



California Youth Symphony

QUARTERNOTES

FEB / 2026



FESTIVAL CONCERTS - March 22 at 1 pm & 6 pm

At the **Smithwick Theatre** in Los Altos Hills, the afternoon concert features the String and Wind Ensembles, under the direction of **Kati Kyme** and **Anthony Lanzino**. Intermezzi and Virtuosi Strings perform a set of fugues by Haydn and Beethoven, among others. Chamber Winds brings excitement and creativity with pieces by Standridge and Longfield. Wind Ensemble provides rich contrast and expression, including "Nimrod" from Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. Nick Aukofer's *JugHeads* by the combined percussion sections adds rhythmic vitality and playful character to the afternoon.

In the evening, join the Wind Symphony, directed by **Pete Nowlen**, and the Associate Orchestra, led by **Leo Eylar**. The Wind Symphony performs the

U.S. premiere of *Luk Thep March* by Thai composer Viskamol Chaiwanichsiri, along with Holst's Second Suite in F for Military Band and Reena Esmail's *Chamak*. The Associate Orchestra performs *Kauyumari* by Gabriela Ortiz, and features concertmaster **Justin Tien** in the final movement of Bruch's Violin Concerto in G minor, while cellist **Matthew Li** performs the opening movement of Lalo's Cello Concerto. Works by Beethoven and Saint-Saëns round out the program. **Free admission.**

SPRING CONCERT - MARCH 29 at 7:30 pm

At **California Theatre** in San Jose, join **Maestro Eylar** and the Senior Orchestra for an evening of sweeping drama, virtuosic brilliance, and symphonic power. First will be Wagner's Prelude to Act III of *Lohengrin*, one of the most exhilarating curtain-raisers in the orchestral repertoire. We welcome an alumnus, **Kevin Cho (CYS '04)**, as our special guest conductor. Next, the 2025 Young Artist Competition winner, **Kayla Lee**, performs Erich Korngold's Violin Concerto. The concerto draws on themes from Korngold's celebrated film scores, transforming them into a virtuosic and emotionally charged concert work. We close the program with Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5, composed during the final years of World War II. Prokofiev described the work as "a hymn to free and happy humanity," reflected in its expansive scale, bold themes, and powerful rhythmic drive. **Free admission.**



CYS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH EVENTS

CYS wrapped up January with **Free Viola and Double Bass Workshops**. The Viola Workshop doubled participation from last year, with instructor Kati Kyme. The Double Bass Workshop expanded to two sessions, with beginners learning the basics of how to play the instrument with Bruce Moyer, and intermediate players developing their existing skills with Zachary Iscoff.



On a similar expanding trajectory, the **Second Annual Free Brass Day** on February 28th has over 65 participants! Musicians with 1-8 years of experience on Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba will learn or further perfect techniques, focusing on breath control, instrument-specific articulation, intonation, and brass ensemble performance.



CYS MUSICIANS RECEIVE COUNTY AND STATE HONORS

CYS congratulates our many musicians chosen to participate in numerous **2026 Honor Ensembles** offered this season. We also wish to acknowledge the indispensable role that school music programs, school music teachers, and private music teachers play in the development of young musicians.

2026 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OR SANTA CLARA COUNTY HONOR BAND

Seozin Baek	Lenel Gomintong	Leo Nguyen	Owen Tsai
Sourabh Bharadwaj	Orion Koo	Yeeun (Sarah) Park	Andrew Xie
Yongrong Chen	Koushani Haldar	Mihir Shankar	Henry Yeung
Adeline Fam	Annabelle Lin	Tsz Ki Shi	Sherlock Zhou
Darren Gao	Brandon Lin		

2026 CALIFORNIA ALL-STATE HONOR BAND OR ORCHESTRA

* Musicians who participated in a December CODA Ensemble

Ryan Bao	Elin Choi *	Orion Koo	Leo Nguyen	Cameron Strahs *
Sourabh Bharadwaj	Terri Choi	Ethan Lee	Jia Park *	Michael Sun
Anna Byun	Lenel Gomintong	James Lee	Jisoo Park *	Yiqin Tang
Harvy Chang *	Seoyoon Hwang	Jenna Lee	Yeeun (Sarah) Park	Justin Tien
Alexander Chen	Sarah Jiang	Noah Lee	Perry Pei	Colin Tsai
Olivia Chen	Jenna Jin	Matthew Li	Omkar Perinkulam	Owen Tsai
Owen Chen	Sherlynn Jin *	Brandon Lin	Samyatha Rao	Audrey Tu *
Colin Chien	Danna Kim *	Jessica Lou	Mihir Shankar *	Andrew Xie
Brock Chin	Ryan Kim	Brendan Malveda	Saarthak Shankavaram	Albert Yang
Minkee Cho	Taelin Kim *	Olivia Nam	Ivan Sokolenko	Angel Yang
		Elise Nguyen *	Andrew Son	Kaitlyn Yoon



SAVE-THE-DATE 4th ALUMNI READING REHEARSAL & GATHERING

Sunday, May 31, 2026, 6 pm
Almond Elementary School in Los Altos
www.cys.org/about/alumni



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - Judith Heber Iervolino (CYS 1959 - 1963)

“Although I was born in New York, I moved with my parents to the Bay Area at age two and lived there until leaving for college. In fourth grade, I joined my elementary school music program, hoping to play the flute. Instead, due to limited space and a cellist as the music teacher, I was handed a three-quarter-size cello. As I grew, I advanced to a full-size instrument, and in ninth grade I was offered a place in the California Youth Symphony. Under the direction of Aaron Sten, there were no auditions in those days. During my time with CYS, I had the privilege of participating in the orchestra’s first international concert tour to Japan—an unforgettable experience.

After high school, I set aside the cello and attended UCLA, earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology. I worked for two years as a social worker before attending Chico State University, where I received teaching credentials in both elementary and secondary education. This led to a 25-year teaching career, with time off for family and a brief period as an antiques dealer.

Over the years, I have attended several CYS concerts and a reunion at Stanford University. Most recently, the 2025 Holiday Concert rekindled many cherished memories and inspired me to become more involved as an alumna. I remain in contact with friends from my CYS days more than 60 years ago, one of the many lasting gifts of this remarkable organization.”

In Memoriam - Alex Eylar

Message from Maestro Eylar & Kati Kyme

With profound sadness, Kati Kyme and I share that our son, Alex, 37, passed away December 26th after a medical crisis related to childhood cancer. A lifelong fighter, he grew up at CYS camps, loved LEGO and movies, appeared in major media, and worked in Hollywood as a script analyst and writer.



Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival

On January 18th, our Senior Orchestra performed at San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall as part of the 10th Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival (BAYOF). What an amazing experience sharing the love of music with four other youth orchestras – San Francisco, Marin, and Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestras and Young People's Symphony Orchestra – and over 1,400 audience members.



CYS Perform-a-thon

On February 7th, 45 acts, made up of 51 CYS musicians and 25 guest musicians, provided 5.5 hours of live music for the first annual musical marathon! Solos through quintets showcased the impressive musical skill throughout the Bay Area. CYS is grateful for all who contributed to the event, by joining the in-person audience, watching the livestream, and donating in support of CYS programs.



CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

MARCH 1
MARCH 28

APPLICATION DEADLINE
COMPETITION DAY

2026-27 ENTRANCE AUDITIONS

MARCH 12

\$35 non-refundable application fee
Discount available for current members.

PERCUSSION
APPLICATION DEADLINE

MARCH 14/15
& APRIL 11

PERCUSSION
LIVE AUDITIONS

MARCH 16

STRINGS, WINDS, BRASS
APPLICATION / AUDITION VIDEO
DEADLINE

APRIL 17

AUDITION RESULTS EMAILED

APRIL 20

Tuition Assistance Application Deadline

MAY 1

2026-27 SEASON
REGISTRATION DEADLINE



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For more information, please visit www.cys.org



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