



Hawaii Youth Symphony

Hawaii Youth Symphony Newsletter

...OF Note ♫

A TRADITION OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

Spring 2008

SAVE THE DATE

New Date

Chamber Music Finale Performance

Tues., May 20, 7:00 pm, FREE
Orvis Auditorium

Aloha Concert Luncheon

Featuring YSII and YSI. Guest Artist Marlene Sai and honoring Ellen Masaki

Sat., May 24

10:30 am registration and
More In Store

11:30 am luncheon and concert
Hilton Hawaiian Village
Tapa Ballroom

2008-2009 Season

Auditions

For Youth Symphony I & II,

Concert Orchestra

May 31-June 1: winds, percus-
sion and CO Strings

June 7-8: All other strings

University of Hawaii Music Dept.

Summer Strings Program

For beginning and intermediate
string players

June 12-July 15, M-F

St. Andrews Priory School

He Makana O Na Mele

Benefit Concert

Sun., Nov. 23, 2008

Hilton Hawaiian Village

Coral Ballroom

Program information at
www.HiYouthSymphony.org
or call 941-9706.

Students Rally and Raise Funds for Honolulu Symphony Musicians

HYS students took on a challenge that resonated far beyond the rehearsal halls. They passed the collection hat in each of their seven orchestras in support of Honolulu Symphony musicians who are not current in their pay, raising more than \$1,500 in dollars and coins. They wanted to make a statement about the positive impact that these musicians have on their lives. The collection was presented at a February 7 rally organized by students on the lawn fronting Blaisdell Concert Hall. More than 200 students from 20 plus schools came out to play music alongside Honolulu Symphony musicians and show their support for them. ♪



Top: Symphony Cents spokespersons Chara Hokama and Asia Doike, with Emily Wong, present the student collection to Symphony representatives. Above: Students play at corner of Ward Ave. and King Street. Right: Students and HSO Concertmaster Iggy Jang rally with signs they made about the Symphony. More photos on page 5.

Auditions for Symphonies: YSI, YSII, CO

If you know a student interested in playing in our statewide orchestras, encourage them to audition for one of HYS's three symphonies. Auditions are open to students born in or before 1997, and are accepted for the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, bass, flute (piccolo), oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, harp and percussion. Auditions will be held May 31-June 1 and June 7-8, at the University of Hawaii Music Department. Candidates must be pre-registered. Regular applications due May 2; late applications accepted until May 15. For applications and audition music, visit www.HiYouthSymphony.org. ♪

Summer Notes

HYS offers its **SUMMER STRING** program to students eight years and older. Instruction is available for students on the violin, viola, cello or bass by Chad Uyehara. There are two daily classes scheduled Monday through Friday, **June 12-July 15:**

Beginning Class for students with no previous experience: 1:30-2:30 pm

Intermediate Class for students with one year of string instrument experience: 3:00-4:00 pm
Classes are held at St. Andrews Priory, Music Building, 224 Queen Emma Square. The fee for the five-week session is \$185. Affordable instrument rentals available. Visit our website for more information and registration forms. Send your child on a musical journey this summer. ♪



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HYS Family,

Spring is a time of reflection and excitement. As we prepare to send off 34 graduates to the larger world of experience and music, audition applications for the 08-09 season are rolling in.

Our Aloha Concert Luncheon, the last performance of our season, is happening on May 24. Join us for an afternoon of high spirits and great music. The entertaining and talented **Marlene Sai** will grace our stage. And we are honored to recognize the extraordinary **Ellen Masaki**, teacher of thousands of piano students for more than 50 years. A music icon, she has given so much to music in Hawaii and to HYS. In lieu of a silent auction, we will pilot a country store at this year's event. If you could help with donations of small plants, homemade baked goods, crafts, or jams/jellies, please call the office.



At our April 13 Spring Concert at Blaisdell Concert Hall, **Mayor Mufi Hannemann** not only showed his support for our students by attending the event, he also pledged to continue supporting HYS with a line item in the city budget. This will allow HYS to receive ongoing funding from the City and County of Honolulu. We are grateful to the Mayor and **Michael Pili Pang**, of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts, for their commitment to the arts and Hawaii's young people. Mahalo piha!

Thanks to the generosity and foresight of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, we received grant funds for a brand strategy and communications plan, a component of our larger strategic plan. We are working with the award-winning Olomana Marketing firm which is conducting a HYS brand assessment. Thank you to those who took time to speak with the consultants. We look forward to the assessment results so we can improve service to students, families, donors and the music community.



We are pleased to present in this issue the winning essays from the 2008 Hawaii Contrabass Festival. Contest coordinator **Randy Wong**, HYS '99, and the contestants have inspired HYS to offer an annual essay contest challenging orchestra members to put pen to paper about music-related topics. The contest will debut in the fall and will include cash prizes and publication opportunities.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of **Marianne Miyamura**, wife and soul mate of Maestro Henry Miyamura. Marianne, a highly regarded pianist, provided sound counsel and unwavering support for Henry's musical pursuits, especially at HYS. She also gave generously of her time, talent and heart to music students of all caliber. She was the quiet strength behind our students and we will miss her immensely. We appreciate the many people who contributed to the Marianne Miyamura Scholarship Fund to ensure a lasting and meaningful legacy for a remarkable woman.

Thank you for supporting another season of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. Our music plays on because of you.

Aloha.

Selena Ching



In the Spotlight Super Bassists, Super Writers

This edition of In the Spotlight features thought-provoking writings by students from the 5th Biennial Hawaii Contrabass Festival who participated in the 2008 essay contest. The contest was designed by HYS and Iolani School alumnus **Randy Wong** ('99), who now works as a professional bassist in Boston and Honolulu. The competition was adjudicated by Wong, Elton Masaki, and Fumiko Wellington. Contestants were asked to write about how professional musicians contribute to the overall welfare of our society. Congratulations to the winners!

Essay by VLADIMIR BERNSTEIN, YSI, Iolani School, 10th grade

Teaching Character, Note by Note

In a successful society, each of its members contributes to its perpetuity and serves a purpose. Some people, such as construction workers or doctors or farmers, are producers or provide a service whose purpose can be easily identified. However, the role of a musician in society is less concrete and defined. Nonetheless, their purpose in society is obvious to those whose lives are directly influenced by musicians, namely students of musicians. Musicians are both entertainers and teachers who help people to develop discipline in their lives and refine their sensitivity to other people and subtleties in their world.



My bass teacher, Michael Gorman, has been a tremendous positive influence in guiding my bass studies and helping me to develop discipline. I have studied with Mr. Gorman since the summer of sixth grade, and he has since worked with me on both my solo and orchestral playing. Besides his instruction on how to play with solid tech-

(Continued on page 5, Bernstein)

Essay by CAROLYN YEE, Beg. Strings, Hanahauoli School, 5th grade Winner, junior division

Why do we need musicians?

We need musicians to entertain the community and the world. The community and the world need to be entertained so the people don't get bored and musicians can do this by playing blues, country, jazz, classical, and other types of music.



We also need musicians to help, heal and mend. For example, when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, famous musicians came to

(Continued on page 5, Yee)

Kudos Korner



Five HYS students placed among the winners at the 2008 Morning Music Club Competition, each taking home a \$1,000 scholarship award. They are cellists: **RIANA ANTHONY**, **ERIC CHAO**, **ARIS DOIKE**; **MARISSA GANEKU**, clarinet; **PATRICK YIM**, violin.

At the 2008 Mozart Festival, **MING TANIGAWA-LAU**, violin, took 2nd place in advanced strings; **NIKE HOKAMA** and **IRIS KUO**, violins, tied for winners of the Intermediate Strings and **JOHN MADRIGAL**, violin, took 2nd place in the Elementary Strings.

MING TANIGAWA-LAU, violin, was selected as Hawaii's only representative for the all-expenses paid National Symphony Orchestra program at the Kennedy Center this summer.

If you know of a HYS member who should be listed in the Kudos Korner, call 941-9706 or email admin@hiyouthsymphony.org. ↴

Spring Concert Series: Features 398 students from 4 islands and 99 schools



Photo by Tom Hisamura



YSII and YSI performed at the Blaisdell

Concert Hall on April 13. Top left: YSII orchestra; bottom left: YSI violinists; top right: Composer Michael Foumai, Sue Foumai, Liza Kaniho, Maestro Henry Miyamura, Dr. Takeo Kudo, Tom Bingham; bottom right: Mayor Mufi Hannemann presents \$5,000 check to HYS: Michael Nakasone, Michael Pili Pang, Selena Ching, Mayor Hanne-

String Program and CO held a concert at the Pearl City Cultural Center on April 20. Top left: CSO orchestra, under direction of Chad Uyehara; top right: Emcee David Nako and CO Conductor Hannah Watanabe; bottom left: Beginning Strings Ensemble; bottom right: Uchida family stands before a stately banner that dad, Lance, produced for the Concert Series

YSI Plays Out for Kauai

It's a rigorous, exhausting schedule that starts with an early Monday morning call at the airport; a plane then a bus ride direct to the Kauai War Memorial Hall; a quick Subway sandwich with chips and cookies (thanks to the **Albrecht** family on Kauai); a 2 1/2-hour rehearsal; a 1/2-hour rest at the hotel; dinner and dress for concert; back to the hall for a 2-hour concert for nearly 400 Kauai residents and visitors; pizza party; return to hotel for lights out. That's day one.

Day 2 begins with a 6:00 am wake up call; buffet breakfast; pack up and check-out; return to the concert hall for a 1-hour rehearsal with two new conductors for the only run through before that morning's Listen & Learn concert; the concert hall fills with little legs and school t-shirts; the free school concert starts at 9:30 for nearly 900 students, pre-K to 12th grade from across Kauai; the concert ends and YSI students squeeze into tiny dressing rooms to change into street clothes; pack up and clean up; hop on a bus to the Wailua River; board a river boat for a tour, complete with hula dancers, song and narratives, with bento in hand; a quick stroll to Fern Grotto; float back down the river; climb aboard another yellow school bus and head to the airport to return to Oahu by 5:00 pm, Tuesday. Phew!

Our gratitude goes to all the volunteers, chaperones and crew guys who hold the tour together, especially board members **Les Murata** and **Dan Momohara**. Thanks to the gracious and talented **Leinani Springer**, our guest artist at both concerts, and our substitute conductors **Tom Bingham** and **Michael Foumai**, HYS '05. We thank our supporters, Ellen LeClaire, Mayor Bryan Baptiste, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and The G. N. Wilcox Trust. ♫

Top row left: Leinani Springer at the evening community concert; right: clarinet section during Swing Dance, written by Neil McKay, Curtis Noborikawa III, Justin Ricafort, Marissa Ganeku, Randy Wong

Middle row left: Tom Bingham, HYS Director, conducts the Star Spangled Banner for the Listen & Learn concert; Michael Foumai works with Leinani Springer and the orchestra



Photos by Meredith Prescott and Dan Momohara

Bottom row: YSI students at Kauai's famous Fern Grotto

HYS Chamber Groups Light Up Stage

HYS chamber groups gave their first performance of the season against a stage set from Honolulu Theatre for Youth's *Maui vs. Hercules*. HYS is grateful to HTY for use of Tenney Theatre for the free recital on January 29. The chamber program, free to participants, is supported by the ACMP Foundation, and the Thomas J. Long Foundation. Free finale performance on May 20, 7:00 pm, Orvis Auditorium to include a world premier by a septet of marimba, piano, bass, flute, oboe, clarinet and viola. ♫



HSO Associate Concertmaster Claire Sakai Hazzard's quartet: Patrick Yim, Katherine Lee, violins; Marissa Sakoda, viola; Aris Doike, cello



HSO Concertmaster Iggy Jang's quartet: Chara Hokama, Asia Doike, violins; Emily Wong, viola; Jessica Choi, cello



HSO principal bassoonist Paul Barrett coaches his woodwind quintet: Anne Kwok, flute; Pamela Toshi, oboe; Yuma Otsuka, bassoon; Marissa Ganek, clarinet; Tyler Nakasone, horn



Shop til Ya Drop

Macy's Community Shopping Day is happening on June 21, 2008. For \$10 you'll receive a ticket that entitles you to up to 20% discounts on almost EVERYTHING at all Macy's Oahu stores on the 21st. 100% of the ticket proceeds will go directly to HYS programs. Enjoy special events, product samplings, beauty galas

and more! You can also enter to win a \$500 Macy's shopping spree. Pre-shopping begins June 11; you can purchase with a credit card and transactions will be processed on the 21st. Items may be picked up beginning June 21. What a great way to save while supporting music and our young people. Tickets and information available at the HYS office or www.HiYouthSymphony.org. Mahalo. ♫

Macy's Partners with HYS

Macy's Foundation distributed a \$5,000 first-time grant award to HYS for its Symphony Orchestra Program in February. Pictured at right are HYS Executive Director Selena Ching with Deena Nichols Macy's Senior VP and Director of Stores, Hawaii and Guam. ♫



Room with a View

HYS staff got front row seats from our Varsity Building offices of the Varsity Theater demolition in March. The historic building was razed in one week to make way for a parking lot. The theatre was a good neighbor that provided memories for many. We're sad to see it go. ♫



Student Essays (continued from page 2)

(Bernstein, continued)

nique and appropriate style, his positive encouragement and kind but persistent critiquing of my playing has pushed me to truly refine my skills. As his student, I feel that I need to both meet his expectations of me and raise my own expectations of myself. In doing so, I have found that my practice and attitude when playing has become more focused as I become more serious in my studies. Mr. Gorman's influence in my musical career has strengthened my self-discipline, which I feel extends beyond playing the bass. Not only do I try to do my best during practice, but I apply the same work ethic in school. Since I have started to seriously practice my bass, I have noticed a similar dedicated approach to writing English papers or studying for Chemistry exams. Mr. Gorman is a great musician in my life that has helped me to become a more disciplined person.

Another musician that deeply affected my life is my first piano teacher, Joanna Fan. Piano was my first musical instrument, and I began learning when I was about eight years old. Because of her teaching style, she drilled me with many challenging pieces and forced me to learn all of my scales and chord progressions early on. Mrs. Fan was a very strict teacher and was often harsh with her criticism, which eventually caused me to stop taking lessons. A few years after I quit, I learned in my maturity that the reason she was so strict in her teaching was because of the strong love she had for her instrument and her students. In China during World War II, her family would starve just so that she could get lessons. This taught her to appreciate piano and she then dedicated her life to helping others to find the same appreciation. Her story was very inspiring to me and since then I have reflected on why I quit piano. I realize that although my lessons were painful at the time, everything Mrs. Fan tried to teach me was out of love. Now, I try to understand people and be more sensitive to their background and personality. When playing music with others, I try to be aware of how they play and adjust to their sound, just as I try to adjust to a person's personality in social settings. Mrs. Fan taught me how to try to understand and be patient with both musicians and non-musicians.

In my life, musicians have been a tremendous influence on me in their teachings. I enjoy making music because I love becoming



part of a larger and more beautiful movement than I could ever create by myself. My music teachers have assisted my growth to become a better musician, but also to become a better person. Mr. Gorman and Mrs. Fan are wonderful people whose purpose thus far has been to teach me discipline and sensitivity. Musicians should use the gift of their abilities and their music to teach as many people as possible how to be better individuals. ♪

(Yee, continued)

New Orleans and entertained the people and many people were healed or helped through the natural disaster.

Musicians who can help people have different feelings through pieces of music that they write. Musicians can help people feel calm through classical music and meditative music, or happy through jazz and silly songs.

For me, this is why we need musicians.

What makes a professional musician?

To be a professional musician, you need to have devotion to your music and instrument. What I mean by that is that a professional musician must practice everyday, know when to be serious and funny about their work, and take care of their instrument, besides the obvious of getting paid.

I find also that professional musicians have two jobs, whether or not they are both musical. For example, one person might do teaching and symphony for their job.

I admire professional musicians because it is so hard to make a living with all the competition everywhere. My dad said "it is a difficult but a rewarding life" and I agree to that. ♪



Music is an important aspect of society . . . The learning process requires students to learn time management, learn about instruments, and how to play with others. To make music happen, parents, teachers, and students must work together.

—excerpt from essay by Jaya Lovington, YSI,
Kaiser High School, 12th grade

Let the Music Play On... (Rally photos continued from page 1)



Upper Left: Sign-holders lined up on King Street as cars honked in support of musicians; Lower Left: CSO concertmaster Matthew Uchida, 5th grade, plays to support the Symphony musicians; Above: Symphony musicians and students played excerpts from Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik led by HSO concertmaster Iggy Jang and YSI concertmaster Asia Doike on Blaisdell's lawn



Aloha Concert Luncheon with Marlene Sai

Honoring Ellen Masaki Saturday, May 24, Hilton Hawaiian Village

Hawaii Youth Symphony will close its 2007-2008 season in legendary style with vocalist **Marlene Sai** as our guest artist. The entertaining and incredible Sai will join YSI on stage with musical classics such as Sunset, her famous This is Hawai'i/Hawai'i Aloha and Ha'aheo. YSII will also perform and HYS will recognize 34 graduating seniors. HYS is honored to pay tribute to **Ellen Masaki**, piano extraordinaire, who has shared her talents with thousands of students over a teaching career that spans more than 50 years.



The afternoon of music will include a country store, luncheon and what promises to be a very memorable concert. This is not a fundraiser for HYS. It is a family day that recognizes the accomplishments of the past year and the dedication of Hawaii's music community. Proceeds from the store will help to defray the cost for the event. Donations of homemade baked goods, jellies/jams, hand-made crafts or plants for the store would be greatly appreciated. Call the HYS office to find out how you can help. Tickets are \$45 per seat or \$430 for a table of 10. Call the HYS office today at 941-9706 or visit www.HiYouthSymphony.org to download an order form. You won't want miss this show! ♫

Napa's Judd's Hill Wine Dinner to benefit HYS

Saturday, July 26, 5:00-9:00 pm, HASR Wine Co., Chinatown



JUDD'S HILL

HYS is honored to be the beneficiary of a very special event sponsored by Judd's Hill and HASR Wine Co.

Guests will be treated to exceptional wines from Judd's Hill boutique winery in Napa Valley with Hawaiian style food and entertainment by the legendary Eddie Kamae and the Sons of Hawaii. All current releases of Judd's Hill will be available. The Finkelstein family, Judd's Hill proprietors and winemakers for more than 30 years, will be celebrating the first birthday of Talulah Finkelstein, and invite everyone to join in the merriment. Tickets are \$75 for dinner and entertainment. All proceeds will benefit the Hawaii Youth Symphony. HASR Wine Co. is a quaint, fine wine store specializing in California wines. Mahalo to Alan Okami, Judd Finkelstein and Terry Kakazu for giving HYS this fine wine opportunity. For tickets, please call 535-WINE (9463).



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