



NOTEWORTHY



Oakland Youth Orchestra
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Michael Morgan, Artistic Director
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OYO Alumni News



Pat Johnson

Emil Miland, OYO cello 1974-77 under the great Denis de Coteau, and Alameda High graduate (also New England Conservatory) served as a judge in OYO's

Competition this fall. He recently performed a new song cycle by Jake Heggie as well as a new work by another OYO alumnus, **Shinji Eshima** (Bass, 1973-74).



Josh Cohen, OYO violin, 1968-69, is conductor Castro Valley Adult School Chamber Music Orch. and plays violin (and mandolin, and bass) in Ellis Island Old World Folk Band, and produces chamber music concerts. He'll be performing in a Brandenburg in Alameda on Feb. 12 to benefit AEF. And then he's the CEO of Qibits Associates! It's in Information Technology, including Technical Training, Consulting, Network Surveys, General IT management, planning and project management (like digitizing music libraries!).



Joffria Whitfield, OYO harp 1989-1990, in December performed Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* on harp with the

University of the Virgin Islands Concert Choir in St. Thomas. Also on the program was her own arrangement of *Silent Night* for solo harp. February 13th will mark her debut with tenor Wilson Lyles for a Black History concert of spirituals. Joffria recently wrote: I remain busy as a public school and private studio teacher, freelance harpist, multi-instrumentalist, and dancer, performing a myriad of concerts and special events. My two bands and three orchestras, (grades 4-8) are thriving with record high numbers of students. One of my former students, Amanda Sims (viola 2002-04, now in SFSYO), is also an alumna of OYO!



Terrence McCarthy photo



Teddy Abrams, OYO clarinet and bass clarinet 1997-1999, now age 17, has been getting

his share of press attention lately as he debuts on piano, his major at the SF Conservatory of Music, where he'll graduate this spring. This after a pretty substantial career as a clarinetist with BYO, OYO, and SFSYO. And, yes, as a conductor as well. We at OYO will never forget his turn as a stick man conducting "Stars and Stripes Forever" at our 1999 Pops Concert. What a showman! (That adjective has not yet appeared in print about TA.) We wish Teddy all success and happiness as he moves on to graduate studies in conducting.

Ben Simon, OYO concertmaster 1970-72, Berkeley High, Yale, and Juilliard, has performed around the world as a member of the Naumburg-Award winning New World String Quartet, LA Philharmonic, and NY Philharmonic. Local audiences recently heard him conduct a radiant New Year's Eve concert with the SF Chamber Orchestra and Joshua Kosman just touted his "moving" performance as a viola soloist. Ben is on the chamber music faculty at UC Berkeley.

More Alumni News

Kristin Arendt, OYO Trombone 1996-2001, writes: I am currently pursuing my PhD in neuroscience at the University of Michigan. I am also in the Life Sciences Orchestra here, which is believed to be the only one of its kind, and is under the direction of John Goodell, who knows Michael Morgan! I ran into the Schwartz family in Chicago in November, so Debba updated me on the orchestra and the goings on.

Andrei Gorchov, OYO flute 1998-2002, graduated from SF State with a Bachelor of Music, and now is the assistant conductor of the Choral Singers Marin (www.singersmarin.org). He's still studying orchestral conducting with Michael Morgan and teaching flute privately.



Chris Kong, OYO percussion 2001-2003, is a multi-talented instrumentalist. Currently a sophomore at University of the Pacific, he's rooming with OYO alumnus Jesse Barrett (oboe and talented song and dance man) and has been VERY busy in music since we saw him last. Chris spent the summer in Santa Rosa working as a pianist for the Summer Repertory Theater. He's busy with the UOP opera production, the revue performances, playing with the orchestra even though it's not a class, as pianist for Stockton area high school musical productions, etc. And loving it!

Leila Martin, OYO harp 2000-03, has transferred to UC Berkeley, where she is majoring in Middle Eastern Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies. She is still playing the harp and plans to study abroad in Ankara, Turkey next year. We know she knows how to pack her harp—will she take it to Turkey?

Meghan Miller, OYO flute 1996-2000, and former teacher of OYO member Jean Wang (2003-2004), wrote recently: I graduated from Cal-State Hayward in 2002 with a BA in Music as a student of Michelle Caimotto. From 2002-2003 I lived in England and studied flute with Trevor Wye at his intensive, all-flute studio. I currently am living in Boston, working on my Master's degree in flute performance as a student of Robert Willoughby at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. Thanks for your email! I'm glad to hear that OYO is still going strong!

Margot Schwartz, OYO violin 1996-2000, and concertmaster, graduated last year from Northwestern with a major in Violin Performance. Last summer Margot was concertmaster and soloist in the orchestra at Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. She is now a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, which will be performing under the baton of the great Lorin



Maazel on February 13. Margot is currently auditioning for grad schools, with particular interest in the Cleveland Institute or the Colburn School. She is in love with her new (old) violin, and reveals that her current boyfriend is a tuba player.

OYO Member News

For the 20 seniors in the current OYO, this is a season of stress without limit, and the auditions are still going on. Some members are breathing easier as the early decisions are announced: Violinist **Alyssa Mathias** is headed to the University of Chicago; Bassist **Kiefer Katovich** has been accepted by Stanford, where he also won the Reischaur Scholarship from the the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education and the US-Japan Foundation. Bass Trombone player **Callan Milani** has good news from USC.

OYO cellists (and seniors) **Bryan West** and **Stephen Shum** recently won first prize in the Contra Costa String Association Competition, and Bryan won the overall grand prize, a concerto gig with the Diablo Valley College orchestra in May. He'll be playing the first movement of the Shostakovich *Cello Concerto No. 1*. Cellist **Brady Anderson** was a winner of the Concerto Competition for the Solano Community Symphony's Salute to Youth concert Feb. 12th and 13th. He'll play the Haydn *Cello Concerto in C Major*. OYO clarinetist **Dan Ferreira** will be performing a FREE recital at CSU Hayward on the evening of April 16, 2005, in the Recital Hall of the Music Building with Dick Dargahi (cello) and Ellen Wasserman (piano). Their program will include *Rhapsody for Clarinet* by Willson Osborne, Hindemith's *Sonate for Clarinet and Piano*, and Brahms' *Trio in A minor for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano*.

Congratulations all!

Meet our Funders

The Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
by Diana Moore

For the last decade, the Oakland Youth Orchestra has received support from one of the classical music world's most generous funders – the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, located just across the bay in San Francisco. Both Gettys are longtime patrons of the arts, and every year distribute grants to orchestras, music schools, festivals and opera companies across the country.

Gordon Getty was born in Los Angeles, one of the heirs to the vast Getty oil fortune, and soon moved to the Bay Area, where he attended St. Ignatius High School, and earned a bachelors degree in English literature from the University of San Francisco. He later studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In 2002 the Gettys joined fellow San Francisco arts partons Bernard and Barbro Osher and the late Phyllis Wattis in a \$9 million challenge grant for the Conservatory's new location in San Francisco's Civic Center.

Beyond his philanthropy, Getty is a highly skilled musician, honored as an Outstanding American Composer at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His many works include the opera *Plump Jack*, the song cycle *The White Election*, *Victorian Scenes*, *Annabel Lee*, and *Joan and the Bells*, and have been performed by such ensembles as the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic, and the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Getty's *Three Waltzes for Piano and Orchestra - Tiefer und Tiefer, Madeline, and Ehemals*, have been performed around the country, including OYO's own 1995 Pops concert. In 2003, the American Symphony Orchestra League awarded Getty its highest honor – the Golden Baton – for “visionary patronage of the orchestras large and small, and his peerless philanthropic leadership.” To that, all of us at OYO say “hear, hear” and add our own heartfelt thanks to both Ann and Gordon Getty for their support of our great kids.

Want to show some of your own philanthropic leadership – and have a terrific time doing it? Then be a part of OYO's March 6 “Loverly” Pops Concert and Auction at the Crowden School, featuring music from the Broadway classic *My Fair Lady*, Strauss' *Emperor Waltz*, and more, as well as great food and fabulous auction items. Tickets are now on sale, and early birds get a discount. Contact Barbara Stack about donations or tickets at 510-832-7710 or manager@oyo.org.

Help OYO Help Great Kids

OYO's

Loverly Pops

BIG



FUN!



Pops Concert

Dinner & Silent Auction

Sunday, March 6, 2005

3-7 pm \$20 in advance/ \$25 at the door.

Fun for all with spontaneous merriment, marches & waltzes, live auction, and special guest star!

Strauss • My Fair Lady • Sousa • Offenbach

The Crowden School
1475 Rose Street, Berkeley

OYO Members

The 75 current members of OYO range in age from 12.2 to 20.9. The average age today is 16.45.

56% come from Alameda County; 36% from Contra Costa; 5.3% from San Francisco; 1.3% from Marin; and 1.3% from Solano. 8 members are from Oakland; 4 from Alameda.

We are 56% female; 44% male.

We all love music.

How do you get into OYO?

1. Play an orchestra instrument well.
2. Take private lessons and practice, practice, practice.
3. Join a band or a wind ensemble or a jazz group or another orchestra. Keep practicing.
4. Audition for OYO in the spring. Sometimes students audition 3 years in a row before they get in!

Send us your name, address, parents' names, date of birth, and instrument, and we'll put you on our list to receive an application next June.
manager@oyo.org

Spring Concert

Sunday, Date TBA, 3 pm
Subscription Concert #3 \$12/\$8

Bloch • Tchaikovsky • Wagner
• Purple Bamboo Orchestra •
First Congregational Church
2501 Harrison Street, Oakland



Violist **Alessandra Aquilanti**, student of Linda Green, and winner of OYO's Concerto Competition, will perform a movement of Bloch's *Hebrew Suite* at our exciting Spring Concert. Also on the program are Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 and Mendelssohn's *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*. The Purple Bamboo Orchestra will join OYO in some exciting new arrangements of Chinese Music.

Have You Registered?



Easy Online Registration
www.escrip.com

OYO Group ID
142496081

Help OYO to make our dream come true:
Tour 2007!

Concert Etiquette

1. Please take your seats. People will not be allowed to enter the hall while music is playing.
2. Please silence beepers and cell phones and do not talk or walk around during the concert.
3. Your applause is very welcome, but please save it between movements. The Program lists the movements for each piece.



Be there for OYO

The Oakland Youth Orchestra covers less than half of our seasonal expenses through tuition. The remainder must be raised each year through events, fundraisers, grants, and donations. Help us maintain our internationally acclaimed program and scholarship assistance. OYO Forever!

Contributions made in support of the Oakland Youth Orchestra are tax-deductible. OYO is a 501(c)3 organization and our Tax ID is 94-3029514.

In memory of In honor of _____

Enclosed please find my contribution \$50 \$100 \$150 \$_____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please send me information about including OYO in my will.

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