

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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THE CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY PRESENTS
'COMPOSERS WHO FIND THEIR OWN VOICES'
MUSIC OF PROKOFIEV, VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, AND EYLAR
PLUS SENIOR SOLOIST COMPETITION WINNERS JULIE CHEN AND RYAN SVENDSEN
SUNDAY, MAY 14 AT 2:30 P.M. IN CUPERTINO
SUNDAY, MAY 21 AT 2:30 P.M. IN SAN MATEO

PALO ALTO, March 13, 2006 – The award-winning **California Youth Symphony**, under the direction of **Maestro Leo Eylar**, continues its season with a program highlighting the individualism of five different composers on **Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Flint Center in Cupertino and **Sunday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m.** at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. The program includes a special appearance by lyric baritone **Eugene Chan** as soloist in **Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel***, excerpts from **Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*** and **Leo Eylar's Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Rhapsody for Orchestra***, as well as appearances by CYS **Senior Soloist Competition winners Julie Chen** in the **Dvorak Violin Concerto in A minor** and **Ryan Svendsen** in the **Haydn Trumpet Concerto**.

Each year, high school senior members of the **California Youth Symphony** compete for the honor of being featured as soloists in the orchestra's May concerts. This year's Senior Soloist Competition winners are **Julie Chen**, violin, and **Ryan Svendsen**, trumpet. A resident of Sunnyvale and a senior at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino, **Julie Chen** is assistant concertmaster of the **California Youth Symphony**. CYS Principal Trumpet, **Ryan Svendsen**, lives with his family in San Mateo, where he is a senior at Junipero Serra High School.

Guest soloist in the **Vaughan Williams *Songs of Travel***, **Eugene Chan**, is an exciting young talent on opera and concert stages throughout California. Recent engagements include Fiorello in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly* with **Sacramento Opera** and a solo performance with chorus and orchestra at the **Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**. Upcoming engagements include a return to **Sacramento Opera** as the Mandarin in *Turandot*.

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. He is currently working on a large-scale percussion quartet, *Percussive Enigmas*, to be premiered this spring. **Leo Eylar** is a faculty member at California State University Sacramento.

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“How good is this orchestra? If I evaluated it against adult professional organizations, I would rate it very good. But as a youth orchestra it is superb,” wrote Keith Kreitman in the *San Mateo County Times* in November. This season’s May program is a veritable essay on compositional individualism, demonstrating how **Prokofiev, Dvorak, and Vaughan Williams** sharpened sounds from their homelands into the cutting edge of their compositional craft, how **Haydn** solved the problems of composing for a brand new instrument, and how a post-modern romantic composer, **CYS music director Leo Eylar**, has created his own style of music from the same twelve notes that have been mined for centuries.

The state’s first independent youth orchestra, the **California Youth Symphony** is one of the largest and most influential youth symphony organizations in the United States. **CYS** includes two full symphony orchestras, as well as six ensembles for younger musicians. This season’s **CYS** membership includes 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** with lyric baritone **Eugene Chan**, violinist **Julie Chen**, and trumpeter **Ryan Svendsen** on **Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Flint Center in Cupertino and **Sunday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m.** at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center are priced at **\$12.00**, general admission, and **\$6.00**, students and seniors. Tickets are 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.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

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, lyric baritone

Senior Soloist Competition winners

Julie Chen, violin

Ryan Svendsen, trumpet

Program:

Eylar/ Rhapsody for Orchestra

Vaughan Williams/Songs of Travel

Prokofiev/Romeo and Juliet, Suites Nos. 1 and 2

Dvorak/Violin Concerto in A minor

Haydn/Trumpet Concerto

Tickets: \$12.00, and \$6.00, available at the door. 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.*