



San Jose Youth  
Symphony

# Clef Notes



Issue 58.1 | 12.2.09

Epoch Matsumura  
Grace Yang

Danny Kim  
Audrey Chou

## UPBEATS

December 5

Philharmonic Orchestra Concert  
California Theatre, 2:30 pm

December 7

See's Candy Fundraiser Pick-up  
LGUMC

December 12

Prelude & Intermezzo Concert  
JCC, 2:30 pm

December 12

Philharmonic Holiday Concerts  
St. Joseph's Cathedral, 7 and 8 pm

December 21 – January 3

Winter Break  
NO REHEARSAL for 12/21 and  
12/28

*“One good thing about  
music, when it hits you,  
you feel no pain.”*

*Bob Marley*

## Performances, Photos, and Pandemics

### South America Memories



Last summer, the Philharmonic Orchestra’s biennial tour led its musicians to Chile and Argentina, making SJYS the first Californian youth orchestra to ever tour South America. But the trip wasn’t just for the fame. As conductor Yair Samet said near the end of the visit, “This was definitely one of the best tours I’ve ever been on.”

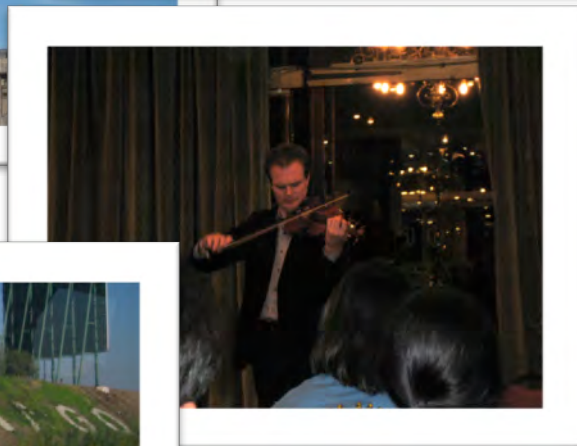
Ironically, he said this shortly after announcing that the Phil’s final concert would be cancelled due to the H1N1 pandemic. Despite the sudden breakout, the Phil musicians simply shrugged and raided the malls for scarves and *maté* leaves. Tagging along with the orchestra was Axel Strauss, the prodigious violinist who soloed with the Phil. He obviously had just as much fun as the musicians

did, and even took some time to pose in several photos with everyone. And there were plenty of photos to take: important buildings and impressive sculptures were everywhere. Among the more popular landmarks were the National Flag Memorial in Rosario, a cultural homage to the creation of the Argentine flag; and *Floralis Genérica*, a grand metal flower 23 meters tall in the middle of Buenos Aires.

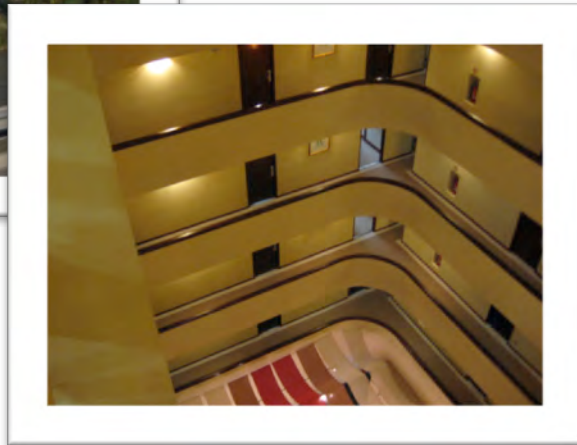
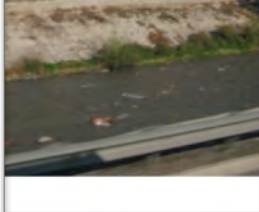
Chile and Argentina were more than just places to take pictures, though. In Santiago, the orchestra performed a dual concert with the Orquesta Sinfónica Estudiantil Metropolitana, the national youth orchestra of Chile. In Mendoza, the musicians played for a school whose students had little chance to *(continued on next page)*

## South America Memories, con.

listen to classical music. In Buenos Aires, they visited a traditional ranch and met the US ambassador to Argentina. But while the tour exposed the Philharmonic to new places and people, it was also a chance for the musicians themselves to bond together. Despite a cold virus running rampant through the orchestra, not a single day was ill spent. Everyone in the orchestra no doubt has a favorite memory or two; no one will forget the fun times we had in Chile and Argentina. Let's all hope the 2011 trip does South America justice!



Do you remember...



## Ode to Alumni

*"What was your favorite, most memorable moment on tour?"*

### Christy Jardetsky

"Playing for the poorer neighborhoods. That was really gratifying."

### Andrew Neish

"I agree with Christy. But you're probably looking for some different answers too though, haha. So I would also have to mention playing with the Chilean youth orchestra was definitely one of the more memorable parts for me."

### Manisha Vasishtha

"I still remember that lady from our first charity concert who was in tears at the end of the concert because it was the first classical concert she had heard since her mother's gramophone broke down when she was a little girl...I think one of the most memorable moments for me was just sitting there on stage, just after playing Tchaik 5. Not only was it wonderful to hear the applause from the audience, but the fact that all of us come from such different backgrounds, and speak so many different languages and yet we all put in the time, dedication and effort into learning this set. And we just didn't perform this set to any audience; we performed it for audiences in South America!! It just made it so much more special."

### Jacqueline Rocamora

"Bonding with people I had never talked to before :)"

### Christine Jehng

"The relationship that built up in our own orchestra. We got to go through a new experience together as one and it helped us get to know each other better and learn to support each other in our playing."

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

## Jonathan Ho



**Philharmonic  
Young Artist  
Competition  
Winner**

**Elgar Cello  
Concerto**

Jonathan Ho is an amazing cellist with a fiery passion for music. Studying with his private teacher Debbie Tandoc,

Jonathan has played the cello for nearly eight years. During rehearsals, the undoubtedly gifted Jonathan communicates many palettes of emotions through his cello. His source of inspiration comes from Yo-Yo Ma, a world-renowned cellist who has mastered the art of cello playing. Jonathan has practiced for countless hours and has even played at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. The sixteen-year-old junior currently attends Valley Christian High School; in the near future, he wishes to major in Business and minor in Music.

Jonathan is grateful for his parents for constantly supporting him, his teachers for the immense amount of knowledge he acquired, and most importantly his friends, who have always encouraged him. He has played in the San Jose Youth Symphony for seven years and happily says that "SJYS has an environment that makes you feel welcome and it's a great place to have fun." There is only one word capable of describing this talented musician: virtuoso.

## Jonathan Kim

**Philharmonic  
Young Artist  
Competition  
Winner**

**Saint-Saens Cello  
Concerto No. 1**



Having played the cello for over ten years, seventeen-year-old Jonathan Kim is one of San Jose Youth Symphony's top musicians. Jonathan studies under the guidance of Mrs. Cheryl Fippen and has been a member of the San Jose Youth Symphony for six years. During that time, he has also been involved in many other ensembles. He was a featured soloist in the San Jose Youth Chamber Orchestra in 2006 and played with the ATI String Orchestra in 2007. Furthermore, his string quartet has appeared at various occasions such as the RYAA opening ceremony.

Jonathan is not just known for his outstanding musicianship; he is an intelligent, hardworking, and passionate individual. Using his musical talents to reach out to the community, Jonathan has performed at many convalescent hospitals, churches, and homeless shelters. In addition to his love for music, Jonathan has a passion for computer engineering. He intends to pursue computer engineering as his major in college and possibly minor in music. His numerous extracurricular activities include playing soccer, backpacking, amateur radio operations, and blogging about technology.

"SJYS is very friendly and has a very unique orchestra atmosphere," says Jonathan. "I would recommend it for anyone who wants to get experience in a full orchestra." Jonathan's love for music was inspired by the famous cellists Pablo Casals and Jacqueline Du Pre. Jonathan is thankful for his family, friends, teachers, and most importantly his sister Sarah, who he says is his number-one fan.

*"My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it, and you simply take as much as you require."*

*Edward Elgar*



## Cindy Wu



**Concert  
Orchestra  
Concerto  
Competition  
Winner**

**Vivaldi "Summer"**

Cindy Wu, a freshman at Milpitas High School, is one of SJYS's budding violinists. Under the wing of her teacher Claudia Fountain, she polished her musical talent and is now in the Philharmonic. Despite the sudden pressure of high school, the former concertmistress of Concert Orchestra returned to the ensemble to perform Vivaldi's famous "Summer" violin concerto with them.

**Of all of Vivaldi's Seasons, why did you choose to play 'Summer'?**

When my teacher showed me all the Seasons, I chose Summer because I found the tempo challenging and it would greatly enhance my level of playing as well as train my fingers to move faster.

**What's your favorite memory or moment about SJYS?**

My favorite memory about SJYS was last year in Concert Orchestra, when I played the short Saint-Saens solo at the last concert. Even though it was nerve-wracking, I love the pressure and concentration I have to put in, as well as the results!

**So you get stage fright. How do you deal with it?**

Yes, I often become nervous the week before a performance and especially for this concert, so I practice like crazy. On the day of the concert I called my mom an hour before and asked her to help me calm down, and pray with me.

**How's being in the Phil treating you?**

Um, it's been quite an experience for me in Phil. The music is definitely more challenging but I feel like the orchestra is really experienced and high-leveled...I've got a lot of practicing to do!

## Zing Nguyen

**SJYS Board  
Member**



Zing Nguyen is both a member of the SJYS Board of Directors and a former member of SJYS. Having played violin with the orchestra more than 30 years ago, he's

had quite a lot of experience with the San Jose Youth Symphony.

**You're an alumnus of SJYS. How do you think SJYS compares now to before?**

SJYS was a lot smaller then, with only one orchestra. We didn't have the different ensembles we have now. You can imagine the audition was pretty tough since there was only one orchestra. Either you made it in or didn't.

**Why did you decide to return to work for SJYS after graduating?**

My youngest daughter also plays violin. She joined SJYS starting with Intermezzo ensemble. She's now playing second violin in the Phil orchestra. I initially volunteered to fulfill my 15 hours requirement. I gradually realized the amount of work needed to keep the organization running, and saw how much some parents had put in their time, especially the previous board members, to help SJYS. I became the parent advisor for Concert Orchestra and the Phil before signing up to become a board member.

**Do you have any advice for the current SJYS musicians?**

My advice is to enjoy every moment with the SJYS. This is the best time of your life before you have to worry about college and beyond. Of course, if music is your career choice, this is also the best performance stage for you to hone and show off your skill. The memory of SJYS will stay with you forever, as it did with me. I still reminisce about the concerts and the tours. I still keep some of the programs as souvenirs. Oh, by the way, don't forget to practice!

## Jessica Benak

### **SJYS Administrative Assistant**



#### **What do you do exactly?**

I mainly keep the office's day-to-day activities running and up-to-date. I spend time helping the parents of our organization get acquainted with the way the organization runs and help the conductors and musicians have a productive, smooth, and most importantly fun season filled with rehearsals, events, and concerts. I make sure the rosters are current and that all and any questions related to the San Jose Youth Symphony get answered in a timely, professional

manner.

#### **I remember seeing a dog at your office...tell us about her.**

I am very lucky that the San Jose Youth Symphony Board and its members allows and welcomes my 35-lb. lab mix, LeeLoo, to come to work with me each day. As I mentioned earlier I own my own small business called Peregrin Pet Care. LeeLoo, my side kick, and Peregrin Pet Care's ambassador, brings joy to my pet-sitting clients (both dogs and people), co-workers, SJYS parents and visitors of the San Jose Youth Symphony. The exposure LeeLoo has gotten by being able to go places with me and the time spent at SJYS continues to help her be a stable, well balanced, and happy dog. She is truly my best friend.

#### **Do you have any hobbies?**

My current hobby is a needlepoint/cross stitch that will eventually be a framed 13" x 18" picture of a Bengal Tiger. I also find at least 4 hours a week if not more to play RockBand (PS3). My husband, brother-in-law, and I have created a band called "There R No Bad Veggies". I am the band's drummer and recently purchased the Ion Drum Rocker that is compatible with RockBand. It is the best purchase I have made all year! One day we will conquer the 82 Song Set list.

## Chairman's podium

Dear SJYS Members,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 San Jose Youth Symphony season. We are in our 58<sup>th</sup> season and look forward to many more years supporting our local community. Last year was filled with a tremendous amount of events such as our support of the CMT presentation of *Candide*, the Children's Crystal Choir, the Kurosawa Piano collaboration and the Philharmonic's tour of South America.

This season, although a bit lighter in schedule, features the Young Artist Competition winners, our annual performance at St. Joseph Cathedral, and the collaboration with the Homestead High School Jazz Band in June. In parallel, the organization will start planning out our next international tour to Europe in the summer of 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Martin Fraile as the new conductor for the Concert Orchestra, as well as our returning conductors Vicki, Ryo, Teresa, Jeff, Diane, and our Music Director Yair. As in any organization, there is a lot of hard work that goes on behind the curtains. The time and effort that is put in by our Administrative staff – Jessica, Jennifer, and Executive Director Stanley Lee – truly makes the performances and rehearsals go by smoothly.

I thank you all for participating in our organization. I wish our senior class all the best as they make their final submissions to the colleges of their choice and look forward to seeing you all continue to grow in our family.

Sincerely,

*Leo Higashi*