



Hawaii Youth Symphony

# Hawaii Youth Symphony Newsletter

## ...OF NOTE

A TRADITION OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

Winter 2006-2007

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Chamber Ensemble Recital

Fri., January 26, 7:00 pm  
Orvis Auditorium, Free

#### Kauai Concerts

Kauai War Memorial Conv. Hall  
Youth Symphony I

**Community Concert**, Free  
with Kauai High School Chorus  
Mon., February 19, 7:00 pm

#### Listen & Learn

**Educational Concerts**, Free  
Tues., Feb. 20, 9:00 & 10:30 am

#### Concert Orchestra Concert

Sun., February 25, 2:00-3:00 pm  
Kahala Mall, Free

#### Youth Symphony II Concert

Sun., March 11, 12:00-1:00 pm  
Windward Mall, Free

#### Youth Symphony I Youthful Energy Concert with Honolulu Symphony

Fri., April 13, 8:00 pm  
Sun., April 15, 4:00 pm  
Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall

#### Youth Symphony II & Concert Orchestra Spring Concert

Sun., April 22, 4:00 pm  
Pearl City Cultural Center, Free

#### String Program Aloha Concert

Sun., April 29, 2:00 pm  
Kaimuki High School Aud.

#### Aloha Concert Luncheon

Sun., May 27, 10:30 am  
Hilton Hawaiian Village

#### Upper Orchestra Auditions

June 2-3 and June 9-10

Program information at  
[www.hiyouthsymphony.org](http://www.hiyouthsymphony.org)  
or call 941-9706.

## 10,000 Attend December Performances

Three weeks, eight concerts. HYS brought in the holidays with non-stop, back-to-back performances. The series started with the Winter Concert on December 3 at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall where more than 1,000 people came out to see 283 young musicians, ages 11-18, from more than 50 schools on five islands. The concert opened with the Concert Orchestra, under the direction of Susan Ochi-Onishi and Assistant Conductor Hannah Watanabe. Both Youth Symphony II, under the direction of Michael Nakasone, and Youth Symphony I, under the direction of Henry Miyamura, performed works by local composers. HYS wanted to feature music by living composers in order to give audiences a rare opportunity to hear about the inspirations and original intent behind the music they are listening to. YSII featured a work by **Dr. Donald Womack**, *Winter Solstice*, and YSI performed "...Such Sweet Sorrow" by **Dr. Neil McKay**. It was an outstanding afternoon of music and HYS thanks emcee **Jodi Leong** and the **First Hawaiian Bank Foundation** for helping to make it a great performance.


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1-3) Winter Concert, 12/3/06 at Blaisdell: Jodi Leong, emcee; Michael Nakasone welcomes Donald Womack, composer to stage; Composer Neil McKay gives audience background on his music. 4-6) Listen & Learn concerts: full house; M. Nakasone teaches conducting basics; Mayor Mufi Hannemann sings to thousands of keiki.

Photos by Gary and Caren Arakaki

## HYS Takes Music to the Garden Isle: Concert with multitude of Kauai talent, February 19, 7:00 pm

 One hundred voices from the **Kauai High School Chorus** will join forces with the 92-member Youth Symphony I at the War Memorial Convention Hall in February to present a free concert for the Kauai community. The program includes a Concerto for Orchestra, written by HYS's own Michael Foumai, HYS '04, as well as movements from John Rutter's *Requiem*, a major choral work. This concert will bring students from three different islands to one concert stage. Additional guest artists from Kauai include the lovely and talented soprano **Leinani Springer** and string bassist and KHS's Band Director **Darryl Miyasato**.

Two Listen & Learn educational concerts will follow the community performance the next morning, February 20. These free concerts are open to school children throughout Kauai. The repertoire is age-appropriate and students watch instrument demonstrations, participate in sing-a-longs with the orchestra and a few students learn what it's like to actually conduct a full symphony orchestra. HYS extends its gratitude to the **Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts** and the **National Endowment for the Arts** for making this outreach tour possible. 

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HYS Friends,

This season, HYS is focusing on three initiatives which we believe will strengthen our position in our communities and allow us to bring quality music education to more students.

Audience development has been an ongoing challenge for HYS. This season, we have come up with a plan to increase accessibility to our concerts. We know we have a lot of talent in our orchestras, well beyond what most newcomers expect when they attend their first HYS performance. In order to attract as many people as possible to our quality performances, we offered free tickets to orchestra and band directors and a free student ticket for every adult ticket purchased to our Winter Concert at Blaisdell. This resulted in more than a 10% increase in attendance. For our April 22 Spring Concert at the Pearl City Cultural Center which will debut a work written expressly for the YSII orchestra and conducted by the young composer, 19-year old Michael Foumai, we are planning to make tickets absolutely free to everyone. Our greatest sales pitch for HYS cannot be articulated on paper or from a podium, it simply is our students on stage.



HYS is also extending its reach to more students. Working with the **Boys & Girls Club**, we are seeking funding to enable us to bring music classes into the clubhouses. The program is designed to bring music educators and professional musicians together to introduce young people to the benefits of playing a musical instrument. We are also taking our outreach programs to Kauai this year where we'll produce two Listen & Learn concerts for more than 2,000 Garden Isle students.

HYS has also collaborated with three other youth arts organizations to explore building a permanent home to include rehearsal facilities and offices. We are all hopeful that having a physical presence will further anchor ourselves in our communities and allow us to further advance our programming. It is a long-term project but one of paramount importance.

We have much to look forward to in 2007. On behalf of all the HYS staff, I want to thank you for your support and wish you a healthy, enjoyable year filled with good music.

Aloha,

Selena Ching

### Orchestra Portraits

Symphony orchestra portraits for YSI, YSII and CO are now available for order. Portraits are full-color, 8"x10" and come packaged in a black folio. Preorder deadline is January 28, \$10. Sample portraits were sent to rehearsals. Order forms available online. Many thanks to **Ray Wong** for his time and photographic expertise. ♪



## In the Spotlight

The volunteer STARS who make HYS shine

By Judy Vierck

This issue features two guys who work quietly but very effectively with crew manager Les Murata to make sure the show can go on.

### Gary Hirokane

On the morning of an HYS concert, Gary knows he won't be bored. Hidden behind the scenes, Gary makes a big contribution to HYS with transportation and stage setup. His pockets are often full of stage schematics and instrument counts. He began volunteering with HYS when his children joined three years ago. His son, Gavin, plays horn in YSI. Gary honed his stage skills as a volunteer in charge of setting the stage at Kaimuki Middle School. A "walking music encyclopedia," he listens to the oldies, movie soundtracks and Broadway show tunes. Gary works for the State Dept. of Health. He enjoys biking, sometimes with Tom Shigeta. ♪



### Thomas Shigeta

Tom, another indispensable member of HYS's equipment and transport crew, always arrives on the scene with a smile. He admits to having no interest in classical music until his daughters joined HYS and started playing it. This season, Denise plays French horn in YSI, and Tracey is a YSII trumpet player. Kelly, HYS '04, plays percussion with the UH Symphony. Tom, a wizard who keeps the Defense Dept.'s computer networks humming, (he's even fixed HYS's computers!) prefers music of the 60s. When an HYS orchestra performs *The Impossible Dream*, the guy melts. An avid techie, Tom also handles the video recording of HYS concerts. So once he's set backstage for the show, you can spot him in the house filming concerts for DVD production. When he's not driving U-Hauls for HYS, Tom enjoys riding his bike. ♪



### Kudos Korner

Two HYS students placed in the senior category of the Music Teachers National Association state winners:

**Kathleen Chao**, cello, won the Senior String competition and **Andrew Ramos** took an honorable mention in the piano category. **Kathleen** heads to Salt Lake City to represent Hawaii at the Southwest Division competition.

Hawaii Music Teachers Association recognized the following HYS violinists in its 2006 State Honors Competition:

Level II: **Brent Ramos**, 1st pl.

Level III: **Blaise Tesoro**, 1st pl.; **Iris Kuo**, 3rd pl.

Level IV: **Aris Doike**, cello, 1st pl.; **Ming Tanigawa-Lau**, 2nd pl.

All three state high school string winners were HYS students:

**Asia Doike & Heather Shohet**, 1st pl. tie; **Eric Chao**, cello, 2nd pl.

Oboist **Alex Hayashi** and horn player **Denise Shigeta** were finalists in the 2006 All USA Band. **Denise** also represented Hawaii in the All American Band at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

If you know of a HYS member who should be listed in the Kudos Korner, call 941-9706 or email [admin@hiyouthsymphony.org](mailto:admin@hiyouthsymphony.org). ♪



# Na Mele Earns \$52,000 and Standing Ovation

**M**aunaloa headlined with Youth Symphony I to bring the 550 people who attended HYS's annual benefit on November 5 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village to its feet. After magnificent performances by the orchestra of von Suppé's *Pique Dame* and Puccini's *O Mio Bambino Carro*, Maunaloa joined the students on stage for a segment of great entertainment and fun. HYS extends its gratitude to all who contributed to make this fundraiser a success, especially event chair **Tina Lau**, Silent Auction chair **Vicky Chiu-Irion** and Maestro Circle sponsors: **Bank of Hawaii**, **HTH Corporation**, Jackie Chan Charitable Foundation, USA, **Dr. Lawrence Tseu**, President and **Mrs. Edith Leong**. ♪



1) Maunaloa; 2) Bobby Moderow rehearses with orchestra; 3) Marianne Miyamura, Sheryl Shohet, Lorraine Choy, and Mel Uchida; 4) Rich Martin-Doike and Alan Doike; 5) Kenneth and Ernestine Spence

## Stand Partners

The Hawaii Youth Symphony is grateful to the following supporters since September 2006 who have given at least \$5,000 and taken a stand for music and our young people. **Mahalo!**

- Robert, Marie and Karl Ichida Fund** for programs
- The Cades Foundation** for operations
- The J. M. Long Foundation** for HYS's financial assistance program
- First Hawaiian Bank Foundation** for Winter 2006 Concert
- John R. Halligan Charitable Fund** for operations
- Mayor's Office on Culture and the Arts** for 2007 Spring Concert
- Dr. Arlene Skillman** for 2007 Spring Concert
- Dr. Mark Yoshida** for alumni endowment fund



(Continued from page 1)

HYS produced six educational Listen & Learn concerts for 8,600 school children from all corners of Oahu on December 4 and 5 at the Blaisdell Concert Hall and December 12 at the Pearl City Cultural Center. Students who attended the first concert on December 5 were treated to special guest performances by Honolulu's first tenor Mayor Mufi Hannemann. *Sponge Bob* also made appearances. HYS thanks **Tom Bingham**, **Steve Dulce** and **Lance Uchida** for taking time to emcee these unique educational concerts.

The December whirlwind of concerts concluded with a Holiday Concert by our String Program which featured 136 students from more than 65 schools in HYS's four string orchestras. These budding musicians played at the Kaimuki High School Auditorium on December 17. Performances were given by HYS's novice players in Beginning Strings through the most advanced string orchestra players in the Concert String Orchestra. ♪



Photos by Tracy Madrigal

## Chamber Music Brings Joy

**T**wenty-six YSI and YSII students representing 14 schools are participating in this season's pilot Chamber Music Program, made possible by the **Cooke Foundation, Ltd.** Participants in four string quartets, a woodwind quintet and a brass quintet, rehearse regularly with coaches and on their own. HYS is grateful to the dedication of the coaches: Honolulu Symphony's **Iggy Jang**, **Claire Sakai Hazzard**, **Paul Barrett**, **Mark Schubert** and educators **Jennifer Miyahira** and **Chad Uyehara**. In addition to the formal recitals, students perform two community concerts at care facilities throughout Honolulu. A staff member at Hale Kuike, where two groups recently performed wrote, "Come more often. Our residents really enjoyed the performance. It gave them a lot of joy." Don't miss the free first recital for these impressive groups on **Friday, January 26, 7:00 pm, Orvis Auditorium**. ♪



YSII Quartet at Hale Kuike with coach Chad Uyehara

## HYS Offers Improv Class

**H**ighly regarded musician and clinician **Dean Taba** will offer improvisational workshops for YSI students this spring. The workshops will be open to all instruments—strings, percussion and winds. This unique opportunity will introduce many of our classically-trained musicians to playing by ear and melodic variations. ♪

## Arts Achievement Award

**W**indward Arts Council is offering \$300 Teen Arts Achievement Awards to deserving artists, grades 9-12, who live on the Windward side. Requires live audition of two pieces, 5 minutes each, from two periods. Applications due March 1. Call 254-1147 for information. ♪

## FREE SPRING CONCERT

### Youth Symphony II

Michael Nakasone, conductor

### Concert Orchestra

Susan Ochi-Onishi, conductor

Hannah Watanabe, assistant conductor

featuring

190 students from five islands

World premiere of

### *Poème e Fantasia*

*II. Elegy*

written and to be conducted by

MICHAEL FOU MAI (b. 1987), HYS '04

**Sunday, April 22, 2007**

**Pearl City Cultural Center**

**4:00 pm**

Doors open at 3:30 pm, no reserved seats

Thanks to the generous support from **DR. ARLENE SKILLMAN** and the **MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS**, City & County of Honolulu, HYS is able to offer this outstanding display of Hawaii's young talent absolutely free of charge.

## YOUTHFUL ENERGY

Concert

### Hawaii Youth Symphony I

Henry Miyamura, conductor

and the

### Honolulu Symphony

Rimsky-Korsakov	The Russian Easter (YSI)
Foumai	Concerto for Orchestra (YSI)
Sibelius	Finlandia (Side-by-side)
Rachmaninoff	Piano Concerto No. 2 (Symphony)
Beethoven	Lenore Overture No. 3 (Symphony)

**April 13, 8:00 pm**

**April 15, 4:00 pm**

**Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall**

HYS families, look for special ticket information in February *Taking Note*.

or

Blaisdell Box Office

777 Ward Avenue, 9-5, Monday-Saturday

or

Ticketmaster

www.ticketmaster.com; 1-877-750-4400

HYS programs are supported in part by awards from the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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