



# Clef Notes



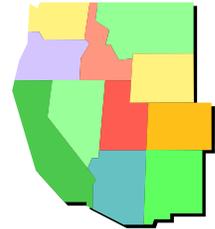
56th Season

December 2007

Editor - David Fong



## East Meets West



From the rhythmic lapping of the Pacific ocean waves upon the western shores of the United States, the currents and winds of the East flow to the West. Likewise, the beats of the drummers from the San Jose Taiko will perform with the synchronized and syncopated movements of the strings and harmonic lip-synced brass of the San Jose Youth Symphony Philharmonic orchestra in *Folkloric Dance Suite for Orchestra*. In addition, the San Jose Youth Symphony will perform two special US premieres from the East: *Alamuhan* and *Variations on a Korean Peasant Song*.

San Jose Youth Symphony Music Director, Yair Samet says:

“In order to become a performing musician, one must become acquainted with as many works of composers who laid the foundation for classical music through their masterworks. Equally important is to become familiar with pieces (not songs...) by contemporary composers as their musical voice reflects on the current state of classical music as well as our society; on past traditions versus current tendencies. Our Philharmonic members and myself are thrilled and honored to give the very first US performance of works by two living composers from Asia - *Alamuhan* (阿拉木汗) by Chinese composer Nai-chung Kuan, and *Variations on a Korean Peasant Song* by Korean composer Geongong Lee. Both are highly reputable composers whose works have been performed extensively in many countries around the world.”

“Our first concert of this season is yet another international tour we are taking, though this time it’s much cheaper, shorter, and does not require flight arrangements. We will perform music written by composers from six countries (in three different continents) - Italy, Austria, Argentina, China, Korea, and Japan. The program is extremely versatile - not only geographically. We will present works of different musical genre and form - an overture to an opera, a concerto for soloists and orchestra, an orchestral suite from a ballet, theme and variations, and an orchestral dance suite. We will travel through time as we perform music from the Classical, Romantic, 20th Century and contemporary periods of music. The instrumentation of the different works exhibits a variety of performing forces - a full symphony orchestra, a reduced orchestra with two soloists which is rather unique, a Japanese Taiko ensemble, and a full orchestra with Taiko drums which is very unique.”

See page 4 for more information about San Jose Taiko.

### Upbeats 2007

**Philharmonic  
Orchestra**  
**Winter Concert**  
December 8, 2007  
2:30pm at California  
Theatre : \$15,\$10,\$5

**Philharmonic  
Orchestra**  
**“Season of Hope”**  
December 13, 2007 7pm  
and 8pm at Cathedral  
Basilica of St. Joseph  
FREE ADMISSION

# Ode to Alumni

CAL POLY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO



San José State  
UNIVERSITY



UC DAVIS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



## Stacy Rietz, 04'

Los Angeles, California

"I spent 8 years in the San Jose Youth Symphony (1996-2004) -- back when it was still the San Jose Symphony Youth Orchestra -- so I literally grew up with it. I started playing clarinet in the junior youth orchestra when I was in 5th grade and stayed all through high school.



I miss the people I met in SJYS so much -- not only that, I miss everything about the orchestra: Christmas concerts at St. Joseph's, summer camp, and even auditions! Being in SJYS played a large role in shaping me as a person, and I am thankful for the happy memories I have of those many years I spent with Yair, the managers, and my fellow musicians, especially the clarinet section."

-- Stacy

## Christina Rietz, 99'

La Mirada, California

"I have great memories of playing in the SJSYO trumpet section (1996-1999). I'll never forget my first summer camp at Walden West. The power was out, and we had to sightread Saint Saens' Bacchanale outside using generator lamps in our evening rehearsal. Somehow it made the music that much more exciting. A love for music and friendships from those years continue with me to this day!



This December I'm graduating with a degree in Music from Biola University. After college, I look forward to paying off my loans and continuing to play music in the Air Force reserves with the Band of the West Coast in Moffett Field, CA.

-- Christina

## Peter Hwang, 04'

Los Angeles, California

"Hi everyone. I am a former concertmaster for the Philharmonic and I played in the Philharmonic orchestra for six years. I was fortunate enough to win a Young Artist Competition in 2004 with a Chinese concerto called *Butterfly Lovers* by Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai. I also used to play many quartet events with SJYS such as weddings and banquets. One of my best memories at SJYS was when all of the front stands of the string sections in the Philharmonic played the entire piece, Gershwin's *Girl Crazy*, and mesmerized conductor Yair Samet.

Over the last summer, I worked at Kamimoto String Instrument shop in Downtown San Jose doing minor repairs and sales. Many of the orchestra members and their parents know me from the violin shop. I also worked at Kumon and tutored little children in math, writing and reading.

I am currently a third year undergraduate Communication Studies major at UCLA. I am involved in a Christian fellowship called Crossroads Campus Ministry in Los Angeles. I enjoy playing tennis and Guitar Hero during my down time. I still continue to practice violin in college by playing at my apartment and also in my church praise team. I hope all of you are having a lot of fun in orchestra and try to convince Yair to stop smoking!"

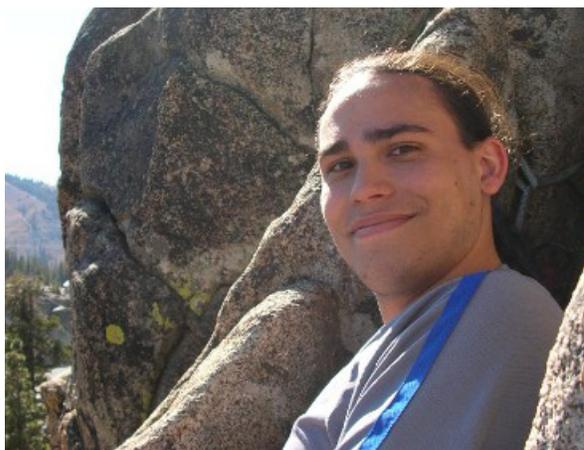
-- Peter



## **Adam Norvelle, 03'**

*Los Angeles, California*

Adam Norvelle is currently a fourth year undergraduate at UC Davis studying geology, and has been playing the french horn for 12 years. He joined the San Jose Youth Symphony in 1996 and remained a member through his senior year in high school in 2003. He then played with the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra for his first two years of college, before leaving to concentrate on his studies. Some of Adam's favorite memories in SJYS are from the '03 Japan Tour where he played principal horn in concerts all over the country. He plans on going back some day to visit his homestay family Mr. and Mrs. Karata. Adam still plays the french horn (if not as often as he would like) and doesn't plan on ever stopping.



## **SJYS Student Council 2007-2008**

We are glad to announce the formation of the SJYS students council. This student body will be comprised of Philharmonic members as well as students from other SJYS ensembles. They will serve as liaison between orchestra members and management, assist the organization in areas such as recruitment, fundraising, community outreach, concert promotion, SJYS newsletter, communicate with SJYS alumni, and organize social gatherings for SJYS members.

### **Philharmonic Orchestra**

Chris Song  
Elaine Higashi  
Jonathan Ho  
Nicholas Han  
Gavin Betterley  
Lauren Gripenstraw  
Hannah Lee  
April Seo  
Justin Li  
Erin Fraboni

### **Concert Winds Ensemble**

Spencer Morris

### **Concert Orchestra**

Alan Huffman



## **New Member Referral Awards Program**

Earn some extra cash by referring your friends to SJYS.

Awards will be in the form of a \$20 VISA/MC gift card.

Cards will be given for each new member who formally joins SJYS.

There is no limit to how many students they can sign up and the new member does not have to be in their ensemble.

All instruments are welcome.

This program will be in effect until March 2008.

## **Daniel Wang, 03'**

*Los Angeles, California*

"As a rookie member of SJYS in my senior year of high school, I was a latecomer to the Symphony. I played in the 2002-2003 season and the subsequent Japan tour – a summer remembered for its screaming fangirls and spray toilets. Currently, I am stuck in "administrative hell" in an attempt to end my college career from CalPoly SLO with a B.S. in computer science.

Since I am rather uninteresting, let me relate the tale of my first meeting with Yair. It was during my initial audition for the group. As I entered his lair, he greeted me in an indecipherable demonic tongue. He had 6 suctioned tentacles growing out of his back, each one shuffling music scores across his desk, while no less than 8 eyes scanned every visible page. His mouth puffed on 3 "Marlboro Lights" simultaneously, and a growth jutting from his hip appeared to be an anatomical music stand.

I played as best I could, despite the monstrosity seated before me. "Good," he declared curtly, as I ended my piece. Mercifully, I made the cut as the principal trombonist (I was also the only one that auditioned). However, from that day on, Yair slowly metamorphosed throughout the season into the human we know and love today. Coincidence? Perhaps. But more likely the dulcet tones of the trombone triggered his evolution to join humankind."

--Daniel



# Upbeats 2008

## Avant Flute Choir and Concert Orchestra

March 9, 2008 3pm at  
Almaden Library  
FREE ADMISSION

## Philharmonic Orchestra

### Spring Concert

March 15, 2008  
2:30pm at California  
Theatre : \$15, \$10, \$5



## Prelude and Intermezzo String Ensembles

March 22, 2008 3pm at  
Le Petit Trianon  
FREE ADMISSION

## Prelude and Intermezzo String Ensembles

May 3, 2008 3pm at  
Le Petit Trianon  
FREE ADMISSION



## Philharmonic Orchestra Winter Concert & Jon Nakamura

June 1, 2008 7pm   
California Theatre:  
\$15, \$10, \$5



## Avant Flute Choir and Concert Orchestra

June 8, 2008 3pm at  
Almaden Library  
FREE ADMISSION

# San Jose Taiko and SJYS

In their second joint performance with San Jose Youth Symphony, Roy Hirabayashi and his troupe of drummers will have two group and one joint performance with the San Jose Youth Symphony Philharmonic Orchestra : *Folkloric Dance Suite for Orchestra*. Their last performance with the San Jose Youth Symphony was around the year 2000 when Yair Samet was an associate conductor with the old San Jose Symphony.

The rhythmic beat of the taiko is a universal beat that every person can identify with. Everyone has a normal heartbeat that ranges from 50 to 80 beats per minute. The thumping of the heart and the beat of the drum form a natural unison.



Roy Hirabayashi who is the founder of San Jose Taiko says “Normally, taiko was played back in the old days of Japan as a sound signal to define the boundaries of the village, as well as a warning to the villagers in the event of an attack. If one could no longer hear the taiko then that person was not within the safe confines of the village. In other ceremonial activities, the taiko was also meant to unify people in times of celebration.” In a similar manner, under the direction of Yair and Roy, the drums and percussions played by both groups will invite the audience to join in the unity of music as a community.



Roy says “Taiko performances are similar to jazz style in that there is usually one lead that starts off the beat and invites the other musical performers to join in the rhythm with their own instruments.”

The other special aspect of San Jose Taiko is the special choreography under the direction of Roy’s wife : PJ Hirabayashi. This choreography is defined as the festival taiko. Someday, Roy hopes that a locally inspired musician or conductor can be commissioned to compose a joint musical piece between the San Jose Youth Symphony and San Jose Taiko.

One can listen to various short clips of San Jose Taiko music through their website at

<http://www.taiko.org/audio/index.html>

## Let the beat go on ....

# Natural Harmonies

## Ben Jones and the Concert Orchestra

Concert Orchestra director Ben Jones has been in the Bay Area for a short 18 months, and has already established himself as a busy performer and music educator. He has a small cello studio in San Francisco and teaches orchestra at the Presidio Middle School in San Francisco, both while working toward a masters in music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

His orchestral experience is in the string and brass sections on the cello, French horn and trumpet, and he currently studies conducting with Michael Morgan, conductor of the East Bay Symphony, Sacramento Philharmonic and Festival Opera in Walnut Creek.

With the ever-growing Concert Orchestra, Ben is dedicated to exposing his students to accessible masterworks from the orchestral repertoire. Taking advantage of the broad diversity of both age and skill in the Concert Orchestra, he is always mindful of the ultimate goal of training his orchestral students for the next levels of musicianship. Ben is thrilled to join the artistic staff at such an exciting time for this organization, and he looks forward to striving together with the San Jose Youth Symphony toward ensuring that music thrives in San Jose. He greatly appreciates the support of the parents.

With the next Concert Orchestra fast approaching, Ben will be expecting the Concert Orchestra to deliver one of their best performances for one of his favorite musical pieces by Dvorak : Symphony No. 9, in E Minor *From the New World*, popularly known as *New World Symphony*.



-Ben  
Jones



## Welcome to Keiko Nakatsuka

Keiko Nakatsuka was born and raised in Hiroshima, Japan. "I came from a very artistic family. I used to paint watercolor and spent 12 years in calligraphy. The part of Japanese culture that I still embrace is appreciation of art in everyday life. For an example, preparing a meal is an expression of art....the way we garnish food on the plate or noticing the marvelous miracles of nature. I fondly remember my father having us sit on the bench on the full moon night and simply admire the beauty of the moon. "

For many years Keiko worked in the San Francisco Bay Area in the corporate world while she raised two sons and a daughter, as a single parent.

She moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1992, where she ventured into real estate and created a very successful career. "As a business women it is my nature to be

highly organized. I love everything in the perfect balance and kept everything in order."

Keiko eventually returned to Bay area to be near her daughter and granddaughter Victoria who plays the violin for the Intermezzo Ensemble, which brought her the opportunity to become a part of the San Jose Youth Symphony. Of course her business skills and acumen will be very helpful as her role of Director of Operations. The office will be even more organized once she sorts,files and catalogs the paperwork.

Some of her hobbies include cooking, gardening, and listening to classical music. "I love cooking....Japanese, Chinese and Italian. Cooking is a therapy for me. Pot stickers and sushi are most popular among my family and friends. Oddly, I was told I make

one of the best spaghetti sauce!  
When I was a little girl, I drove my parents crazy because I was glued to the radio when the Opera was broadcasted. One of my favorites is Mendelssohn's *Violin Concertos in E Minor*. I taught myself to play a piano but that was a long, long, long time ago." In addition, she is a certified hypnotherapist and also teaches relaxation classes in her spare time. For the fast-paced Silicon Valley life, she recommends we should take a few deep breaths with our eyes closed and relax... to some good classical music....



# *SJYS Partners with Valley Christian Conservatory*

Valley Christian Schools (VCS) and San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) are proud to announce MUSIC EN MASSE! VCS and SJYS share the same vision – to provide quality music education and performance experiences to all youth. We also believe that music students should acquire as many practice and performance opportunities as possible. This tremendously improves the musician’s progress and development.

In an effort to support this vision, VCS students who are registered in a VCS music performance class will receive Valley Christian School Conservatory credit when they additionally participate in any one of the eight SJYS orchestras or ensembles. See website link below for more details.

<http://www.valleychristianconservatory.org/documents/SJYSVC2008FormsFinal.pdf>

## *General Auditions*

Audition forms are online at

<http://www.sjys.org/musicians/auditions.html>

April 12,2008 and

April 19th,2008

Cost for App is \$25.00 non refundable

Applicants will be notified of their specific date and time of their audtion.

Los Gatos United Methodist Church

111 Church St.

Los Gatos, CA

### **Board of Directors**

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## *Chairman’s Podium*

Dear Friends,

As a part of the San Jose Arts community, SJYS has many opportunities to create one-of-a-kind performances and educational experiences. Part of these opportunities are collaborations with local arts organizations, artists and venues that enrich the SJYS experience. This season collaborations at SJYS are front and center. We are thrilled to work with such distinguished artists and other close friends in our community.

Collaborations this season include: San Jose Taiko, a highly acclaimed performing group inspired by traditional Japanese drumming (which you can enjoy Saturday, Dec. 8th at 2:30 pm - California Theater), a concert with Cupertino High School to generate funds to build a school in Kenya, and a collaboration with the Steinway Society in June featuring guest artist Jon Nakamatsu, one of the most sought after pianists of his generation. For more information refer to the SJYS website at [www.sjys.org](http://www.sjys.org)

These connections are an important component of this great season, which promises to provide outstanding educational opportunities and exceptional performances. I look forward to seeing you soon!

- Lorne Morris

*Chairman of the Board*

### **Parent Advisory Board**

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Zing Nguyen

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Viji Rengarajan

*Intermezzo String Ensemble*  
Lisa Wager

*Prelude String Ensemble*  
Irene Breck

