



Hawaii Youth Symphony

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Hawaii Youth Symphony Hosts Free Concert, Featuring Honolulu Symphony Concertmaster and Violinist Iggy Jang and The Honolulu Symphony Chorus

HONOLULU—The Hawaii Youth Symphony (HYS) will host a free community concert featuring award-winning artists, guest musicians and singers on April 10, 4:00 pm at the Blaisdell Concert Hall. Themed “Collaborative Collage,” the free concert will feature Hawaii’s premiere youth orchestra, Youth Symphony I, under the direction of Henry Miyamura. Other guest performers include the Honolulu Symphony Chorus and award-winning pianist Michael Stewart. Stewart recently received top honors at the Aloha International Piano Festival.

“Collaborative Collage” will also serve as the world premiere of Liu-Si, written by HYS alumnus Michael Thomas Foumai for violin soloist and Honolulu Symphony Concertmaster Iggy Jang. Jang’s performance will be accompanied by the Honolulu Symphony Chorus and the Youth Symphony.

Tickets are free but required for entry and are available through the Blaisdell Box Office, beginning March 15. Phone 591-2211, open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm except for furlough days and holidays.

“People who are not familiar with our 90-member orchestra will be amazed at the strength and musicality of our young musicians,” commented HYS Executive Director Selena Ching. “Youth Symphony I is the best of the best led by Maestro Miyamura, who works year round with these students. It’s not uncommon for Youth Symphony I to be compared to professional orchestras. These young musicians, representing 19 schools across the state, make us very proud.”

“We are grateful to the many artists who are contributing to this particular program, which we hope will appeal to a wide cross section of our community,” added HYS Music Director and YSI Conductor Henry Miyamura. “We encourage residents to come out, not only to support these talented young musicians but also enjoy an afternoon of great music by a full symphony orchestra. We’ll be playing

Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, Bach's Komm Susser Tod, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 and Piano Concerto No 1. Michael Foumai's piece is very thoughtful and exciting."

At 2:45 pm, the public is invited to attend a pre-concert chat with composer Michael Thomas Foumai and media personality and emcee Howard Dicus. At 3:15 pm, doors will open for general concert seating, with the concert starting at 4 pm. For more information call 941-9706.

HYS is able to offer this concert free to the general public as a result of a partnership with the City & County of Honolulu and support from the Gift Foundation of Hawaii, Ludwick Family Foundation and Commercial Data Systems.

The Hawaii Youth Symphony makes excellent music education available to all Hawaii youth. HYS annually serves more than 700 students, ages 5-18, from over 100 schools across the state. Curriculum, for the absolute beginner to the most advanced student musician, splits into two program areas. The *HYS Academy*, an early learning institute housed at the Boys & Girl Club, offers a full strings curriculum, a free band program, and several free general music classes. The *Symphony Program* presents three 90+-member symphony orchestras, a free chamber music program and the Pacific Music Institute (intensive summer camp for students from Hawaii, the mainland and Japan). An average of 23 performances are produced per year, including free Listen & Learn educational concerts for 14,000 school children. HYS distributes up to \$30,000 in financial aid annually for registration fees, instrument rentals and private lessons. Neighbor island students also receive travel subsidies. HYS instills in its students a drive to seek quality, a sense of achievement, substantial self-esteem, and an understanding that their music can strengthen our communities. HYS takes great pride in its students' accomplishments and will do all it can to help them *learn, perform* and *grow* through music. For more information, visit www.HiYouthSymphony.org.

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