Gift cards are welcome, as are gifts that you've received but never used. Please, no toys with weapons or edibles of any kind. Please mark your calendars, join us for our holiday concerts, and bring a gift to share with our friends at Sunday Friends.



## Upcoming CYS Holiday Concert Schedule

### CYS SENIOR ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 13, 2015 | 2:30PM  
Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College Los Altos Hills

### CYS ASSOCIATE ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 13, 2015 | 2:30PM  
Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College Los Altos Hills

### CYS STRING & WIND ENSEMBLES HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 6, 2015  
Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College Los Altos Hills  
1:30PM | CYS String Ensembles  
3:00PM | CYS Wind Ensembles



## Hannah Choi to Solo with Moscow Ballet

CYS congratulates our principal cellist, 17-year old Hannah Choi. Hannah was chosen as a "Musical Wunderkind" by the Moscow Ballet and as a result she will be the solo accompanist for the Moscow Ballet's principal ballerina in a performance of "The Dying Swan". This celebrated dance was choreographed for the legendary Anna Pavlova in 1905 using a cello solo from Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*. Hannah will perform her piece at the beginning of the Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker" on Friday, December 18 at 4:00 and 8:00pm in the Flint Center in Cupertino (Nutcracker.com). In addition to this latest honor, Hannah has won numerous competitions, including 1st Prize and the Best Performance Award at the American Protégé International Competition, 1st Prize and Grand Prize at the Contra Costa Young Artist Competition, and 1st Prize at the American Fine Arts Festival's International Concerto Competition. She has performed at Carnegie Hall on four separate occasions.

At Mission San Jose High School, she is the president of The Songwriter's Guild. As the president and founder of the Youth for Music Organization, Hannah has been passionate about giving the gift of music to the community. Her favorite part of this program is reaching out to autistic children and showing them the beauty of music. Congratulations, Hannah, we are proud of you!



**California Youth Symphony**



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**CYS Web Page**  
CYS has exciting new information in its website.  
Please check it out at [www.cys.org](http://www.cys.org).

California Youth Symphony Presents  
**Parisian Getaway**  
*A benefit to support the 2016 CYS tour to Italy and Austria*  
**GRAND PRIZE: Trip to Paris for Two**  
*(for a list of additional prizes consult [www.cys.org](http://www.cys.org))*  
Drawing held June 19, 2016  
TICKETS: \$10 EACH *Need not be present to win.*

**CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY**

**Leo Eylar, Conductor**

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Symphonic Metamorphosis</i> ..... | Paul Hindemith     |
| <i>Piano Concerto No. 3</i> .....    | Sergey Rachmaninov |
| <i>Firebird Suite</i> .....          | Igor Stravinsky    |
| <i>Misha Galant, Piano Soloist</i>   |                    |

**Sunday, November 15, 2:30pm**

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

**Sunday, November 22, 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](http://www.cys.org)

*No children under five, please • For Senior Citizen Ticket Information Contact: [judy@cys.org](mailto:judy@cys.org)*