

Clef Notes

Upbeats

Philharmonic Orchestra

March 21st, 2015

7:30 PM

California Theatre

Concert Orchestra & Avant Flute Choir

March 22nd, 2015

5:00 PM

Los Gatos United Methodist Church

Intermezzo String Ensemble & Prelude String Ensemble

March 29th, 2015

2:30 PM

Silicon Valley JCC

Chamber Orchestra

May 23rd, 2015

8:00 PM

SCU Recital Hall

Concert Winds Ensemble & Percussion Ensemble

May 24th, 2015

2:00 PM

Valley Christian High School

Meet the Soloists

This edition of Clef Notes is dedicated to the SJYS soloists; enjoy!

Philharmonic Soloist:

Michael Song

Michael Song will be performing in the upcoming Philharmonic concert!

How long have you been playing the cello?

I have been playing cello for 4 years.

What inspired you to start playing?

My mom signed me up for a choir, and the teacher had everyone sing by themselves, which mortified me. When my mom offered for me to take lessons for any instrument in the Chinese orchestra, I picked the cello.

How long have you played in SJYS, and for which groups?

I played in Concert Orchestra one year, and this is my second year with the Philharmonic.

Why did you choose to perform the piece you are playing?

My teacher looked through the accepted repertoire and decided that Haydn was the best choice for me.

What do you like about music?

I like everything about music.



Is there anyone who inspires you to play?

I'm inspired a lot by my teacher, Michail Gelfandbein and Rostropovich.

What do you enjoy about playing in an orchestra?

Its fun making music with others.



Philharmonic Soloist:

Sonia Ruiz

Sonia Ruiz will be performing at the upcoming Philharmonic concert!

How long have you played in SJYS, and in which groups?

I played in the Wind Ensemble for two years. This is my second year in Phil.

How long have you been playing the flute?

Seven years

What inspired or motivated you to play the flute?

I was first drawn to the flute's sound. I like how it can portray different characters in different pieces and how it can be played in an orchestra or solo. My teachers have inspired me to play flute; facing challenges and listening to others play motivates me.



Why did you choose to perform this piece/movement?

My current teacher suggested this piece. After listening to it, I thought its melodies and intensity were nice, especially the third movement, which has lots of spirit. I like how it's not super popular.

Who influenced you on your playing?

My previous teacher and my current teacher have really influenced my playing. Inspirations for sound, style, and technique include the summer camp I went to for the past two years, and amazing flutists like Emmanuel Pahud and Philippe Bernold.



Philharmonic Soloist:

Scott Ji

Scott Ji will be performing at the upcoming Philharmonic concert!

How long have you been playing the violin?

I've been playing for 8 years.

How long have you been with SJYS?

For 5 years so far.

Who or what inspired you to choose this instrument?

I saw my violin teacher playing as a guest in my piano recital years ago, and I thought it was really cool so I was encouraged to try the instrument out.

Do you participate in any other groups besides SJYS?

AMASE (Academy of Music and Arts for Special Education) and Hopebox.

What do you like about music?

I like the creativity that one can input into composing.

Why did you choose to perform the piece you are playing?

The free, gypsy-like style of Pablo de Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen is a large departure from traditional concertos, so I like the fact that it's unique. In addition, the piece has very beautiful dramatic moments and also has fast paced gypsy dance moments as well.





Philharmonic Soloist:

Lucy Kim

Lucy Kim will be performing at the upcoming Philharmonic concert!

How long have you been playing music?

I started my musical career with the piano when I was four then began playing the flute when I turned eight.

How long have you been with SJYS and which groups have you played in?

I joined the SJYS Avant Flute Choir in 2008 then moved to the Philharmonic Orchestra in 2010. So this year is my 7th year with SJYS and my 5th year in Philharmonic Orchestra. I still vividly remember the unforgettable memories I made with the orchestra as we played in prestigious concert halls in Western Europe, including the Mozarteum, five years ago. As the youngest member of the orchestra, such experience served as a significant stepping stone that led me to move forward in my musical career.

What made you choose to pursue music and which instrument do you play and why did you choose it?

I approached music ever since I was born, or perhaps even when I wasn't born yet. My parents both are strong aficionados of music and art, so they frequently took me to orchestra concerts, musicals, and ballets since I was very young. I learned to play the first notes on the flute from my aunt, who was an active flutist at the time, after begging my parents to let me start the flute. As a young girl, I was attracted by the flute's shininess and its beautiful sound.

What do you like about music?

Music has always served like an oasis where I can take a break from the stressful, competitive world. Whenever I felt frustrated with the endless amount of homework and tests, I played the flute and the piano, which relieved me from such stress.

What piece will you be performing, was there any particular reason why you chose to play it?

I will be playing the Fantasia, Op. 79 for Flute and Orchestra by Gabriel Faure. When I first listened to a recording of this piece, I still remember that I loved the piece so much that I, thrilled to play such a great work, immediately asked my teacher if I can start this piece. I was amazed that the piece had both the lyrical, soothing mood in the first section and the bouncy and playful feelings in the second section.

Is there anyone who inspires you to play?

Throughout my musical career, I have always gotten the greatest inspiration from my teacher, Isabelle Chapuis, as well as my former teacher, Teresa Orozco. Through their passionate teachings, I was fully motivated to practice and love the music even more than I had been. Besides my wonderful teachers, I look



up to some of the greatest flutists in the world who helped me grow further a musician such as Robert Stallman, Jeffrey Khaner, and Brad Garner.



Concert Soloist:

Luis Lechuga-Espadas

Luis Lechuga-Espadas will be performing in the Concert Orchestra's upcoming concert!

How long have you been playing your instrument?

I have been playing clarinet since 5th grade.

Do you participate in any other music groups besides SJYS?

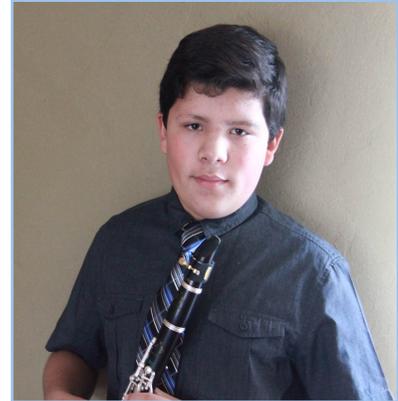
While SJYS is one of my favorites, I participate in many other music groups besides SJYS, including my school choir and band, and the Vivace Youth Chorus of San Jose.

What piece will you be performing? What is your favorite part about it?

I will be performing the Weber Clarinet Concerto in F. My favorite part of this piece is definitely the contrast and variety that each movement has, and that the orchestra part is just as involved as the solo.

What inspired you to pursue music?

I think I was inspired to pursue music after seeing those around me do the same. My brother already took piano lessons and my mom played as well, so I think at first it may have been more a wanting to not miss out on something.



What do you like best about music and why?

Now that I have been playing for a while, I think what I like best about music is its ability to convey such a wide range of emotions, images, and stories, without (in most cases) a single word or picture. Where words fail, music is a vessel for what someone has to say.



Concert Soloist:

Alyssa Stegall will be performing in the Concert Orchestra's upcoming concert!

What instrument do you play, and what features does it have that you feel make it particularly unique and enjoyable to play?

I play the violin and I've been playing for about 10 years. I love the violin because there are many ways you can manipulate the violin to create a different mood. Just by moving your hand to a different position, playing vibrato or slowing your bow stroke, you can completely change the mood of the piece you are playing.

What piece will you be playing for your solo? Why do you enjoy this piece?

For my solo, I will be playing the Concerto in A minor 1st movement by Bach. I enjoy playing this piece because the melody and dynamics flow together very naturally.

Why did you choose to become a musician?

When I was in pre-school, I started playing violin. When I first played it, I really enjoyed the sound that it created. As I heard other people playing violin, I wanted to become better at violin so I could also play for other people.

As a musician, what facet do you possess that you believe makes you unique?

As a musician, I believe that the fact that I don't give up is a characteristic that makes me unique. I've learned over the years that I can't improve my playing if I give up on a piece because it is too hard or if others tell me I can't do it.

What groups of SJYS have you played in, and for how long?

This is my second year playing in SJYS. Last year, I played in the Concert Orchestra, and this year I am playing in the Chamber Orchestra.

What do you like best about being in an orchestra?

I love playing in an orchestra because I not only play my own part, I also have to coordinate with others, creating an even more beautiful sound.



Final Notes

Newsletter Staff

Paulo Avila
Christian Babcock
Daniel Charif
Joyce Jang
Michael Ligier
Apoorva Prakash
Ravi Varma
Tiffany Wong
Garrett Woodford-Berry

In the Words of Yair

“I mean, his accent’s so thick I can’t really understand what he’s saying at all”
-Anonymous violinist

“You guys sound like a kindergarten class that someone gave a bunch of brass instruments to. Actually, they would sound better.”

“Stop coughing.”

“Why aren’t you guys playing? Is it contagious?”

“The ending was good. At least the ending was good.”

“Get ready to freeze because I’m going to turn on the air conditioning.”

Noteworthy News: Fundraisers

Current Activities

Recently, SJYS had its T-Shirt Design Contest where students were asked to submit their very own t-shirt designs. Since we’ve opened the contest up, we’ve received fifteen different entries from members of almost all nine of our music groups. Furthermore, the winner of this contest will have their design featured on this season’s official SJYS sweatshirt, which we will be ready to sell in the coming months, culminating in our second annual SJYS Spirit Day in late May. Dress out in SJYS gear to show your spirit!

Upcoming Activities

Every other year, members of the Philharmonic Orchestra have a two-week long tour in some of the most prestigious halls in various countries. This year, the Philharmonic Orchestra will be having their Gala Concert in June. This Bon Voyage Concert will be taking place on June 19 at the School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San Jose, where we will have the chance to see them off on their tour to Spain and Portugal. In order to help cover overhead expenses such as concert programs, translations, music purchases, rentals, instrument rentals, and transportation, among other costs, we will be holding a Silent Auction and Reception at the Gala to help raise money for the tour. Come out and show your support for SJYS!