

California Youth Symphony



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CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY

Leo Eylar, Conductor

Short Ride in a Fast Machine John Adams

Tzigane Maurice Ravel

Alex Zhou, violin soloist

Symphony No. 5 Gustav Mahler

Sunday, November 18, 2:30pm

Flint Center, DeAnza College

Stevens Creek at Highway 85, Cupertino

TICKETS: Adults \$15, Students and Seniors \$10

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

Deanna Gerner dgerner@gmail.com

California Youth Symphony – 61st Season

The California Youth Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Leo Eylar, will open its 61st season at the Flint Center in Cupertino on Sunday, November 18 at 2:30pm. The concert will begin with two short pieces - the aptly named *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* by John Adams, and *Tzigane*, by Maurice Ravel - a concert rhapsody for violin and orchestra. The major work on the bill will be Gustav Mahler's monumental *Symphony No. 5*.

John Adams is the Pulitzer Prize winning composer of the opera *Nixon in China* and other famous works. His *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, inspired by his ride in a "terrific sports car" is joyful and exuberant. Maurice Ravel's gypsy inspired *Tzigane* features one of our Young Artist Competition winner, 11 year old Alex Zhou on violin. The piece is a landmark in the violin repertoire and calls for much virtuosity and technical agility. Mahler's epic *Symphonic No. 5* was completed in 1902. A soaring and expansive work, it represented a whole new chapter in Mahler's career. Legendary conductor Herbert von Karajan once commented "the fantastic finale almost forces you to hold your breath"

Tickets for the concert will be available at the door on November 18.

A Word from the Maestro

On behalf of CYS, I would like to welcome you all to the 2012-13 season of the California Youth Symphony! We begin our season on the heels of a supremely successful and exciting tour to New Zealand this past June and July, which was highlighted by joint performances with the Christchurch Youth Symphony as part of a fund raising effort to help with earthquake relief in the Christchurch area. The orchestra performed beautifully in a series of five concerts that took us from Auckland to Wellington and Christchurch, with musical/cultural stops in Rotorua and Oamaru. Our current season kicks off with a bang on November 18 as we perform Mahler's gigantic *Symphony no. 5*, as well as featuring John Adams' *Short Ride on a Fast Machine*, and the amazing talents of our young violin soloist, Alex Zhou, who will perform Ravel's evocative gypsy concert piece *Tzigane*. I am especially pleased to be able to present Mahler's *Symphony no. 5*, rightly regarded as the pivotal work in this composer's output. Mahler himself saw the work in this light, and stated that it was composed "in an entirely new manner", and that it was "the expression of incredible energy." I invite you to join us in this very special concert--a performance of Mahler's 5th Symphony by ANY youth symphony in the country is an extreme rarity -- as we showcase the amazing talents of our young musicians. You don't want to miss this concert!

- Leo Eylar



Violin soloist Alex Zhou

Alex Zhou, amazing 11 year old violinist

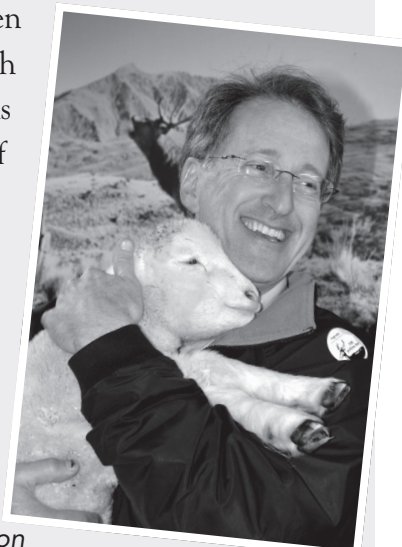
The amazing young violin prodigy **Alex Zhou** won first prize in the instrumental division of the California Youth Symphony's annual Young Artist Competition last April. At the age of 10, he was the youngest competitor ever to win the award. He is now 11. He will perform Ravel's brilliant, gypsy inspired, violin masterpiece, Tzigane, with the California Youth Symphony, under the direction of Leo Eylar, on Sunday, November 18 at 2:30pm in the Flint Center, DeAnza Collge, Cupertino

Alex is currently a student of Zhao Wei's at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He began his study of the violin with Ms. Kwok-Ping Koo at 6. Although still very young, Alex has compiled an impressive list of awards and accomplishments. He won 1st place at the 2010 Junior Menuhin-Dowling Competition, 1st Place at the 2011 Pacific Musical Society Competition, 1st Place and Best Chinese Piece at the 2011 CMTANC Competition,

Grand Prize in the Junior Division at the Mondavi Center Young Artists Competition, and 1st place in Group A at the 2012 Andrea Postacchini International Violin Competition in Italy. In 2009, he was invited to play at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall for the American Fine Arts Festival. In July 2012, he was invited to perform at the *Concerts at the Presidio* series in San Francisco. He also appeared on National Public Radio's show, *From the Top* with pianist Christopher O'Riley in October 2012. He is currently in the sixth grade at The King's Academy in Sunnyvale. Aside from music, Alex likes to read and play tennis.

TOUR TO NEW ZEALAND A HUGE SUCCESS

This past June and July the California Youth Symphony Orchestra mounted its 19th international tour when it visited the North and South Islands of New Zealand. The 13-day, 5-concert tour began in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, with a concert in the famous Trinity Cathedral. Next the group traveled to Rotorua, the cultural center of New Zealand's indigenous Maori people, and then on to Wellington, the nation's capital, for a gala Fourth of July concert attended by the U.S ambassador. It was then on to the South Island for the highlight of the tour, a series of collaborations with the Christchurch Youth Orchestra. As many readers will recall, Christchurch was hit by a devastating earthquake in February 2011. To help with earthquake relief CYS Music Director Leo Eylar and Christchurch Youth Orchestra Music Director Luke Di Somma put together plans for two collaborative concerts to raise needed funds -- one in Christchurch and one in the famous Opera House in Oamaru, 150 miles to the south. The concerts were hugely successful and gave CYS musicians the opportunity to interact musically and socially with their counterparts from the southern hemisphere. In addition to the many musical highlights of the tour, the group had the chance to sightsee and do lots of interesting things, like visiting a sheep station (*see photo*).



The Maestro at a sheep station

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

As many of our readers know CYS celebrated its 60th anniversary last season. At the May 20, 2012 concert at the Flint Center CYS welcomed alumni from across the country for a reunion. About 40 alums joined the current CYS orchestra onstage at Flint for a stirring rendition of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture*. Additional alumni joined in for an encore of *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Following the concert alumni joined with current CYS members, along with CYS board and staff, for an outdoor reception. Later in the evening CYS sponsored a joint dinner to honor graduating seniors and to recognize returning alumni. Jack Beahrs, who played horn with CYS from 1955 to 1958, traveled from Portland to participate. He shared a couple of his photos with us.



Jack with Maestro Leo Eylar



Jack with Prinicipal Horn Tim Aiken

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Once again this Holiday Season the California Youth Symphony will offer two free concerts as gifts to the community. On Sunday, December 2 at 2:00pm the CYS String Ensembles under the direction of Kati Kyme will present its Holiday Concert in the Mayer Theatre on the campus of Santa Clara University. Immediately following this concert (at 3:30pm), also at the Mayer Theatre, the CYS Wind Ensembles, conducted by Rosita Amador, will present their Holiday Concert. The following Sunday, December 9, at 2:30pm, the CYS Associate and Senior Orchestras, conducted by Leo Eylar, will present its annual Holiday Concert in the Smithwick Theatre on the campus of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Once again the orchestras will offer an audience pleasing mix of classical and holiday favorites. No tickets are necessary for either of these concerts.

AMAZON AND SCRIP HELP CYS

Here are two painless ways to support the wonderful work of the California Youth Symphony.

- 1) Make your online purchases through Amazon. If you simply go to the CYS website first (www.cys.org), then click the Amazon icon at the bottom of the homepage, it will take you to the Amazon site. Then, for any purchases you make, Amazon will donate up to 6% of what you spend directly to CYS. You don't pay anything additional. Its just like any order you would make with Amazon. Just remember to enter the Amazon site through the link on the CYS homepage
- 2) Most merchants sell "gift cards" (plastic cards with a fixed amount that you can use for shopping). You can purchase these cards (also know as "scrip") from CYS and we will receive a percentage of the purchase price from the merchant. Like the Amazon program, there is no additional cost to the buyer. If, for example, you buy a \$50 card for Safeway, you can use it to buy \$50 worth of anything that Safeway sells - plus CYS will receive a \$2.50 contribution from Safeway. Its a win-win! Scrip is sold by volunteers at CYS concerts and rehearsals.