

Oakland Youth Orchestra
1428 Alice Street, Suite 202M
Oakland, CA 94612
510-832-7710
manager@oyo.org

Fresh **SPRING CONCERT**
43rd Season of great music by great kids
where education meets performance

OAKLAND, CA — May 20, 2007, 3 pm, at Castro Valley Center for the Arts. The concert will be conducted by the masterful Maestro Michael Morgan and the brilliant OYO Principal Conductor Bryan Nies.

Michael Morgan has said of OYO: “You have to experience it in person. There is an excitement that simply cannot be duplicated.”

OYO Concert Program

Call of the West

Elinor Armer

World Premiere of two movements

Overture in D

Handel arr. Elgar

Toccata and Fugue in D minor

Bach arr. Stokowski

Summer Evening

Frederick Delius

Piano Concerto in a minor, mvt. 1

Edvard Grieg

Amanda Mok, piano

Cello Concerto 1, mvt. 1

Dmitri Shostakovich

Joshua Chen, cello

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Castro Valley Center for the Arts is located at 19501 Redwood Road, Castro Valley CA 94546.

Oakland Youth Orchestra is comprised of 82 talented young music students aged 13 to 21 years from over 30 cities from throughout the Bay Area. The Orchestra is supported by tuition, corporate, foundation and government grants, and contributions from individuals in the community. To learn more visit www.oyo.org.

Artistic Director Michael Morgan was born in Washington DC where he began conducting at the age of 12. While a student at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, he spent a summer at the Tanglewood Berkshire Music Center and worked with Leonard Bernstein. Morgan is a noted teacher of conducting and advocate for music education in Oakland and around the world.

Principal Conductor Bryan Nies holds the prestigious Bruno Walter Assistant Conductor Chair with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, is Assistant Conductor of Opera San Jose, and an assistant conductor of Festival Opera in Walnut Creek.

Fresh: Maestro Morgan programs OYO's third concert with a fresh off the press new commission by masterful and playful composer, Oakland native, Elinor Armer, the two winners OYO concerto competition, two fresh takes on Bach and Handel by the orchestrators Elgar and Leopold Stokowski, and a wistful Summer Evening by Delius.

Elinor Armer studied composition with Darius Milhaud and Leon Kirchner and piano with Alexander Libermann. She has received the Norman Fromm Composer's Award, fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the Charles Ives Center for American Music, the Chamber Music Conference/Composer's Forum of the East, Yaddo and the Djerassi Foundation, and numerous commissions. In 1991, she received the Gerbode Foundation New Music Composition Award. She has performed, lectured and adjudicated throughout the country. Her works are published by J.B. Elkus and Son and C.F. Peters. She is one of the co-founders of Composers, Inc. Her collaborative work with author Ursula Le Guin, *Uses Music in Uttermost Parts*, an eight-part fantasy series, has been recorded on the Koch International Label. She is on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory.

Elinor Armer writes:

I am composing a work designed specifically for the capabilities and sensibilities of the young players in the Oakland Youth Orchestra. Like most, if not all, of them, I am a local product—born in Oakland, raised in the Sacramento Valley, and educated in the Bay Area. My professional work for the last forty plus years has been geared to the needs and goals of emerging young musicians on the West Coast.

Teaching is my fulfillment. And being a Californian is my pride. I have tried to develop a distinctly Californian voice in my compositions. This means coming up with music which, like California, is warm, colorful, varied—inventive as well as appealing, lyrical as well as energetic, youthful in spirit while sophisticated in realization.

It has been a lifelong ambition of mine to write a symphonic work about California—its mountains, valleys, cities, ocean, and people. Now I have the opportunity to merge this dream with my other joy in life—working with the young.

The title of my piece for the OYO is “Call of the West” (shades of Jack London, another Oakland native.) It consists of four movements—‘Mountain Sunrise,’ ‘Valley Heat,’ ‘City Bea,’ and ‘Pacific Night.’ The score will allow both soloists and the orchestra as a whole to shine, and is designed to appeal to the players in its theatricality, scenic descriptiveness, and extroverted mix of ethnic and musical styles.

I am especially pleased that the piece will be played on a tour in Greece, because of certain affinities that I believe exist between those islands and our own west coast—natural beauty, much of it rural; intimate relationship with both land and sea; a populace both earthy and enlightened, both high-hearted and civilized.

I am thrilled and grateful to have this opportunity to share in the Oakland Youth Orchestra's musical ambassadorship.

Amanda Mok is a senior at Northgate High School. She started studying piano at age four and currently studies with James Gardner in Walnut Creek. In addition to piano, Amanda started studying violin at age eight and studies with Debra Schwartz. She also participates in several ensembles including the Oakland Youth Orchestra, Northgate String Orchestra, and several quartets at her school. Her favorite composers include Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Claude Debussy, and Ernest Chausson. Besides music, Amanda enjoys reading, scrapbooking, learning to play guitar, playing Dance Dance Revolution®, and spending time with her lovely friends. Next year, Amanda will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, where she will pursue a major in Biological Engineering and a minor in Music.

Joshua Chen, a Junior at The King's Academy in Sunnyvale, has been studying the cello with Mildred Rosner of Berkeley since he was 6 years old. Josh comes from a musical family and is the youngest of three sons. His oldest brother Lucas was principal cellist at OYO from 1999-2002 and is currently a graduate student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His other older brother Samuel was concertmaster of OYO from 2002-2004 and is currently a third year undergrad, pursuing a degree in biology and criminology at the University of California, Irvine. Josh has tried hard to follow in his brothers' footsteps, as Lucas and Samuel both won the OYO concerto competition in 2002 and 2004 respectively.

For more information, please contact manager@oyo.org or call 510-832-7710.