



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

Hawaii Youth Symphony Newsletter

...OF NOTE

Learn  Perform  Grow

Winter 2008-2009

SAVE THE DATE

Chamber Ensemble Recital
Tues., January 27, 7:00 pm
Orvis Auditorium, Free

Maui Concerts
Maui Arts & Cultural Center

Youth Symphony I
Community Concert, Free
with Willie K!

Mon., February 16, 7:00 pm
School Concerts, Free
Tues., Feb. 17, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Concert Orchestra Concert
Sun., March 1, 2:00-3:00 pm
Windward Mall, Free

**Youth Symphony II
Concert**
Sun., March 15, 12:00-1:00 pm
Kahala Mall, Free

SPRING CONCERT SERIES
Youth Symphony I
Sun., April 19, 4:00 pm
Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall

**Youth Symphony II &
Concert Orchestra**
Sun., April 26, 4:00 pm
Pearl City Cultural Center

HYS Academy
Sat., May 2, 3:00 pm
Kaimuki High School Aud.

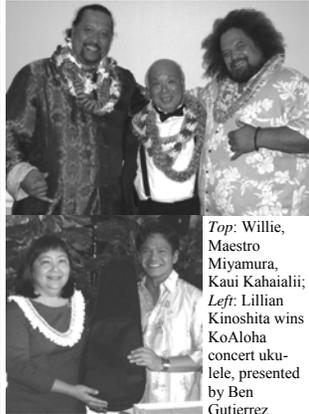
Mother's Day YSI Concert
Sun., May 10, 3:00 pm
Star of the Sea Church

Aloha Concert Luncheon
With guest **Karen Keawehawaii**
Sat., May 17, 10:30 am
Hilton Hawaiian Village

Upper Orchestra Auditions
May 30-31 and June 6-7
Applications available at HYS
website, mid-March

More program information at
www.HiYouthSymphony.org

Willie K Nails Operatic Debut with HYS



Top: Willie, Maestro Miyamura, Kauli Kahaialii; Left: Lillian Kinoshita wins KoAloha concert ukulele, presented by Ben Gutierrez

Uncle Willie K is not only fun to be around, on November 23 at HYS's Na Mele benefit, he proved he is an operatic force. With more than 710 people at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Willie K showed, without doubt, he is Hawaii's home-grown Pavarotti. Singing with the Youth Symphony I orchestra, Willie effortlessly pulled out tenor favorites *O Sole Mio*, *Nessun Dorma* and Pavarotti's own *Mamma*. He performed his signature work, *O Holy Night*, and debuted a most sensitive and soulful rendition of *O Danny Boy*, beautifully arranged by Dr. Neil McKay.

Willie's talents were matched brilliantly by Youth Symphony I which performed an insightful interpretation of Jules Massenet's *Meditation from "Thais,"* featuring 8 violinists who played with precision and maturity well beyond their ages. The evening was not only an artistic achievement for HYS, it also raised nearly \$50,000 for its music education programs. Our heartfelt thanks extend to the **Kahaialii family**, event chair **Tina Lau**, silent auction chair and HYS parent **Jim Araki** and especially to volunteer emcee **Stephanie Lum**, and all the guests who contributed to one of HYS's most exciting musical evenings. 

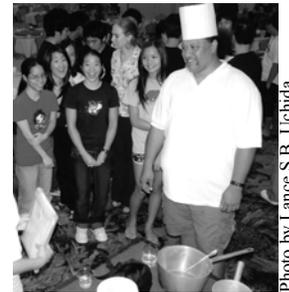


Photo by Lance S.B. Uchida

HOWARD DICUS of *KGMB9* posted to his November 24 blog the following post-concert reflections. We thank him for allowing us to share this insightful and thought-provoking writing.



Willie K Aces His Recital

Willie Kahaialii performed with the Hawaii Youth Symphony on Sunday night and sang opera arias with as much mana as Luciano Pavarotti in a concert that he described as being like his recital.

Willie K is a big man and his voice box has power to spare, but he can also rein it in when the words call for it, and I can't recall ever hearing either "O sole mio" or "Danny Boy" sung with more connection to the actual meaning of the lyrics. I would like to hear him sing "In the Still of the Night," or "Someone to Watch Over Me."

A fellow like me who rises at 2 a.m. and sleeps in shifts "doesn't get out much," and I had somehow escaped learning that Willie sang jazz until he performed a scat tune of his own invention inspired by Ella Fitzgerald. What I hadn't known was that he was exposed to jazz from childhood (he wrote the scatting song as a teen).

The Hawaii Youth Symphony and the Honolulu Symphony are of fundamental importance to our musical community. Listeners can classify music as Hawaiian or reggae or rock or classical or jazz but musicians never confuse classifications with boundaries and are invariably enriched by reaching out beyond whichever kind of music pays their rent.

Orchestral music is the place where all musics meet. It is the oral history of music and the common language of the universal languages. The future of Hawaiian music, rock, country, hip-hop, jazz and any other musical niche you can name will be impoverished by the disappearance of our symphonies, and both orchestras are in need of support in a slowing economy that can make charitable fundraising dicey.

Musical education and a thriving, cross-pollenating musical culture are important anywhere, but nowhere more than Hawaii, an epicenter of multi-faceted musical talent. This is a priceless human resource that enriches us, entertains us, and brings us together. 

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HYS Friends,

Happy 2009! Amidst the non-stop news about our worsening economy, we decided to only briefly spend time on HYS's financial standing and focus this issue on the HYS people and gifts that give us hope for our future and will help us weather this economic cycle.

HYS is suffering from decreased revenue streams—in all sectors. Thanks to a few exceptional gifts received before the economic collapse, we expect to make it through the 08-09 fiscal year. However, with the slump in giving over the past four months, and the ongoing losses we predict for at least the next year, we are assuming a deficit budget for 09-10. We are doing all we can to find new income sources and cut expenses without jeopardizing core programs or eliminating staff. But it hasn't been easy, given how leanly we already operate. We are approaching our work with added creativity, and continually searching for ideas that will ease our survival. With so much uncertainty, plans are continually changing. We know it will get tougher before it gets better, but we are counting on HYS's incredible network of support to help us through these extraordinary times. We are stretching each dollar as far as possible, and are grateful for every penny that rolls in.

We will keep you posted on our financial well-being but will direct the remainder of this issue to the people who comprise our HYS family and their achievements. This newsletter is packed with writings and thoughts that I hope you will find inspiring. Great minds have contributed to this issue, including the brilliant **Howard Dicus**, creative genius **Edgy Lee** and the winning voices of our first annual essay contest. I hope you will enjoy what they have to say. It's a lot of type but we thought readings that lift the spirit and cause us to consider the wonders of music might be especially welcome now-a-days.

I'm also proud to be rolling out our first Alumni Notes column; the HYS coconut wireless. We are grateful that our alumni set such a firm foundation for HYS. We know there are a lot of you out there with great accomplishments and we'd like to share your milestones with other HYSers. Please write in and send photos about yourself and others.

Although 2008 was a good year for HYS, we also endured the loss of two extraordinary music people who gave unselfishly and unflinchingly to our organization. We celebrate and reflect upon the well-lived lives of **Marianne Miyamura**, pianist extraordinaire and soul mate of our Music Director Henry Miyamura, and **Harold Higa**, visionary and founder of the HYS String program. Both were compassionate teachers who greatly contributed to our music community, and whose spirits live on through our music.

We thank you for your support that keeps our doors open and the music playing in our classrooms. Wishing you a healthy and very happy 2009.

Aloha,



Selena Ching



In the Spotlight

HYS is honored to spotlight one of its most successful alumni, a nationally recognized artist and filmmaker. We thank her for taking the time to share pieces of her life and insights on how music impacts her work. This will be the first of an ongoing series of alumni profiles. We are grateful to our alumni who have built the foundations of today's HYS.



Edgy Lee, HYS '69

What you are doing now and how music helped to shape your career?

I'm continuing to produce and direct and now I'm involved in a major Internet television network of 9 Channels with programming produced in Hawaii and broadcasting throughout the world. It's like having all the

Discovery and History Channels rolled into one with a different slant on local news, add KGMB9's library of vintage TV shows, Hawaii Public Radio and other media partners, make it interactive so you, the audience, participate and that's **PacificNetwork.tv**.

Nothing like this anywhere.

Did music have anything to do with my career as a filmmaker and founding a production driven high tech start up? Absolutely. I began playing piano at the age of 4 and later studied violin. When other kids spent their weekends surfing, hiking, going to the mall, I was at HYS rehearsals every Saturday and practicing both instruments daily in between my homework. I am certain that this kind of discipline led me to understand the process of creativity. It might take hours and hours that can turn into years but if you have a vision or you can hear what you want your fingers to express with a modicum of talent and a lot of hard work you'll get there.

What were your experiences with HYS?

Some of the kids I met at HYS were part of a group that traveled to Russia when the Soviet Union was under strict communist rule. When we landed in Moscow they sent all the adults to Leningrad. It was a quiet diplomatic incident, but what did we know? The people were very poor but they loved music. They knew classic symphonies as if they were pop songs. They wanted ball point pens and Beatles records that sold on the black market. I'd love to see **Patti Horio**, the **Bechtel** kids (all of them such great players) the **deNeeve** kids, and Yvonne Elliman who wasn't in HYS with us but we all sang together in a group and performed on Russia radio. Yvonne and I are in touch and she gave us an incredible interview for **PacificNetwork.tv**. What a career she has had.

Why did you join HYS?

It was a natural progression. To play with young players who were the best of the best is very encouraging. Not all of us who wear glasses and play classical instruments are nerds. We just have the ability to step in and out of a world that is timeless and where you'd most often find adults not kids.

How has music impacted you and do you still play an instrument?

Music is always in my life. I shipped my baby grand here when I moved to Hawaii. It belonged to Stephen Bishop the singer/songwriter so it had a brightness like a pop writer would like and

(Continued on page 4)

Winter Concert Series: December 7-14, 8 concerts

The music was flowing non-stop at the end of 2008 as HYS classes and orchestras showcased what they learned in a series of 8 concerts which included the Symphony Program at Blaisdell Concert Hall on 12/7; Six Listen & Learn educational concerts for nearly 9,000 school children the week of 12/8; and culminating in a full-house Academy concert at the Pearl City Cultural Center on 12/14. It was a great way to bring in the holiday season. Our thanks go to the nearly 80 volunteers who helped us at these concerts! 🎵



Above: The Boys & Girls Club band made its debut at the HYS Academy Winter Concert. It's a free program. Wayne Fanning conductor. Left: Roy Nakamaejo, YSII Concertmaster violin solo

YSI Offers Free Maui Concerts with Willie K



Youth Symphony I travels back to Maui to perform a free community concert with Willie K on **February 16, 7:00 pm** at the Maui Arts & Culture Center.

Eight students from the Maui Youth Philharmonic Orchestra will join the orchestra on stage. There are no tickets for this concert and doors open at 6:30 pm. Tell everyone you know on the Valley Isle, it's a concert they won't want to miss.

Two educational concerts follow the next morning, February 17, where the orchestra and Willie will team up again with a modified program that teaches young children about music fundamentals and instrument families with sing-a-longs and demonstrations. School concerts are by reservation only through the MACC. We look forward to bringing this exciting series of music to Maui, and thank Uncle Willie for donating his time and incredible talents for these concerts. For information, visit our website. 🎵

Kudos Korner



Katherine Kaneshiro, YSI violist, was the youngest semi-finalist in Hawaii Public Radio's 11th Art Song Festival.

YSI violist **Marissa Sakoda** is Hawaii Junior Miss 2nd runner-up. She took home more than \$4,000 in scholarships for scholastics, interview and talent.

CO violinist **Mayumi Fernandez** sang the national anthem and Hawaii Ponoï at Wahine games at Stan Sherriff Center in Sept. and Nov.

Nickolas Ha, YSI trumpet, was one of 16 trumpeters, nationwide, chosen to play in the US Army All-American Marching Band

Kudos to these National Merit Semifinalists and YSiers: **Lianne Ho**, **Lucia Mocz**, **Celia Ou**, **Jeffrey Sakamoto** and **Elise Timtim**.

Two HYS students will represent Hawaii at the Music Teachers National Association regionals competition: **Iris Kuo**, violin, won the state Junior String award, and **Evan Lin**, violin, is the Junior piano winner. **Riana Anthony**, cello, is the Senior String alternate.

The following were recognized in the MTNA state honors competition: **Level III: Brent Ramos**, violin, 2nd pl., **Kiana Canicosa-Miles**, cello, hon. men. for piano; **Level IV: Jason Rhodes**, violin, 1st pl. tie; **Blaise Tesoro**, violin, 2nd place; **High School: Celia Ou** and **Ming Tanigawa-Lau**, violins, 1st place tie; **Aris Doike**, cello, 2nd place; **Taylor Yasui**, cello, 3rd place.

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

(In the Spotlight, continued from page 2)

in this weather it worked even better. I still have my violin but don't practice so I'm not very good. But you may laugh, I'm fascinated with the harmonica and trying to learn how to master it. You can take it anywhere and if you've ever heard Toots

Thielemans you'll understand the possibilities.

Edgy Lee

My mother is a mezzo soprano who studied voice at Juilliard and she sang in French, Italian and German. My dad played by ear, any instrument he picked up,

and he played well. My sisters played piano and cello and we grew up with music all our lives. It's part of our family ritual to perform and sing around the piano during holidays and parties.

When I was in LA I knew directors, producers, and some film composers. My godfather was also one of the industry's finest film composers. But he composed for MGM during a time when a film score was paramount to making a picture. I learned a lot from him. Music in his day was recorded on a live stage with an 80 piece orchestra and if you didn't get it right you did it over and over again. No digital help back then.

Since directors aren't necessarily musical, and songwriters who are great pop artists can't necessarily score a picture it's a totally different kind of movie making. I absorbed as much as I could in LA and looked at some of the best directors and at classic films. Spielberg works with John Williams, Fellini worked with Nino Rota, and one of the greatest modern composers, Ennio Morricone, scored Sergio Leone westerns to Cinema Paradiso. Music can make a mediocre film 100 times better. Music brings people to tears. As a producer/director I always consider music as a 3rd element, like another lead actor.

I'm reading about string theory. To understand the physics of music is so inspiring because when you're a child you don't know nor care to understand any of the theory behind why something works. How a cello creates such a resonant sound or how a bassoon works or why certain pieces of music are timeless. You just know that music is the ultimate form of self-expression even when you're playing someone else's compositions. Music will always be a very important part of my life. I can't imagine otherwise. ♪



Giving to HYS

Help HYS continue its tradition of musical excellence, and make high-quality music programs available to all of Hawaii's children. Call (808)941-9706, visit our website for easy on-line giving: www.HiYouthSymphony.org or send a gift made payable to:

HYS
1110 University Avenue, Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96826-1508

HYS also accepts gifts of stock and would be pleased to discuss estate planning with you. Mahalo.

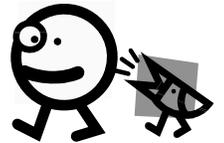
HYS Alumni Notes

Dear HYS Alumni: We know there are a lot of you out there and we want to get back in touch. Look for an alumni column in upcoming newsletters to see what other folks with a love of music are up to. If you'd like to share news about what you're doing or know of interesting tidbits about other alumni, contact HYS at 808-941-9706 or alumni@HiYouthSymphony.org.

We know there are quite a few of you who continue to play your instruments in various ensembles. Five alums, representing 5 generations, could be seen among the ranks of the 61-piece Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra (KPO: www.kamuelaphil.com) in a January 11 standing-room only concert: **Ron Hirai '62** (clarinet), **Susan Hee McGovern '66** (viola), **David Masunaga '75** (oboe), **Gary Yap '84** (viola), and **Chanel Nakamura '03** (horn).

From the 70s

Joan Doike '76 (violin) moved to Indiana with her two talented, violin-playing daughters, both HYS members. Joan is teaching violin at IU. Her older daughter, **Zoë**, started her first year at Curtis Institute while her younger daughter, **Ren**, can be heard on an upcoming *From the Top* (both sisters are show veterans) and is the recipient of a \$10k Jack Kent Cooke Award.



More on **Dave Masunaga '75**, who teaches at Iolani School. He was recently appointed as a director of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics which sets math curriculum nationwide. He also runs workshops on the applications of mathematics including textile design work for the Textile Society of America, and is a former Teacher-in-Residence at the Doris Duke Shangri La Estate.

On Maui **Iolani Yamashiro '78** (violin) founded the Maui Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and the Maui Youth Philharmonic Junior String Orchestra. Joining her as a director is HYS's good friend, **Lance Jo**. Maui's own **Kurt Muroki '90** (bass), Lincoln Center Chamber Ensemble member and Juilliard bass teacher sits on Iolani's MYPO advisory board.

From the 80s:

Susan Ochi-Onishi (oboe) is busy as ever as HYS's CO conductor, Kaimuki Middle's Band Director, one of the best private oboe instructors and mother of 2 budding musicians.

Composer **Jon Magnussen '86** (violin) will have a work performed at the Kennedy Center as part of the festivities leading up to this year's historic inauguration in D.C. Jon, with a masters and doctorate from Juilliard, spent 7 years as the artist-in-residence at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He's been commissioned by ABT, Symphony San Jose Silicon Valley, Limon Dance Co., D.C.'s Shakespeare Theatre, among others. Finally home, Jon is the Education Director for the Honolulu Symphony.

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Congratulations to HYS Essay Contest Winners!

Anticipating that its students had as much, if not more, to say outside the rehearsal halls as within, HYS launched its first essay contest this past fall. The response to our call for entries was considerable. More than 20 entrants submitted essays that were thoughtful and articulated how important music is to our students. This newsletter includes the 1st-place winning essays in our three categories. Thanks to our three judges, HYS board member and UH Dean of Arts and Humanities Tom Bingham, HYS alumnus and NEC Music Educator Randy Wong '99 and HYS Executive Director Selena Ching. Congratulations to all our winners!

Category I (grades 10-12): **TERESA OU**, 1st place. **ZOE GILMOUR**, 2nd place.

Category II (grades 7-9): **ZHAOTONG XU**, 1st place. **MAYUMI FERNANDEZ**, 2nd place.

Category III (grades 3-6): 1st place tie between **LARISSA HOOPAI** and **EVAN LIU**.



WHEN FACES SPEAK by *Teresa Ou, YSI violinist*

2008 HYS Essay Contest Winner, Category I, first place

I studied the posters of famous musicians plastered all over the school orchestra room whenever I lost focus. The Juilliard String Quartet, Kyung Wha Chung, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and many others, the faces of many of the formidable names that will still be remembered decades from now (perhaps even centuries) seemed to stare down at us. Their presence reminded us of what we could achieve as musicians with relatively young, fresh experience and the vast possibilities that we had yet to explore in music. Against the dreary walls and the mess of photos, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg stood out... what a name. I always remembered her as the musician in that elegant black dress holding her violin at a perfectly photogenic angle, though that is not what put her picture on the wall.

At the mention of the word "musician," our minds immediately turn to all of the "greats" in the world of classical music, such as Placido Domingo, Jascha Heifetz, Vladimir Horowitz, and Mstislav Rostropovich, those whose faces will be plastered up in orchestra rooms all over the world. Although dictionaries define the word "musician" as a person who performs, conducts, or composes music, often as a profession, a musician need not be one who plays music for a career.

Playing an instrument with finesse that all musicians yearn for requires dedication as well as years of training, since the technical aspects of playing music are not natural human instincts. No one was born playing the cello with the bow parallel to the bridge nor do musicians always play with perfect rhythm when it is demanded. Although some people, such as child prodigies, have the fortune of "picking it up" quickly, most people are not blessed with such a gift. Thus, a person's love and passion for music drive him or her in working to attain the technical ability required to fluidly express oneself through music, which creates a successful musician.

Musicians must also unearth their courage and find the audacity to put themselves in front of an audience, not just physically, but emotionally as well. Performing can be likened to laying one's soul bare to fellow human beings, open to scrutiny. Although playing an instrument is an unnatural, man-made action, the music reflects the performer's genuine emotions and evokes in the audience an array of emotions.

A true musician must possess the technical ability needed to convey a message to an audience, but must also find the means to express their own emotions, rather than the stock emotions taught by a teacher.

My favorite violinist, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, exemplifies the qualities of such a musician. She started out as the typical child prodigy that all other musicians envy. A few years after her debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra, she went on to study with Dorothy DeLay at Juilliard. However, during her late teen years, she began to suffer a lack of confidence. Pieces she had played with ease as a child began to seem hopelessly difficult, and she had difficulty playing a G major scale. She feared that she might try her best and then still fail to make a career as a violinist despite the high odds stacked in her favor.

She began to show up for her lessons without her violin, and instead, she and DeLay discussed her fears and her life. For seven months, Salerno-Sonnenberg did not touch her violin. Over time, her friend Cecile Licad and DeLay helped bring her to realize that she should go on with her life and strive for the best despite the possibility of failure. Making it clear that Salerno-Sonnenberg should not put her talents to waste, DeLay threatened her, "If you don't bring your violin next week, I'm throwing you out of my class," while Licad advised her not to lose hope (Sand 215).

Salerno-Sonnenberg decided to enter the Naumburg Competition in 1981 to prove to herself that she was capable as a musician and as a person. With only two months to prepare for the upcoming competition, she practiced intensely for as much as thirteen hours a day. Since her childhood, she had always been persistently stubborn with the ability to concentrate intensely. Despite all of her disadvantages, Salerno-Sonnenberg's dedication prevailed and she won the Naumburg Competition. Her preparation for the Naumburg Competition proved to be a turning point for her life; without her strong work ethic, her successful career as a professional musician may not have materialized.

The vast majority of people believe classical orchestral music to be useless, serving no practical purpose in society. However, orchestral music offers a wide range of musical expression not found in chamber music, solo works, or popular music, and it occupies a large role in our music community. Orchestral music enriches our lives, because what purpose could music serve, if it were only for the musician's own selfish enjoyment? Musicians are remembered for the gifts they bring to humankind, their artistry and inspiration reaching beyond their years: classical music shall live on – much, much longer than the faces and posters. ♪



THE RHAPSODY OF THE UNIVERSE, by Zhaotong Xu, CO violinist

2008 HYS Essay Contest Winner, Category II, first place

Music cannot be defined by a few paltry words. It is an assortment of different notes, which are bent and shaped by the composer to create a piece of unsurpassable beauty that captivates the ear. Our everyday life is filled with the sound of music. In the morning, students sing the school alma mater. In the afternoon, we make music in orchestra and in chorus. At night, many people like to do their homework while listening to music on their ipods. Music means so much in our lives, yet we sometimes don't realize how important it really is. Music has become so common in our lives that we seldom notice it anymore. We don't stop to think about the deeper meaning within each piece of music. I've taken up an instrument for over four years and I find that I still have much to learn about music.

What is a musician? Well, according to the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, a musician is "a composer, conductor or a performer of music." While I think this definition is accurate, I also believe that a musician is a person who has a passion for music and has the potential to produce music. Most musicians are performers, but I don't think it is necessary for a person to play an instrument to be a musician. However, someone who plays an instrument just because they have to is not a musician. It won't sound very musical if the performer plays without feeling. A musician is a person who feels connected to the music. Musicians must be able to put their feelings into the music they are producing so that the music will burst forth, and in turn, move the audience. A musician has to be able to fall in love with the music and put his or her heart into it.

Playing an instrument impacts many aspects of a person's life. It has been proven that music helps make the brain more relaxed and alert. Barbara Pytel states that in one elementary school, ninety-six first grade students were exposed to a music program for seven months.

Before the program, the students took a standardized test. The majority of the students were receiving average scores. After seven months, the students were tested again and results showed that their test scores have improved significantly. I have also noticed that people who play an instrument are better in math and language. The article "Music for Your Brain Health?" states that scientists kept track of children who have music lessons. Their results showed that over a few months, the children's IQ scores rose up several points. Playing an instrument can give musicians better hearing, because musician need good ears in order to differentiate the differences between two notes. Musicians can also read books better and faster, because sight-reading allows them to be able to swiftly read the notes correctly and play them. Musicians' arms and fingers are probably more agile because a musician needs fast fingers in order to play a fast piece.

Music has also impacted my own life. I found that ever since I've started to play the violin, I've been better at math. The tedious fraction problems started to make sense and troubled me no more. In addition, my reading skills improved. I was able to concentrate more fully on the text and finish reading and fully comprehend it in a shorter amount of time than before. Playing an instrument sure has impacted my life!

Music has stood the test of time simply because music is an undeniable part of our lives. It can make us feel calm, sorrowful, joyful, or unwell. It is present in everything in this world, not just in the sounds created by instruments. The sound of running water can be described as music, and so can the song of a bird, and the wind in the trees. We are surrounded by music, for music brings out the life of everything in this universe. ♪

(Alumni Notes, continued from page 4)

Herbert Mahelona '85 (cello) is also composing. One of his operas was recently heard on KTUH.

From the 90s

Chad Ueyhara '93 (violin) has been conducting with HYS for the past three years and is the orchestra director at St. Andrew's Priory. When he's not teaching music, he's doing triathalons (Tinman and Honolulu). He recently attended a fiddling workshop in San Diego and has been studying Mandarin, French and Italian with travel to all those countries.

Katherine Masaki '94 (viola), also recently married, is now one of our own orthodontists.

Stefanie Anderson '95 (cello), long-time HYS coach and strings teacher married fellow HYS alumnus **Isaac Lawton** '97 (cello) in August. They started in Beginning Strings together and followed each other through YSI.

Hannah Watanabe '96 (violin) has been conducting HYS's CO for the past 3 seasons and is the orchestra director at Moanalua Middle. She's busy with her 1.5 year-old son, Toby.

Jessica Nguyen '99 (violin) will be graduating from USC School of Dentistry in May.

Randy Wong '99 (bass) also got hitched right after the new year to Helen Liu, a violinist, who rivals Randy's bass playing. Both are professional musicians in the Boston area and coaches for HYS's PMI. They met at Tanglewood. Sited at their nuptials were **Karen Bechtel** (cello), **Fumiko Wellington** '70 (violin), **Justin Ebisu** '75 (clarinet), **Ira Wong** '78 (percussion) **David Hamano** '95 (viola), emcee **Geoff Au** '97 (viola), groomsman **Abe Lagrimas** '01 (percussion), HYS '98ers **Beth Tamayose** (cello), **Jeff Hamano** (cello), **Kenin Coloma** (flute), **Sarah Mordan-McCombs** '99 (cello), **Jolene Muneno** '99 (clarinet). The flower girl was once HYS bassist **Carolyn Yee**. Randy will

(Continued on page 7)



Academy's String Program held a workshop in October at UH Music School with special sectionals and opportunities for beginning students and families to observe YSI's rehearsal.



THE SIMPLE GIFT OF HYS

by **Larissa Hoopai, CSO cellist**
2008 HYS Essay Contest Winner,
Category III, first place tie

Why do I like orchestral music? Do I have a favorite piece? For starters, whenever I listen to an orchestra, I am able to see the music (in my imagination) and hear the different types of instruments playing in harmony as well as the melody. Sometimes the music is exciting and quick, other times the music is soothing and slow. The exciting and fast moving parts are full of fortes and fortissimos, as in scherzo, which makes my heart beat fast! On the other hand, when the orchestra plays in “piano” or slow arrangements, I hear the string musicians play gracefully with much vibrato, creating such a sweet sound. I also like it when the orchestra reaches a breathing point. That’s when they stop suddenly, pause, then play together loudly. It’s called a fermata. Whether fast pace or slow, in orchestral music, the musical sound is so beautiful and clear, blending so well together.

I am in the Concert String Orchestra, (CSO) as a cellist. My favorite piece of music is “Simple Gifts”. This song gives me the opportunity to use vibrato and long bows. The tone really “rings” as our section plays together. Whether playing harmony or melody, when we are all hitting the right note, this song is very majestic and pretty.

These are my reasons for liking orchestral music and choosing simple gifts as my favorite piece. I hope to continue to progress to higher and higher levels in the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I love orchestral music! ♪

(Alumni Notes, continued from page 6)

be playing at the DC inaugural Aloha Ball.

From the 00s

Zach Morita '03 (percussion) joined HYS band director Wayne Fanning at Niu Valley Middle School as a band instructor.

Ian Cablay '02 (tuba) is the music instructor at Lunalilo Elementary.

Derek Fujio '04 (oboe) finished at Yale and is now teaching music at Kaimuki Middle.

Ryan Tsukamoto '05 (violin) developed a graphing calculator application for iphones, downloadable from Apple’s Apps Store. The application, PI-83, has the same capabilities as the Texas Instrument TI-83 calculator. Check out Ryans’s new start up company at www.piglit.net.

Jill Morita '05 (cello) is finishing her senior year at Whitman College where she’s playing for the Whitman Symphony Orchestra and as a professional in the Walla Walla Symphony. Jill just returned from Kyoto where she spent her junior year. Jill can be spotted hanging with fellow Whitman HYSer **Jason Shon** '05 (tuba).

Dayna Furusawa '05 (cello, violin) was spotted working at Music Center this winter break. She’s finishing her undergraduate in cello performance and will return to UH to

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

by **Evan Liu, ISE violinist**

2008 HYS Essay Contest Winner,
Category III, first place tie



Extra credit to Evan for donating his prize to HYS!

Orchestral Music is calming to my soul because the melody of the string instruments together creates a musical masterpiece. It feels forceful or powerful like an action movie, cheerful as a hummingbird humming, or romantic as a wedding ceremony.

The powerful sounds from the bass and violin make my heart pound excitedly and build suspense like an action movie. The two instruments have different pitches which make a compelling combination.

The cheerful sounds of the viola and violin’s staccato rhythm fill my heart with joy like the hum of a hummingbird. They chirp high to low notes producing an extraordinary sound.

The romantic harmony made by the cello, viola, and violin feels soothing and peaceful like a wedding ceremony. The melody makes my heart warm. That’s why people play orchestral music at chivalrous occasions.

Gargoyles, by Doug Spata, is my all time favorite orchestral piece because it’s powerful yet soothing. The melody begins in piano, slowly builds up to mezzo piano, and then builds up to forte. Dun rest, dun rest, dun rest, are the sounds that you hear from a violin or viola playing that part. Personally, this particular masterpiece makes me feel exhilarated like my body is going to explode!!! Gargoyles would be a perfect piece for an intense movie like National Treasure 2 Book of Secrets while they’re searching for treasure.

Truly, orchestral music is emotional and touches my soul. The instruments create beautiful music as they play together. How lucky I am to experience it! ♪



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HYS is grateful to the following supporters since July 2008 who have given major gifts to our programs and taken a stand for music and our young people. **Mahalo!**

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Thomas J. Long Foundation for operations

earn credits towards veterinary school.

Erin Harada '06 (percussion) is honing her culinary skills and working at Sansei, one of the great sushi restaurants. ♪

SPRING CONCERT Series

Youth Symphony I

Henry Miyamura, conductor
April 19 2009, 4:00 pm
Blaisdell Concert Hall

With special performances by Ballet Hawaii and the Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus, members of the Hawai'i Arts Center for Youth \$18; \$8 students and seniors 55+
General admission available through Blaisdell Box Office and Ticketmaster

Youth Symphony II

Michael Nakasone, conductor
Concert Orchestra

Susan Ochi-Onishi, conductor
Hannah Watanabe, associate conductor
April 26, 2009, 4:00 pm
Pearl City Cultural Center

\$10 general admission; free for students 17 and under
Doors open at 3:30 pm, no reserved seats
Tickets available at box office starting at 3:00 pm on day of concert

HYS Academy

Charlotte Fukumoto, Helen Nguyen, Chad Uyehara
Conductors

May 2, 2009, 3:00 pm
Kaimuki High School Auditorium
Free for all attendees
Doors open at 2:30 pm, no reserved seats

Hawaii Youth Symphony

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