



## Hawaii Youth Symphony Year End Letter 2015

### Dear Hawaii Youth Symphony Supporter:

Thank you for a simply INCREDIBLE 50th Anniversary season! We celebrated all throughout FY15, and are only catching our collective breaths now. I hope you enjoy this Year End letter which will recap some highlights of the last year and season.

### HYS Reached Students Statewide and Served Students of Diverse Backgrounds

One of our core goals was to offer a comprehensive spectrum of programs, pathways, and entry points, so that all students can achieve through music.

In FY15, HYS directly served 584 unduplicated students, ages 7-18, from 122 schools. 57 of these youth participated in no-experience-necessary general music, beginning strings, and band classes.

As in previous years, the majority of our students represented public (DOE) schools: 322 (or 55%) of students came from public schools; 37 or 6% came from home schools; and 225 (or 39%) came from independent schools.



### HYS Ensured Equity and Access to Students of All Levels and Financial Ability

HYS provided nearly **\$30,000** in financial aid, scholarships, travel assistance (for neighbor island students), and instrument rental subsidies to student participants. Any student with demonstrated financial need was eligible for these assistance programs. Our Board of Directors are committed to keeping participation fees/tuition low so that students of any background may participate.



## HYS Emphasized the Importance of Music Education for Community Service

HYS is a strong believer that all children should have access to music education, and that we as an organization have a duty to the community to provide those kinds of opportunities. Collectively, HYS students performed 19 free community performances for nearly **20,000** people.

These performances included 6 free “Listen & Learn” concerts—unique programs performed *for* youth *by* youth that served **12,000** school children and their teachers, on Oahu and Maui.

(Incidentally, many HYS students say that performing these youth concerts are their favorite concerts of the season!)



## HYS Believes in Musical Excellence

The first of our priorities in our new Strategic Plan is to “enhance the Symphony Program with greater repertoire and unique learning opportunities” that would be otherwise unavailable to other schools or programs, such as collaborations and masterclass with renowned teaching artists and composers.

In April 2015, we brought the first of many extraordinary guests to work with our students: **Conrad Tao**, a phenomenal pianist and composer, who led a masterclass and performed Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* with Youth Symphony I.



The 2015-2016 season will see **Toby Oft**, Principal Trombonist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the internationally-recognized violinist **MIDORI**, who will come to Hawaii thanks to her Orchestral Residencies Program (a collaboration between HYS and the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra).

## Charting HYS's Future

Our organization is always looking ahead, seeking new ways for us to increase our footprint, strengthen our programs, and further fulfill our vision of making music education accessible for all of Hawaii's children. In FY15, the Board and Staff met to freely exchange ideas on how to best realize the HYS Vision of providing every young person in Hawaii the opportunity to experience the timeless value of music, learn to play a musical instrument, and embrace a lifelong appreciation for musical learning.

As a result, the Board ratified a new, five year Strategic Plan, which will lead us from 2016-2020. See the detailed plan at <http://HiYouthSymphony.org/about/Strategic-Plan>.

## Mahalo Nui Loa (Thank You Very Much) from HYS!



*The HYS Board & Staff*

On behalf of Hawaii Youth Symphony, I thank you for your genuine support and confidence in this organization to do good for the community. HYS would not be able to provide the kind of services, with the amount of care or attention to detail, if not for your commitments to helping us meet our mission.

Thanks to strong partnerships with several local organizations—in particular, State of Hawaii, the City & County of Honolulu, the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii, the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, University of Hawaii, the Department of Education, and Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus—HYS has been able to maximize its resources and create programs that truly leverage many of the wonderful things about our community.

Thank you again for everything you do, to secure funding for Hawaii Youth Symphony, and for prioritizing a Future for Music for all of Hawaii's youth!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Randy Wong". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Randy Wong  
*Executive Director*