



# Elef Notes



55th Season

May 2007

Editor - Joe Morris

## San Jose Youth Symphony to celebrate Eastern European Tour with Bon Voyage Concert

### Upbeats

#### Philharmonic Concert

**C** June 2nd, 7:00 pm,  
at California Theater

#### Prelude and Intermezzo String Ensemble Concert

June 3rd, 2:30 PM  
at Le Petit Trianon

**Concert Orchestra and Avant Flute Choir Concert** June 10th, 1:30 PM at SJSU Concert Hall

#### Philharmonic Orchestra Bon Voyage Gala and Concert

June 16th, 2:30 PM at Campbell Heritage Theater

**SJYS Philharmonic and Concert Orchestra** Summer Camp at Mt. Cross August 4 - 10

**SJYS Prelude, Intermezzo, and Flute Choir** Summer Camp at JFS August 13 - 17

This summer, the San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic direction of Yair Samet, will take its most accomplished orchestra members on tour to perform in top cultural centers of Europe: Vienna, Prague, Budapest and Warsaw. The annual spring SJYS fundraiser, which benefits the entire organization, will be held Saturday, June 16th at the Campbell Heritage Theater and will feature a Bon Voyage Concert. The Philharmonic Orchestra will perform some of the most popular pieces from the symphonic repertoire: Gershwin's Strike Up The Band Overture and Rhapsody in Blue; Kenric Tam, piano, Bernstein's Three Dance Episodes from On The Town and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4. Local business and community leaders will be present at this event, including many San Jose City Councilmembers, Patrick Kane of Lexus Stevens Creek, and Hon. Consul General of Hungary Eva Voisin.

European audiences will hear the Bay Area's most accomplished, talented and enthusiastic young musicians perform in prestigious music halls including the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, the Dvorak Hall in Prague and the Chopin Conservatory of Music in Warsaw.

SJYS hosts an international tour every other year and strives to provide once in a lifetime opportunities for its young musicians. In addition to the concerts presented, members will get a chance to experience local culture, enjoy fine cuisine and tour major attractions, including a cruise on the River Danube, and guided tours of Vienna, Prague, Wroclaw, and Warsaw. The Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing for local dignitaries at several of their concerts including the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary, the Hon. April Foley who will present the group with the Ambassador's Award for Cultural Diplomacy. The Award is designed to honor the most distinguished representatives of American culture whose artistry advances the Embassy's goals of mutual understanding and the deepening

of friendship between the United States of America and the Republic of Hungary.

Other dignitaries include the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, the Hon. Richard Graber and his wife, the Israeli Ambassador to Poland, the Hon. David Peleg and the U.S. Ambassador to Poland, the Hon. Victor Ashe. The entire group has been invited for a fireworks display on the 4th of July at the residence of the Hon. Victor Ashe in Warsaw!

**Bon Voyage Concert and Silent Auction Gala** sponsored by Lexus Stevens Creek!  
Saturday, June 16  
at 2:30 pm

*Campbell Heritage Theater  
1 W. Campbell Ave.  
Campbell, CA 95008*  
**Tickets: \$50 reserved seating, \$25 for 18 years**



# Ode to Alumni

## **Alishan Merjanian 05'**

*San Jose, California*

"I graduated in Spring '05, followed immediately by the SJYS Spain tour where I annoyed everybody by talking too much and playing the viola out of tune too loudly too late at night, as well as by coming in consistently early at important entrances. I am currently living at home and attending San Jose State University. I am a Piano Performance/Education major, studying with Dr. Gwendolyn Mok, and I am also aiming for a minor in Viola. This year I am singing in the SJSU Concert Choir, accompanying the Women's Chorus, and playing in a string quartet coached by SJSU's resident professional quartet, Cypress String Quartet. Since August I have been the organist and choir accompanist at Westminster Presbyterian Church of San Jose, where oboist Michelle Suy-Sam and I have a good time reliving the good old days like when I fell into the orchestra pit right before a concert. Apart from that I am a new member of the SJSU chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, a professional music fraternity, along with our friend Jason McChristian, who is also a student with me, so I spend a lot of time practicing the bizzare stuff he and the other composers keep asking me to play. I am also getting involved with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at SJSU, and I frequently play my viola with the worship team."

-- *Alishan*

## **Kay Yang 00'**

*Moreno Valley, California*

"I was in SJYS for 6 years, from 1994 to 2000, I was the concertmistress from 1995 until 2000. I graduated Cal-Poly Ponomo for Business Administration, Finance, Real Estate, & Law in 2006 (I took two year off to work). I'm currently living in Moreno Valley, CA and I plan to move toward Orange County. I taught voluntarily at a local middle school for a while but I don't have time any more. I still give private violin lessons to 5 students from the age of 5 to 50. My sister who was also in SJSYO give out private cello & piano lessons and we play recitals for our students annually. We really do not play that much, but we still play at weddings and currently charge \$800/Hour at the minimum. I totally miss Yair and all the members. I have my notary public license & broker real estate license. I am now the Retail Analyst at Provident Savings Bank as of 05/22/07. Before that, I was the broker admin for Provident Bank Mortgage."

-- *Kay*

## **Ameena Khawaja 97'**

*Trossingen, Germany*

I'm currently living in Trossingen Germany which is about an hour south of Stuttgart (on the edge of the black forest). I'm going to school at the Hochschule für Musik Trossingen Stadt, a music conservatory here. I finished my requirements for a BM in Cello Performance at Cal-State Northridge and I was accepted into this conservatory for voice. I am a lyric soprano and I plan on pursuing a career in opera. I'll be back in the states for at least a semester, but I will very possibly return to Germany to further my studies in singing. I became a makeup artist and worked in that industry for about 7 years, I was a theater major at San Francisco State for a while, and I was an extra in a few movies (Austin Powers 3, catch me if you can... haha!). I was the principal cellist in SJSYO when Yair auditioned for the spot as conductor!! There were 3 finalists, and he was by FAR our favorite! :) We've been great friends ever since."

-- *Ameena*

## **Alex Yang 06'**

*Los Angeles, California*

"I am currently going to UCLA and living on campus. I am a member of the UCLA Symphony and I get together with some of my buddies to play together as a chamber ensemble. Also, I participated in the Korean Traditional Culture Music by playing Korean folk pieces and hymns, along with Korean Court music from back in the day. I also took part in researching and conducting a presentation about the different genres of korean music (both traditional and modern). Ever since school started, I have been on the UCLA soccer intermural team competing every Friday night. I have also been participating and volunteering at the UCLA Medical Center a couple of times, assisting and helping the elderly and people in need. I also took part in the relay for life (running for cancer) 24 hours a day and my roommate and I made our own team and raised about \$6000! I also competed at the UCLA All Hill Talent show and won first prize :)! In my spare time, my roommate (Daniel Morozoff) and I have been going to the Walt Disney Hall to watch world-renowned pianists. I have also gone to the LA Opera house a couple of times to watch the operas "The Fall of Mahagony", "Madame Butterfly", and "Porgy and Bess" ( I really enjoyed the play "Porgy and Bess" because I played it with Yair and the orchestra my first year in SJYS!!!!!!) I have also been taking tennis lessons from my roommate and I've been playing often as a way of relaxing and stress-relieving. I've been working out almost everyday and I am in SHAPE!" -- *Alex*

## Rachel VanDusen

Rachel VanDusen is a current student at Lincoln High School. She plans to attend Cosmetology School starting in the fall, but is torn between The Paul Mitchell School and Elite. She is the vice president for her school's wind ensemble and has played French Horn in the San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, the SJYS Brass Quintet, the SJYS Woodwind Quintet, the Clarion Brass Choir, and with Silicon Valley Symphony. She has studied French Horn with Wendall Rider. Regarding her experience with SJYS Rachel says, "San Jose youth symphony has been one of the most wonderful and illuminating experiences in my life. Beyond that, I am sorry to everyone for having to endure my endless chatting in the back row for the past three years. You have all made my experience worth while and I hope to see a few of you on a big stage from the audience's perspective later in life."

## Larry Wen

Larry Wen is a current senior at Fremont High School and plans to major in aeronautics next year at UCLA. Larry has been a member of the San Jose Youth Symphony for five years and is currently the assistant concertmaster of the Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition, Larry has participated in the SJYS String Quartet and has performed with them for music matters as well as many other community events. Larry has been a member of his school orchestra for the past semester and is currently a student of Chin Le. Larry hopes to go on to sing in college. To the orchestra Larry would like to say, "keep up the great work!"

# Member Profiles

## Jonathan Magram



Jon Magram has been a member of San Jose Youth Symphony for 11 years and he plans to continue his education at San Jose State University next year where he will be majoring in Animation and Illustration

with a minor or double major in philosophy. Jon enjoys making movies with his friends at UbseyMovies and they have won various awards including Best Picture at the San Jose State regional competition, and the Turner Classic Movies "Classic Movie Award" at the state-wide competition both for the film "Chicken Strip Jeff." For more information and for t-shirts and funny stuff visit [www.ubseymovies.com](http://www.ubseymovies.com) !! Jon has studied with Denise Woodman, Mary Bormann, and Dale King and he plans to participate in the SJSU chamber music program next year. Jon would like to say, "You guys in SJYS were pretty cool! I'll see you later!"

## Chamber Ensembles

SJYS currently has three chamber ensembles; two string quartets and a woodwind quintet. These groups are made up of the most advanced Philharmonic members and many are principle players of their section. This season the ensembles have spent many hours rehearsing with music director and conductor Yair Samet and performing in outreach events.

Performances have included *music matters assemblies*, private holiday parties, weddings, San Jose City functions (including our first every performance in the San Jose Holiday Parade), and the Okayama dinner in the rotunda of City Hall with Mayor Chuck Reed in attendance!

A big thank you goes out  
to all SJYS members and parents

### String Quartet I

Richard Sim - Violin I  
Larry Wen - Violin II  
Kevin Cho - Viola  
Daniel Paik - Cello

### String Quartet II

Hannah Lee - Violin I  
Aaron Hsu - Violin II  
Conor McClure - Viola  
Justin Li - Cello



### Woodwind Quintet

Ray Furuta - Flute  
Devin Hinzo - Oboe  
Joseph Morris - Clarinet  
Michelle Kim - Bassoon  
Gavin Betterley - French Horn



In this photo: Patrick Kane, General Manager of Lexus Stevens Creek

# Graduating Seniors

**Davin Chang** - Viola - 7 Year Member - UC Berkely - Undecided Major

**Vincent Chang** - Violin - 4 Year Member - UC San Diego - Major in Bio-Engineering or Pre-Med

**Ray Furuta** - Flute - 6 Year Member - UC Santa Barbara - Major in Flute Performance

**Kelley Hesterberg** - French Horn - 2 Year Member - West Valley College - Major in Music Education

**Devin Hinzo** - Oboe - 1 Year Member - San Francisco Conservatory of Music - Major in Oboe Performance

**Michelle Kim** - Bassoon - 4 Year Member - UC Los Angeles - Major in Broadcasting and Media Journalism

**Tiffany Lin** - Violin - 2 Year Member - Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Major in Engineering and Physics

**Jonathan Magram** - Violin - 11 Year Member - San Jose State University - Major in Animation/Illustration

**Daniel Paik** - Cello - 8 Year Member - Massachusetts Institute of Technology or UC Berkely - Undecided Major

**Jacqueline Rousseau** - Viola - 4 Year Member - California Institute of Technology - Major in Physics

**Elaine Sandoval** - Flute - 6 Year Member - Soka University of America - Major in Liberal Arts, Studying Spanish, Chinese, and Music

**Richard Sim** - Violin - 8 Year Member - De Anza College - Major in Business, Undecided

**Darren Siu** - Violin - 6 Year Member - UC San Diego - Major in Bioengineering

**Rob Swanson** - Violin - 4 Year Member - University of Puget Sound - Major in Music Business, Undecided

**Rachel VanDusen** - French Horn - 3 Year Member - Vocational School - Studying to be a hairstylist

**Eric Wang** - Violin - 4 Year Member - UC Davis - Major in Molecular Cell Biology Minor in Music

**Larry Wen** - Violin - 5 Year Member - UC Los Angeles - Major in Music or Aeronautics

**Amber Wyman** - Bassoon - 4 Year Member - Valdosta State University - Major in Music

**Jamie Yoo** - Clarinet - 6 Year Member - UC San Diego - Major in Communications

**Elise Lee** - Flute - 1 Year Member - UC Berkely - Major in Molecular Cell Biology, Minor in Music

**Sean Yen** - Viola - 7 Year Member - Cornell University - Major in Arts or Science, undecided

**Michelle Yu** - Violin - 8 Year Member - UC Los Angeles - Major in Biochemistry

## And The Winners Are!

On Sunday, April 1st, San Jose Youth Symphony held our annual Concerto and Young Artist Competitions at West Valley College. Over 25 musicians took part in the competitions and it was highly competitive.

The SJYS Young Artist Competition is open to any musicians ages 16 – 21 from across the Bay Area and selects three winners to be featured as soloists with the SJYS Philharmonic Orchestra in their upcoming season. The Philharmonic Concerto Competition is open exclusively to the SJYS Philharmonic Orchestra members and the two winners of this

competition are also featured as soloists with the Philharmonic Orchestra in the upcoming season.

The competition was judged by three highly regarded professionals. Yair Samet, music director and conductor of the San Jose Youth Symphony, clarinetist Bruce Foster a faculty member at the San Francisco University High School and for the San Francisco Conservatory Preparatory program, and violinist Zaven Melikian a nationally recognized artist, teacher and a leading expert in string pedagogy.

The three Young Artist Competition winners are: **Angela Hwang**, **Zenus Hsu**, and **Joseph Morris**. Angela Hwang, a sophomore at Sara-

toga High School is a student of Hans Boepple and will be performing *Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini* with the Philharmonic Orchestra next season. Zenus Hsu currently studies violin with Wei He and is a junior at Lynbrook High School. He will be performing *Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto* next season. Joseph Morris is a junior at Bellarmine College Preparatory and currently studies clarinet with Mark Brandenburg. He will be performing the *Weber Clarinet Concerto No. 1* in the upcoming season.

The winners of the 2007 Philharmonic Concerto Competition are: **Aaron Kahn**, **Elaine Higashi**, and **Kevin Cho**. Aaron Kahn, a trumpet student of James Dooley is currently a junior at Lynbrook High School and will be performing the

first movement of the *Tomasini Trumpet Concerto* next season. Elaine Higashi is a junior at Presentation High School and studies violin with Pat Burnham and Kevin Cho is a junior at Bellarmine College Preparatory and studies viola with Elizabeth Park. Elaine Higashi and Kevin Cho are performing the last movement of *Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola*.

Congratulations to all the winners from this year's competitions. We look forward to hearing these great solos.



# Natural Harmonies

## Diane Wyant and the new SJYS Wind Ensembles!

The San Jose Youth Symphony is very happy to announce two new ensembles to its program, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Concert Wind Ensemble. These groups are designed for intermediate musicians who play woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments and who desire additional wind band experience outside of their current school music program.

The wind ensemble program will be led by Ms. Diane Machado-Wyant, the current director of music at Bellarmine College Preparatory. Ms. Machado-Wyant is native to the San Jose area and has also held directorships at Valley Christian Middle School, Sierramont Middle School, Leigh High School, and Cupertino High School. She has a great deal of new ideas that will come along with the new program. In addition to featuring local guest conductors with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Ms. Machado-Wyant has the vision of a city wide Band Festival that would feature the most outstanding bands from within the schools of the Santa Clara Valley along with outstanding adult community bands as well. Ms. Machado-Wyant is thrilled to be on the artistic staff with SJYS and is looking forward to developing a world class program.

*-Diane*

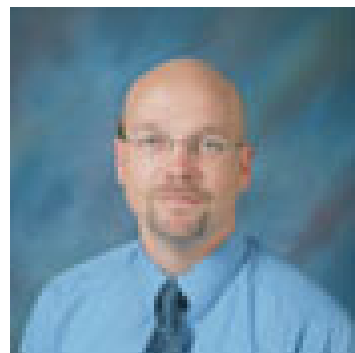
*Wyant*



## Jeff Wilson and the SJYS Percussion Ensemble!

After many years of percussion performance and education in the greater Bay Area, I am pleased to join with the San Jose Youth Symphony and direct the percussion ensemble. The kids in the ensemble will perform on all percussion instruments in a variety of styles that cover all aspects of percussion and chamber music. I am also excited about joining forces with Valley Christian Schools and their Conservatory of Music. Their beautiful facilities will provide a great venue for our students and a basis for a collaborative relationship between the SJYS and VCS Conservatory.

*-Jeff  
Wilson*



## Summer Camp News

The SJYS Philharmonic and Concert Orchestra camp will be held at Mt. Cross this year. Mt. Cross is located in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains on 105 acres. We will have exclusive rights to the facility the entire week. Amenities include two indoor rehearsal spaces, craft cottage, swimming pool, beach volleyball, full size baseball field, camp store, and good food!

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that in this year's summer camp Mr. Zaven Melikian will run violin sectionals for our Philharmonic and Concert orchestras. As professor of violin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music since 1969, and now Professor Emeritus, Zavan Melikian has trained an extraordinary group of violinists. Mr. Melikian was a member of the San Francisco Symphony for 23 years, serving as Assistant Concertmaster for the last 15 years of his

tenure. In 1977 he was appointed Concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and retired from the Opera in 1994. In addition, Mr. Melikian will present a master class to all the string players during camp. We are also pleased to welcome back Mr. Max Zorin, a renowned violinist, currently on the faculty at Penn State University in Philadelphia, and a graduate of Indiana, Juilliard and Yale Schools of Music. Mr. Zorin will work privately during camp with the Philharmonic violin players and will present a master class to all string players of both Concert and Philharmonic orchestras.



# The SJYS Artistic Committee

SJYS is enjoying tremendous success in the artistic quality of our orchestras and ensembles. We are very pleased with the addition of three new ensembles - two wind ensembles and a percussion ensemble. Our mission is to provide our members with the highest quality music education and performance opportunities. In order to further enhance the artistic quality of our organization, we have recently formed an artistic committee that will assist the SJYS artistic staff in achieving our goals. We are extremely proud to have several of the leading artists in the USA joining our artistic committee as well as our advisory Board. Among them are Mr. David Kim, concertmaster

of the Philadelphia orchestra; Mr. Zaven Melikian, former concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera and Professor Emeritus of violin with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; and Mr. Sandy Walsh-Wilson, cellist with the Alexander String Quartet as well as faculty member at the San Francisco State University. These individuals bring to SJYS a wealth of experience as performers and educators, and will help to enhance our reputation and our artistic quality. In addition, they will explore ways to increase the number of master classes offered to SJYS musicians. We welcome them warmly into the SJYS family.



Clockwise from top: David Kim, Sandy Walsh-Wilson, and Zaven Melikian.



## Chairman's Podium

### **Board of Directors**

Lorne Morris - Chairman  
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Tom Chang - Treasurer  
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Nancy Naroff  
Sam Yang  
Vicki Neil  
Jeremy Gorman  
Al Chien  
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Ligia Marcu  
Henry Schiro  
Jonathan Hicks  
David Kim  
Zevan Melikian  
Sandy Walsh-Wilson

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*Philharmonic Orchestra*  
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Grace Li

*Concert Orchestra*  
Sandy Norman

*Avant Flute Choir*  
Viji Rengarajan

*Intermezzo String Ensemble*  
Andy Lim

*Prelude String Ensemble*  
Irene Breck

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the hardworking SJYS families, volunteers and board members who've contributed so much to our success this season. Please join us for each of the remaining ensemble concerts, and we look forward to greeting you all at our Bon Voyage concert and gala event which supports all SJYS ensembles. We will also bid our Philharmonic Orchestra farewell as they embark on their eastern european tour.

We are blessed to have so many talented and committed volunteers supporting SJYS. I want to especially thank Lisa Fraboni, Nancy Naroff and Brenda Morris for their countless hours of work on our Tour and Bon Voyage event. They are simply amazing!

*-Lorne Morris*