

noteworthy

Winter 2007

Oakland Youth Orchestra

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Doris Fukawa OYO 1972-74 Crowden Center Executive Director

by Noreen Axelson

OYO alumna Doris Fukawa, grew up in Berkeley. She attended Jefferson Elementary, which is now the home of the Crowden Music Center. Doris was inspired to study violin when a SF Symphony outreach event came to Jefferson, and received violin instruction from Oakland Symphony player Dean Williams. In the eighth grade she started private violin lessons with Anne Crowden. As a young violinist, Doris played violin with the OYO, took chamber music at the SF Conservatory's Prep Division, and attended Cazadero Performing Arts Camp.

After graduating Berkeley High, Doris left the Bay Area for New York, where she attended the Manhattan School of Music, receiving a B.M., and then Columbia University, where she earned a Masters of Education. She returned to the Bay Area, however, where she has led a rich and varied musical life. She has played with most of the major orchestras in the Bay Area, recorded both classical and popular music, and taught dozens of students on both sides of the Bay.

Doris now serves as the ED of the Crowden Music Center as well as Director of the Ensembles Program in the Preparatory Division of the SF Conservatory. In these positions, Doris is able to ensure that young people can have the same kind of guidance and support that she received as a young musician. She looks back at her years with OYO with great affection. Doris remembers: I played with OYO during my junior and senior years. I was there along with Peter Jaffe, Gloria Lum, Deirdre Cooper, Shinji Eshima and Claudia Bloom—all like-minded souls who loved playing music, but also normal kids.

I loved playing for conductor Denis de Coteau. I'm really a string nerd (*she chuckles*). I just really loved going to rehearsals and getting to hang out with my colleagues! Denis was such a fine musician and a fine educator. He was conductor of the SF Ballet, and I could listen to his jokes and stories about professional life forever.

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Margot Schwartz

OYO 1996-00 former concertmaster



The last time Noteworthy profiled Margot, she'd just graduated Northwestern. Now, two years later, she's a grad student at Yale, and in her spare time is taking to the stages of the East Bay.

On January 13 she appeared at Zellerbach with the Berkeley Symphony under the very able baton of her old friend George Thomson.

Reviewer Lisa Hirsch wrote in SF Classical Voice: "In Margot Schwartz, who grew up in Oakland and attended the Crowden School, the Symphony had a soloist whose strengths were best displayed in the gentler parts of the score. She was at her best in the slow movement, where the warm beauty of her low register and her strong sense of line sustained the mood of the music well."

On February 23 Margot will again perform the Sibelius Violin Concerto, this time with the Oakland East Bay Symphony and Michael Morgan at Oakland's Paramount Theatre. Can't wait to hear her!

Cohen & Cohen Grammy Nomination!

Amazing jazz and classical violinist Jeremy Cohen (OYO 1974-75) and his not too shabby cellist brother Joel, (OYO 1969-71) are half of the Quartet San Francisco which received two Grammy nominations for *Látigo*, their dazzling recording of tango and Latin arrangements—Best Classical Crossover CD and Best Engineered Classical CD. Joel was co-principal of the Oakland Symphony, then spent a number of years in Vienna, then played with the Boston Symphony. Jeremy recorded on many occasions at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch, including "Star Wars." **May the force be with you!**

OYO on NBC11 Vista

An OYO string quartet performed on the Vista broadcast of December 17, 2006. The Quartet of Rachel Taylor, Ken Matsueda, Lucy Archer, and Brady Anderson played a traditional Armenian dance and were coached by Heghine Boloyan.



Michael Morgan chats with host Janice Edwards.



Rachel Taylor and Ken Matsueda.



Lucy Archer and Brady Anderson



Ian Jones OYO 1997-2002

Ian, Indiana University class of 2006, won a one-year cello appointment at the Honolulu Symphony. Things are looking good for Ian. He writes:

I've had one or two crazy experiences so far, the best was probably when, for the Sunday concert one week (second concert of the set) the associate principal cellist, sitting principal for the concert, got food poisoning. The concert, with the two violinists of the Orion Quartet as soloists, started at 4pm. I'm sitting at home watching tennis on TV or something (I wasn't even supposed to play in the concert, it was reduced orchestra,) and I get a call at 1:30 pm, and suddenly I was playing principal in the concert, with about half an hour rehearsal with the soloists! I had to play all sorts of solo continuo parts; the concert consisted of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, and Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins*.

Luckily I had played it all before, the Vivaldi and Bach at Crowden in fact, so it wasn't as bad as it could have been. It was wild, but a great time, and we all went out for dinner afterward.

Danielle Taylor Recital

Violinist Danielle Taylor, OYO 2000-05 and concertmaster, is still going strong! A sophomore at Oberlin Conservatory, she's giving a local recital on Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 pm at the Family Life Center of Allen Temple Baptist Church, 8501 International Blvd, Oakland. This recital is a fundraiser for Danielle's summer trip to Gambia, West Africa, where she will be studying West African Drumming for 2 weeks. Hope to see you there!

Chris Kong, Percussion

Chris, OYO 2001-03. This is the same man as Chris the pianist and Chris the clarinetist, who long wanted to play all the parts in Rhapsody in Blue. He's now a senior at University of the Pacific and will be performing a preview of his senior recital on Sat. April 7 at 2 pm in the Exhibition Room of the beautiful Castro Valley Center for the Arts. Time to be announced. All proceeds from this recital will be donated to the Castro Valley Arts Foundation so that the amount of the contribution is doubled through the Match the Million campaign currently underway.

OYO Members Excel!

In the January Contra Costa Strings Association Young Artists Competition Finals **Danielle Wilson** performed the Barber Violin Concerto 1st mvt. in the Junior Division (9th and 10th grades) and tied for first. **Reuben Moss** came in third in the Senior Division with what we heard was a "glorious" performance in this hotly contested division. In November **Lawrence Chu** won 2nd place in the Diablo Symphony Orchestra young artist competition—a very exciting performance we hear! Principal cellist **Brady Anderson** will perform the Dvorak Concerto as a winner of the Solano Community Symphony Young Artist's Competition. Stand mates violinists **Reuben Moss** and **Amanda Mok** are all relaxed and happy over early acceptances to Stanford. Except Amanda will be one of our soloists at the Spring Concert. Reuben is always relaxed. **Grant Lipson** just made Eagle Scout. **Marisa Ishimatsu** won her Girl Scout Gold Award. The Young Musicians Program won the 2006 Coming Up Taller Award as one of the top 15 arts education programs in the nation. Director Daisy Newman and **Brianna Pang**, violinist, accepted the award from First Lady Laura Bush during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on January 22nd. Assistant Concertmaster **Rachel Taylor** has been nominated to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Congratulations to all and good luck, Rachel!



Brianna Pang and First Lady Laura Bush

Dreyer's Rocky Road Bus

We welcome at today's concert students from Oakland High, Edna Brewer Middle School, and Franklin Elementary, and their parents, transported in high style by the Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream Rocky Road Bus, arranged by Oakland Music Teacher and OYO Board Member Kathryn Lyle.

Teddy Abrams reviewed

Clarinetist and conductor Teddy Abrams (OYO 1997-99) was recently reviewed in the Washington Post by Joan Reenthaler on a performance with the St. Petersburg String Quartet:

"Abrams molded his lines with exquisite control of both dynamics and intensity (the latter especially) and moved in and out of the spotlight smoothly and with splendid artistry." Teddy is now 19 and a graduate student at Curtis.

OYO Concerto Competition

OYO held our annual Concerto Competition on December 16. 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!

Twelve strong candidates entered, and the winners were: in First-Place-Tie, Cellist **Josh Chen**, (student of Milly Rosner), and Pianist (and violinist) **Amanda Mok**, (student of James Gardner and violin student of Debra Schwartz). They will perform at our May 20 concert. Amanda will play the first movement of the Grieg Piano Concerto in a minor. Josh will perform the first movement of the Shostakovich Cello Concerto. Third Place Winner, Violinist **Rachel Taylor** (student of Debra Schwartz), will perform the first movement of the Wieniawski Second Violin Concerto at our Pops concert on March 4. All three are very exciting pieces!

Leonard Cheng 1984-2007

We have just learned that alumnus and cellist Leonard Cheng (OYO 1997-2001), was killed in a tragic automobile accident in San Diego late last week. Our hearts go out to his family, mother Suzanne Pan, a past member of our Board and his father Ching-Shui Cheng, and to his sister Adelaide Cheng, also an OYO alumna and former Board member.

Oakland Youth Orchestra

Michael Morgan, Artistic Director • Bryan Nies, Principal Conductor

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OYO Tour 2007

Greece!

Many Scholarships needed

OYO Tours for the traditional reason: to make life harder. The big challenge for OYO members is to give five fantastic concerts while following a vigorous tourist agenda, and do it in a way that everyone has a great trip. The big challenge for the OYO Board is to raise funds for the 27 scholarships we have awarded. OYO's tradition is that everyone tours. Please help make dreams come true! **Think Greece!!**

Be instrumental!

Your generous contribution will help support OYO's internationally acclaimed programs.

OYO is a 501(c)3 organization and your contribution is tax-deductible.

Please note that you can donate conveniently online at

www.yoyo.org



The Oakland Youth Orchestra covers less than a third 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! OYO for Everyone!

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.

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Maurice Arnold, President
Barbara Stack, Executive Director
Diana Moore, Development Manager
Ted Yuan, Operations Manager and Librarian

The 80 current members of OYO range in age from 12.8 to 21.2. The average age today is 16.17.

4.75% come from Alameda County; 41.25% from Contra Costa; 6.25% from San Francisco; 1.25% from Marin; 1.25% from Napa, and 2.5% from Solano. 10 members are from Oakland; and 5 others attend schools in Oakland.

We are 54% female; 46% male.

Noteworthy is published by the Oakland Youth Orchestra, a tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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Greek 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 as listed in Concert Program.

OYO Spring Auditions for 07-08
Contact us to get on the list now!
manager@oyo.org

Doris Fukawa *continued*

A highlight was going to the 1974 Von Karajan Festival in Berlin and winning the silver medal. That was a strong group, a fun group. Years later, in 1990, I was on a bus going to Berlin with the SF Symphony and remarked to a colleague on the bus, Victor Romasevich, about my first visit to Berlin in '74. It turned out he'd been there too—playing for the Moscow Conservatory. They won the gold! I remembered them as always having KGB nearby, and he (from an orchestra with virtually no girls) remembers us as the orchestra “with all the girls”!

OYO was special because it was about making music on a high level with like-minded souls—that was exciting. Half of my colleagues from then are professional musicians now.

OYO was part of the foundation that helped me continue as a musician. It added to the wealth of my experiences—part of the “aural” tradition. It gave me a rich musical foundation to go out into the music world and become a professional musician.

