



NOTEWORTHY

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Newsletter of the Oakland Youth Orchestra

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Oakland Youth Orchestra
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Celebrate Oakland Award

Members and Staff of OYO were pleased to shake the hand of Mayor Elihu M. Harris as part of the dedication of the Frank H. Ogawa Plaza on October 30. Along with the Oakland Youth Chorus and three champion sports teams, we were presented with beautiful medallions proclaiming, "It's a New Day!" We are proud to help honor the memory of longtime city council member and civic leader Frank H. Ogawa.

Holiday Candy Sale

This year we will be selling See's candy only for the Winter holidays and for Valentines Day. Don't miss the chance to buy some sweets for your sweeties and support OYO at the same time.

ACSO Award to OYO Board Member Jean Bogiages

On July 31, 1998, at the Annual Meeting of Members at the Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) Conference, our own Jean Bogiages was a recipient of a Most Valuable Player volunteer award. Jean has been serving the OYO far beyond the call of duty for many years. Brava Jean! And, once again, our thanks.



String Quartet and Cello Section Performances A Success

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oakland Ballet, I would like to extend to all the musicians who performed at our Gala our most sincere appreciation for their stunning performance. I have received so many compliments on the evening but especially of your music and the wonderful ambiance it created. Thank you for making our 'Evening in Verona' such a classy affair and sharing with us your lovely and most gracious gift of music."

Jeri Shahoian
Board of Directors
Oakland Ballet

Save These Dates!

February 21, 1999: Pops Concert, Dinner and Silent Auction

Imagine enjoying good food and enjoying OYO at the same time. Then, just to make things interesting, there is time to wander into the Silent Auction area and place your bids on great bargains. Whether it is a music stand, books, dinner for two or a weekend at a romantic hideaway, there is something to tickle your fancy. This year's theme, "The Cuban Connection," will focus on Latin music as well as music that we will send along to Cuba. Reserve Sunday afternoon, February 21 for this annual event.

March 20, 1999: Subscription Concert II at the Allen Temple New 1200-seat Theater

May 23, 1999: Subscription Concert III at the Calvin Simmons Theatre



The Oakland Youth Orchestra covers only about 22% of our expenses through tuition and fees. The remainder must be raised each year through events, fundraisers, grants, and donations. Help us maintain our internationally acclaimed program and scholarship assistance.

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

Contributions made in support of the Oakland Youth Orchestra are tax-deductible.

OYO Wish List

Laser Printer (IBM Compatible)
Typewriter
Heavy Duty Copy Machine (11"x 17")
Flatbed Scanner
Rolodex
Zip Disks

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Thanks to ACFEA Tour Consultants (www.acfea.com) who have graciously allowed us to reprint this lively article from *Tour Notes*.

CUBA INVITES AND ENTICES THE OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA

It is hard to imagine that the Oakland (CA) Youth Orchestra (conductor, Michael Morgan) could surpass the incredible rewards that came from selecting the rather unusual destination of Latin America for their 1998 concert tour. Costa Rica and Mexico alone would have provided a full and wonderful range of musical exchange and cultural experience, but having the tour culminate in a three-day visit to Havana quite simply catapulted over the top the scope and dimension of the experiences.



No one would argue that the tremendous success of this tour was due to the talents, perseverance and hard work of many people - and the maintenance of the ever-important sense of humor! Narrowing down the multitude of performance options, sightseeing excursions and opportunities for cultural exchange proved to be the most difficult aspect of the planning. An important objective, which remained throughout the process, was to incorporate joint concerts with youth orchestras from each of the countries

OYO visited. This was accomplished at the highest level, first with the Costa Rica Youth Symphony Orchestra in San Jose's Melico Salazar Teatro, followed by a performance with the Mexico Youth Orchestra in the Blas Galindo

Hall of Mexico City's National Center of the Arts, and finally with the Amadeo Roldán Youth Orchestra at the Gran Teatro in Havana. These performances stand apart as highlights of the tour where not only music but also so much more was shared.

OYO also took advantage of several other unique opportunities in this region. Forming a small brass ensemble, they performed in the bandstand of Coyoacan Plaza where the Mexican tradition of friends and family strolling on Sunday afternoons is still strong. Just outside Mexico City, OYO was warmly hosted by families from the International Center for Language and Culture, which sponsored a performance at the beautiful Filipe Villanueva Teatro. And, in the impressive Cathedral of Cuernavaca, OYO joined with the young Cuernavaca Symphony Youth Orchestra to present another concert for a very large and appreciative audience.

Still there was time to explore the unique sites along the way. In Costa Rica, special accommodations were available at Eco Lodge, situated in the heart of a lush tropical rain forest. This

offered the perfect vantage point to view the magnificent plant and animal life, as well as to visit the natural springs at Tabacon Spa, just at the foot of Arenal Volcano, which regularly performs its own evening light and fire show. OYO also enjoyed several aspects of Mexico's rich history, including a visit to the Teotihuacan pyramids and glimpses into its colonial past as seen in Taxco's extraordinary Santa Prisca Church, built by the wealth of its local silver mines.

The last leg of the tour, and its amazing highlight, took place in Cuba where, at the invitation of Havana's Gran Teatro and with the blessing of the US Treasury Department, OYO performed an exhilarating program with the Amadeo Roldán Youth Orchestra to a sold-out crowd. Local promoters said this was the first American orchestra to play in Havana since the US embargo was imposed more than 30 years ago - and there was great anticipation for the visit from both sides. The incomparable thrill of this final performance was in contrast to the bittersweet delight of Old Havana itself: a magical port city with faded baroque buildings, 1950s-era automobiles, stately old churches, sidewalk cafes, and a rare atmosphere of quiet calm mixed with an infectious rhythmic street beat.

Certainly, OYO will never again take for granted the musical facilities and supplies so abundantly available here in comparison with Cuba, where such basic things as manuscript paper, music stands, and strings are so strikingly difficult to come by. Still, no one would ever claim this situation threatens the inherent musical nature of the Cubans. Nor will they ever forget their performance of *Guanguanco*, which featured among other things a dancing trumpet section and a span of concurrent but different syncopated rhythms beaten out by each of the string sections.

Photo: Howard Kirsch. OYO oboist, Jason Leith, exchanges pointers with his Cuban counterpart.

Andrew Bogiages Scholarship Fund

Last year a scholarship fund was established to honor the memory of bassoonist Andrew Bogiages. This full OYO scholarship will be granted annually on a merit basis to an OYO wind player who best exemplifies the qualities which others admired in Andrew: excellence in music, commitment to the orchestra and its members, a joy of life, caring for his fellow human beings, and a desire to be a good person. Last season the recipient was clarinetist Jane Carr. For the 1998-1999 OYO season, the award goes to a young man in our horn section, Jeff Matthews.