

OUR NEW SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



The California Youth Symphony's 74th season promises an extraordinary lineup of performances, events, and unforgettable experiences for both musicians and audiences alike. This exciting year features the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival (BAYOF) at iconic Davies Symphony Hall, where the region's finest young musicians come together in a celebration of talent and collaboration. The season also includes the world premiere of *Slipping*, a captivating new tone poem for large orchestra composed by CYS's own Saarthak Shankavaram. To cap off the year, CYS embarks on a spectacular concert tour of Japan, with performances in Tokyo, Osaka, Okayama, and Kobe—bringing the energy and artistry of our young musicians to audiences around the world. The season will also feature two of CYS's own as soloists: violinist Kayla Lee performing Erich Korngold's super-romantic Violin Concerto and cellist Aiden Kim performing Ernest Bloch's powerful and profoundly moving *Schelomo*. Our Associate Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensembles, and String Ensembles will delight audiences with works by Silvestri, Haydn, Bernstein, Brahms, Gershwin, and others.



2025-2026 CYS SENIOR ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1

Olivia Chen
Brian Choi
Claire Choi
Dylan Chua
Felix Chuang
Jina Han
Soolynn Jin
Lumi Kim
Sean Kim
Henna Lam
Hannah Lee
Kayla Lee
Michael Liu
Michelle Liu
Eric Ng
Kaito Porter
Saarthak Shankavaram
Matthew Zhang

VIOLIN 2

Ryan Bao
Vivien Chen
Olivia Cho
Ethan Fei
David He
Chloe Jeon
Sarah Jiang
Yun (Clara) Jo
Hailey Lam

Ashley Lee
Xiaoyu Lin
Jasleen Lu
Aravind Muralidharan
Jia Park
Jisoo Park
Yu Rong
Olivia Tu
Felix Wang
Yicen Wang
Madelyn Zhu

VIOLA

Jonathan Cheng
Elin Choi
Michael Deng
Jiayuan (Flora) Fu
Eleanor Gil
Jenna Jin
Danna Kim
Taelin Kim
Jia Lee
Jun Seo Oh
Xiran (Ivy) Sun
Meagan Wang
Angel Yang
Jason Yang

CELLO

Emerson Chang
Michelle Fang

Matthew Hong
Brandon Kang
Aiden Kim
Casey Kim
Clement Lee
JP Lee
Xinrui (Renee) Li
Annie Liu
Edwin Ma
Haoxuan (Kevin) Mi
Hongjoo (Hannah) Nam
Shujun (Margaret) Wang
Kaitlyn Yoon

BASS

Jaeho Lee
Tyler Nichols
Akalya Rajasekar
Raiden Tan
Yiqin Tang

FLUTE

Jessica Cao
Yongrong Chen
Tiffany Chou
Iris Hsiung
Amber Kuo
Olivia Park
Ryan Wang

PICCOLO

Jessica Cao
Iris Hsiung

OBOE/ ENGLISH HORN

Penelope Nah
Kayla Park
Asher Wong

CLARINET

Terri Choi
Elaine Dai
Brendan Malveda
Andrew Son
Sola Suzuki
Siqi Zhang

BASS CLARINET

Thomas Gallagher
Owen Tsai

BASSOON

Ethan Lee
Omkar Perinkulam

HORN

Colin Chien
Annabelle Lin
Asher Mehta
Ariana Yi

TRUMPET

Hayden Lee
James Lee
Michelle Park
Mihir Shankar
Jacob Shkolnik
Ivan Sokolenko

TROMBONE

Neal Arribas-Hidas
Sourabh Bharadwaj
Harvy Chang
Mohit Kulkarni

BASS TROMBONE

Lenel Gomintong

TUBA

Cameron Strahs

PERCUSSION

Emily Ding
Darren Gao
Joshua Hsieh
Kevin Ou
Michael Sun

HARP

Olivia Nam
Valarie Wang

PIANO

Zenryu Yee



LEO EYLAR *Music Director*
74th Season

CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY
2025 | 2026
SEASON

WELCOME

Welcome to the California Youth Symphony's 74th season! Since its founding in 1952, CYS has been producing some of the Bay Area's finest musicians, educators, and entrepreneurs, and building a network of music lovers. We have over 400 young musicians, representing nearly 100 Bay Area schools, participating in our invaluable programs. CYS is a place where hard-working young instrumentalists come together to explore their creativity, build artistic discipline, and contribute to the Bay Area's cultural landscape. Our international tours have earned rave reviews from critics and audiences alike, and we offer first-rate concerts at little or no cost to surrounding communities.

THE CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(Senior Orchestra) is our most advanced ensemble—a professional level symphony orchestra conducted by **Leo Eylar**.

THE CYS ASSOCIATE ORCHESTRA

is an advanced/intermediate level symphony orchestra under the baton of **Leo Eylar**.

THE CYS WIND SYMPHONY

is the flagship ensemble of the CYS Wind program and provides young talented musicians a professional-level wind symphony experience under the direction of **Pete Nowlen**. Mr. Nowlen is Director of Bands at UC Davis, an award-winning French horn soloist, and director/conductor for several prominent groups. Mr. Nowlen also has been closely connected with CYS for the past 25 years, serving as Summer Camp Director, Assistant Conductor, and regular brass coach.

THE CYS STRING PROGRAM

offers two ensembles under the direction of **Kati Kyme**. Ms. Kyme has an M.A. in violin performance from Yale and frequently appears as soloist and concertmaster with the world renowned Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra.

THE CYS WIND PROGRAM

offers two ensembles under the direction of **Anthony Lanzino**. Mr. Lanzino has a B.A. in music from San Jose State University. He is a music educator at La Entrada Middle School and also worked with the 21-time DCI (Drum Corps International) world champion Concord Blue Devils A Corps.

THE CYS PERCUSSION PROGRAM

is under the direction of **Artie Storch**. Mr. Storch has a master's degree from The Juilliard School and appears regularly with the San Francisco Symphony and other local orchestras. He is also the Percussion Director at Chabot College.



Since taking the helm as our Music Director in November of 1990, the 2025 Season Opener marks 35 years on the podium for Leo Eylar.

In addition to being an outstanding conductor, Eylar is also a composer of international renown and a highly respected educator—Professor Emeritus of Music at California State University, Sacramento.

2025-2026 SEASON SCHEDULE

CYS SENIOR ORCHESTRA

SEASON OPENER

November 2, 2025 | 2:30 PM

Chabot College Performing Arts Complex, Hayward

Bloch: *Schelomo, Rhapsodie Hébraïque* (**Aiden Kim**, soloist)

Dukas: *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

Saarthak Shankavaram: *Slipping* (World Premiere)

Strauss: *Don Juan*

HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 7, 2025 | 2:30 PM

San Mateo Performing Arts Center

Ibert: "Allegro" from Flute Concerto (**Yongrong Chen**, soloist)

Rath: *Escape Artist* (Percussion Section)

Plus, Classical and Seasonal Favorites by the CYS Orchestras and CYS Wind Symphony

BAY AREA YOUTH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL (BAYOF)

January 18, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco

SPRING CONCERT

March 29, 2026 | 7:30 PM

California Theatre, San Jose

Korngold: Violin Concerto (**Kayla Lee**, soloist)

Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5

Wagner: Prelude to Act III of *Lohengrin*

SEASON FINALE

June 7, 2026 | 2:30 PM

San Mateo Performing Arts Center

Bernstein: Overture to *Candide*

Montgomery: *Starburst*

Price: "Juba Dance" from Symphony No. 1

Tchaikovsky: *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*

Plus, additional works by CYS Graduating Senior Concerto Competition Winners

JAPAN CONCERT TOUR

June 28–July 7, 2026

CYS ASSOCIATE ORCHESTRA & WIND SYMPHONY

HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 7, 2025 | 2:30 PM

San Mateo Performing Arts Center

with the CYS Senior Orchestra

FESTIVAL EVENING

March 22, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College

CODA CONCERT

May 17, 2026

1:00 PM – Associate Orch & String Ensembles

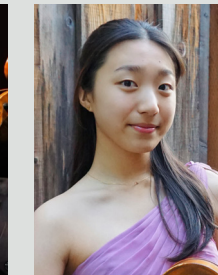
6:00 PM – Wind Symphony & Wind Ensembles

Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College

Featuring works by Beethoven, Bernstein, Borodin, Saint-Saëns, Smetana, and more...



Aiden Kim, cello



Kayla Lee, violin

CYS STRING & WIND ENSEMBLES

FALL CONCERT

November 23, 2025 | 1:00 PM

Cañada College Theatre, Redwood City

FESTIVAL AFTERNOON

March 22, 2026 | 1:00 PM

Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College

CODA CONCERT

May 17, 2026

1:00 PM – String Ensembles & Associate Orch

6:00 PM – Wind Ensembles & Wind Symphony

Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College

Featuring works by Price, Smetana, Mozart, Gershwin, and more...

PERFORM-A-THON FUNDRAISER

February 7, 2026 | 12:00 PM

Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos

Participation Open to All CYS Members

SUPPORTING CYS

Thank you for investing in the finest musical training, the opportunity for personal growth, and the next generation of leaders. CYS supports **arts access** by offering tuition assistance to families in need and by extending educational outreach events to all young musicians in the community.



Your tax-deductible contributions can be made through www.cys.org/donate or by mailing a check.

**441 California Avenue #5
Palo Alto, CA 94306**

MAESTRO SOCIETY

The Conductor's Circle \$5,000 and above

The Symphony Circle \$2,500 to \$4,999

The Principal's Circle \$1,000 to \$2,499

FRIENDS OF CYS

Sponsoring Supporters \$500 to \$999

Sustaining Supporters \$300 to \$499

Participating Supporters \$150 to \$299

Active Supporters up to \$149

CORPORATE MATCH: Please check with your employers to see if they will match your contributions to CYS!



Access for All – CYS is committed to providing outreach programs free of charge.



CALLING ALL CYS ALUMNI

CYS is building an alumni network to celebrate its rich history. Contact us at www.cys.org/alumni or info@cys.org.

SAVE THE DATE

The annual Alumni Rehearsal & Gathering will take place on **May 31, 2026!**

