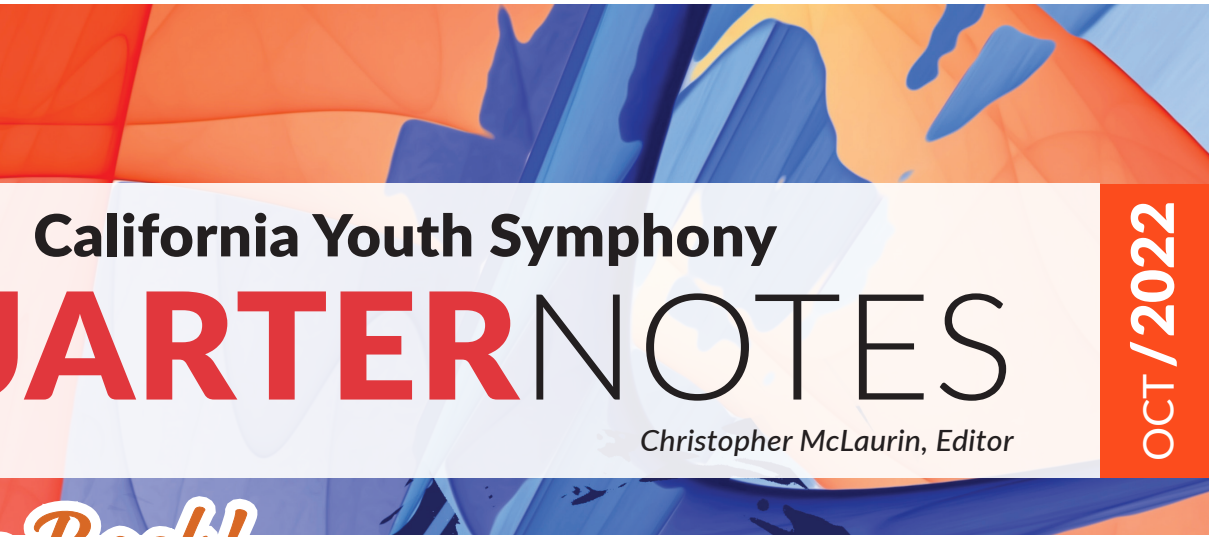


California Youth Symphony

441 California Ave.  
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Palo Alto, CA 94306

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Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another wonderful year of music! CYS is readying a groundbreaking 2022-23 season, and we are energized to share with you the fruits of our hard work. With an emphasis on both diverse and challenging repertoire, CYS will reach new heights this season. Along with works by Shostakovich, Rachmaninov, and Brahms, CYS will present music from a diverse community of composers, including Jennifer Higdon's virtuosic Concerto for Orchestra on our November 6th concert and Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker Suite* on our Holiday Concert on December 4th. In the spring, CYS will perform music by Florence Price, the first African-American woman to have a composition played by a major orchestra. We are also delighted to feature the awe-inspiring sisters Valery and Starla Breshears, winners of the Young Artists Concerto Competition, who will perform the Double Concerto for Violin and Cello by Johannes Brahms.

CYS has triumphantly returned from our tour of Central Europe, including concerts in Prague, Wrocław, Krakow, and Budapest. Performing the extraordinarily difficult *Age of Anxiety* by Leonard Bernstein, himself the son of Ukrainian immigrants, was particularly special during this moment in history. Our Krakow concert dedicated to Ukrainian refugee efforts in Poland was met with much success and enthusiasm.

We are also excited to expand our coaching program for our Senior & Associate Orchestras and Wind Symphony, with master artists providing intensive sectional training for each of the ensembles.

Thank you for being a member of our CYS community, and I am looking forward to seeing all of you on November 6th and December 4th!

## HOLIDAY CONCERT

**CYS Senior Orchestra, CYS Associate Orchestra, & CYS Wind Symphony**

December 4, 2022 | 1:00 PM  
San Mateo Performing Arts Center  
[cys.org/holidayconcert](http://cys.org/holidayconcert)

CYS's yearly Holiday Concert is a rich festival for everyone. The **Wind Symphony** will bring holiday spirit with Leonard Bernstein's *Candide Suite*, For Archie by Yan Pang, Chris Sharp's *Christmas in a Nutshell*, and Grant Cottier's *Fantasy on an Old French Carol*. The **Associate Orchestra** will excite with an *Overture to Zampa* by Herold, *Selections from West Side Story* by Bernstein/Mason, Borodin's evocative *Polovetsian Dances*, and the *Finale* from Dvořák's beloved "New World" Symphony. The **Senior Orchestra** will provide a treat from Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker Suite*, often called the "Jazzcracker Suite", and other holiday favorites.

## WINTER CONCERT

**CYS String & Wind Ensembles**

December 4, 2022 | 6:00 PM  
San Mateo Performing Arts Center  
[cys.org/winterconcert](http://cys.org/winterconcert)

Come celebrate the **CYS's Junior Strings, Intermediate Strings, Chamber Winds, and Wind Ensemble** season debut. These musicians-in-training are between the ages of 5-18, and they already play at an advanced level. Enjoy these young musicians' talents as they perform classical and contemporary works by Beethoven, Dvořák, Smetana, Bartok, Henry Smart, Paul Nagle, and Tchaikovsky.



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## SEASON OPENER

**CYS Senior Orchestra**

November 6, 2022 | 2:30 PM  
San Mateo Performing Arts Center  
[cys.org/seasonopener](http://cys.org/seasonopener)

The **Senior Orchestra** inaugurates CYS' season with a richly varied and virtuosic opening concert. The program features the amazing artistry of Starla and Valery Breshears, winners of the 2022 CYS Young Artist Competition, in a performance of the mighty *Double Concerto for Violin and Cello* by Johannes Brahms. The program will also include music by American composers: Charles Ives' quirky and humorous *Variations on "America"* and Jennifer Higdon's powerful *Concerto for Orchestra*. Don't miss this eclectic and powerful season opener!



# ABOUT OUR FALL CONCERT SOLOISTS!

## VALERY BRESHEARS *Violin*

**Valery Breshears**, age 12, began violin lessons at age 2 with David Mallory. By the age of 5 Valery started studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Pre-College Division under William Barbini, and currently studies with Zhao Wei. Additionally, she is coached by her accompanist, Ayke Agus. Valery has soloed 11 times with orchestra since the age of six. She has won first place in 10 solo competitions, including the Parnassus-San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition and the Livermore-Amador Symphony Concerto Competition. Valery also is a recipient of the Fremont Symphony Nafisa Taghioff Award and the 2021 Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award.

## STARLA BRESHEARS *Cello*

**Starla Breshears**, age 14, began cello lessons at age 3 with Yoshie Muratani. By the age of 6 Starla started studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Division under Jean-Michel Fonteneau. She is now the principal cellist of the SFCM Pre-College Orchestra. Starla is also coached by her accompanist, Ayke Agus, and by cellist, Christine Walevska. Starla has soloed with 11 different orchestras since the age of six. She has won first place in 10 solo competitions, including the Parnassus-San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition and the Palo Alto Philharmonic Concerto Movement Competition.



# 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 QR code on the right, CYS families and friends can order any number of famous See's products – great for Holiday gifts or just for your personal enjoyment! For all purchases made using this link, See's will donate a generous percentage to CYS. Be sure to order early since See's is just now gearing up for the Holidays - it may take 30 days or so to receive your treats. Please share this info far and wide and help make this a sweet Holiday Season for CYS, too! [cys.org/sees](https://cys.org/sees)

# SUNDAY FRIENDS

Once again this year CYS will host a toy drive for an outstanding Bay Area charity. Sunday Friends is a non-profit organization serving South Bay families in need since 1997. Each holiday season, Sunday Friends makes it possible for children and parents from very-low-income families to earn, select and giftwrap gifts to give each other. CYS has partnered with this fine organization that provides many services to disadvantaged families right here in the Bay Area. We are asking CYS patrons to do two things -- come to our **Holiday & Winter Concerts on December 4** at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center and bring a new toy that we will share with our Sunday Friends. Something educational is preferred, but not necessary -- but please, no weapons or edibles of any kind. And don't forget re-gifting! Search your home for lovely gifts you have received but never used. There will be donation boxes at the concert hall on December 4. Thanks!



# CYS TRIVIA!

**FUN FACT:** Did you know that the Alumni student record for the most years in CYS is held by a current member of the CYS Board of Directors?



**TRIVIA QUESTION:** How many years is the record, and who holds the title?

Submit your answers to this form and discover more!  
[cys.org/trivia](https://cys.org/trivia)

# TOUR 2022

This past summer CYS traveled to the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary on its 23rd international tour, performing for near capacity audiences in iconic concert venues such as Prague's Dvorak Hall, the Liszt Academy in Budapest, and Krakow's beautiful Philharmonic Hall. The orchestra was joined by virtuoso pianist Parker Van Ostrand, who performed Leonard Bernstein's Symphony no. 2 "The Age of Anxiety" to great acclaim. The trip was a spectacular success and the musicians were treated to a marvelous and profoundly cultural and historical itinerary that included tours of the Prague Castle, Auschwitz, Krakow's Old Town, Budapest's glorious Parliament Building, and many other impressive sites. Planning has already started for the 2024 tour!



# WAYS TO GIVE

- DONATE TO OUR ANNUAL FUND OR SET UP A MONTHLY DONATION**  
 A cash gift to CYS helps where it is needed most. A donation can be given to celebrate a milestone like a birthday or anniversary, or to honor the memory of a dear friend or relative as a tribute. Monthly contributions are a convenient and easy way to provide a reliable source of support for CYS. Each month, we will automatically charge your card for your desired donation amount. You may opt out of monthly gifts at any time.
- GIFTS OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES**  
 We gratefully accept gifts of stock, bonds, mutual funds or other securities. If they have increased in value, a donation could help you achieve both your financial and charitable goals. If you give securities directly to the California Youth Symphony, you may bypass capital gains taxes that would be due on a sale and reduce your income taxes.
- CONTACT YOUR EMPLOYER ABOUT A MATCHING GIFT**  
 Many employers have programs that can match your gift, often doubling or tripling your impact on CYS. Check with your employer to see whether it offers a matching gift program. Often times, you will be required to submit a form to your employer with your donation amount and the date you made your gift.
- PLAN A GIFT**  
 The California Youth Symphony honors individuals who have generously provided for its future through bequests, trusts, and other life income. The simplest and most common planned gift is a bequest to CYS in your will. You can also designate CYS as the beneficiary of your retirement plan or of a life insurance policy. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in planning a gift!

**CYS accepts cash gifts by check or credit card. Donations can be made via one of the following:**

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

**Email:** Kelly Kemp at [Kelly@cys.org](mailto:Kelly@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://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 MEET OUR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



**Brooke Mickelson** is a violist, music educator, and arts leader passionate about community arts engagement. Through all of her roles, her mission is to connect people through the arts and provide access to music education. In addition to working for CYS, Brooke is on the String Faculty at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View. She also volunteers to play with the Palo Alto Philharmonic community orchestra.

Brooke is an accomplished musician. She holds a Master of Music Performance (Performance Pedagogy) from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Music Performance from Boise State University. She has played in orchestras at prestigious music festivals from Brevard Music Institute to FOOSA Festival. She placed in the finals of the 2019 Boise State University Concerto-Aria Competition. Performing the first movement of Hindemith's Der Schwanendreher viola concerto, she was lauded for "exceptional tone colors and range of intensity." Her primary teachers were Nancy Buck, Dr. Linda Kline, and Jennifer Drake.

Brooke has a love for the outdoors imbued in her growing up in the state of Idaho. Though she does not always have much time for activities outside music, she also enjoys hiking, baking, and reading. She can be contacted at [brooke@cys.org](mailto:brooke@cys.org).

Maestro Eylar was a featured guest on KMVT15's Reference Point TV with host David Kocharhook in August.

In this interview, Leo discusses the history, mission, and goals of the California Youth Symphony and offers personal recollections and thoughts regarding his 33 years as Music Director of CYS. Visit [cys.org/media](https://cys.org/media) for the shows.

