



SAN JOSE YOUTH
SYMPHONY

Elef Notes

The Positively Awesome
SJYS Newsletter

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*Enoch Matsumura Sarah Kim
Jessica Sheu Chris Sullenberger
Audrey Chou*

Upbeats

December 4
Philharmonic Orchestra Concert
California Theatre, 2:30 pm

December 5
**Concert Orchestra + Avant Flute
Choir Concert**
Archbishop Mitty High School
4:00 pm

December 10
Philharmonic Holiday Concert
LGUMC, 7:00 pm

December 11
Prelude + Intermezzo Concert
Jewish Community Center (Los
Gatos), 2:30 pm

December 12
Philharmonic Holiday Concert
St. Joseph's Cathedral, 7:30 pm

January 22
Chamber Orchestra Premiere
SCU Recital Hall, 8:00 pm

January 22
**Concert Winds + Percussion
Ensemble Concert**
Valley Christian HS, 2:00 pm

DESTINATION: EUROPE!

(SPECIFICALLY ITALY, AUSTRIA, AND GERMANY)



(pictured clockwise from top left: Tettuccio Spa Park, Mozarteum, Rieti Opera Theater, and Sant'Andrea della Valle.)

It's tour season, and the Philharmonic is ready to get going on yet another excellent tour. This time our destinations are Italy, Austria and Germany. In Italy, with some of the most delicious food in the world, we will visit places such as the serene canals of Venice and the Sistine Chapel in Rome. Our first concert will be in the gorgeous Sant'Andrea della Valle, a highly prestigious church in Rome where the famed opera *Tosca* by Puccini takes place. The next concert will be in Montecatini, where we will be featured in the outdoor venue of Tettuccio Spa Park, surrounded by the pristine calmness of nature. Composers Verdi and Puccini and the conductor Toscanini stayed there for many months. After this we will experience a real treat as we all travel to Monastier for some leisure time, including a trip to Venice. Another performance might take place at the Rieti Opera Theater. Then it is off to Salzburg in Austria, where we will play in the Mozarteum concert hall. This theater is renowned across the globe and has hosted orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic. Our next stop after Salzburg is Munich, Germany. This is where we will enjoy a shared concert with the Bad Aibling music school orchestra. This will be a great social experience for us, since we'll be meeting local young musicians. No matter where we are, though, the Philharmonic will have loads of fun and we will all have a blast!

COMPETITION WINNERS



Cheryl Chang

**Philharmonic
Young Artist
Competition
Winner**

**Devienne Flute
Concerto**

Playing the flute for
only seven years,
Cheryl stands as one

of the youngest and virtuosic musicians in the San Jose Philharmonic Orchestra. Currently, she attends Lynbrook High School and swims competitively. Cheryl encountered her greatest musical challenge when her parents could not afford an adequate instrument for the blossoming flutist, and thus Cheryl had to play with a novice flute for five years. Yet under the guidance of her music teacher, Ai Goldsmith, Cheryl rises above as a prodigious musician for her young age of fourteen.

Cheryl's musical journey began when she chose the flute. She chose this lyrical instrument due to her desire to be different than her piano-playing friends. Listening to Robert Stallman and James Galway recordings as role models, the ambitious flutist has strived to evoke the best of her musical potential. Cheryl also seeks to play Dvorak's New World Symphony in the near future, since this masterpiece is one of Cheryl's favorite pieces that she has not performed. However, despite Cheryl's great talent in the performing arts, she wishes to allocate music performance as a hobby. Overall, Cheryl is a promising lady, both musically and intellectually.

GUESS WHAT?

SJYS HAS ANOTHER RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER COMING UP SOON!

Where: Chevy's in the Almaden shopping center. 5303 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.

When: December 16 (a Thursday), from 5 – 9pm

What: Print out and bring the flyer on the last page of this newsletter when you eat, and Chevy's will donate 25% of the order. All dine-in and take-out orders qualify!

Perry Choi

**Philharmonic Young
Artist Competition
Winner**

**Mozart Clarinet
Concerto**

Seventeen-year old Perry Choi is a senior at York School. Perry has played the clarinet for about 8 years mainly under the instruction of Erica Horn. Recently, Perry's musicianship received notable recognition when he was accepted as a Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist. This award grants him not only a reward of \$10,000 but also a chance to play on From the Top.

Not just a soloist, Perry has also had many years of experience playing in orchestras and bands including SJYS, the Youth Music Monterey Honors Orchestra, and MidAmerica Productions' National Collegiate Wind Ensemble. When speaking of SJYS, he fondly recalls his first summer camp in Mt. Cross: "I made many lasting friendships and of course got to see the true side of Yair."

His musical path hasn't been without its difficulties however. He had "bad experiences with memorizing pieces." He has now overcome that obstacle: "I don't get frightened anymore; I like to think of it as excitement. I try to take advantage of the adrenaline and channel the energy through my music." Along the way, Perry has gained a deep appreciation for music. "Music has formatively affected my outlook on life and catalyzed a deeper understanding of who I am...for that I am extremely grateful."

As the president and founder of Keeping Music Alive (KMA), he not only organizes and presents benefit concerts to raise funds for the music programs of local elementary schools but also regularly goes to these schools to teach the students how to play the instruments of their choice. His vision is to create a band or orchestra with these students and perform for the public. His appreciation and love for music is the reason he started this group: "Music was just another item on my to-do list when I was younger. However, as I got more acquainted with music, my eyes started to open, and I started to discover the hidden emotions within music....This group is my gift to the community that has given me so much. My hope is to give an underprivileged child the chance to experience the passion within music as I was so fortunate to."





Tiffany Iskandar

Philharmonic Young Artist Competition Winner

Boieldieu Harp Concerto

Homeschooled harpist Tiffany Iskandar is a junior under the wing of Sonya Yu. She's actively participated in several musical events outside of SJYS.

Why did you choose your instrument?

I was introduced to music at an early age. I started off by playing the piano at the age of four and that built my music foundation. When I was 11-years-old, my mom took me to a harp teacher. I was fascinated by the harp and immediately fell in love with the beautiful angel-like tone. I thought playing the harp would be a nice hobby for me to relax by its soothing sound. Little did I know that harp has amazing opportunities in performing and orchestra!

What do you do outside of SJYS?

Together with Children's Voices for Charity, I made two CD recordings where all proceeds go towards InnVision

and Doctors Without Borders, an international medical humanitarian organization. In addition, I also enjoy performing in various places such as Filoli Gardens, Bloomingdale's, Crate & Barrel, Macy's, and libraries. With Banana Republic, I have participated in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Event to raise awareness for breast cancer. I also donated my time to perform harp at the charity event for the Self Help for the Elderly. Besides being a harpist, I'm also a competitive figure skater. I participate in San Francisco Ice Theatre and last season our team received 8th in Nationals and 6th in Internationals! I'm very excited to see what this season will bring.

Are you planning on continuing a musical path after graduation?

Yes, I am. After high school, I plan to enter college with a double major in business and music and I hope to enter law school in the future. My dream is that I'll be touring nationally and internationally with my harp during the summer, and proceeds will go to charity.

Who are your favorite musical artists outside of the classical genre?

I enjoy listening to Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga. In the car, I would put one of their CDs and sing along!

John Lee



Concert Orchestra Concerto Competition Winner

Goltermann Cello Concerto

How has music played a role in your life?

Music has played a role in my life by letting me express my feelings. When I was young, I started to play piano, but I broke my wrist and then I started to learn the cello. When I play cello, I play songs that just lets me express my mood, feelings, and thoughts. Music is a type of relief for my hardships in life.

What's your favorite memory in SJYS?

My favorite memory in SJYS is the SJYS camp. During camp, I made lots of new friends and we had lots of fun

together in activities the camp provided and it formed many memories that I remember really well.

What's a piece you haven't learned yet that you want to play?

Bach's Cello Suite No. 6. I would like to learn this song because I like how Bach's music sounds. It has a nice quality to it and I like playing Bach because it really lets my cello ring.

Is there any professional musician you look up to?

I look up to Yo-Yo-Ma. When I first saw him playing on YouTube, I was amazed at the music he produced; every note was like it came from his feelings. I became really inspired and I want to play like him.

If you could learn to play any instrument, real or fictional, that you've never played before, what would it be?

I would play an instrument that would play the song for you when you touch it and all you do is just read the music.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Charles Ancheta **Concert Winds' New** **Conductor!**

This year, we are delighted to introduce a music conductor for the Concert Winds ensemble. Charles Ancheta is by no means

new to the SJYS family. Years ago, when he was a student, Yair had him play bass clarinet in Rachmanioff's Symphonic Dances. Now an alumnus, he recalls that "there was an important solo that was fun to play." His favorite memories of SJYS are the opportunities he had to "make music with such talented and dedicated members."

Mr. Ancheta himself brings much talent and dedication to SJYS with his 20 years of experience playing the clarinet under Dr. Janet Averett, Mark Brandenburg, and Jorge Montilla. Since his days in elementary school

when he first picked the clarinet in order to avoid sitting "in the front with the flutes," he explains that music has broadened his perspectives, stating, "Through the life of music I have been able to grow and foster life skills that have helped shape me into the contributing citizen I am today. Because of music, I have had the opportunity to see the world with an open mind, accepting and embracing all that makes life worthwhile."

Mr. Ancheta wishes to pass on his insights to his students. When asked for his thoughts on the new season, he conveyed his anticipation and hopes: "I feel excited to be the new conductor of the Concert Winds. I am looking forward to contributing my skills and experiences to the students and the community as a whole." Now, whenever Charles Ancheta stands on the stage, he thinks of those who have impacted his life and of those before him, saying, "I think that the people in the audience and on stage want to experience beautiful music. So why not do just that? We all want to enjoy the music we came to experience. So have fun!"

**HAVE
FUN,
RAISE MONEY...**
Make a Difference

Chevys
FRESH MEX

**Please Join Chevys At
Our Fundraising Event For**

The San Jose Youth Symphony

*Invite all of your friends and family to dine with
us and Chevys will donate
of the proceeds to our fundraising partner!*

DATE: Dec. 16, 2010 TIME: 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

ADDRESS: 5305 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

*It's just our way of giving
back to the community!*

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**Print and cut this flyer out
and bring it to Chevys on
December 16!**

Eat out and support us!
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