



# Clef Notes



56th Season

March 2008


Editor - David Fong

## Zipbeats 2008

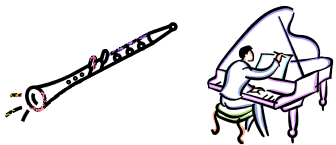
### Avant Flute Choir and Concert Orchestra

March 9, 2008 3pm at Almaden Library  
FREE ADMISSION

### Philharmonic Orchestra

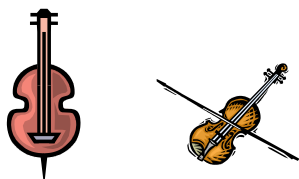
 **Spring Classic**  
March 15, 2008  
2:30pm at California Theatre : \$15, \$10, \$5

Featuring Young Artist Competition Winners :  
Joe Morris (clarinet) and Angela Hwang (piano)




### Prelude and Intermezzo

**String Ensembles**  
March 22, 2008 2:30pm  
Le Petit Trianon  
FREE ADMISSION



### Concerto Competition

April 5, 2008 1-6pm at Los Gatos United Methodist Church, 111 Church St, Los Gatos, CA 

## SJYS Supports Kenya Dream

What is Kenya Dream? Besides being a pun on words (Kenya = Can yuh), this vision, this dream came as a fruition of the Cupertino High School class council of 2010 with Justin Li, who is both the Philharmonic principal cellist and president of the class council, to do something “different”, unlike any other class. Through connections at Cupertino Rotary Club, the class council pursued their dream. On May 3rd, 2007, the class council received the support of the class of 2010 with a signed petition to give 100% of the fund-raising (which is normally used for class parties, dances, and junior and senior prom) to support the Nthimbiri High School in Meru, Kenya which is located in the central part of Kenya in a town with a population of about 50,000. This dream will be to support the completion of the science building and upgrading toilet facilities and a new lunch room for the growing student population of over 230 students.



Unfinished Science Building

Justin solicited the support and collaboration of the SJYS Board of Directors and artistic staff. And they responded with enthusiasm. Yair says, “We thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for our members to utilize their music education to help people in need, particularly students their age who are in grave need for help. We’ve decided to team up with Cupertino high school in this two-fold goal - to support an educational institution internationally as well as to support SJYS. It is also a wonderful opportunity for an outreach to the Cupertino community while introducing to them all SJYS ensembles and orchestras. Finally, it is the first time in our history where we feature all our ensembles in the same concert which will allow our members to get to know and appreciate each other better.” There will a total of over one hundred and thirty volunteer members from the combined Philharmonic, Concert Orchestra, Concert Wind, Avant Flute Choir, and the Prelude and Intermezzo Ensembles for all three benefit concert performances. **SJYS will receive half of the proceeds from the ticket sales for these concerts.**

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# Upbeats 2008

**Prelude and  
Intermezzo  
String Ensembles**

May 3, 2008 2:30pm

Le Petit Trianon

FREE ADMISSION

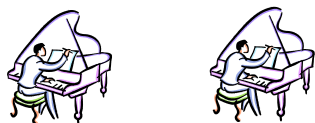


**Philharmonic  
Orchestra  
Summer Concert  
with concert pianists  
Jon Nakamatsu and  
Kenric Tam**

June 1, 2008 7pm

California Theatre:

\$15, \$10, \$5



**Avant Flute Choir  
and  
Concert Orchestra**

June 8, 2008 3pm at

Almaden Library

FREE ADMISSION



**Summer Camp**

Intermezzo &

Prelude Ensembles

JFS Elementary School

San Jose

August 4th - 8th, 2008

**Summer Camp**

Avant Flute Choir,

Concert Orchestra

Wind Ensemble

Philharmonic Orchestra

Mt Cross

Scotts Valley

August 9th - 15th, 2008

## SJYS Supports Kenya Dream cont'd

You too can be a part of this dream and support SJYS as well by attending the fundraiser concerts. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for students under 18. Tickets will be available for purchase every Monday at rehearsal. You can also purchase them through our web site at <http://www.sjys.org>

### **Kenya Dream Benefit Concerts**

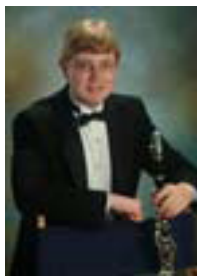
SJYS Philharmonic Orchestra,  
Concert orchestra, Avant Flute Choir,  
Concert Wind Ensemble, Intermezzo and Prelude String Ensembles  
Thursday April 3, 2008 at 7:00pm  
Saturday April 5, 2008 at 7:00pm  
Sunday April 6, 2008 at 7:00pm

Cupertino High School Theater  
10100 Finch Avenue  
Cupertino, CA 95014

## Spring Classic

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008 · 2:30 PM  
San Jose Youth Symphony Philharmonic Orchestra

Schubert : Rosamunde Overture  
Weber : Clarinet Concerto No. 1 in F Minor  
Featuring Young Artist Competition\* winner Joseph Morris, clarinet  
Rachmaninoff : Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 43  
Featuring Young Artist Competition\* winner Angela Hwang, piano  
Ponchielli : Dance of the Hours from La Gioconda



\*Young Artist Competition proudly sponsored by San Jose Symphony Foundation  
<http://www.symphonysiliconvalley.org>

California Theater  
345 South First Street  
San Jose, California

Admission is \$15.00 for adults,  
\$10.00 for students and seniors,  
and \$5.00 for children under 12.

**Emma Heffernan, 04'**

*Santa Cruz, California*

"I played violin in SJYS from 1997 to the end of my senior year of Mitty High school in 2004 (almost seven years). Needless to say, the symphony was a big part of my life. SJYS gave me a great orchestral background and exposure to repertoire, as well as the chance to play in Japan. There are so many memories from that trip: amazing meals in our Japanese homestays, playing Les Preludes to packed audiences, getting lost everywhere, dropping cameras in castle moats... I also have boundless memories (most of them good ones!) from the many years at Walden West, quartet gigs (like Amy Kim showing up to a wedding without her bow), and concerts at the CPA and St Josephs. Through the SJYS and the quartet I got to know a lot of wonderful people, many of which I'm still close with. Currently

I'm playing concertmistress for the UCSC orchestra, guest conducted by the one and only Yair Samet. Yair who is a respectable conductor and genuine person and I'm happy I haven't had to part ways with him yet! I'm in my fourth year at UC Santa Cruz studying Sociology and Music, and I'm looking forward to finally making my way into the real world after graduation."

-- Emma



# Ode to Alumni



San José State  
UNIVERSITY



THE BOSTON CONSERVATORY



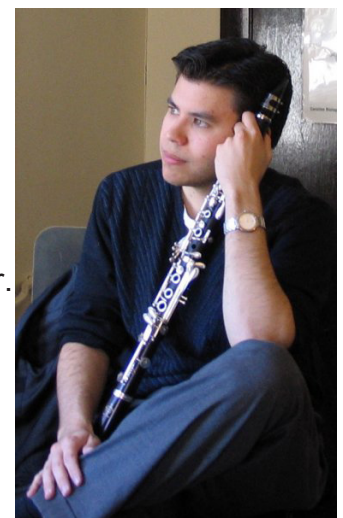
"James Johnson was formerly a clarinetist in the San Jose Youth Symphony Orchestra back in 1998 to 2000. In his time there he participated in the SJSYO Europe tour of Germany and Austria. Upon graduating from the youth orchestra he continued his musical education by entering and completing his Bachelors of Music degree from the Boston Conservatory under pedagogue, Ms. Julie Vaverka and Mr. Ian Graizer. In Boston James has performed as soloist and Principal Clarinetist with the Civic Symphony Orchestra of Boston, where he also was the Assistant Conductor. He spent two summers as a clarinet and conducting student at the Pierre Montoux School for Conductors and Orchestral musicians. He currently is pursuing his Masters of Music degree in Clarinet Performance at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University under full scholarship studying under Dr. Michael Webster and Mr. Thomas LeGrand.

Currently James is working diligently in attaining his goal in becoming a professional symphony orchestra clarinetist or conductor. The time spent with the SJSYO fostered James' love of music and inspired him to make it his life's ambition. James currently maintains his close ties to the SJYS and it's music director Maestro Yair Samet."

-- James

**James Johnson, 00'**

*Houston, Texas*



## Elaine Higashi '08

So far, I have no idea where I'm going next year, haha, due to late March/April notifications. This will be my 14th year playing the violin and my current private teacher is Pat Burnham. I'm involved in Korean American Music Supporters Association (KAMSA) youth symphony, Silicon Valley Volunteer Orchestra (SVVO), praise team at church (guitar). For sports and extracurricular activities, I've played tennis since 1st grade (Varsity Tennis all four high school years), and participated in US FIRST Robotics, Department of Energy (DoE) Science Bowl Team.

I have had the best moments of my life at SJYS, especially with the awesome opportunities of performing really cool music in different countries, and also soloing.

My favorite memories from SJYS were from the tour in Spain 2006. It was my first tour and it was the coolest experience I had ever had. Being able to perform with Jon Nakamatsu was also a really awesome experience. I just remember we had crazy bus rides and lots of paella. In college, I plan to major biomedical engineering with a possible minor in music.

-- Elaine



## General Auditions

Audition forms are online at <http://www.sjys.org/musicians/auditions.html>

Cost for App is \$25.00 non refundable  
Applicants will be notified of their specific date and time of their audition.

### **Strings, Woodwinds, Brass**

**April 12th, 19th, 2008**

Los Gatos United Methodist Church

111 Church St.  
Los Gatos, CA

### **Percussion**

**March 30, 2008**

Valley Christian High School  
100 Skyway Drive #110  
San Jose, CA

## **New Member Referral Awards Program**

Earn some extra cash by referring your friends to SJYS. Awards will be in the form of a \$20 VISA/MC gift card. Cards will be given for each new member who formally joins SJYS. There is no limit to how many students they can sign up and the new member does not have to be in their ensemble.

All instruments are welcome.

## **Debut Concert for Wind Ensemble**

The SJYS concert wind ensemble had its debut concert on February 9th at Bellarmine college preparatory. The concert was well attended by family and friends as well as many band directors in the area.

The ensemble performed works by Carter, Grainger, and King to name a few. The Concert Winds were assisted by several of the SJYS philharmonic musicians whom gave of their time to fill in instrumentation where needed.

The Concert Winds consists of approximately 20 advanced middle school and high school students. The Concert Winds is always accepting new musicians.



## Highlights from recent SJYS events



Yair with the Taiko drummers from Philharmonic concert in December 2007

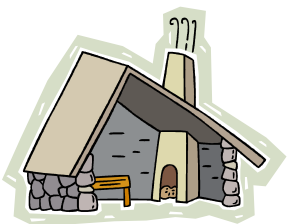
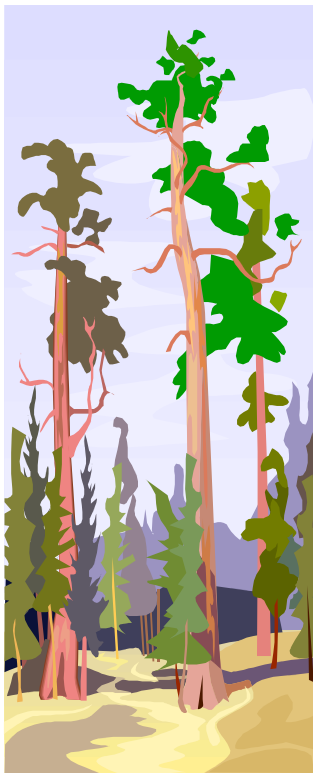


Nancy Naroff and Lisa Fraboni meet with San Jose Council Member (District 10) Nancy Pyle and her Communications Director, Eric Crane

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## Plan your summer early! SJYS Summer Camps are Coming Soon!

We are planning, a wonderful Summer Camp 2008. The Intermezzo and Prelude Ensembles will be attending our day music camp at JFS Elementary School in San Jose, Monday-Friday August 4th through August 8th, 9am until 3pm. This fun and challenging camp will allow our youngest SJYS members to begin work on their repertoire for the upcoming season. They will participate in small ensembles working with professional music instructors, SJYS conductors and our most talented alumni. The children will also be given the opportunity to attend optional workshops on music reading, composition and appreciation. The day will be filled with fun activities, including games and arts and crafts. Lunch will be provided each day.



This year the Philharmonic and Concert Orchestras, the Avant Flute Choir and Wind Ensemble will be joining us at Mt. Cross in Scotts Valley, CA. This is an overnight camp and will be held Saturday, August 9th through Friday, August 15th, 2008. This camp is mandatory for all SJYS members. The week will include sectionals and masters classes by notable professional musicians from around the U.S. In addition, classes will be offered in music composition and appreciation. Activities throughout the week will include arts and crafts, swimming, hiking, and many sporting activities.

# Natural Harmonies

## **Ryo Fukuda and the Intermezzo String Ensemble**

Intermezzo String Ensemble conductor Ryo Fukuda has been in the South Bay since 1998. He has established his own private teaching studio and is on the faculty of Santa Clara University Music department.

Having grown up on Manhattan in the Greenwich Village district of New York City, Ryo experienced the multicultural aspects of such a culturally diverse and rich city. Ryo's musical influence came at a young age, when Ryo would sit and watch his father painting on canvas and listening to classical music. However, Ryo didn't seriously take up music until his teens. Because sports and music requires discipline and practice, this passion in music occurred around the same time he wanted to play baseball for the powerful NY Yankees. He dreamed of being the first Asian to play for the Yankees. He had to make a choice and decided to forgo baseball and pursue musical studies at Manhattan School of Music. This was where classes with Professor Raphael Bronstein and lessons with Ariana Bronne influenced him and challenged him to further technical excellence in violin.

Ryo's favorite composers are Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Bartok and he enjoys string quartet pieces. His favorite violin players are lesser-known: Jascha Heifetz, David Oistrakh and Nathan Milstein. To relax, he also listens to classic rock, jazz and pop. His favorite food is East Coast (New York) style pizza and he recommends several good ones in San Francisco: Amici's, Escape from New York and Irving Street Pizza.

Since 2002 at SJYS, he has seen each group of students progress musically and grow in maturity. His advice to each of the string ensemble players is to play with clean articulation of sound and blending the notes with delicacy and subtlety all the time instead of quickly going through the music. He deeply appreciates the support of the parents and looks forward to creating music with the Intermezzo String Ensemble on their next performance.



*-Ryo Fukuda*

## Music Teacher: Claudia Fountain

Hello SJYO students and parents. I am Claudia Fountain, a violinist, private teacher and music teacher in the Bay Area. I started violin in elementary school and was encouraged to take private lessons. During Junior High and High School, I was in the All Southern California Orchestra, 2 youth groups near my home, plus a quartet in my high school. I loved playing the violin and had an opportunity to go to a summer music camp at Idyllwild School on Music and the Arts in the tall pines after 8th grade. It was there that I made music and friendships that would influence my choice of music as a profession and a life. I met my college violin teacher there and later decided to attend USC as a music major. In addition to performing, I taught violin lessons and eventually decided to get a teaching credential so I could start other students in a love affair with music. I love working with elementary instrumental music students, my private students, coaching youth orchestras and playing violin in 3 orchestras about the Bay Area.



I think teaching music is amazing because the teacher learns as much or more than the student. As the teacher, you analyze the problems for a student and then find the steps for them to master the music. For the teacher, each lesson is a chance to observe how the student learns, to analyze the student's technical problems with the music, and to bring out the musical or expressive parts of the music to make it come alive to the student and the listeners. Teaching them to practice in a positive way, troubleshooting difficult passages and making a plan to master difficulties helps the student become a creative and accomplished learner with a positive attitude. To see the music through the eyes of each student and then assist them to bring out their best playing is always the goal. Impatience and criticism need to be left at the door, while encouragement and careful listening to what needs improvement will help students master technique, musicianship, poise and stage presence.

Ms. Fountain has a Bachelors of Music from USC and a Masters of Music in violin performance from the University of Miami. She teaches violin, viola and chamber music privately and instrumental music in the Berryessa School District. For the last 23 years, she has been a member of the San Jose Symphony, Symphony Silicon Valley, the Marin Symphony and the Monterey County Symphony. She can be reached at [claudialf@aol.com](mailto:claudialf@aol.com)

# Macy's fund-raising event

**Macy's Community Shopping Day is Saturday May 17, 2008!**

Every year Macy's makes a commitment to local non-profits by providing a day of shopping at Macy's Union Square and Valley Fair with discounts up to 20% on most items. With the purchase of a ticket, you can enter to win a \$500 shopping spree and enjoy a day of special events and activities in the store. The San Jose Youth Symphony will be performing at Valley Fair store and selling tickets to this event beginning March 3, 2008 until May 17, 2008. Tickets are \$10 each with 100% of proceeds going to SJYS!



## Chairman's Podium

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to report that our 2008 season has been a great success thus far! Please plan on joining us for all the upcoming concerts. We are honored to feature the SJYS 2008 Young Artist competition winners at our March 15th Philharmonic Orchestra concert, sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation. Each of our training and performing ensembles are making significant progress as evidenced by the quality of their performances. Bravo to our exceptional teachers and conductors. Our Music Director and Philharmonic Conductor, Yair Samet, has done a great job of elevating SJYS to a new level! The 2008-2009 audition season is rapidly approaching. The deadline for applications is April 7th, so please spread the word. Details are available on our website.

The Philharmonic Orchestra 2009 season Concerto Competition is happening on April 5th and we are currently making plans for our 2009 Philharmonic Orchestra Tour to Chile and Argentina. I want to personally recognize and thank fellow board members Lisa Fraboni and Viji Rengarajan for their incredible effort on behalf of SJYS. Lisa has temporarily assumed the operational management of the organization and Viji has arranged all the details and venues for our auditions and concerto competitions. We couldn't make it without these outstanding and committed volunteers. Thank you very much.

I'll see you in the concert halls!

- *Lorne Morris*  
*Chairman of the Board*

### **Board of Directors**

Lorne Morris - *Chairman*  
Leo Higashi - *Vice Chair*  
Nancy Hooton - *Treasurer*  
Position open - *Secretary*  
Vicki Neil  
Al Chien  
Lisa Fraboni  
Dave Mills  
Vijayashree Rengarajan

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Dave Dumont  
Ligia Marcu  
Henry Schiro  
Jonathan D. Hicks  
David Kim  
Zevan Melikian  
Jo Neish  
Sandy Walsh-Wilson

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*Philharmonic Orchestra*  
Rona Liang  
Kristal Laihsu

*Concert Orchestra*  
Zing Nguyen

*Avant Flute Choir*  
Viji Rengarajan

*Intermezzo String Ensemble*  
Lisa Wagner

*Prelude String Ensemble*  
Irene Breck