



HiYouthSymphony.org

1110 University Avenue, Suite 200 · Honolulu, HI · 96826-1598

## **A Message from HYS President Randy Wong**

**March 25, 2020**

**Aloha HYS Ohana,**

Thank you for your support of HYS. You have made it possible for HYS to develop youth to their fullest potential through music, and you are the reason we are able to continue during these unprecedented times. I am especially grateful to our staff and faculty for their care and dedication to our students.

Given the Governor's broad "stay-at-home" mandate to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and in order to protect our students, faculty, families and community, Hawaii Youth Symphony is cancelling all concerts and all in-person programs, rehearsals and activities, at least through May 15, 2020. Additionally, the Boys & Girls Club has indefinitely paused activities by all of its external partners, including HYS. (Please visit the BGCH website for more information about their COVID-19 response.)

- Music in the Clubhouse (M4K, Band, and Nanakuli Violin) is cancelled
- Academy Strings (BSE, ISE, SOE, CSO) is cancelled
- Jazz (Combo I & Combo II) will have alternate programs online
- Symphony (CO, YSII, YSI) will have alternate programs online
- All Spring Concerts, Jazz concerts, and the CO Windward Mall concert are cancelled
- The Aloha Concert Luncheon is cancelled

Having a shared community for friendships, learning and the joy of music is a big part of what HYS is about, and I know that we will continue to connect even while social distancing measures are being taken. We are looking into other distance learning activities for parents, all students, and the community at large, and will share opportunities with you as they emerge.

*Students*, please continue to make music, both for personal practice and creative enjoyment. To aid you in your learning and discovering, HYS is in the process of developing online and digital content as an alternative for our rehearsals, and we will provide updates on these options for keeping connected very soon.

I also realize this may be a particularly difficult time for our graduating seniors. Please know how proud we are of your inspiring tenacity, talent and accomplishments. Nothing can take away from your own musical journeys and personal growth. HYS will also look at other virtual channels and meaningful ways for us to come together and recognize the incredible Class of 2020. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let us know.



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Reservations that have already been made for the Aloha Concert Luncheon will be refunded. Online transactions will be refunded to the purchaser's credit card, and those who have paid with a check, a refund check will be sent by mail. If you have any questions, please email us at [admin@hiyouthsymphony.org](mailto:admin@hiyouthsymphony.org).

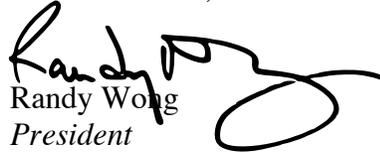
Although the HYS offices are closed during this period, the staff is working remotely and available by email. Our team will do their best to answer questions and continue to provide a high-level of service; we simply ask for your grace and understanding during this time, as responses might take longer.

For those of you whom rent instruments from HYS, we will be in touch with you regarding return dates and procedures. To comply with the Governor's order, we will delay any instrument returns after the stay-at-home order is lifted. We will also be in touch later with information about this summer and next season.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of our concert parent volunteers, whom have already given hundreds of hours of their time this season! We would normally recognize them at each program's season-ending concert, and I'm sorry that we won't be able to do that. Thank you for your time and dedication.

Music will always unite us and makes us stronger human beings. During this temporary intermission, please follow the recommended precautions, keep safe, and let's all keep the joy of music thriving!

Mahalo nui loa,

  
Randy Wong  
President

**Some simple, yet lifesaving precautions you and your family can take are as follows:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 62% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces using an antibacterial household cleaning spray or wipe.
- **Additionally:** If any household member tests positive for COVID-19, please notify HYS at: [healthresponse@hiyouthsymphony.org](mailto:healthresponse@hiyouthsymphony.org).