

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY'S



# ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY

& STRING ENSEMBLE

**2024 SEASON FINALE**

**SATURDAY | MAY 4, 2024**

**Renée & Henry Segerstrom**

## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Dear Friends & Supporters of Orange County Youth Symphony,

Thank you for being here today to listen to our final concert of the year and for engaging with both of our groups, OCYS and OCYSE. Your support of these talented young musicians is invaluable, and your active participation as listeners is greatly appreciated. Performers need listeners for the equation to work, and we are truly grateful for your presence.

This year has been marked by repertoire challenges, tremendous growth, and energy that we hope to carry into our tour of Europe this summer. Highlights include our fall concert at Soka, our six performances for fifth-grade audiences here at Segerstrom, and the opportunity to collaborate with Maestro Petrenko and the Royal Philharmonic on Brahms' Symphony No. 2. We are proud to present our spring repertoire for you today and to take it overseas. As I applaud our musicians for their dedication and fine work this year, I also feel a sense of sadness as we bid farewell to our Seniors. Many of them reflect on their three or four years in the orchestra as they embark on their journey to college.

I am delighted to welcome Ms. Lucy Lu as our conductor for OCYSE. With her extensive experience working with this age group, she brings valuable expertise to our organization, and I am thrilled to have her on board.

Once again, thank you all for your continuous support!

Musically yours,

**JOHANNES M. STOSCH**

**Music Director & OCYS Conductor | Orange County Youth Symphony**

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Today, we celebrate one of the most exciting seasons for the Orange County Youth Symphony and String Ensemble. This year included several artistic and educational highlights including the incredible opportunity for both ensembles to perform side-by-side with members of the renowned Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as well as performing for a total of 7,718 elementary students this past February and March! We would like to express our appreciation for all the members of the Orange County Youth Symphony and String Ensemble, family, friends, school music directors, private teachers, and the entire Orange County community for the ongoing support of these wonderful ensembles.

A special thank you to our dedicated OCYS/E team, Maestro Johannes Müller Stosch, Ms. Lucy Lu, Sandi-Wright Cordes, Danielle Culhane, Hana Kurihara and Chloe Hopper for their dedication at OCYS/E rehearsals, events and more this season. We want to also congratulate our 27 graduating class of 2024 seniors for your educational and musical accomplishments. Thank you for sharing your musical talents with us.

Though tonight is our 2024 finale concert in Orange County, OCYS is preparing for a summer 2024 tour to Europe and will perform in Salzburg, MuTh Concert Hall in Vienna, and Dvořák Hall in Prague. *To support the tour and ensure each young OCYS musician gets this chance of a lifetime, please visit our table in the lobby or simply Text OCYS to 71777 to donate.*

We look forward to another fantastic season in 2024-2025 filled with our traditional concerts, a mountain retreat, Concerts for Fifth Grade performances and several engagements with visiting artists and orchestras presented by the Philharmonic Society. Auditions for OCYS/E are open, and we look forward to welcoming more talented young musicians to the OCYS/E community!

Musically yours,

**KATHERINE YANG**

**Vice President of Education and Community Engagement | Philharmonic Society of Orange County**



**ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH STRING ENSEMBLE**

Lucy Lu, conductor

**The Avengers Theme**

**SILVESTRI** (b. 1950)  
(arr. Jackson)

**Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 11**

**MENDELSSOHN** (1809 - 1847)

I. Allegro  
II. Andante  
IV. Allegro

**Pavane, Op. 50**

**FAURÉ** (1845 - 1924)  
(arr. Clark)

**Concerto for Strings in G minor, RV 156**

**VIVALDI** (1678 - 1741)

I. Allegro  
II. Adagio  
III. Allegro

INTERMISSION

**ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY**

Johannes Müller Stosch, music director/conductor

**Ballade in A minor, Op. 33**

**COLERIDGE-TAYLOR** (1875 - 1912)

**Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104**

**DVOŘÁK** (1841 - 1904)

I. Allegro

Edelweiss Pak, cello

**Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73**

**BRAHMS** (1833 - 1897)

III. Allegretto grazioso

**Carmen Suite No. 1**

**BIZET** (1838 - 1875)

I. Prélude  
II. Aragonaise  
III. Intermezzo  
IV. Séguedille  
V. Les Dragons d'Alcala  
VI. Les Toréadors

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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

### ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH STRING ENSEMBLE PROGRAM NOTES

#### SILVESTRI (ARR. JACKSON): *THE AVENGERS* THEME

Composed for the first *Avengers* movie in 2012, this dramatic theme has returned in all the follow-up films and most notably in the final installment *Avengers: Endgame*.

#### MENDELSSOHN: SYMPHONY NO. 1 IN C MINOR, OP. 11

Felix Mendelssohn was the most beloved composer of his day, as well as the 19th century's only musical prodigy who could rival the young Mozart. Best known for his incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and his Italian and Scottish symphonies, Mendelssohn was a Classical formalist who employed a Romantic palette; his music, always refined, often overflows with energy, drama and excitement.

This conservative bent set him apart from contemporaries such as the more musically progressive Berlioz, Wagner, and Liszt. Between the ages of 12 and 14, Mendelssohn composed thirteen string symphonies, the last of which was revised to include brass and woodwinds, and thus became his first formally numbered symphony.

The Symphony No. 1, completed in 1824 when Mendelssohn was just 15, is informed by Mozart's classical model and the young Mendelssohn's intense study of Bach's use of counterpoint. Initially introduced to a small private audience in honor of his sister's nineteenth birthday, the composer himself conducted it publicly for the first time during his visit to London in 1829. The Symphony No. 1 opens with a bold burst of energy (and a bit of dissonance) before moving into the gentler, graceful slow second movement. The third, a Menuetto, is followed by a finale marked *Allegro con fuoco*, which opens with a theme reminiscent of the final movement of Mozart's Symphony No. 40.

— Todd Giles

#### FAURÉ (ARR. CLARK): PAVANE, OP. 50

Much of Fauré's music is characterized by limpid melodies that float on a sea of harmonic elegance, their sails often billowed by a modality which conjures an antique impressionistic ambiance. Antiquity is a proper aura for a work titled *Pavane*, for the word applies to a stately 16th-century dance that originated in Italy. Fauré's 19th-century incarnation of this slow, processional type of dance mirrors the prototype in being temperamentally austere and rhythmically precise (the accompaniment is often in regularly paced pizzicatos in the strings). The main theme is at once languid and remote. Its first sentence, taken, in turn, by a flute, then oboe and clarinet, is the chief substance of the piece, although a new idea is introduced midway which provides some little intensity—everything is relative.

— Orrin Howard

#### VIVALDI: CONCERTO FOR STRINGS IN G MINOR, RV 156

The spirited opening of Vivaldi's Concerto RV 156, with its two syncopated violin parts pitted contrapuntally against each other above a chromatically descending bass line, perfectly enshrines the idea of contest that is inherent in the idea of a concerto. But the contest we hear is not that of a solo instrument against an orchestra, which is what we tend nowadays to associate with a concerto. The Venetian baroque took pride in cultivating the concerto for string orchestra, of which this is a splendid example. The jagged, fiery first movement is followed by a short *Andante*. Its chains of suspensions over a bass moving in quavers derive from Corelli, but the spectral

harmonic intensity is Vivaldi's own distinctive hallmark.

— Norman MacSween

### ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY PROGRAM NOTES

#### COLERIDGE-TAYLOR: BALLADE IN A MINOR, OP. 33

Musically precocious, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor entered the Royal College of Music in his native London as a violinist at the age of 15. Within a year, he had six choral pieces published. A year after he left the school, he received his first commission, from the Three Choirs Festival, on the recommendation of Elgar. "I am sorry I am too busy to do so," Elgar wrote when the Festival offered him a commission. "I wish, wish, wish you would ask Coleridge-Taylor to do it. He still wants recognition, and he is far and away the cleverest fellow going amongst the young men."

What the Festival got was indeed a clever young man's piece, a wild orchestral ride brimming with invention and energy. Like a poetic ballad, the piece is organized in stanza-like sections. Its main theme is dramatically driven and explosively orchestrated; its tender lyrical foil achieves contrast mainly through meter and texture.

Coleridge-Taylor, who would later be called "the black Mahler" by orchestral musicians in New York, conducted the highly successful premiere himself at the Festival in 1898.

— John Henken

#### DVOŘÁK: CELLO CONCERTO IN B MINOR, OP. 104

Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, concerto for cello and orchestra by Antonín Dvořák, premiered in London on March 19, 1896. It is one of the most frequently performed of all cello concerti, and it is admired for the richness of its orchestral music and for the lyrical writing for the solo instrument.

The concerto follows a typical structure of three movements of fast, slow, and fast tempi. It opens with a broad orchestral statement, bringing in the soloist after the initial themes are introduced. At this point, the soloist restates those themes in a new and more elaborate fashion.

— Betsy Schwarm

#### BRAHMS: SYMPHONY NO. 2 IN D MAJOR, OP. 73

Brahms was haunted by the example of Beethoven's nine symphonies. "You have no idea how the likes of us feel when we hear the tramp of a giant like him behind us," Brahms remarked to the conductor Hermann Levi, and he worked on his own First Symphony for nearly twenty years before he was ready to take it before audiences. The premiere in November 1876 was a success, and Brahms himself conducted the new work throughout Europe during the winter concert season. With the stress of that tour behind him, he spent the summer of 1877 in the tiny town of Pörtlach on the Würthersee in southern Austria, and there he began another symphony. This one went quickly. To Clara Schumann he wrote, "So many melodies fly about that one must be careful not to tread on them." Brahms' First Symphony may have taken two decades, but his Second was done in four months, and its premiere in Vienna on December 30, 1877, under Hans Richter was a triumph.

While the Second Symphony is quite different from the turbulent

First, this music is not all pastoral sunlight. The first two movements in particular are marked by a seriousness of purpose and a breadth of expression. Brahms' friend Theodor Billroth spoke of only one side of the Second Symphony when he said: "It is all rippling streams, blue sky, sunshine and cool green shadows. How beautiful it must be at Pörschach!" For all the sunshine in this symphony, the first two movements explore some of those shadows in depth.

The hand of a master is everywhere evident in the Second Symphony, particularly in Brahms' ingenious use of the simple three-note sequence (D-C#-D) heard in the cellos and basses in the first measure. This figure recurs hundreds of times throughout the Second Symphony, giving the music unusual thematic and expressive unity. The constant repetition of so simple a figure might become monotonous or obsessive in the hands of a lesser composer, and it is a mark of Brahms' skill that he uses this figure in so many ways. It gives shape to his themes, serves as both harmonic underpinning and blazing motor-rhythm, is by turns whispered softly and shouted at full-blast. Once aware of this figure, a listener can only marvel at Brahms' fertile use of what seems such unpromising material.

After two such powerful movements, the final two bring welcome release. The charming third movement comes as a complete surprise. Instead of the mighty scherzo one expects, Brahms offers an almost playful movement in rondo form. The oboe's opening melody (Brahms marks it *grazioso*: "graceful") leads to two contrasting sections, both introduced by strings and both marked *Presto*. This movement so charmed the audience at the symphony's premiere that it had to be repeated.

— Eric Bromberger

### BIZET: CARMEN SUITE NO. 1

French composer Georges Bizet's *Carmen* written in 1874, became the world's most performed opera. Despite its eventual success, Bizet died in Paris of a "broken heart" (a ruptured artery) at age thirty-seven due to the initial "failure" of the work.

Some critics considered this piece "indelicate" in its depiction of the opera's subject matter. However, the story appealed greatly to the Parisian theatre-goers. The *Carmen* Suite contains music derived from the opera and was published between 1882 and 1887, years after Bizet's death.

The opening prelude introduces the ominous theme associated with both Carmen and her fate at the hands of her lover, Don Jose. The following aragonaise (a dance from the region of Aragon in Spain) is the festive yet sinuous music that opens the final act of the opera as crowds arrive for a parade outside the bullring. An intermezzo, a serenely melancholic section based on the prelude to the final act, leads to a seguidilla that Carmen sings to seduce Jose. The suite ends with a jaunty military march, "Les Dragons d'Alcala," followed by the famous march "Les Toreadores," the entry of the bullfighters, which is actually the opening piece of the opera.

— L. Barnes

### ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY & STRING ENSEMBLE

Founded in 1970, the Orange County Youth Symphony (OCYS) and String Ensemble (OCYSE) is one of Southern California's finest youth symphony programs. The diverse roster represents

student musicians from nearly 60 middle school, high school, and college programs from San Clemente to Fullerton and beyond.

In its 50+ year history, OCYS has traveled the world representing Orange County's best young adult musicians presenting performances in Austria, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United Nations, and New York. It has appeared and participated in many prestigious performances and projects, including U.S. and West Coast premieres by composers such as Mark-Anthony Turnage and Kurt Schwetsik and a season-long project with Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 culminating in a documentary entitled *Beethoven's Ninth: Journey to Joy* that was selected by PBS SoCal for multiple broadcasts. Most recently, the orchestra was presented in a side-by-side concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, performing for a nearly sold-out audience.

Additional highlights of past seasons include masterclasses with Ray Chen, Midori, Hilary Hahn, and Sheku Kanneh-Mason, as well as a mini residency by the Kronos Quartet. An annual tradition, OCYS serves as the featured orchestra for the Philharmonic Society's acclaimed Concerts for Fifth Grade at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. This concert series has provided music education for nearly a million students for more than thirty years. Additionally, OCYS and OCYSE appear in their own performances in prestigious venues across Orange County.



**JOHANNES MÜLLER STOSCH,  
MUSIC DIRECTOR/OCYS  
CONDUCTOR**

Currently, Johannes Müller Stosch serves as Director of Orchestral Activities at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach, as well as Music Director and Conductor of Holland Symphony Orchestra in Michigan. He has also held conducting positions with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Brockport Symphony in New York, Tri State Players in Ohio, and served repeatedly on the conducting and coaching staff at the Opera Theatre Festival in Lucca, Italy.

Müller Stosch keeps an active guest-conducting schedule both internationally and nationally, with recent engagements including concerts with Long Beach Symphony, Kunming Philharmonic in China, University Symphonies in Vancouver, Canada, and at the University of Oregon in Eugene. In 2009, he was a featured guest conductor with the Busan Sinfonietta in Korea in a concert that was broadcast on national TV (KBS).

An avid operatic conductor, he previously served as Music Director of the Museumsinsel-Operafestival in Berlin, Germany; has frequently guest conducted new opera productions at Cincinnati's famous College-Conservatory of Music; and worked repeatedly as visiting opera conductor at the Opera Theater at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. Aside from his passion for conducting, Müller Stosch has a special interest in performance practice and early music. In Germany, he worked with Hannover's L'Arco, Bremer Ratsmusik, and Concerto Brandenburg. He also frequently appears on organ and harpsichord with the Pacific Symphony. Concert tours as a soloist and collaborative artist have taken him throughout the U.S., Germany, Italy, Chile, and Japan. Müller Stosch has several commercial recordings to his credit all of which have

## ARTISTS AND PERSONNEL

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been played on public radio. Maestro Müller Stosch received his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music. After winning the coveted Strader Organ Competition in Cincinnati, Ohio, he received two Master of Music degrees in organ performance and orchestral conducting from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



### **LUCY LU, CONDUCTOR ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH STRING ENSEMBLE**

Lucy Lu is an active teacher, soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. Ms. Lu's performances have taken her to numerous cities across the United States, China, and Europe, where she has played in some of the most prestigious concert halls. She served as Concertmaster of the Bellflower Symphony, Orchestra Collective of Orange Country and is currently the 1st violinist of Plaza String Quartet. Ms. Lu has performed with the Nie'Er Symphony Orchestra in China, Four Seasons Youth Orchestra, LA Chamber Choir, and Celestial Opera Company as a violin soloist and has performed at places such as the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Cerritos Performing Art Center, Irvine Barclay Theatre, Musco Center of the Arts, and Carpenter Performing Arts Center in the Los Angeles area. Ms. Lu also performs with the Dana Point Symphony Orchestra, Millennium Choir and Orchestra, Corona Symphony, La Mirada Symphony and Rio Honda Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Lu founded Violinbaby Music Studio where she trains young violinists, many of whom are accepted into renowned music organizations such as The Colburn School, Seattle Youth Symphony, Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra and Claremont Youth Symphony Orchestra. Her students have placed at many international violin competitions, such as the MAP International Music Competition where she was awarded the Honorable

Instructor of the MAP-IMC 2022.

Ms. Lu also coaches youth orchestras such as Orange County Youth Symphony, CSUN Youth Philharmonic, Arcadia High School Symphony Orchestra, Four Seasons Youth Orchestra and South Coast Youth Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Lu received her Master's degree in violin performance from the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University, Long Beach where she studied with Professor Linda Rose, Katia Popov and Moni Simeonov.



### **DANIELLE CULHANE, OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL MANAGER**

Danielle Culhane received her Bachelor of Music and M.A. in Education from Vanguard University. She currently is the director of band and orchestra at Paramount Park Middle School, Paramount and has been the Operations and Personnel Manager for the Orange County Youth Symphony for more than ten years. Danielle has traveled throughout Europe with OCYS as a manager, performer, and passionate music educator who instills the knowledge and value of music for every student. She has been recognized as Teacher of the Year 2017-2018 for her school site as well as for the Paramount Unified School District.

Ms. Culhane believes music education provides an opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for music and encourages the skills and discipline necessary for achieving musical success throughout a lifetime of experiences. Students learn the importance of a cooperative team effort while working with fellow members to accomplish the shared goals.

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## ABOUT THIS CONCERT'S CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER



### **EDELWEISS PAK, CELLO**

Edelweiss Pak graduates Foothill High School this May and will be attending the New England Conservatory this fall as an incoming freshman majoring in cello performance. She will be studying under the renowned professor Blaise Dejardin, the current principal cellist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She was a five-year member of the Orange County Youth Symphony and principal cellist for two consecutive years.

Edelweiss currently studies with Ms. Coco Yanan Hu, and has had masterclasses with Professors Amit Peled from the Peabody Institute and Hans Jørgen Jensen from the Bienen School of Music. She has won multiple solo competitions such as VOCE, ASTA, Golden International Competition, and more. In addition to solo competitions, Edelweiss has actively participated this year in chamber ensemble groups as a part of Junior Chamber Music. The piano trio and string quartet she performed with both won places in the Amici International Ensemble Competition. She continues to join in multiple benefit concerts and volunteer work in a string quartet at OC Music and Dance to help fundraise for those in need at CHOC Hospital. Other than music, she is enthusiastic about visual arts and especially interested in oil and acrylic painting.

**ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY**

**Johannes Müller Stosch, conductor**

**First Violin**

Candice Lee, *concertmaster*  
 Jared Pepito, *principal*  
 Alice Ahn  
 Ariana Chen  
 Claudia Cheng  
 Nagyung (Anna) Cho  
 Kayden Ishii  
 Eric Kim  
 Mason Leykauf  
 Christine Nam  
 Thalia Nguyen-Khoa  
 Tiffany Oh

**Second Violin**

Allison Oh, *principal*  
 Yasmin Dennis,  
*assistant principal*  
 Katelyn Chang  
 Aden Chen  
 David Chung  
 Ellen Kim  
 Sari Nakajima  
 Connor Ho  
 Rassul (Xiang) Li  
 Ella Yang  
 Aileen Lee Yang  
 Allison Yun  
 Ruhan Harold Zhang

**Viola**

Yeeun (Grace) Chung,  
*principal*  
 Callista Kwan,  
*assistant principal*  
 Grace An  
 Olivia Guo  
 Grace Hsia  
 Yejee (Gina) Kim  
 Leona Lee  
 Adarsh Pashikanti  
 Peyton Tan  
 Ruth Wu

**Cello**

Edelweiss Pak, *principal*  
 Joyce (Chihyu) Chang,  
*assistant principal*  
 Tyler Chang  
 Justice Cheng  
 Aidan Chien  
 Tiancheng Dong  
 Jason Ho  
 Lauren Ko  
 James Koo  
 Alvina Lin  
 Morgan Tien  
 Caitlin Walsh  
 Yirina Wang  
 Joey Zhou

**Double Bass**

Joshua Calen, *principal*  
 Alyssa Morrone  
 Sophia Lin  
 Samuel Yamarik

**Flute**

Michael Lei, *principal*  
 Riwon (Olivia) Lee  
 Kimberly Tsou

**Oboe**

Hannah Macias, *principal*  
 Noah Chun  
 Aidan Jio Lee

**Bassoon**

Kaitlyn Liu, *principal*  
 Megan Liu

**Clarinet**

Eric Wong, *principal*  
 Zoey Hui  
 Samuel Lee  
 Kenny Song

**French Horn**

Francis Samson, *principal*  
 Julian Macy  
 Teddy Nugent  
 Mason Vu

**Trumpet**

Emily Eli, *principal*  
 Matthew LaBelle

**Trombone**

Timothy McElroy, *principal*  
 Toby Hung  
 David Nguyen

**Tuba**

Hayden Smith

**Percussion**

TaeEun Jun, *principal*  
 Ian McFarland  
 Jonathan Yu  
 Kyla Seitz

**Harp**

Leenah Yoon

**ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH STRING ENSEMBLE**

**First Violin**

Alicia Wu, *concertmaster*  
 Ariel Chan,  
*assistant concertmaster*  
 Cadence Park  
 Claire Kim  
 Aiden Han  
 Taylor Burnett  
 Eric Gao  
 Issac Lin  
 Jayden Wang  
 Claire Song

**Second Violin**

Jocelyn Wang, *principal*  
 Emma Lee,  
*assistant principal*  
 Duy Dang  
 Ben Kan  
 Erin Kang  
 Lyvia Wang  
 Tristen Lee

**Viola**

Xinyi Ouyang, *principal*  
 Julianna Hsu,  
*assistant principal*  
 Joseph Bohman  
 Maya Villa  
 Edward Ma

**Cello**

Joseph Baek, *principal*  
 Audrey Chen,  
*assistant principal*  
 Jacob Chen  
 Jamie Chen  
 Beckett Cheng  
 Ethan Choi  
 Aidan Chen  
 Grace Zhu  
 Elise Chang

**Double Bass**

Jennah DiMartino, *principal*  
 Kenya Rosales

## **ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY & STRING ENSEMBLE SENIOR CLASS**

We are thrilled to share our Orange County Youth Symphony and String Ensemble graduating seniors. Their dedication and passion are inspiring to us all, and we thank them for their commitment to music. As they embark on this new chapter of their lives, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for their future endeavors.

**Taylor Burnett, violin** - *Brigham Young University\**  
**David Chung, violin** - *Carnegie Mellon University*  
**Yasmin Dennis, violin** - *University of California, Irvine*  
**Tiancheng Dong, cello** - *University of California, Los Angeles*  
**Emily Eli, trumpet** - *Belmont University\**  
**Jason Ho, cello** - *University of California, Irvine / Soka University*  
**Grace Hsia, viola** - *University of California, Irvine\**  
**Zoey Hui, clarinet** - *University of California, Irvine*  
**TaeEun Jun, percussion** - *University of Michigan*  
**Ellen Kim, violin** - *University of California, Los Angeles*  
**Lauren Ko, cello** - *University of Southern California*  
**Callista Kwan, viola** - *California State University, Long Beach\**  
**Riwon (Olivia) Lee, flute** - *University of California, Irvine*

**Mason Leykauf, violin** - *University of California, Los Angeles*  
**Julian Macy, french horn** - *Irvine Valley College\**  
**Tim McElroy, trombone** - *University of California, Los Angeles\**  
**Alyssa Morrone, bass** - *University of California, Los Angeles\**  
**Sari Nakajima, violin** - *University of California, Riverside*  
**David Nguyen, trombone** - *Undecided*  
**Edelweiss Pak, cello** - *New England Conservatory\**  
**Adarsh Pashikanti, viola** - *University of California, Berkeley*  
**Jared Pepito, violin** - *California State University, Fullerton*  
**Caitlin Walsh, cello** - *University of California, Irvine\**  
**Yirina Wang, cello** - *University of California, Berkeley*  
**Ruth Wu, viola** - *Arizona State University\**

\*music-related major

## **2024 DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD - JACKSON LAI**

The Distinguished Educator Award was established in 2013 to honor those educators who go above and beyond the call of duty for their students and for our community. This year we are excited to honor Jackson Lai, music director at Fountain Valley High School, with this award.



Jackson Lai is the director of instrumental music at Fountain Valley High School, where he teaches marching band, concert band, string orchestra, music theory, and percussion. He taught the string orchestra and the percussion section while he was the assistant director for the program prior to his current appointment. Before becoming a full time high school music teacher, Jackson was a percussion instructor for over a decade, teaching at multiple award winning high schools and at Pasadena City College where he assisted with music arrangements for the marching band and the Tournament of Roses Honor Band. Over the past ten years, Jackson has spent his summers serving on the educational faculty for the Santa Clara Vanguard Cadets, Blue Devils B, and Phantom Regiment drum & bugle corps.

Jackson received his BM in Instrumental Music at CSU Long Beach with an emphasis in percussion, where he studied with the late Dr. Michael Carney, Dr. Dave Gerhart, Randy Drake, Axel Clarke, and former principal percussionist of the LA Phil, Raynor Carroll. While studying at CSU Long Beach, he performed with the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, Steel Drum Orchestra, and the World Percussion Ensemble. Jackson completed his Master's Degree in Education along with his teaching credential at National University.

### **Past Recipients**

2013: Steve Acciani  
2014: Jim Thomas  
2015: Cathy Olinger  
2017: Jim Kollias  
2018: Moni Simeonov  
2019: Danielle Culhane  
2023: Joslynne Blasdel, Brad Harris, and Scott Domingues



## THANK YOU TO OUR PARENT VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of OCYS and OCYSE, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to all who signed up in September to be contacted as opportunities for assisting and actively supporting OCYS/E activities/events came our way. Thank you all!

### OCYS

Kathy Chang	Connie Macias
Grace Chen	Ravi Pashikanti
Jungie Chen	Marilina Smith
Gong Cheng	Chloe Yoon
Yun Pin Chou	Carol Yun
Yuewen Chun	
Rachel Koo	

### OCYSE

Mediha DiMartino  
Sumina Fukami  
Wendy Guo  
Elaine Kim  
Aline Kuo  
Iris Lee  
Rebecca Li  
Rosie Nguyen

### FALL CONCERT at SOKA Performing Arts Center (November 5 )

What a great response we had to our request to provide light snacks for backstage during the afternoon's rehearsals! Our musicians were delighted with the variety of favorites provided!

### FLOWER WRAPS

Thank you to Yuewen Chun for initiating (and purchasing materials) for single rose Flower Wraps to be sold as a Tour Donation at our Fall Concert at Soka. Flower Wraps were also sold for donations at the January RPO Side by Side Concert in January. Thank you to **Kathy Chang** and her husband for their time serving at the OCYS/E table prior to the concert on this day.

### CONCERTS for 5th Grade (February 7, 13, and March 5)

**Special Recognition goes to our 5th Grade Concert BREAKFAST TEAM: Yuewen Chun (Noah), Kathy Chang (Katelyn and Tyler), and Rachel Koo (James),** for their time and efforts in planning, shopping, preparing, and presenting the Breakfast Snack Buffet for OCYS students for their 9 a.m. rehearsal break prior to the first Concert at 9:45 a.m., then again between their first and second performance. Our musicians were all smiles with the assortment of tempting healthy items to keep them refreshed and energized during their busy morning!

Happy travels to all who are going on OCYS European Tour in June! We thank you all for your ongoing, strong support of OCYS/E and the extraordinary experiences membership holds for your incredibly talented students.

**Sandi Wright-Cordes**  
swrightcordes@gmail.com  
OCYS/E Chair



## **THANK YOU MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DIRECTORS**

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We extend our deepest gratitude to these schools' music directors for their unwavering support and dedication in nurturing the musical talents of our OCYS/E members. Their commitment to music education, countless hours of rehearsals, and performances have created a nurturing environment that fosters creativity, discipline, and teamwork, enabling their students to reach new heights of musical excellence.

### **SCHOOLS REPRESENTED IN ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY AND ORANGE COUNTY STRING ENSEMBLE**

<b>Aliso Niguel High School</b>	<b>Northwood High School</b>
<b>Beckman High School</b>	<b>Orange County School of the Arts</b>
<b>Brea Olinda High School</b>	<b>Orchard Hills School</b>
<b>Capistrano Valley High School</b>	<b>Pioneer Middle School</b>
<b>Castille Elementary School</b>	<b>Portola High School</b>
<b>Cerritos High School</b>	<b>Riverside STEM High School</b>
<b>Connections Academy</b>	<b>Sage Hill School</b>
<b>Corona Del Mar High School</b>	<b>San Juan Hills High School</b>
<b>Crean Lutheran High School</b>	<b>Santa Margarita Catholic High School</b>
<b>Diamond Bar High School</b>	<b>Sierra Vista Middle School</b>
<b>Esperanza High School</b>	<b>South Lake Middle School</b>
<b>Fairmont Preparatory Academy</b>	<b>South Pointe Middle School</b>
<b>Foothill High School</b>	<b>Stanford Online High School</b>
<b>Fountain Valley High School</b>	<b>Sunny Hills High School</b>
<b>Heritage Oak Private Education</b>	<b>Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School</b>
<b>Huntington Beach High School</b>	<b>Tesoro High School</b>
<b>Irvine High School</b>	<b>The Pegasus School</b>
<b>JSerra Catholic High School</b>	<b>Troy High School</b>
<b>Kraemer Middle School</b>	<b>University High School</b>
<b>La Mirada High School</b>	<b>Villa Park High School</b>
<b>Legacy Magnet Academy</b>	<b>Woodbridge High School</b>
<b>Long Beach Polytechnic High School</b>	<b>Woodrow Wilson High School</b>
<b>Los Alamitos High School</b>	<b>Yorba Linda High School</b>
<b>Mater Dei High School</b>	

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PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY'S



# ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY & STRING ENSEMBLE

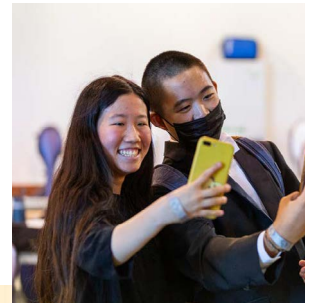
# 2024-25 AUDITIONS NOW OPEN!



One of Southern California's finest youth symphony programs, the **Orange County Youth Symphony (OCYS) and String Ensemble (OCYSE)** develops the talents of exceptional young musicians while fostering community, collaboration, and creativity.

## OCYS and OCYSE members have the opportunity to:

- **Participate** in workshops and clinics with Philharmonic Society artists.
- **Perform** in concerts and chamber music engagements at world-class venues including the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and Soka Performing Arts Center.
- **Experience** exciting concerts with complimentary tickets to select Philharmonic Society concerts.
- **Compete** in the annual Concerto Competition with winners performing solos at the spring concert.



## SEASON OVERVIEW

**First Day**

Sept 8

**Retreat**

Sept 27-29

### Sunday Rehearsals

1:00pm-3:30pm (OCYS)

4:00pm-5:30pm (OCYSE)

## APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 12

Auditions are available to 6th-12th grade Orange County students. Season runs September through May.

### CONTACT US

[ocys@philharmonicsociety.org](mailto:ocys@philharmonicsociety.org)

949.553.2422, ext. 232

[philharmonicsociety.org/ocys](http://philharmonicsociety.org/ocys)

