



Hawaii Youth Symphony  
Where Hawaii's youth make  
exceptional music together.

## Hawaii Youth Symphony Newsletter

# ...OF NOTE

Learn  Perform  Grow

Fall 2008

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Youth Symphony II Mall Concert

Sun., Nov. 9, 11:30 am  
Windward Mall, Free

#### Concert Orchestra Mall Concert

Sun., Nov. 16, 11:00 am  
Kahala Mall, Free

#### He Makana O Na Mele Featuring YSI and Willie K.

Sun., Nov. 23, 5:30 pm  
Hilton Hawaiian Village

#### WINTER CONCERT

#### Concert Orchestra and Youth Symphony I & II

Sun., Dec. 7, 4:00 pm  
Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall

#### String Program Holiday Concert

Sun., Dec. 14, 3:00 pm  
Pearl City Cultural Center

#### Listen & Learn Educational Concerts

Symphony concerts for kids!  
Dec. 8, 9, & 10  
9:30 am & 11:00 am  
Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall  
and Pearl City Cultural Center  
Free for schools

#### Chamber Music Recital

Fri., Jan. 30  
7:00 pm

Orvis Auditorium,  
UH Music Dept., Free

Additional program information at  
[www.HiYouthSymphony.org](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org)  
or call 941-9706.

HYS programs are supported by the  
National Endowment for the Arts and the  
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS  
A great nation  
deserves great art.




HAWAII STATE  
FOUNDATION  
ON CULTURE  
AND THE ARTS



## Willie K. Electrifies with HYS

Sunday, November 23, Hilton Hawaiian Village  
4:30 Silent Auction 5:30 Dinner 7:00 Concert

This year's He Makana O Na Mele benefit dinner/concert will be a show-stopper, for sure! Youth Symphony I, under the direction of Henry Miyamura, will light up the stage with the versatile talents of the astonishing powerhouse, **Willie K.** Tickets are \$80, available and selling quickly. Download an order form at [www.HiYouthSymphony.org](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org) or call the HYS office at 941-9706 to make your reservations. Silent auction donations also welcome. This event is one of the most entertaining benefits in town and a bargain for dinner and a high-quality show! Join us, knowing you're also building a future for hundreds of Hawaii's young musicians. 


## Ellen Masaki and Marlene Sai help HYS Close 2007-2008 Season with Class



1) Marlene Sai shares her famous This Is Hawaii with the audience; 2) Conductor Mike Nakasone presents the YSII senior class; 3) Ellen Masaki celebrated her 80th birthday with HYS; 4) seniors Randy Wong and Hayden Hashimoto share a moment with emcee Ben Gutierrez; 5) Ms. Masaki steps down from the podium after conducting the YSI orchestra in Brahms' Hungarian Dances No. 5.

HYS was privileged to have two of Hawaii's legendary ladies of music join us for our Aloha Concert Luncheon on May 24 at the Hilton. Piano virtuoso—whose talent is matched only by her ability to inspire her students—**Ellen Masaki** was the day's honoree. The incomparable **Marlene Sai** performed with YSI. After rousing performances by YSII and YSI, the day was made complete with a ceremony honoring HYS's 34 seniors from 19 schools. 

## Write for Gold: HYS Launches Essay Contest

It may not be the Olympics but if you are an HYS student with something to say, it may be worth your while to try to medal in HYS's 1st annual Essay Contest. Cash prizes, which are encouraged to go towards music study, range from \$30-\$150! Essays will be accepted in three categories: Division III, grades 3-6 (Gold medal: \$50; Silver medal: \$30), Division II, grades 7-9 (Gold Medal: \$80; Silver medal: \$60) and Division I, grades 10-12 (Gold medal: \$150; Silver medal: \$100). Contest deadline is October 31, 2008. Winners will be announced and their prizes distributed by Thanksgiving. Essays will be published partly or entirely in HYS's newsletters, and hopefully, in a future anthology. We know HYS has a lot of students who have a lot to say about music. We hope this essay contest will be one way for them to express themselves outside of the rehearsal halls. For essay topics and more information about the contest, visit HYS's website: [www.HiYouthSymphony.org](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org). Good luck and go for the gold! 

**Got something  
to say?**

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HYS Family,

Welcome to HYS's 44th season! I want to thank the students who rolled up their sleeves this summer to help our office staff. Moanalua High's **Samantha Neudorf**, YSI violist, helped prepare music, collect data and shape up our offices. Her cheerful manner and great work ethic contributed greatly to our summer productivity. Thanks so much, Sam!!!! HYS also had summer **alumni sightings**. Our thanks to 2007 graduates **Denise Shigeta**, **Rachel Fukumoto**, **Young Kim** and **Alex Hayashi** for helping with a huge mail project during their vacation. We also caught up with Boston College's **Mark Ohara**, HYS '07, Indiana University's **Selena Yamamoto**, HYS '05, and **Alan Thom**, HYS '06. We're still holding on to UHers **Kelly Shigeta**, HYS '04 who is our Special Projects staffer, and we are always pleased to see **Mike Fomai**, HYS '05 who attended a prestigious composers institute this summer in California. Mike composed a novel chamber piece for a HYS septet involving a viola, oboe, flute, clarinet, string bass, marimba and piano. The piece debuted at our Chamber Concert in May. We've also reconnected with **Leslie Tagorda**, HYS '92, a San Francisco graphic designer who redesigned HYS's website and still plays her clarinet professionally, and **Tilden Osako**, HYS '87, a nephrologist in Orange County. Both Leslie and Tilden can be seen in HYS' new brochure. HYS recently welcomed **Richard Ing**, HYS '78 and **Keith Sakamoto**, HYS '69, President of Hawaiian Host, to our board. Both have sons enrolled in YSI. **Danny Takanishi**, HYS '76, has stayed in touch and now has all three daughters registered with HYS. Though a skilled Honolulu surgeon and chair of the UH Dept. of Surgery, Danny still shows signs of his good, 'ole, kolohe nature. **Linda Katsuki**, HYS '64, serves as HYS's very own historian and clipping service. Thank you, Linda.

**Alumni**, stay tuned for more ways to connect with HYS. It's great fun to hear stories about life after HYS. Our doors are always open. Please drop by and visit.

As we look back and gather our alumni, we are also looking ahead and continue our quest to develop a home for our future musicians. The Hawaii Arts Center for Youth (**HACY**) initiative continues its forward path. The nonprofit partnership among Ballet Hawaii, Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus and HYS is searching for a suitable location for the center which will include shared office and rehearsal spaces. You can learn more about HACY on Bob Sandla's [Business in the Arts](#) radio show to be broadcast on [Sunday, October 12, 6:00 pm on KHPR, KKUA and KANO.](#)

All of our orchestras are back in rehearsals and concert time will be here before you know it. We've already completely filled more than 10,000 seats for our free Listen & Learn Concerts for school children on Oahu and Maui this season. And exciting plans are underway for our season opener and annual benefit, Na Mele, with the astounding **Willie K**. It'll be great fun. Please join us. As always, we are grateful to all our friends who support our young musicians and believe in building a future for music.

Aloha.



Selena Ching



## In the Spotlight

Highlighting HYS's Star Volunteers

HYS welcomes two outstanding board members to our family. They are energetic and enthusiastic about HYS and bring strong public relations and marketing experience to our organization. HYS is honored to add them to our team.

### Krislyn Hashimoto

Krislyn is senior account executive for the travel division at Stryker Weiner & Yokota Public Relations, Inc. She services Hawaii Tourism Authority, NCL America and Ward Centers. Prior to joining Stryker Weiner & Yokota, Krislyn worked in the communications department at the Office of the Governor. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism with a minor in speech from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During the short period she has been with HYS, Krislyn has already shown her mettle and public relations prowess. HYS is pleased to have her on board. ♪



### Alan Okami

Alan is the Vice President of KoAloha Ukulele. He manages the operations and coordinates public relations and marketing efforts for the company. Alan's calling to music was inescapable. His father, Alvin, is a celebrated musician, composer and vocalist. Alan and his brother, Paul, have been spotted joining dad, "Pops" Okami, on stage. Alan sits on the board of the Hawai'i Arts Alliance, Lamaku Society and the Bishop Museum Association Council. He and wife, Tammie, have two sons who we hope will soon be joining HYS. ♪



**THANK YOU** to our 2008-2009 **CONCERT PARENTS** who give so much to make our rehearsals and concerts work. You all deserve an endless standing ovation:

*Youth Symphony I*: **VERNA CHINEN** and **LANCE UCHIDA**

*Youth Symphony II*: **JOANNE & WENDY HANAGAMI** and **JIM ARAKI**

*Concert Orchestra*: **FRANCES HOKAMA**, **LINDA KNOWLES** and **GWEN MOTOSHIGE**

Extra mahalo to our irreplaceable, 20+-year volunteer chief, **Les Murata**, HYS's Vice President, for always leading the charge. ♪

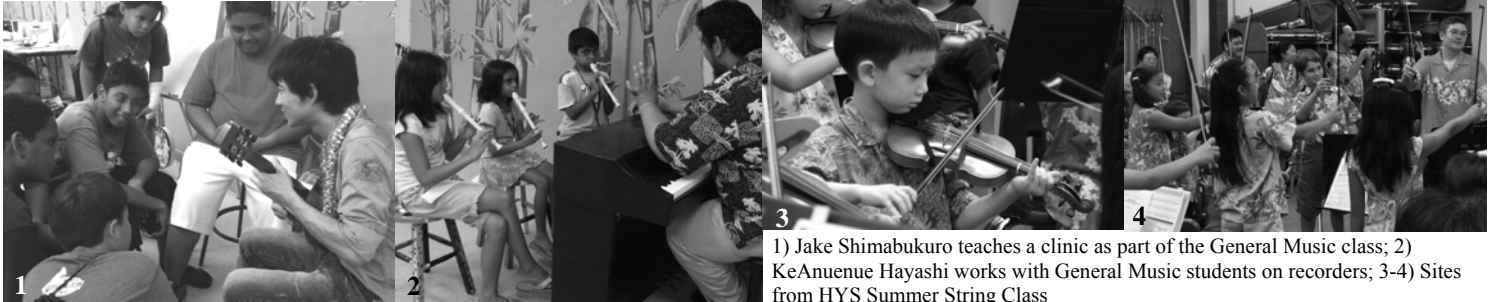
## Orchestra Families: Stay In Tune



**HYS** parents, stay in tune with HYS by asking your child for your monthly *Taking Note* bulletin, issued on the last Sunday of each month, with the latest information for the upcoming month. HYS also posts weekly rehearsal schedules and updates on our website: [www.HiYouthSymphony.org](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org), and on our outgoing message machine (941-9706, ext. 3) every Friday. ♪

# What's Happening at the HYS ACADEMY?

Playing in concert with the **Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii**, HYS officially launched its Academy program earlier this year. The Academy is an entry-level music institute offering the basics of music study. It provides more early-learning opportunities for youth who want to explore music, and offers experiences for those who are beyond rudimentary skills but need additional teaching to prepare for a position in HYS's Symphony Program. The Academy houses HYS's well-established String and Summer String Programs. The HYS Academy is also offering a FREE general music class and a FREE beginning band class. These two classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from September 16, 2008-May 30, 2009. Academy classes are held at the Spalding Clubhouse behind Washington Middle School. The Academy is addressing the loss of music programs in our schools. Its intent is to build the pool of students who are not just aware of music but enthusiastic about learning. We know music study positively impacts a student's academic performance, and HYS is determined to ensure that as many young people as possible have the opportunity to *learn, perform and grow* through music. ♪



1) Jake Shimabukuro teaches a clinic as part of the General Music class; 2) KeAnuenue Hayashi works with General Music students on recorders; 3-4) Sites from HYS Summer String Class



## TOYOTA Hawaii Music to our Ears

August 2, 2008 was a fine day. Not only did the KSSK Perry & Price Show audience get to hear great HYS quartet music surrounded by clear ocean views from John Dominis, but HYS also received \$17,000 from **Toyota Hawaii!** HYS was one of three Hawaii non profits selected by Toyota to benefit from its 50th anniversary celebration. Happy Birthday Toyota and THANK YOU for supporting Hawaii's youth, and for recognizing their musical accomplishments. ♪



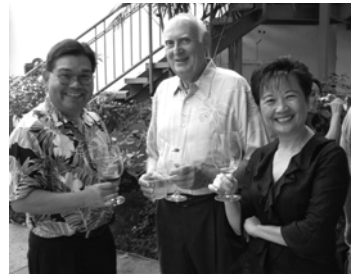
HYS students Patrick Yim, Aris Doike, Servco Executive VP Rick Ching, HYS ED Selena Ching, Servco Senior VP Glenn Inouye, HYS students Asia Doike and Marissa Sakoda

## Great Wine; Good Time

One of Napa's boutique wineries held a tasting celebration at Chinatown's HASR Wine Co., on August 26 that benefited HYS. The **Finkelstein** family (celebrating the 1-year birthday of their youngest member, Talulah) pulled out all the stops for this event which included impressive tastings of their Judd's Hill brand, food by Grand Café, music by a HYS quartet and Eddie Kamae and the Sons of Hawaii, and a raffle for a KoAloha Ukulele and other art. Mahalo to all who supported this tasteful, fun-filled evening! ♪



right: Kent and Jean Tsukamoto with Roy King; below: Judd Finkelstein with Eddie Kamae and the Sons of Hawaii



## HONOLULU SYMPHONY Student Discount Tickets

Student tickets are \$10.00 this season for Honolulu Symphony's Masterworks performances (excluding Beethoven's Ninth and Festival). Tickets for students' parents or accompanying adults will also be \$10.00. There is a limit of 2 adult tickets per concert per student, and tickets are only available through the Symphony Box Office, located in Dole Cannery, 650 Iwilei Rd., Suite 202 (792-2000). Discount tickets are NOT available through Ticketmaster or the Blaisdell Box Office. Enjoy the music! ♪



[www.fromthetop.org/Awards/Cooke.cfm](http://www.fromthetop.org/Awards/Cooke.cfm)

Applications for *From the Top's \$10,000 Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist*

**Award** are available at its website. Former HYSers **Andrew Ramos** and **Asia Doike** are recent recipients of this prestigious award. \$10,000 scholarships have been used for new instruments, music lessons, music camp tuition, competition fees, travel costs, and recording devices, among other things. Approximately 20 scholarships are available. Deadlines are November 1 and January 31. *From the Top* will also award **\$5,000 Talent Development Awards** to a select number of musically promising younger students (ages 8-13). ♪

# Build Music's Future: How you can help HYS's young musicians



## give aloha to HYS

From **September 1-30**, you can make a fully tax-deductible gift to HYS (up to \$249 per person) at any **Foodland** or **Sak N Save** and Foodland will match your donation! Just tell the cashier you'd like to make a donation to the Hawaii Youth Symphony (**Code 77060**). The amount of your gift will be added to your receipt. No purchase is necessary to participate in this program. Save your store receipt. It is the only record of your contribution. HYS will formally acknowledge your donation if you send us your store receipt with your full name and address. Foodland will not provide us with donor names. Funds support every HYS student. Our gratitude extends to all who give at the registers and to Foodland and the Western Union Foundation for matching their generosity. Thank you for giving your aloha! ♪



## Combined Federal Campaign

**MILITARY** or **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** employees can give to HYS through easy payroll deductions. No check-writing, no postage, no hassles. Look for HYS in your upcoming Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) brochure. You can give either a single pledge or regular contributions. HYS's code number is **38026**. Every gift goes towards helping our young musicians, and every gift counts! Mahalo nui loa. ♪

## Treasures to Share More-In-Store and Silent Auction Items Needed

HYS is looking for all kinds of stuff to auction and sell at our upcoming He Makana O Na Mele fundraising event on November 23 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. This is our only benefit of the year and we depend on our families and community supporters for its success. We would be grateful for *silent auction items* or things to sell at our store. Store items could include *plants, homemade cakes, cookies, manju, mochi, or other delectable goods that are packaged for sale.* We also welcome *homemade craft items* which are so valued during the holiday season. Our utmost thanks goes out to YSII Concert Parent and all-around super guy **Jim Araki** who volunteered to chair our silent auction this year. Donations accepted at the HYS office until the event. Tickets are also available to the dinner/concert with **YSI** and **Willie K.** Call 941-9706 for donation or ticket information. Mahalo for these gifts from the heart. ♪



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