



CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY

Quarter Notes

JIM HOGAN, EDITOR

NOVEMBER 2019

A BANNER YEAR



This is a banner year for the California Youth Symphony. Not only are we kicking off our 68th season, but we are also celebrating our esteemed Music Director, Leo Eylar's, 30th anniversary at the CYS helm. Only the third music director in CYS' storied history, Leo has surpassed the 27 years that founding director Aaron Sten spent on the podium. Lauren Jakey served in that role for 11 years. To celebrate this season, CYS has put together some wonderful music for our amazing young musicians. This fall alone will see concerts by the California Youth Symphony Orchestra (aka "Senior Orchestra"), the CYS Associate Orchestra, the CYS Wind Symphony, and the CYS String and Wind Preparatory ensembles. And of special note - this season we are welcoming Pete Nowlen as the new director of the CYS Wind Symphony. Capping off what is sure to be an amazing year, in June the Senior Orchestra will leave on a 13 day, 5 concert tour to Argentina and Chile.

CYS ORCHESTRA OPENS IN SAN MATEO

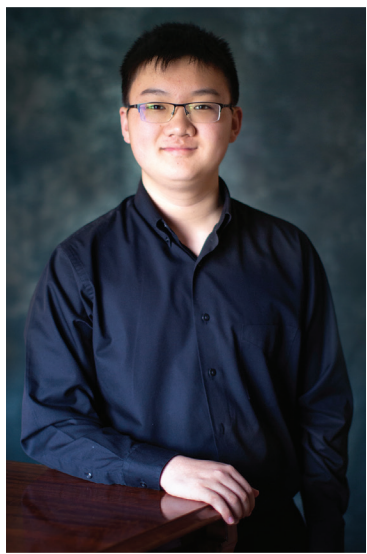
Since the closing of the Flint Center, CYS has shifted its primary concert hall to the spectacular, newly remodeled San Mateo Performing Arts Center. On November 17 at 2:30pm the CYS Orchestra will open its 2019-20 season there with a dazzling program featuring virtuoso works for orchestra from the Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary periods. Our Young Artist Competition winner Solomon Ge will perform Beethoven's sparkling *Piano Concerto No. 1*, composed two years after Beethoven's arrival in Vienna to study with Haydn. It is a work of astonishing virtuosity and was first performed with the composer as soloist in 1795 when he was at the height of his pianistic prowess. Our opener for this concert is Richard Strauss's *Don Juan*, often considered to be the most brilliantly orchestrated and technically demanding of the famous eight "tone poems" for orchestra written by Strauss. Composed at the age of 24, this astounding work took the music world by storm after its premiere performance in 1889 and launched the international reputation of Strauss as the most progressive living composer at the time. We round out our concert with a perennial favorite: Leonard Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*. *West Side Story* was an instant hit on Broadway, running for 772 performances when it was first produced in 1957. The movie version (1961) was nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won 10, becoming the record holder for the most wins for a musical. Bernstein fashioned a purely orchestral version of many of the highlights (also first performed in 1961) which has become one of the most popular and beloved of the composer's works. You won't want to miss such favorites as "Somewhere", "Mambo", "Cool Fugue", "Rumble", and other highly jazz-inflected and unforgettable hit tunes from this iconic American work!





Holiday Concert December 8th

In line with our long tradition, CYS is delighted to present its annual holiday concert this December as a gift to our loyal fan base. On Sunday, December 8 at 2:30pm at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center both the CYS Senior and Associate orchestras, under Leo Eylar's baton, will perform. The Associate Orchestra will perform four works of astonishing variety and scope. Included are Suites from two of the most beloved French operas in history: Bizet's *Carmen* and Gounod's *Faust*. Keeping with a largely French 'theme', the orchestra will also play excerpts from Hector Berlioz's epochal *Symphonie fantastique*. Our grand finale will be *Fatum* (Fate) by Tchaikovsky. This massive work was composed in 1868 by a young Tchaikovsky but he destroyed the score after a disastrous premiere performance: the composer Balakirev wrote to Tchaikovsky "there wasn't much applause, probably because of the appalling cacophony. The seams show, as does all your clumsy stitching. The whole thing is completely uncoordinated." In 1896, after Tchaikovsky's death, the score was reconstructed from the original orchestral parts. One hundred and twenty-three years later, the work is now performed regularly: a testament to its flowing melodies and dramatic power. The Senior Orchestra is delighted to have a very unusual solo instrument playing with the orchestra: the euphonium. We feature Natalie Colegrove from the senior orchestra performing Karl Jenkins Euphonium Concerto. As always, the Senior Orchestra will get you in the Holiday spirit with its selection of holiday favorites such as *White Christmas*, *Deck the Halls*, *Joy to the World*, and selections from the perennial favorite, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. There is something for everyone in this rich and varied festive event!

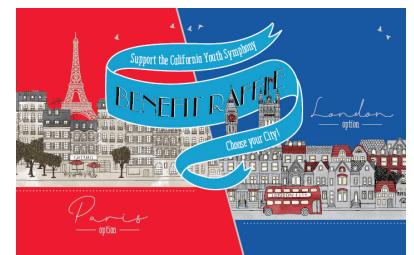


Solomon Ge, piano soloist

Pianist Solomon Ge, age 16, is a winner of the 2019 CYS Young Artist Competition, held at Stanford University last spring. This immensely talented young man currently studies piano with Prof. Yoshikazu Nagai at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His many honors include top awards in the 2019 International e-piano Junior Competition, 2019 Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition, and 2019 Los Angeles International Piano Competition. He is also the winner of numerous local competitions, including the 2019 Marilyn Mindell Piano Competition, 2019 Palo Alto Philharmonic Concerto Competition, 2019 CAPMT Honors State Competition, 2019 Mondavi Young Artists Competition, 2019 TSIPF Concerto Competition, and 2019 Ross McKee Competition, among others. He has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, Peninsula Symphony, Palo Alto Philharmonic, Round Rock Symphony Orchestra, and will perform with the Palo Alto Philharmonic in November 2019 and Golden State Youth Orchestra in March 2020.

Raffle to Support CYS Programs

The CYS Benefit Raffle to support CYS programs, is now underway. For only \$10 per ticket you'll get a chance to win an all-expense paid trip to either London or Paris - your choice! Plus there are many other prizes offered. Tickets will be on sale at all of the CYS concerts written about in this issue of Quarter Notes. Just one more reason to attend and hear some great music!



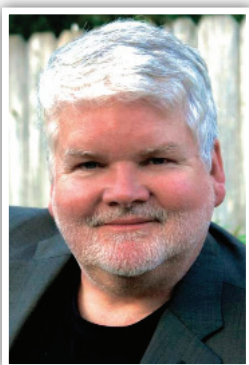
Natalie Colegrove, euphonium

Natalie Colegrove, age 16, is the winner of the annual California Youth Symphony Associate Orchestra Concerto Competition. She began her euphonium studies at age 11 and is currently studying with tubist Tony Clements. In Natalie's first three years of performing, she was selected as the principal euphonium for the 2017 California Junior High All-State Honor Band. In 2018 she was accepted into the California All-State Honor Band and ranked as one of the top high school euphonium players in California. Since then, Natalie has played in many ensembles, including the All-Northern California Honor Band, the Santa Clara County Honor Band, the Ohlone Community Band, the Ohlone Tuba Ensemble, the CYS Wind Symphony, the CYS Associate Orchestra, and is currently playing bass trombone with the CYS Senior Orchestra. Most recently, Natalie has been accepted into the Honor Band of America, the most prestigious honor band in the nation. This past summer, Natalie placed second in the student division of the International Euphonium and Tuba Festival's solo competition. She is currently a junior at Cupertino High School. In addition to playing music, Natalie enjoys composing, baking, and managing her euphonium-based Instagram and apparel business, @euphieslife.



Winter Concerts

On Sunday, December 15 please be sure to join us for our Winter Concerts in the Theatre at Cañada College, Redwood City, featuring the debut performance of our new Wind Symphony Director, Pete Nowlen. The CYS Wind Symphony has established itself as the premiere performing ensemble for advanced wind musicians. Joining the Wind Symphony on this bill will be the CYS String Preparatory Ensembles under the direction of Kati Kyme, and the CYS Wind Preparatory Ensembles, conducted by Rosita Amador. Enjoy the talents of these young musicians-in-training and advanced members, between the ages of 5-18, as they perform classical and film works by Boccherini, Haydn, Dvořák, Holst, and more. The String Ensembles will begin their program at 1pm. The Wind Symphony and Wind Preparatory concert will be at 3:30pm.



Pete Nowlen, Wind Symphony

We are delighted to introduce Pete Nowlen as our new Wind Symphony Director. Pete is well known to our CYS community, having served as our brass coach for almost 30 years, and as our Senior Orchestra Camp Director for 12 years. More importantly, Pete has an outstanding resume: faculty member at UC Davis, music/artistic director for several musical organizations, French horn finalist in international competitions, conducting and/or performance credits with the San Francisco Symphony, Sacramento Symphony and the International Orchestra of Italy, to mention just a few. We are looking forward to a fantastic Wind Symphony season under Pete's guidance. Don't miss Pete's premiere concert with the WS, Sunday, December 15 at 3:30pm in the Theatre at Cañada College, Redwood City.

CYS to Tour South America

In light of the rapturous response that CYS received from audiences in Argentina on our 2010 visit, the CYS Orchestra will return there on a concert tour next June. Adding to what would already be a spectacular tour, we have decided to include Chile in the itinerary. Music Director Leo Eylar and Orchestra Manager Carmina Eylar returned from their August inspection tour of the two countries raving about the unparalleled quality of the tour's concert halls. They were equally enthused about the opportunities to meet and perform with local young musicians, as well as the warm welcome they received from local musicians and tour organizers.

California Youth Symphony



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CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY
Leo Eylar, Conductor

Don Juan Richard Strauss
Piano Concerto No. 1 Ludwig van Beethoven
Solomon Ge, piano
Symphonic Dances from West Side Story..... Leonard Bernstein

Sunday, November 17th
2:30 pm

San Mateo Performing Arts Center
San Mateo High School • 600 N. Delaware Street, San Mateo

Tickets available at the door or from any CYS member
CYS, 441 California Ave. #5, Palo Alto, CA 94306 • tel. 650/325-6666 • www.cys.org

No children under five, please • For Senior Citizen Ticket Information Contact: judy@cys.org