



# California Youth Symphony

# QUARTERNOTES

Christopher McLaurin, Editor

JUNE / 2022

## SENIOR ORCHESTRA FINAL CONCERT

SEASON FINALE

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Composer **MASON BATES**

**RESURREXIT**

+ BORNE  
SHOSTAKOVICH  
KHACHATURIAN  
& STRAUSS

**MAY 22**  
2:30 PM  
SAN MATEO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

LEO EYLAR, CONDUCTOR

APRIL ZHANG, VIOLIN  
DIANA MCGRORY, FLUTE  
ESTHER LUAN, VIOLIN

CYS.ORG  
LEAD: 650-963-8885  
BY: 650-963-8885

Our season finale is an event that you don't want to miss, as we proudly feature the West Coast premiere of Mason Bates' *Resurrexit*, an incredibly exciting and deeply moving work that evokes the dusty mystery of the Middle East with exotic modes and sonorities.

CYS is delighted to offer *three* senior soloist competition winners this year: Principal Flautist **Diana McGrory** will play the ultra-virtuosic *Fantasia Brillante on Themes from Bizet's Carmen*, composed by François Borne in 1880, and SO violinist **April Zhang** will perform the first movement

of Shostakovich's haunting Violin Concerto no. 1. **Esther Luan** will complete our trilogy of concertos with the energetic and propulsive first movement of Khachaturian's Violin Concerto. We close our season with one of the most beloved of orchestral masterpieces, the Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier* by Richard Strauss. You will be spirited away to the last years of the Habsburg Empire as the orchestra delights you with waltzes and music from what is Strauss's greatest operatic triumph, first performed in 1911 to universal acclaim. Don't miss this exciting and extremely virtuosic final concert!

## UP AND AWAY CAMPAIGN

Thank you those who supported CYS's successful Board Matching Campaign in the Fall! Your generosity helped CYS raise far beyond our goal and are grateful for your generosity!

For those who would like to help CYS this spring, we are announcing our Up-and-Away Campaign to raise \$10,000 to support CYS as we travel to Eastern Europe. During this important moment in history, the energy and optimism that our Senior Orchestra's performances bring to the stage give us the opportunity to affect people in profound ways. The experience our students will have during this incredible journey will last a lifetime and the relationships they will make along the way will be a positive force in the world. Will you help CYS's as we continue to represent Silicon Valley to audiences around the world? Matching gifts, stocks, and bequests are also welcome!



**California Youth Symphony**



441 California Ave.  
Suite Number 5  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

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*2022 California Youth Symphony Graduating Seniors*

Marcus Au  
Timothy Chen  
Karolyn Cheng  
Mito Funatsu  
Andrew Hart  
Daphne He  
Katherine He  
Joline Edwards Heavilin  
Gloria Hsieh  
Amanda Huang

Sylvia Khouri  
Daniel Hyun Kim  
Raphael Kissell  
Ashley Ko  
Rochelle Li  
Yu (Fisher) Li  
Judy Liu  
Esther Luan  
Diana McGrory  
Aaron Park

Alexandra Ren  
Ethan Serina  
Mizuki Shitomi  
Andrew Song  
Anirudh Srikanth  
Jessica Taddeo  
Brian Tan  
Franklin Wang  
Max Wang  
Austin Xiang

Joy Xu  
Mingkuan Yan  
Ryan Yang  
Joshua Yin  
Thomas Yu  
Eve Zeng  
April Zhang

**LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH  
CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY**

441 CALIFORNIA AVENUE #5  
PALO ALTO, CA 94306

PH. 650 325 6666

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

[WWW.CYS.ORG](http://WWW.CYS.ORG)



# CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY SOLOIST SPOTLIGHT



## DIANA MCGRORY | Flute

**Diana McGrory** began playing flute at age 6 and currently studies with Jill Heinke. Diana has performed in masterclasses and has also won awards in local and state competitions as a soloist and with chamber groups. She also loves to teach music and has been teaching flute for 6 years. She co-founded the Menlo Music Mentors program, in which middle school students receive instruction and mentoring from high school students. As the program's co-director, Diana taught group sessions for over 50 students and mentored the other instructors in the program.

## APRIL ZHANG | Violin



**April Zhang**, 17, started playing violin at age 3 with Xiaoli Chen and currently studies with Pat Burnham. This is her second year in CYS and in the Senior Orchestra. She has performed in the 2020 California All-State Symphony Orchestra and the 2019 MTAC Convention Honors Orchestra, and she is also a volunteer violin tutor with the Do Re Mi Project. At The Harker School, April is associate concertmaster of the orchestra and is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Outside of music, she enjoys doing art and design.

## ESTHER LUAN | Violin



**Esther Luan** is a senior at Saratoga High School currently studying under Dr. Pasha Sabouri. She began learning violin at age 7 and has won top prizes at competitions including the VOCE Competition and the Peninsula Symphony Young Musicians Competition. Esther has been a member of CYS for 8 years and the Senior Orchestra for 5 years. Outside of music, she enjoys volunteering in local government, dance, and creative writing.

## APPLE GAO | Percussion



**Apple Gao** is a 14 year old percussionist and currently goes to Lynbrook High School in San Jose. They have been learning and playing percussion since the age of 5. Apple started off with a percussion ensemble and drum set lessons with Ja Hsieh and started focusing on the marimba at the age of 10. Even though Apple mainly focused on marimba, they still enjoyed playing drum set for the jazz band in school. They also take snare drum and timpani lessons with Artie Storch and learn piano with Shu-Hua Cheng.

## EVELYN WANG | Flute



**Evelyn Wang**, 15, has been part of CYS for 4 years and is a winner of the CYS Associate Orchestra Concerto Competition. She started playing flute at the age of 8 and is currently studying with Grace Lai. She won first place at the United States International Music Competition Young Artist Award as well as the USIMC Chinese Music Award. She also won first place in the Romantic Advanced Flute Category for the San Francisco International Innovative Music Competition. Last summer, she debuted Ke-Chia Chen's piece, Kite Flying, commissioned by USIMC. She also took 4 years of percussion with UMusic. Evelyn is in 10th grade and attends Prospect High School. Besides playing flute, she enjoys theatre, both onstage and backstage, reading, baking, and spending time with friends and family.

## Welcome to Kelly Kemp, Office Manager



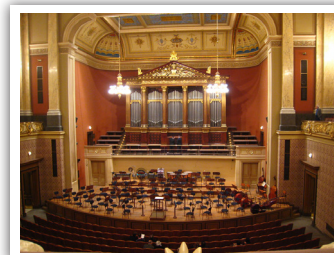
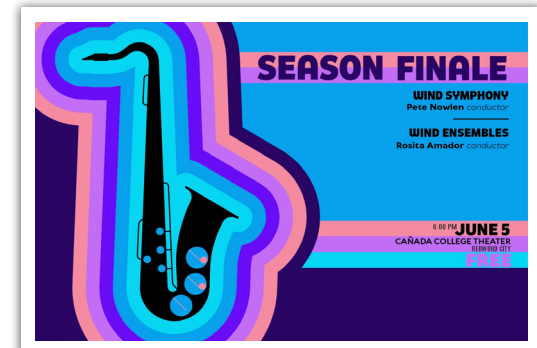
We are also delighted to welcome Kelly Kemp as our new Office Manager. Kelly is a teacher, dance artist and administrator, having earned her BS in Education MFA in dance. Throughout her studies, she honed a variety of administrative and production management skills. After moving to the Bay Area in 2002, she offered dance classes at ODC, Dance Mission Theater and CounterPulse. She has performed with professional organizations including Flyaway Productions, Lizz Roman and Dancers and Deborah Slater Dance Theater. From 2005 to 2014, she served as the Artistic Director of her company Number9, during which her work was commissioned by USF, UC-Fresno and Bay Area Dance Watch. After providing Office Management, Bookkeeping, and Client Accounting Services for several non-profit organizations, artists, and corporations, she is delighted to join and support the prestigiously elite California Youth Symphony. Kelly can be reached at [Kelly@cys.org](mailto:Kelly@cys.org). **Welcome Kelly!**



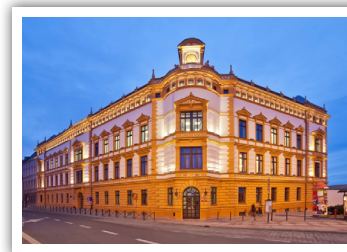
*Danzon No. 2* by Arturo Márquez, and Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*.

## SEASON FINALE - Wind Ensembles

The June Concert Series continues with a wide-ranging and eclectic program from our wind ensembles. Under the baton of Rosita Amador, the Introductory Winds and Wind Ensemble will delight audiences with pieces from Gershwin, Mozart, and Sousa! The Wind Symphony, led by Maestro Pete Nowlen, will perform works by Alton Adams, Amir Molookpour, Soo-Hyun Park, and Asha Srinivasan. Don't miss our exciting final concert of the 2021-22 season!



Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum



Karol Lipinski Academy of Music in Wrocław

## TOUR PREVIEW CONCERT – New Date & Time

As loyal readers of Quarter Notes are aware, the California Youth Symphony became the first American youth orchestra to tour overseas when, in 1963, we accepted an invitation to mount a concert tour of Japan. After blazing a trail for countless other youth music groups, CYS is now reaching another important moment in its history with a return to international touring with concerts scheduled in Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. CYS is proud to be bringing American optimism and hope at this current moment in history. Along with Maestro Eylar's exciting program of Gershwin, Berlioz, and Strauss, we will be presenting one of the 20th century's monumental works, *The Age of Anxiety* by Leonard Bernstein (who was the son of two Ukrainian Immigrants), with pianist **Parker Van Ostrand**. But local music fans needn't worry about missing the excitement and enjoyment of this outstanding program. CYS will present its **Tour Preview Concert on a new date and time of Saturday, June 18 at 7:30pm in the San Mateo Performing Arts Center**. We hope you join us for this not-to-be-missed event!