

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

CONTACT:
Elizabeth Waldman Frazier
415.334.2787
elizabeth@cys.org

THE CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY PREPARES FOR ITS 54TH SEASON
'THE ROMANCE OF THE CENTURY'
AND FIRST EVER TOUR TO CHINA

“Music director Leo Eylar is world class, as a violinist, composer and conductor. He doesn’t coddle his charges. He presents them with programs that would cause most regional orchestra members to tremble; he draws from them impeccable performances, and they never drop a bead of sweat.” – Keith Kreitman, San Mateo County Times, March 18, 2005

PALO ALTO, August 23, 2005 – The award-winning **California Youth Symphony**, under the direction of **Maestro Leo Eylar**, is preparing for its **54th concert season in the Bay Area** and its **first ever tour to China**. The season, featuring **award-winning soloists and an exciting world premiere**, is a retrospective of symphonic music by composers who carried the torch of 19th century Romanticism on to a new century whose defining aesthetic was a reaction to Romantic ideals. The orchestra and Eylar laid the groundwork for this challenging and very special season at a weeklong, intensive music camp in August.

This season’s first concerts (**2:30 p.m. Sunday, November 13 in Cupertino’s Flint Center** and **Sunday, November 20 in the San Mateo Performing Arts Center**) present music by two composers – **Richard Strauss** and **Gustav Holst** – who set romantic ideals to the cadence of their respective cultures. Also featured will be **California Youth Symphony Young Artist Competition winner Bethany Wang** performing as soloist in the **Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1**.

The **annual California Youth Symphony Holiday Concert** will take place on **Sunday, December 11 at 2:30 p.m. in the Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills**. Performed by the CYS Orchestra and Associate Orchestra, this year’s holiday concert offers the **world premiere** of **Paul Davies’ Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra**, with soloist **Kate Ryder**, in addition to an array of timeless holiday classics for the season.

March (2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 19 in the San Mateo Performing Arts Center and **Sunday, March 26 in Cupertino’s Flint Center**) brings a veritable cascade of symphonic colors, as the **California Youth Symphony** performs Romantic music from the pens of four giants of the 20th century: **Copland, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and Stravinsky**. **California Youth Symphony Young Artist Competition winner Kenric Tam** will be soloist in the **Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2**.

“Composers Who Find Their Own Voice” aptly describes the program for the **California Youth Symphony’s** concerts at **2:30 p.m. on Sunday May 14 at Cupertino’s Flint Center** and **Sunday, May 21 at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center**. Highlighting these concerts will be the **Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Rhapsody for Orchestra*** by CYS Music Director **Leo Eylar**, as well as excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet* by **Prokofiev**. The May concerts will also showcase **winners of the annual CYS Senior Soloist Competition** and will feature **award-winning baritone Eugene Chan** as soloist in the **Vaughan Williams *Songs of Travel***,

As a special bonus this season, at **2:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 18 at the Spangenberg Theatre in Palo Alto**, the **California Youth Symphony** will preview music that **CYS** will bring on its **first ever tour to China later in June**. Works by **Copland, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and Holst** will be performed.

Composer-conductor **Leo Eylar** has been Music Director of the **California Youth Symphony** since 1990. **Maestro Eylar** has earned an outstanding reputation, both locally and internationally, for his spirited conducting with CYS, the San Jose Symphony, and as a guest with several prominent international orchestras. A composer of international acclaim, Eylar’s works have been performed throughout Europe and North America, and his *Dance Suite for Trumpet and String Orchestra* was recorded by the Seattle Symphony. **Leo Eylar** is a faculty member at California State University Sacramento.

Since its founding in 1952 as the state’s first independent youth orchestra, the **California Youth Symphony** has grown to include two full symphony orchestras – the California Youth Symphony Orchestra and the CYS Associate Orchestra – as well as six ensembles for younger musicians. This season’s **CYS** membership includes close to 500 of the most promising young musicians ranging in age from 9 to 18 from throughout the Bay Area and representing more than 100 different schools between San Francisco and Morgan Hill. Members are chosen at auditions held each spring.

Tickets for the **California Youth Symphony** are priced at **\$50.00**, family season ticket; **\$24.00**, family single concert ticket; **\$12.00**, general admission, and **\$6.00**, students and seniors. Tickets are available by contacting the **CYS** office and are also available at the door on the day of the performance. Additional information is available by calling the **California Youth Symphony** office at (650) 325-6666 and on the **CYS** website: www.cys.org.

###

- more -

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2:30 p.m.

Flint Center

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. at Stelling Rd.,
Cupertino – De Anza College campus

Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2:30 p.m.

San Mateo Performing Arts Center

650 N. Delaware St. at Bellevue, San Mateo
San Mateo High School campus

California Youth Symphony
Bethany Wang, piano

Program:

R. Strauss/Don Juan
Liszt/Piano Concerto No. 1
Holst/The Planets

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m.

Smithwick Theatre

12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills
Foothill College campus

California Youth Symphony
Kate Ryder, piano

Program:

Holiday Music
Davies/Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra (World Premiere)

Sunday, March 19 at 2:30 p.m.

San Mateo Performing Arts Center

650 N. Delaware St. at Bellevue, San Mateo
San Mateo High School campus

Sunday, March 26 at 2:30 p.m.

Flint Center

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. at Stelling Rd.,
Cupertino – De Anza College campus

California Youth Symphony
Kenric Tan, piano

Program:

Shostakovich/Festive Overture
Prokofiev/Piano Concerto No. 2
Copland/Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo
Stravinsky/Firebird Suite

Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m.

Flint Center

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. at Stelling Rd.,
Cupertino – De Anza College campus

Sunday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m.

San Mateo Performing Arts Center

650 N. Delaware St. at Bellevue, San Mateo
San Mateo High School campus

California Youth Symphony

Eugene Chan, baritone

CYS Senior Soloist Competition Winners

Program:

Eylar/Rhapsody for Orchestra

Vaughan Williams/Songs of Travel

Prokofiev/Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 1

Prokofiev/Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2

Concertos featuring Senior Soloist Competition Winners (TBA)

Sunday, June 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Spangenberg Theatre

780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto
Gunn High School Campus

California Youth Symphony

Bon Voyage Concert – Preview of China Tour Music

Ashley Lau, violin

Program:

(TBA)

Selections by:

Copland

Prokofiev

Shostakovich

Stravinsky

Holst

Tickets: \$50.00, family season ticket; **\$24.00**, family single concert ticket; **\$12.00**, general admission; and **\$6.00**, students and seniors; available by contacting the CYS office and also available at the door on the day of the performance. **Please note that special tickets are required for the December and June concerts.** For performance and ticket information, call (650) 325-6666 or visit www.cys.org.

###

*For more information about the **California Youth Symphony** or to schedule an interview with **Leo Eylar**, please contact Elizabeth Waldman Frazier at Waldmania Public Relations: 415.334.2787 or elizabeth@cys.org.*