



**Join the Celebration!**

The **25<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of **Music Director Henry Miyamura** and **HYS's 45<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

## HYS Welcomes Back All Our Alumni

HYS is creating an alumni community to reunite old friends, establish new connections, exchange ideas and secure a support network around our young musicians and our organization. It's a natural set of connections. After 45 years of serving thousands of young people with a common interest in music, formation of this alumni community is inevitable, if not long overdue.

We're continually looking for ideas and hope you'll join us in an ongoing conversation on how to make this community valuable to you. So far, we've come up with an alumni post-concert reception after Maestro Miyamura's Spring Concert at Blaisdell on April 11; a possi-

ble alumni summer orchestra; an alumni on-line bulletin board; mentoring opportunities with current students; and this newsletter. We want to develop this *Lead Sheet* into an effective networking tool where alumni can post classifieds to look for other alumni; share things about their businesses; learn about other alumni; and discover ways to volunteer, support and sustain HYS. *Lead Sheet* is currently scheduled for distribution in the fall and spring, but if you provide us with enough content, we'll run issues more frequently. We'd also like to develop a web *Lead Sheet* to complement our efforts. But we need you to help us build.

So please contact us at [alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org](mailto:alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org) and let us know what you're doing, where you are and how this HYS alumni community can help you. Also check our website and visit the alumni link (icon in upper right corner of homepage) for updates. We're just getting started and we need you to help *lead* the way.

Mahalo,,

*Ree Fox*

Richard Ing  
HYS '78, Viola  
HYS Board Secretary



Keith Sakamoto  
HYS '70, Oboe  
HYS Board Member



## *forte*

HYS believes that music education builds character and gives students the life-long skills necessary for leading successful, well-balanced lives. Our alumni have proven us right time and time again. The Forte section in each issue of our *Lead Sheet* will profile one of our many distinguished alumni who are leading the way in our communities.



David Masunaga  
HYS '75  
Oboe

## *forte*: Turning it up on HYS's *Leading Alumni*

HYS alumnus David Masunaga is too humble to say much about his accomplishments, both musically and professionally. He plays the oboe and English horn in several professional and community groups and has established a close relationship between HYS and the Oahu Civic Orchestra. In addition he has a national reputation for being an outstanding teacher and leader in mathematics education. He was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching in 1985 by then President Ronald Reagan, and in addition to his full-time work at Iolani School, he is currently director of the world's largest mathematics organization, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. He has given hundreds of lectures and seminars including those for the Council, the National Youth Science Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. He gave the world's first public lecture on Doris Duke's Shangri La estate emphasizing symmetry and form in Islamic art. He continues to work behind the scenes at HYS, most recently with a massive acquisition of sheet music, adding over 650 titles to the HYS Music Library. And even once wrote a cover article for the Mathematics Teacher journal on the mathematical relationship between a fruit flan and Schumann's *Carnava!* Turn to page 2 for an interview with one of our most interesting alumni.

1. When and why did you join HYS?

My band teacher, Mr. Edward Kanaya, told several of us (as 8th graders) of a great opportunity to play symphony repertory, and he steered us to the HYS auditions. I joined HYS's Junior Orchestra as an oboist in my 9th grade year, under Maestro Harold Higa. After an exciting eye-opening year with Mr. Higa, I was hooked for life! The following year we had only one choice of orchestra for which to audition since there was only one senior orchestra at the time, the Youth Symphony. Spots for wind players were highly competitive, but I did pass the auditions with Maestro Peter Mesrobian and made it to the last seat – the sixth chair position in oboe!

2. What were your experiences with the Hawaii Youth Symphony like?

The operation of the early decades of the Youth Symphony set the high standards for rehearsal, repertory and concerts which exist to this day. From the early years the orchestra was doing exciting tours of Oahu schools and Neighbor Island venues, bringing student talent to communities which did not have access to live symphonic music. To me HYS was also a memorable experience since it was not only a performing arts organization where you were

challenged to play at a high level, but you were also educated about music, its history and theory, and its rich traditions. Adding to that was the thrill of practicing, rehearsing and performing vaulted masterworks for the first time. I can still remember my first Brahms *Symphony #1*, Dvorak *New World Symphony* and Tchaikovsky *Symphony #5*, all under Mr. Mesrobian.

3. Describe what you are doing now and whether music helped shape your career.

The love of music and the love of making music have informed many career and interest decisions and is in part attributable to my time in HYS. This marks my 31st year of teaching mathematics, and I constantly see the influence of the music I studied in HYS in all areas of vocation and interest. In fact I have given numerous professional and educational talks on the relationships between music, mathematics and design, and how pattern and symmetries form a unifying concept between the three. Whether it be the Fibonacci relationships in plants and Bartók, Asian textiles and *cantus firmi*, periodicity in M.C. Escher and J.S. Bach, or even the rotational pattern of a fruit flan, all exhibit incredible analogs to both musical and mathematical forms. A seminar course that I teach, *Design Science*, covers these interrelationships in a study of the applications of mathematics in the visual and performing arts.

I need to say here that the efforts of thousands of volunteers and donors sustained us in the early years as it does today. Everyone gave so generously of their time and resources – during my time there was **Richard Ariyoshi, Helen and Noel Kefford, Gladys Hirano**, just to name a few. Without these “visionaries” none of us would have had our seminal experiences in music, nor would the organization have had the foresight to become what it is today.

4. How has music impacted your life and are you still involved in playing an instrument?

HYS provided the spark for many students like me who have gone on to spend the rest of our lifetimes enjoying and performing music. A number of fellow HYS-ers perform with me in the Oahu Civic Orchestra, the Kamuela Philharmonic, the UH Symphony Orchestra, the UH-Hilo Symphony, the Kona Symphony and other chamber and ensemble groups. Marvin Rabin, the legendary conductor of the Greater Boston Youth Symphony, once told us YS members that the musical experiences we garnered in high school would have a profound effect on our futures. He said that we would become musicians, symphony board members, and partakers of a vibrant arts community in Hawaii. It has become true of my life as well as the thousands of children who have gone through HYS's many programs.

## The Beat: keeping the beat with things to do

### November 15

Na Mele fundraising concert with YSI & Willie K. Alumni tables available.

Twitter  
HiYouthSymphony  
Coming soon...

Did Mr. Miyamura leave a life-time imprint on your life? Send him a message while supporting HYS. Buy a congratulatory ad in our program book(s). Or **buy an ad** to promote your business or to let people know what you're doing. Rate sheets available at HYS website.

### April 11, 2010

YSI Spring Concert, 4:00 pm, Blaisdell. Post-concert alumni reception. Bargain combo packages available for alumni.

### Facebook

Starting October 15, make HYS your friend.

## The Beat

Check out The Beat for things to do with other alumni and ways to get reacquainted with HYS. For more information, go to [www.HiYouthSymphony.org](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org). Click on the *alumni* icon at the top right corner of the homepage. That's your portal to our alumni beat. Email: [alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org](mailto:alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org)

## Classifieds

Looking for an HYS alum or something a fellow alum might have? Have something another alum may want? Email [alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org](mailto:alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org) and we'll get it in our next **Lead Sheet**.

## Alumni NoJes

**Brad Shimuzu**, '00 (oboe), and **Selena Yamamoto**, '05 (bassoon), performed as part of the Aloha International Piano Festival in a chamber group with renowned pianists Norman Krieger and Martin Canin and Honolulu Symphony members.

**Andrew Gushiken**, '02 (trumpet), got his MM at Carnegie Mellon and was checking out NEC for his performance certificate. He met up with **Randy Wong**, '99 (bass), who's on NEC faculty. They connected from information in our HYS Alumni Notes!!!!

**Daniel Kang**, '07 (bass), pre-med at Washington University in St. Louis, spent 3 months this summer studying at Yon Sei University in Seoul AND was part of a medical mission in Mongolia.

**Patrick Yim**, '08 (violin), studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music, spent his summer in Europe. He studied at the International Music Academy Pilsen, in the Czech Republic, performing works like Shostokovich String Quartet #8 and the Bach Chaconne. He detoxed from the intense summer training by traveling to Rome, Paris and London with great (in hindsight) stories to tell.

**Francis Chen**, '09 (violin), is a recipient of the highly coveted UH Regent's Scholarship, awarding him a four-year tuition waiver.

**Marissa Sakoda**, '09 (viola), auditioned for the UC Berkeley Orchestra and is seated 7th chair out of 16. Not bad for a frosh, especially one who's loving it in the East Bay.

**Jill Morita**, '05 (cello), **Michael Lim**, '07 (violin), **Asia Doike**, '08 (violin) and **Elise Timtim**, '09 (flute) were the musicians for the Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus's summer production of Na 'Uhane, written by **Herb Mahelona**, '85 (cello).

Hawaii Youth Symphony (808) 941-9706  
1110 University Ave., #200 Honolulu, HI 96826-1508  
[www.HiYouthSymphony.org](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org) [alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org](mailto:alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org)