



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

Hawaii Youth Symphony Newsletter

...OF NOTE

Learn  Perform  Grow

Winter 2009-2010

SAVE THE DATE

Concert Orchestra Concert
Sun., Feb. 28, 2:00-3:00 pm
Windward Mall, Free

Youth Symphony II Concert
Sun., March 28, 12:00-1:00 pm
Windward Mall, Free

**SPRING CONCERT SERIES
Youth Symphony I**
Sun., April 11, 4:00 pm, FREE
Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall
Alumni /VIP reception to follow

Youth Symphony II & Concert Orchestra
Sun., April 18, 4:00 pm
Pearl City Cultural Center
\$5, general tix; kids <5 free
Please donate canned goods for the Hawaii Foodbank.

HYS Academy
Sat., April 24, 4:00 pm, FREE
Kaimuki High School Aud.,
Please donate canned goods for the Hawaii Foodbank.

Aloha Concert Luncheon
Sun., May 16, 10:30 am
Hilton Hawaiian Village

Upper Orchestra Auditions
May 22-23 and May 29-30
Applications available at HYS website, mid-March

More program information at
www.HiYouthSymphony.org




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



HYS programs are supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts, City & County of Honolulu.

Concert Plays to Memory of Ellen Masaki

Ellen Masaki was a legendary teacher, talented musician and extraordinary person. She left an indelible mark on our music community. Our HYS family was deeply saddened by her passing last September, and was honored to dedicate our Winter Concert Series to her memory. On December 6, HYS's three symphonies gathered at Blaisdell Concert Hall for a stunning Winter Concert, sponsored by the **First Hawaiian Bank Foundation** and **Aloha International Piano Festival**. More than 900 people attended the concert where 287 students from 52 schools performed. 



Emcee David Nako presented a memorial plaque to Nancy Masaki and Lisa Nakamichi

(top l) 8-year old Eugene Son performs Bach's Piano Concerto in F minor with YSI.



(top r) 14-year old Evan Lin takes a well-deserved bow after performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2. Both Evan and Eugene are winners of the 2009 Aloha International Piano Festival.



(bottom l) YSII concertmaster Justin Park's Czardas solo




(bottom r) CO takes on Dvorak's New World Symphony



Photos by Gary Arakaki

HYS Performs to Stomp Out Hunger

Aware of the disasters and calamities at home and abroad, HYS is asking its students and audiences to help take a stand for hunger. As part of the League of American Orchestras Feeding America drive, HYS is asking concert goers to donate canned goods for our neighbors in need. Last year, HYS collected over 1,000 pounds of food for the Hawaii Foodbank. Sadly, our community needs have not improved since our last food drive and we hope to collect as much, if not more, this year. Cans will be collected at our **Youth Symphony II/ Concert Orchestra concert, April 18**, at the Pearl City Cultural Center. We are also offering a **FREE HYS Academy Concert, April 24**, at **Kaimuki High School**, and ask guests to bring food in lieu of a ticket fee. Feed your soul with great music by our young people while nourishing those in need. Mahalo for your help. 

Orchestras
Feeding America

2010

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HYS Friends,

As we enter a new decade, I want to truly thank everyone who has supported this organization to not only ensure its sustainability, but also its ability to serve our community. One priority for 2010 is to strengthen our community in whatever way we can.

Our free educational Listen & Learn concerts filled in record time this season. 8,700 seats for 6 concerts by our Symphony Program were reserved in less than 2 days. We send our mahalo to **Ruth Komatsu**, music teacher at Kalihi Kai and HYS's Music4Kids, for updating and creating thoughtful materials to help teachers better prepare their students for our concerts and meet state standards. We also thank **Lance Uchida**, HYS parent, and **Lance Rae**, community volunteer, for superb emceeing. They orate, they sing (and dance, if asked) and keep our young audiences glued to their seats with smiles on their faces.

In commemoration of **HYS's 45th** anniversary and **Maestro Miyamura's 25th** anniversary, we are dedicating our YSI Spring Concert to the Musicians of the Honolulu Symphony, and will open the doors to Blaisdell Concert Hall on April 11 free of charge. We hope to fill the hall and show that there IS an audience for classical music in our islands. We believe that the future of music is bright and will be carried forth through the hard work and soaring talents of our impressive young people. But our students NEED our professional musicians as their teachers, mentors and inspiration. Please spend the afternoon with us. You will be amazed. Maestro Miyamura has compiled a diverse, community-driven program which includes Hallelujah choruses by the Oahu Choral Society; a musical tribute to **Tadashi Sato's** recently refurbished Aquarius mosaic at the State Capitol (with video presentation); a world premiere by **Jon Magnussen** (HYS86) for Hawaiian chant, chorus and orchestra; and phenomenal young pianists, winners of the Aloha International Piano Festival. Non-stop talent to bring our community together. This tribute concert, *Celebrating A Community: Today We Play, A Concert Dedicated to the Musicians of the Honolulu Symphony*, will be followed by a reception for our alumni. **CALLING ALL ALUMNI...** please mark your calendars for April 11 for this concert and reunion reception. We will be mailing formal invitations shortly. Keep an eye out.

You can always stay in tune with the HYS by clicking on our Facebook page. We also invite everyone to be a part of our community blog, the *Musical Round*, where we welcome all thoughts about music. We want to hear from you.

Finally, it is with great excitement and joy that we welcome back **Derrick Yamane** next season as our Youth Symphony II conductor. Derrick was our Concert Orchestra conductor from 1996-2005. Conductor Nakasone retires at the end of this season, leaving big shoes to fill, but we know Derrick will ensure a seamless passing of the torch and carry forth Mike's legacy.

Thank you for being a part of our community. I wish you health, happiness and great music for 2010.

Aloha,



Selena Ching



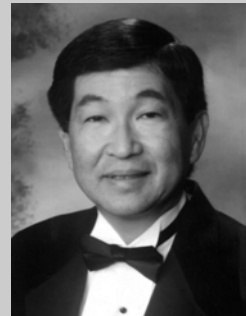
In the Spotlight

Michael Nakasone Retiring from HYS

After 20 years of tireless service to HYS and the thousands of students who have performed under his baton, Youth Symphony II conductor Mike Nakasone is retiring.

YSII Concert Parent **Joanne Hanagami** perfectly captures Mike's work style and spirit. "Having the pleasure of helping Mr. Nakasone for the past 17+ years has been a lesson in patience, dedication and appreciation. *Patience*, because Mr. Nakasone has demonstrated profound and endless patience with all the students he has worked with. I have held back from flicking a few ears because of his example. *Dedication*, because Mr. Nakasone has been keeping a 24/7 work schedule for years. He can be exhausted, but is energized when he begins to conduct. He is the original energizer bunny! *Appreciation*, because Mr. Nakasone is always the first to give credit to others when in actuality, he is the man behind the scenes. He is always thanking the students for practicing, for giving up their Sundays to be at rehearsals and for being musicians when he is the very one who is giving of his time and energy for them. What a man! I will miss him and his perpetual smile."

HYS is grateful for what Mike has given to our music programs and plans to celebrate Mike and his achievements at our 2010 Aloha Concert Luncheon on May 16 at the Hilton. Please join us to pay tribute to a man whose smile has kept the music playing. ♪



Kudos Korner



Preston Jones, YSI percussion, **Sharon Nakama**, YSII oboist are recipients of the Jose L. Romero Award which assists deserving young musicians from Maui.

YSI percussionist **Christopher Bright** was selected for the elite US Army All-American Marching Band.

Aris Doike, YSI cello, was selected to perform in the national radio show, *From the Top*, and is a Jack Kent Cooke Award recipient.

Calla Chang, YSII horn, was eloquent in an interview by CNN's John King about going to the same school as President Obama.

Two HYS students represented Hawaii at the Music Teachers National Association regionals competition: **Teresa Ou**, YSI violin, won the state Sr. string award, and **Tyler Ramos**, YSI cello, is the Jr. piano winner. **Aris Doike**, YSI cello, is the Senior string alternate and **Kiana Canicosa-Miles** is the Jr. piano Hon. Men.

The following were recognized in the HMTA state honors competition: High School (all YSI violins): **Marissa Kwong** and **Ming Tanigawa-Lau**, 1st place tie; **Katherine Lee**, 2nd place; **Iris Kuo**, 3rd place; **Romee Gaoran**, Hon. Men. Level IV: **Roy Nakamaejo**, YSI violin, and **Tyler Ramos**, YSI cello, 2nd place tie Level III: CO violins, **Brent Ramos**, 1st place; **Kyle Motoshige**, 2nd place Level I: **India Huy**, ISE violin, 3rd place.

If you know of a HYS member deserving of kudos, call 941-9706 or email admin@HiYouthSymphony.org. ♪

HYS 2nd Annual Essay Contest Winners

Congratulations to HYS essay contest winners for putting pen to paper, fingers to keys and letting their musical thoughts flow. We are pleased to share the writings of our 3 first-place winners who all give us something to think about. Our utmost appreciation goes to judges **Jake Shimabukuro**, **Tom Bingham**, UH Dean and HYS Board member and Executive Director Selena Ching for taking on the difficult task of selecting our winners. Look for these essays posted on Jake's **www.MusicIsGoodMedicine.org** website.

Category I (grades 10-12): **Ming Tanigawa-Lau**, 1st place; **Zhaotang Xu** and **Katherine Lee**, 2nd place tie

Category II (grades 7-9): **Mayumi Fernandez**, 1st place; **Skyler Sponberg**, 2nd place

Category III (grades 3-6): **Summer Corry**, 1st place; **Victoria Kong**, 2nd place

MORE THAN WORDS by *Ming Tanigawa-Lau, YSI violinist*

2009 HYS Essay Contest Winner, Category I, first place

"It's like you see a shape in the distance, and it's kind of blurry – you can't tell if it's a man or a woman. But as it gets closer it becomes a little clearer, and you can tell he's wearing a suit, and a hat. And as he gets closer, you can see he's wearing a tie, and the tie has red and white stripes on it. Then as he gets closer, you begin to see his face, and the expression on his face, then he gets even closer, and...you see he's your best friend. And you treat him with the utmost warmth and love. *That's what it's got to sound like.*"

-Mr. Miyamura, 2009

In the war torn country of Afghanistan, the culture of music has been driven out. In 2001, the New York Times quoted 16-year-old Ajmal from Jalabad saying, "We are searching for any kind of music. It's been six years since I heard music. There are no words to explain the happiness I think I will feel when I hear it." William Harvey is a 26-year-old violinist who will leave America to bring music to Afghanistan next year. He is the founder of Cultures in Harmony, a project based on the belief "that music can help bring peace to our world." Since, Cultures in Harmony has participated in dozens of missions in third world countries, collaborating with various organizations to bring joy and hope to the citizens—those to whom ideals of peace and happiness have long been lost within violence and greed. Among many things, music has the power to do just that.

Across the globe, the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra is an international phenomenon. It has been acknowledged all around the world as an outstanding symphony of young adults. Even more amazing are the roots of the organization and the students it serves. As stated by Edgar Monrroy, who plays bassoon and joined the Youth Orchestra program when he was 15, "In my neighborhood, lots of things can happen to you. Everyday you see crime, drugs. Music moves you away from that. The program moves you away. It changes your life, your vision of life." Most participants know lifestyles like Edgar's. Their lives are engulfed by inescapable poverty, danger, instability. *Él Sistema*, the Youth Orchestra Organization, provides, free of cost, instruments, lessons, friends, a lifestyle, a family—an escape. Since its establishment in 1975, *Él Sistema* has saved the lives of thousands of participants, many who go on to become professional musicians in prominent orchestras.

Every society understands that music is more than lyrical words, more than a calculated string of notes. We know this. It is more than a beat and tune, because when you hear the rhythm of the drum set, you imagine yourself on the airplane to LA where you first heard the song. It is more than rhyming words, because after you break up with your boyfriend you lie in bed listening to the same familiar playlist over and over. It is more than a baton swishing, lips to a mouthpiece, bow on string, because when the old man hears a lost song from his childhood, tears trickle slowly down the edges of his nose. We know it is more than anything humanly describable, because even Mr. Miyamura, after 25 years of trying to find the right words, must instead paint the images in our minds for us to decipher ourselves.

I believe that music brings people together. I believe that music can change lives. For me, it has taught me perseverance, diligence, discipline. It has taught me how to better see and share and love and care. It has brought me tears and laughter and a family. Ultimately, music is what has made me into the person I am today. And because of this, I believe that music has the ability to make a positive change in our world. ♪



YSII performs at Windward Mall, November 8, 2009. The 97 musicians in YSII come from 31 schools on Oahu, Maui and the Big Island.

Photo by Jim Araki



THE LANGUAGE WE SHARE

by *Mayumi Fernandez, YSII violinist*

2009 HYS Essay Contest Winner, Category II, first place

We are all very different people. We all have different interests, and we all think differently. However, there is one characteristic that most people share: a love of music. People all around the world love music because it brings us together and gives everyone a sense of unity. Music brings people together, and makes everyone feel connected. When we hear a song, we can connect, and share the feeling that the composer intended, but the music still gives us room to interpret it in our own way. Whenever we play a piece, we all have to work together to make the harmonious sound that is music.

People love music because it is an extension of who you are. Music is more than just a bunch of sounds that create an effect, you can express yourself in ways you could never do without music. Shy people, like me, can be bold and flamboyant, and individuals who are usually loud and high-spirited can use music to become peaceful and quiet. Some people use music as a type of therapy—to help them get through tough times in their lives and to help them get away from it all and enter a whole different world. Music can inspire us; help us to strive for our goals and our dreams.

When I was younger, I used to have no way of expressing how I felt or who I was. When I started playing piano and violin, I felt like I could suddenly open up and show the whole world who I really was. Being a member of the Hawaii Youth Symphony has really helped me find who I am musically. It has also helped me meet new people and explore a wide range of orchestral music. I have learned that when it comes to music, everyone is important; not one musician is more important than the other. Even though the members of the Hawaii Youth Symphony have different tastes in music, we all come together to play and express ourselves through the music. When I play with the symphony, any worries that I might have just fade away and I can focus solely on the music.

No matter where you come from, or what your nationality is, music is part of your culture. Music defines us as a country, while also giving the whole world something in common. Here in America, we listen to a wide range of genres such as pop, rhythm and blues, rock and roll, alternative, country, jazz and classical. In other parts of the world, people listen to their own types of music. Filipino music was influenced by the Spaniards and has many different genres such as Awit and Kurido (a type of musical “epic”), Sarswela (a combination of singing and acting), and Kundiman (romantic). When I went on a trip to the Philippines, I noticed that everyone there loved music. They would sing their favorite song while waiting for the bus, and play popular songs in the car. Even though they listened to different types of music than what we listen to here, they showed the same passion and enthusiasm about the music.

People from ancient Spain were the first to create Latin music which was heavily influenced by European and African music. Fast-paced Latin music makes people feel spirited and energetic while slower musical genres, such as classical music, helps people feel calm and relaxed. Even though these types of music all sound different, they have one thing in common: people connect to it, love listening to it, and love expressing themselves through it.

Music is our universal language. When it comes to music, words are not needed to be able to understand each other—we all can understand what the music conveys and we can relate to the way music makes us feel. People love music because it lets us be ourselves; music doesn't judge us, it doesn't criticize us for who we are and that's why people all around the world love it. ♪



SWEET, PEACEFUL MELODIES

by *Summer Corry, ISE violinist*

2009 HYS Essay Contest Winner, Category III, first place

Melancholy sounds roll through an audience. High notes pierce the silence of a spellbound crowd. People around the world have been changed for the better by listening to music. I play the violin, and through this I have become a better person because I can express my feelings, be more relaxed, and share something I love.

Music helps people to express their feelings. Fast fiddlers sound feelings of excitement through the concert hall. Soft soloists sing sweetly, bringing peace. Melodramatic musicians enunciate trouble; people can actually show their emotions through the music they play. Music also helps people to relax when stressed or angry. It soothes me, giving me something to think about, instead of my problems. When people dance to music, their bodies relax and flow, this brings joy. I love to sing songs or play them on the violin. Music is so beautiful.

Playing music for my family and friends helps me share a tal-

ent or hobby that I find irresistible. I invite my family to my concerts, and they support me. My teacher emailed me about HYS, and I thought it would be perfect to join. Now I can share my love of music with others at performances. I adore being able to play my violin for my relatives.

Music is a wonderful invention. It relaxes and soothes the soul. You can share it with others, and express your feelings through song. Music is everywhere, the sound of the waves, birds, insects, voices, and even the rustle of the trees. Everyone should listen to music; it will help them become better. ♪



HYS's Music in the Clubhouse offers FREE classes for young people. (l) Music4Kids general music students work on their recorders. (r) Boys & Girls Club Band students rehearse for their Winter Concert which was held at Kaimuki High School Auditorium on Dec. 12.

Photos by Music4Kids teacher Ruth Komatsu.

HYS 2008-2009 Financial Highlights for fiscal year ended June 30, 2009

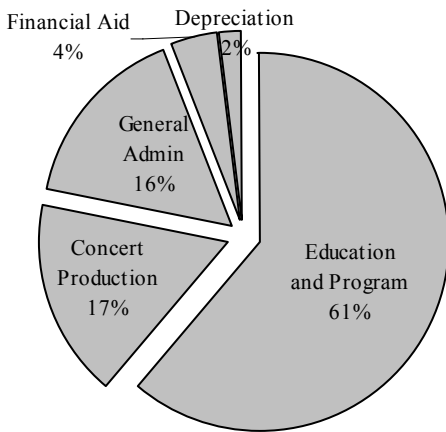
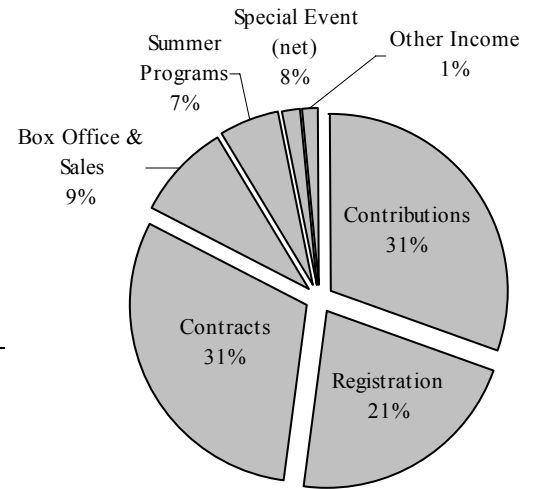
We invite you to read our full 2008-2009 Annual Report at our website, www.HiYouthSymphony.org/news_annual.htm.

Financial records have been independently audited by Gerald Y. Ushijima, CPA. A copy of the auditor's report is available for viewing at the Hawaii Youth Symphony office, 1110 University Ave., #200, Honolulu, HI 96826.

HYS served 505 students from 108 schools on four islands in FY09. An additional 10,719 students attended HYS's educational Listen & Learn concerts

REVENUES

Contributions	\$209,258
Registration Fees	145,705
Contracts	209,477
Box Office & Sales	61,345
Special Event (net)	39,213
Summer Programs	9,864
Other Income	10,181
TOTAL	\$685,043



EXPENSES

Education and Program	\$374,263
Concert Production	101,490
General Administration	96,027
Financial Aid	23,302
Depreciation	11,984
TOTAL	\$607,066

HYS distributed 89 financial assistance awards to 63 students, totaling more than \$23,000.

Willie K: Another Hit for HYS

HYS's November 15 fundraiser at the Hilton, featuring the awesome, versatile talents of **Willie K** with Youth Symphony I, outpaced last year, both in headcount and dollars. More than 800 guests raised a net of \$55,000 for HYS programs. The concert included a world premiere of Uncle Willie in a tuxedo. Vocalists **Pauline Wilson** and **Lehua Heine** rounded out a breath-taking show. HYS thanks event chair **Tina Lau** and silent auction chair **Jim Araki**. We also send our aloha to **Billy V** for his multi-lingual emceeing. A great night for HYS! Stay tuned for news about Uncle Willie's next HYS appearance! 🎵



Photos by Tom Shigetani

(l) Kaiser senior & YSI violin Clayton Chen's invocation; (m) Willie & Lehua Heine's Vivo Per Lei; (r) Willie and Pauline Wilson's Unforgettable



Stand Partners

HYS is grateful to the following major donors who have taken a stand for music and our young people. We are grateful to these partners who made significant commitments to HYS and our programs for this season.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ABC Stores | Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts |
| Aloha International Piano Festival | McInerney Foundation |
| Bank of Hawaii | National Endowment for the Arts |
| The Cades Foundation | Ritchie M. Gregory Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation |
| Cooke Foundation Limited | Robert E. Black Fund of the Hawai'i Community Fdn |
| Ms. Olivia De Jane | Ms. Keiko Sato |
| First Hawaiian Bank | Dr. Arleene Skillman |
| Foundation | Thomas J. Long Foundation |
| George Mason Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation | Jean and Kent Tsukamoto |
| John R. Halligan Charitable Fund | Dr. Mark Yoshida |
| Macy's Foundation | |



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Hawaii Youth Symphony



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Hawaii Youth Symphony

CELEBRATE 25 45 YEARS
 MAESTRO HENRY MIYAMURA '84 • HAWAII YOUTH SYMPHONY '84

Celebrating a Community: Today We Play

A concert dedicated to the Musicians of the Honolulu Symphony

YOUTH SYMPHONY I, Henry Miyamura, conductor

Sunday, April 11, 2010, 4:00 pm

Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall

FREE admission Tickets available at Blaisdell Box Office from March 22 with **Oahu Choral Society**, Esther Yoo, conductor

RACHMANINOFF Symphonic Dances (III)

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 1 (II & III)

BARTOK Piano Concerto No. 2 (III)

MAGNUSSEN, HYS '86, Ho'olaule'a (*world premiere*)

for orchestra, chorus and oli by Hālau Hula Ka No'eau

McKAY Ode to Aquarius (*world premiere*)

Tadashi Sato's mosaic at State Capitol w/ video presentation

BEETHOVEN Christ on the Mount of Olives (Maestoso)

HANDEL Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*

STEFFE Battle Hymn of the Republic

Donations to Live Music Awareness (501c3 entity), designated for the Musicians of the Honolulu Symphony, will be accepted.

This community-building concert is free to the public thanks to the generous support and sponsorships of:

ALOHA INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS, CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Willie K epitomizes a truth about most musicians in Hawaii—whatever kind of music they're best known for, they like to "stretch" – a favorite word of HYS Maestro Henry Miyamura – and explore other musical genres. And any musician will tell you that this kind of exploration and busting out is good for all musics. Willie K gets it, and he's happy to support the Hawaii Youth Symphony whether you think he listens to Shostakovich CDs or not.

At a time when the Honolulu Symphony is struggling to figure out how it can survive, it is good for all of us to remember that our children need exposure to Hawaiian music, classical music, jazz, and every other kind of music. ♪

Irish tenor that was a discrete third kind of voice. I might add that "Danny Boy" was arranged for the orchestra by Neil McKay based on a tape Willie K made on ukulele to show what his ideas were for the song, and the result was the first truly fresh arrangement of the much-performed song in many years. At this point I don't think it would surprise me if Willie K showed up one year having composed an opera.

Willie K and Lehua Heine also performed together, singing "Vivo per lei" in a McKay arrangement, and I mustn't forget some excellent performances by the Hawaii Youth Symphony itself. This orchestra is almost twice as large as most symphonies and the sound they put out is awesome.

The Hawaiian musician **Willie K** bought a tuxedo for his performance with the Hawaii Youth Symphony on Sunday evening, and made self-deprecating jokes all evening about it. But while his remarks suggested he was just a local boy who's out of place in a penguin suit, his performance showed that he may be one of the greatest musical polymaths of our time.

This is what he did. He sang opera arias in the style of Pavarotti, and produced the same piercing tenor for which Italy's greatest schoolteacher-turned-opera singer was famous. He sang "Unforgettable" with Pauline Wilson and sounded like Nat King Cole. Can two voices sound more different than Pavarotti and Cole? Then, in "Danny Boy," he produced an

Most Emphatically Not Just an Empty Tux

HOWARD DICUS, man who knows a lot about a lot, blogged about HYS's fundraiser. See full blog posted on his 11/16/09 page.