



CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY

Quarter Notes

JIM HOGAN, EDITOR

NOVEMBER 2011



California Youth Symphony 2011-2012

CYS OPENS 60th SEASON WITH WORLD PREMIERE

CYS Performs at the Mondavi and Flint Centers



Composer, Stephen Blumberg

The California Youth Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Leo Eylar, begins its 60th anniversary season with a special concert at the Mondavi Center on the campus of UC Davis - 9399 Old Davis Rd. Davis at 3:00pm on Sunday, November 13. CYA has accepted a special invitation from the renowned Festival of New American Music, Sacramento State University, to present a full program at the Mondavi Center which will feature the world premiere of *Subterranean River* by celebrated California composer Stephen Blumberg. Blumberg has created this captivating piece especially for the California Youth Symphony. It draws its inspiration, according to the composer, "from moving water, sometimes tranquil, sometimes rushing, even torrential." An additional feature of the concert will be the *Cello Concerto* by William Walton, with rising young star Naomi Benecasa as soloist. The Concerto is one of Walton's most luxuriant and romantic scores, eloquently poetic. The program will include two additional pieces: Aaron Copland's famous *Billy the Kid Ballet Suite*, which draws on American Western themes and combines them with Copland's brilliant orchestration; and Leonard Bernstein's stunning *Symphonic Suite from On the Waterfront*. The concert will be repeated the following Sunday, November 20 at 2:30 p.m. at the Flint Center on the campus of DeAnza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino. The November 13 Mondavi concert is free admission, underwritten by the Festival of New American Music. Tickets for the November 20 Flint concert are \$10 - \$15 and will be available at the door.



Mondavi Center for the Arts



Soloist Naomi Benecasa Performs Walton Cello Concerto

Naomi Benecasa, eighteen, has enjoyed a love affair with the cello for a full decade now. Though born in New York to a musical family, she did not start her musical journey with the cello until her family moved to Houston, Texas. Almost immediately, she became very involved in orchestra and chamber music and quickly began to compete as a soloist, appearing with the Houston Youth Symphony, Houston Civic Symphony, and Symphony North orchestras. Just before beginning high school in 2006, Naomi and her family moved again to Springfield, Missouri. Since August of 2009, she had the immense privilege of being a part of the St. Louis music community by commuting 200 miles every weekend to study privately with Catherine Lehr. Simultaneously, she joined the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and held the position of co-principal for the 2010-2011 season. In addition, she was selected to perform St. Louis's debut of William Walton's Cello Concerto with the youth symphony in Powell Hall last May. Along with fellow cellist Richard Mazuski, she appeared on NPR's From the Top radio program, which aired on July 2nd, performing the Menotti suite for two cellos and piano. Summertime study has included programs such as the National High School Music Institute at Northwestern, the Innsbrook Institute, PhoenixPhest, Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory, and Yellow Barn Young Artist Program. She has had the honor of playing for cello greats such as Janos Starker, Richard Aaron, Hans Jensen, Eric Kim, Natasha Brofsky, Paul Katz, and others. Happily finished with college auditions, she is currently studying cello performance as a freshman at Rice University with Desmond Hoebig.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Eunice Kim, winner of the 2011 CYS Young Artist Competition, was scheduled to perform the Walton Cello Concerto with CYS at our November concerts. Unfortunately she has had to withdraw due to a bout of tendonitis. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope that she will be able to appear with CYS in the future. We are delighted that an extremely talented young cellist, Naomi Benecasa, is able to fill in for Eunice on very short notice.

CYS HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Once again this Holiday Season the California Youth Symphony will offer several free concerts as a service to the community. On Sunday, December 4 at 2:00pm the CYS String Ensembles under the direction of Kati Kyme will present its Holiday Concert in the Mayer Theatre on the campus of Santa Clara University. Immediately following this concert (at 3:30pm), also at the Mayer Theatre, the CYS Wind Ensembles, conducted by Rosita Amador, will present their Holiday Concert. The following Sunday, December 11, at 2:30pm, the CYS Associate and Senior Orchestras, conducted by Leo Eylar, will present its 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. No tickets are necessary for any of these concerts.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13
CONCERT AT 3:00PM

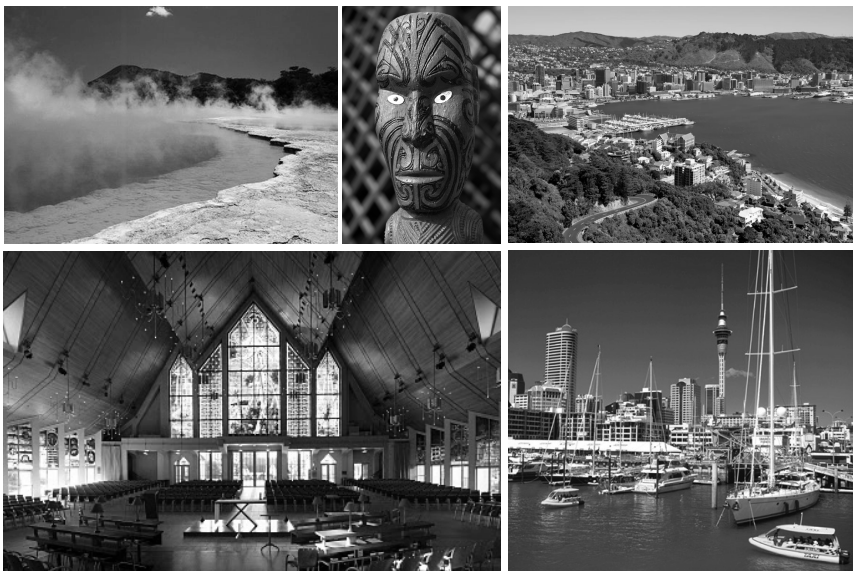
Mondavi Performing Arts Center
9399 Old Davis Rd, UC Davis Campus

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20
CONCERT AT 2:30PM

Flint Center, De Anza College
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino

CYS TO TOUR NEW ZEALAND

In late June of next year the California Youth Symphony Senior Orchestra will mount a 2 week tour to New Zealand. Although CYS pioneered international youth orchestra touring in 1963 and has visited many parts of the world on its subsequent 17 tours, the orchestra has never visited New Zealand. The combination of a strong classical music --and youth orchestra -- tradition in New Zealand, along with its many additional sightseeing and cultural opportunities, make it an ideal destination. Many of our readers remember that Christchurch experienced a devastating earthquake just over a year ago. Plans call for CYS to collaborate with the Christchurch Youth Symphony (also CYS!) in a benefit concert in Christchurch, as well as for the two CYSes to perform at the famous Opera House in Oamaru, four hours south of Christchurch. Both concerts will raise funds for the devastated performing arts community in the Christchurch area. Additional concerts will be held in Auckland, the largest city; Rotorua, the traditional Maori center; and Wellington, a July Fourth concert in the capital. These outstanding concert opportunities, coupled with traveling the length of this stunningly beautiful nation, should make for one of CYS' most memorable tours.



BENEFIT RAFFLE

In order to raise funds for scholarships and other important items for the upcoming New Zealand tour, CYS is sponsoring a benefit raffle. The Grand Prize is a trip for two to Paris, second prize is 32GB Apple iPad 2, and third prize is an afternoon sailing on San Francisco Bay with our very own master seaman, Captain Leo Eylar. The drawing will be held at our free Holiday Concert on December 11 at Foothill College. Tickets are available for purchase from any CYS Senior Orchestra member or at any of our concerts.

3rd BAY AREA YOUTH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 3 PM

Davies Symphony Hall
San Francisco

Faithful fans know that CYS was a key organizer of the historic, first-ever Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival in January 2009 at Davies Symphony Hall. A second, enormously successful Festival was held earlier this year. Now, CYS is proud to announce that it has been invited to participate in the third Festival, sponsored by the San Francisco Symphony in celebration of its 100th anniversary. The Festival will once again be held in beautiful Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco and will once again donate all proceeds to organizations who work with under-served youth. The gala concert, featuring six outstanding youth orchestras from northern California, will be held on Sunday, January 15 at 3:00pm. To purchase tickets please visit the San Francisco Symphony website, sfsymphony.org



California Youth Symphony



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CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY

Leo Eylar, Conductor

Presenting the World Premiere of
Subterranean River
by Stephen Blumberg

also featuring

“Billy the Kid” Suite.....Aaron Copland

Cello ConcertoWilliam Walton
Naomi Benecasa, soloist

“On the Waterfront” Suite.....Leonard Bernstein

Sunday, November 20, 2:30pm

Flint Center, DeAnza College

Stevens Creek at Highway 85, Cupertino

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

Available 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