



# California Youth Symphony QUARTERNOTES

OCT/2025

**SEASON OPENER: Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 2:30 pm**

**Reed L. Buffington Performing Arts Center, Chabot College**

**Welcome to our 74<sup>th</sup> Season!** Join **Maestro Eylar** as he celebrates the **35th anniversary** of his very first concert with CYS! Our season opener takes a deep dive into the world of programmatic music. The **Senior Orchestra** opens our 74th season with Richard Strauss's brilliant tone poem *Don Juan*, which took the music world by storm after its premiere performance in 1889. Strauss brings to life the passion and the swashbuckling character of his eponymous hero with some of the most dazzling and demanding orchestral writing of his career. CYS then welcomes our **Young Artist Competition winner Aiden Kim** as he joins us to perform Ernest Bloch's profoundly moving *Schelomo: Rhapsodie Hébraïque* for Violoncello and Orchestra, the final work of Bloch's "Jewish Cycle." We continue the program with the **world premiere** of *Slipping* by one of CYS's very own musicians: violinist and composer **Saarthak Shankavaram**. We conclude with Paul Dukas' masterpiece of pictorial music, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. The work is based on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's 1797 ballad of the same name. It tells the tale of a young apprentice who enchants a broom to fetch water, only to lose control as the broom works relentlessly, flooding the workshop until the sorcerer returns to restore order. We invite you to join us for an unforgettable afternoon of storytelling through music! **Free admission.**



Aiden Kim



Saarthak Shankavaram



25-26 Senior Orchestra

**FALL CONCERT: Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 1:00 pm**

**Cañada College Theatre | Free Admission**

Our String and Wind Ensembles will put on a delightfully varied show at Cañada College Theatre in Redwood City. The **Intermezzi Strings'** opening performance of Florence Price's Quartet in G Major will take you on a journey through multiple key changes and moods. Then the **Virtuosi Strings**, also under the direction of **Kati Kyme**, will play George Gershwin's soothing *Lullaby*. The **Chamber Winds** will pick up the pace with the thrilling *3,2,1...* by Brian Balmages, as directed by **Anthony Lanzino**. Finally, prepare to be transported by the **Wind Ensemble** as they mimic rainstorms and celebratory dances with Michael Sweeney's *Earthdance*. There's a piece for each audience member to be thankful for in this Fall Concert!



**Holiday Concert: Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 2:30 pm**

**San Mateo Performing Arts Center | Free Admission**

The **Associate** and **Senior Orchestras**, conducted by **Leo Eylar**, and the **Wind Symphony**, conducted by **Pete Nowlen**, will present the annual Holiday Concert at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. The orchestras and Wind Symphony will again treat the audience to a pleasing mix of classical holiday favorites. Other highlights include Smetana's *The Moldau*, Borodin's *Polovetsian Dances*, selections from Bernstein's *West Side Story*, and a movement of Ibert's Flute Concerto featuring **Concerto Competition winner, Yongrong Chen**. The Wind Symphony will perform works by Mahr, Silvestri, Jaime-Donjuan, and Vaughan Williams, with additional performances by the ensembles' **Percussion Sections**, conducted by Percussion Director **Artie Storch**.



Yongrong Chen



## CYS 2026 INTERNATIONAL TOUR - JAPAN

Our Senior Orchestra will embark on a 10-day trip to Japan from Sunday, June 28 - Tuesday, July 7, 2026. We eagerly anticipate this trip to Japan, a country where CYS made history by being the first American youth symphony to tour internationally in 1963! Interested in our Companion Tour? Please email [info@cys.org](mailto:info@cys.org) for more information.



Our Name in Lights!

Three young musicians from the California Youth Symphony are cheered by the boost from a local sign firm for their upcoming trip to Japan. From left are Chester Rowell, Redwood City violinist; Betty Fisher, bassoonist from Redwood City; and Bruce Wasserman, San Carlos violinist. The group has raised \$20,000 already for the summer tour and needs about \$50,000 more for commercial air fares.

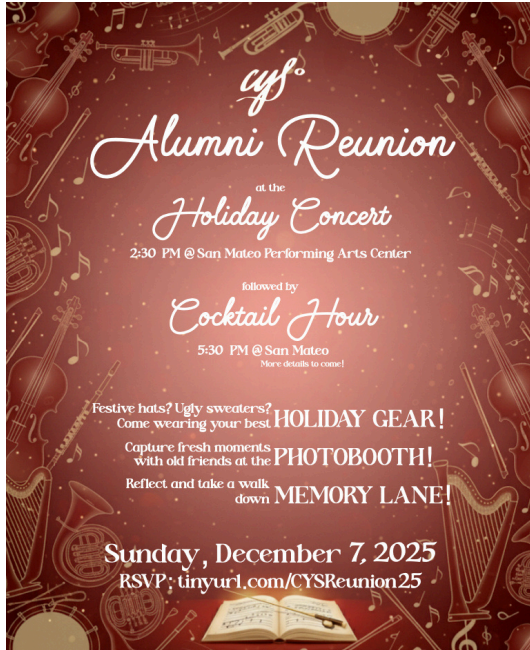






## Alumni Gathered on June 8th

A group of alumni representing all three CYS Music Directors – Aaron Sten, Lauren Jakey, and Leo Eylar – gathered to read Brahms' *Academic Overture*, Prelude to Act 3 of *Lohengrin* by Wagner, and the final movement of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5. (Maestro Eylar kept us on our toes by taking a brisk tempo on the Shostakovich!) A fun time catching up and meeting new people over pizza and treats.



## SAVE THE DATE

### 4th Annual Alumni Rehearsal and Gathering

Sunday, May 31, 2026, 6 pm

Almond Elementary School in Los Altos

### Alumni Reunion at CYS Holiday Concert!

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 2:30 pm

San Mateo Performing Arts Center

Visit [www.cys.org/alumni](http://www.cys.org/alumni) to RSVP

## Alumni Spotlight - Hana Mori

I loved my time in the Lauren Jakey orchestra of 1986 - 1991 (with a transition to Leo Eylar near the end)! I have several lasting and deep friendships from my time at CYS – it was and is a magical experience. These days, I play for fun in a quartet called PEBS – People Eating Beside their Stands (because we mostly eat together, then play a little). Some of our favorites have been Beethoven Quartet No.15 in A minor and Schumann Quartet Op.41, No. 1 also in A minor.



Prior to this, I played baroque violin for quite a while – discovering this new way of playing, and community, was a revelation during my last year of college. I set up my violin with gut strings, tuned everything down to A = 415 Hz, and used a baroque bow. Everything is much mellower and more like speaking than singing, compared to “modern” violin. I especially loved the improvisation techniques that are expected in a lot of baroque music.

In my “spare time,” I'm a professor of engineering at University of San Francisco. I've been teaching at USF for 20 years, and we created a new engineering program that prioritizes the assets that every student brings to the community, and tries to provide better access to an engineering education for folks who have been historically excluded. I have also occasionally taught an intro physics course, and I always bring in my violin for a demo of standing waves.

Top CYS memory is for sure the “audition” skits that Dr. Jakey and his daughter Amelia would put on during camp. Dr. Jakey would appear as a highly nervous violinist in a skirt and sun visor, Amelia would act as Dr. Jakey wearing his ever-present light blue sweatshirt. The “young violinist” would have every mishap possible, sheet music flying, wrong notes, and we all loved that he had such a sense of humor.



## CYS PERFORM-A-THON

Join us on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in San Carlos for the California Youth Symphony's musical marathon fundraiser featuring CYS musicians (alumni participation welcome)!

This event will be live streamed, making it possible to share your artistry with friends, family, and relatives in the Bay Area and beyond. *Every dollar raised will support CYS's tuition assistance and education programs.*

- To sign up as a performer: [www.cys.org/fundraiser](http://www.cys.org/fundraiser)
- Deadline to register as a performer: December 10, 2025 (first-come, first-served basis)

## 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 visiting [cys.org/sees](http://cys.org/sees) or scanning the QR code on the right, CYS families and friends can order any number of See's famous products, great for holiday gifts or your own personal enjoyment! See's will then donate a percentage of sales to CYS. Be sure to order early; it may take 30 days or so to receive your treats. Please share this information with your friends and families and help make this a sweet holiday season for CYS.



## WAYS TO GIVE

[www.cys.org/donate](http://www.cys.org/donate)

- DONATE NOW
- MONTHLY GIVING
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For more information, please visit [www.cys.org](http://www.cys.org)



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