

noteworthy

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Oakland Youth Orchestra
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Rachel Taylor wins *From the Top* Scholarship



We've just learned that OYO member Rachel Taylor, Oakland native, a junior at the San Domenico School and student of Debra Schwartz, has won one of the 25 scholarships awarded by National Public Radio's *From the Top* program and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, in the amount of \$10,000!

The goal of the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award is to identify and nurture talented young musicians whose lack of financial resources might otherwise impede their progress. Twenty-five student musicians are selected annually to receive Cooke Young Artist Awards.

Rachel, a member of OYO's first violin section and occasional violist (as shown above in Jay Levine photo), will perform on a live taping of *From the Top*'s radio show and participate in Cultural Leadership Training. The programs can be heard locally on Sunday mornings at 9 am at 102.1, KDFC-FM, XM Satellite Radio network on channel 133 on Sundays at 11:00am and 11:00pm EST, or on line.

Good work, Rachel. Can't wait to tune in!

<http://www.fromthetop.org/>

Reggie Patterson, Fulbright



While a student at Oberlin, Reginald Patterson studied in both the College and the Conservatory and came out with degrees in French and viola performance and a minor in African American Studies.

He graduated in 2005 with honors in French, a double degree, a minor in African American Studies, and a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English in Guadeloupe, the center of the Caribbean's Creole culture. While teaching English, Reggie plans to learn the Creole dialect spoken in Guadeloupe and use it to learn how the country's history of slavery and colonialism has affected its educational system. Reggie is practicing viola, has several students, and is learning to play jazz. And while abroad, Reggie has managed to be elected to the Oberlin Board of Trustees!

Reggie has also been accepted in Duke University's 5 year Ph.D. Program in French Literature with a substantial stipend and a deferral until the fall of 2006.

His mother Elmetra Patterson-Littleton says that Reggie is still elated that he toured Costa Rica, Mexico and Cuba in 1998 with OYO. Another testimony to the lasting impact of

Robin Bonnell



Joshua Kosman just deemed Robin Bonnell "the ardent soloist" in his January premiere of Gang Situ's new cello concerto with the New Century Chamber Orchestra. Robin played with

OYO 1977-1980, was once a student of the great Milly Rosner (who judged this performance "fabulous.") His bio tells us that He is principal cellist of the Monterey Symphony and assistant principal cellist of the Santa Rosa Symphony. Since 1988, he has been the cellist of the Chamber Music Society of Sacramento. He is a former member of Earplay, Music Now, the Sacramento Symphony, and Illuminati, a New York-based big band. He can be heard on recordings on the Centaur, Knitting Factory, Soundspells, and Warner Brothers labels, as well as numerous jingles and the delayed broadcasts of the Chamber Music Society performances. OYO cellists know his image in the "How to Pack a Cello" document.

Carlos Reyes



A December "Frosene on the Scene" column ran this item on an OYO Alumnus 1972-76, viola & violin: "... Carlos Reyes is no stranger to the Bay Area having

made his debut on harp with the Oakland Symphony and on the violin with the Oakland Youth Symphony at the age of 14. This recording artist, producer, engineer, harpist, and violinist originally hailed from Paraguay where his father was a musical and national hero. Currently working on a new CD, Reyes now enjoys an international audience and a devoted Bay Area following. Fans will also remember him with the group Merlin."

More Alumni News

Jeremy Cohen



Oakland Tribune Preview 1/20/2006
Classical Music: Cheryl North
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Peninsula Symphony fires up with sultry tango program

Jeremy Cohen, the jazz and classical violinist/violist who has lately enlarged his repertory to become one of the country's leading exponents of the tango style, represents yet another musical family success story.

Born and raised in Oakland, Cohen, his mother, father and two brothers all are accomplished professional musicians. While Jeremy already had a formidable reputation as both a classical and a jazz violinist and violist, his years as concertmaster of the highly successful show "Forever Tango" led him to fall in love with signature music of the Buenos Aires 19th century waterfront.

Moreover, Cohen's string quartet, Quartet San Francisco, had the rare honor for winning both the "special" and "grand" prizes in the International Tango Competition two years ago. As a result, the group was hosted in Argentina for a highly lauded concert tour in August 2004. Suffice it to say that Cohen knows a thing or two about tango.

How do you get to Oakland?

Practice!

Another member of the Shen family just joined OYO--Brian, on violin. His mother Christine recently emailed us that Tabitha Shen, OYO violin 1996-2000, is graduating this May with her Masters degree in Bio Med Engineering at Stony Brook after graduating from Washington U. St. Louis, MO in 2004. Warren, OYO violin 1995-98, is currently working on his Ph.D. in computer science at U of Illinois Champaign/Urbana after graduating from Stanford in 2002.

Shinji Eshima



Shinji Eshima, OYO 1973-74, bass, is a graduate of Stanford University and of the Juilliard School, and is now Associate Principal Bass of the San Francisco Ballet and a member of the San Francisco Opera and Skywalker

Ranch orchestras. He is on the faculty at San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

He is a distinguished composer as well, known for his distinctive voice. In 1995, he was commissioned to write a piece commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing for which he wrote *August 6th* for violin and double-bass. In 2002 the great bassist Gary Karr premiered his piece for solo bass. Last year OYO alumnus Emil Miland performed his *Trio for Cello, Marimba and Piano* on a program with works by Jake Heggie and Richard Hergig.

Teddy Abrams

Teddy Abrams, OYO clarinet and bass clarinet 1997-1999, now age 18. A year ago we noted Teddy's impending debut on piano and graduation from SF Conservatory.



Now a grad student in conducting at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, he's set to take the podium at the February 12, 3 pm, performance of Symphony Parnassus at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco. David Wiegand writes, "The orchestra's music director, Steve Paulson, will be on tour with the Symphony in China, so Abrams was asked to fill in. This will be the first time the 18-year-old has conducted a full-length concert and it certainly won't be his last." We agree.

David Macbride



David Macbride, OYO 1968-69, viola, has been a member of the faculty at The Hartt School, University of Hartford since 1984, and is currently Associate Professor of

Composition & Theory.

Of Eurasian heritage (his mother was born in Beijing), David Macbride was born in Berkeley, CA in 1951. His principal teachers include Edward Diemante (of the Hartt College of Music), and Jack Beeson and Chou wen-chung (of Columbia University). He has written numerous works, ranging from solo, chamber and orchestral music to music for film, TV, dance and theatre, with particular emphasis on music for percussion and music for voice. His works have been performed extensively in the United States and abroad: recent performances include the Hartford Symphony, the Arditti String Quartet, League ISCM, Percussive Arts Society International Convention, World Saxophone Congress, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Tim Page of Newsday writes: "In David Macbride's music, one finds technical skills of a high order, a direct lyricism that informs the most complex passages, and a personal aesthetic that combines Western chromaticism with a fascination for the music of China." Awards include the Georges Enesco International Composition Prize, two Leo Snyder Memorial Composition Prizes sponsored by League ISCM Boston, the Composers Inc. Prize and two Connecticut Commission on the Arts individual artists grants.

College News

OYO violist Lauren Gerchow, a senior at St. Ignatius College Prep. in SF has been admitted on early decision to Columbia College. Wow and congrats Lauren!

Donor Profile: SF Foundation

by Diana Moore

We would like to thank the San Francisco Foundation's West Oakland Initiative, which has given us a grant to underwrite free tickets for Oakland public school music students at our Winter Concert at First Congregational Church in Oakland. We are pleased to support dedicated and talented teachers such as Sherlyn Chew at Lincoln Elementary School, and also the Artistic Director of the Great Wall Youth Orchestra; Randy Porter, director of Westlake Middle School music ensembles; and Omid Zoufonoun, Head of the String Program at Oakland School for the Arts. We hope that their talented and hard-working students will have OYO in their future. And they are OYO's future. The San Francisco Foundation grant also supports development and distribution of a list of music resources for young instrumental musicians, and sponsors the recording of the February concert and the duplication of CDs for local students.

<http://www.sff.org/>

E-Scrip

E-Scrip business partners (including Safeway and Macys) contribute a percentage of your purchases to OYO. To register, go to www.escrip.com. Our group ID is 142496081.

Auction Donations

Have a special skill or a service to offer? Have a connection to a great restaurant or spa? Have a vacation home you might share for a week or so? Considering donating to OYO's annual auction, which accompanies our Pops Concert in the spring. The marketing opportunity is great and all proceeds go directly to OYO's music education programs. Past donations have included London vacations, Tahoe getaways, custom-designed wedding cakes, gourmet dinners, musical instruments and supplies, and much, much more. Contact us at manager@oyo.org or 510-832-7710.

Arts First Oakland

Arts First Oakland fosters and exhibits the creativity and beauty of Oakland's diverse cultural heritage, promoting spiritual growth and community transformation through artistic empowerment.

*Thanks for new "Noteworthy" banner to
Katherine Mahoney
www.KatherineMahoney.com*

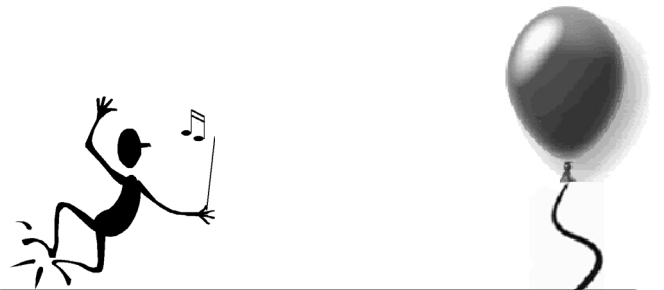
Michael Morgan 10 years with OYO!

Michael Morgan was a student conductor of the District of Columbia Youth Orchestra from 1972-1975.

Bryan Nies played associate principal french horn in the Chicago Youth Symphony when Michael Morgan was its conductor.

In 1996 Michael Morgan became the Seventh Artistic Director and Conductor of the Oakland Youth Orchestra.

Celebrations ahead!



Pops Concert Dinner & Silent Auction Sunday, March 5, 2006 3-7 pm

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

Borodin • Mussorgsky • Rimsky-Korsakov
• Sousa •

OYO Members

The 76 current members of OYO range in age from 13.2 to 20.2. The average age today is 16.26.

47% come from Alameda County; 41% from Contra Costa; 6.6% from San Francisco; 1.3% from Marin; 1.3% from Napa, and 2.6% from Solano. 4 members are from Oakland; and 4 others attend schools in Oakland.

We are 58% female; 42% 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 this April for June auditions.

Have You Registered?



Easy Online Registration
www.escrip.com

OYO Group ID
142496081

Help OYO to make our dream come true:

Tour 2007!



Be there for OYO

Spring Concert

Sunday, May 21, 2006, 7:30 pm
Subscription Concert #3 \$12/\$8

Saint-Saens: *Symphony No. 3 (organ)*

Georges Hüe: *Fantasia*

OYO Concerto Winner Courtney Nippa, flute

Dean Leshner Center's Hofmann Theatre
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

OYO Concerto Competition

The OYO Concerto Competition, open to members only, was held on December 18. Our musicians may enter on any instrument they play, and work very hard to prepare a winning performance. The winners have a very special opportunity to perform with the full orchestra—and—to dress like a soloist!

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.

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 \$200 \$_____

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Please send me information about including OYO in my will.

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