



Hawaii Youth Symphony
Where Hawaii's youth make
exceptional music together.

Hawaii Youth Symphony Newsletter

...OF NOTE

Learn  Perform  Grow

Fall 2010

SAVE THE DATE

He Makana O Na Mele

Featuring YSI, Willie K &
Makaha Sons

Sun., Oct. 24, 5:30 pm
Hilton Hawaiian Village

Youth Symphony II Mall Concert

Sun., Nov. 21, 1:00 pm
Windward Mall, Free

WINTER CONCERT

Concert Orchestra and
Youth Symphony I & II

Sun., Dec. 5 4:00 pm
Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall

HYS Academy Winter Concert

Sat., Dec. 11, 2:00 pm
Mid-Pacific Bakken Aud.

FREE Listen & Learn Concerts

Dec. 6, 7 & 13
9:00, 10:15 & 11:45
Blaisdell Concert Hall
Pearl City Cultural Center

SOLD
OUT

FREE YSI Maui Community Concert

Mon., Feb. 21, 7:00 pm
Maui Arts & Cultural Center

FREE YSII Concert

w/ Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus
Sun., March 6
Kawaiaha'o Church

www.HiYouthSymphony.org
or call 941-9706 for information.



HYS is supported by the City &
County of Honolulu and the State
Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

The Nakasone Legacy: Endless Gift of Music



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Photos by Abel Rivera


Conductor Michael Nakasone, Youth Symphony II's leading director for more than two decades, retired at the close of last season. Beginning his HYS career with the Concert Orchestra in the late '80s, he maintained the directorship of Youth Symphony II until his retirement in May 2010.

Mr. Nakasone is a musician to the core, living life's fulfillment with the art of music. He was the acclaimed director of the Pearl City High School Band which earned the prestigious Sousa Foundation Sudler Flag of Honor Award under his baton. He is one of only three Hawaii directors to be inducted into the American Bandmasters Association. His career path gleams from awards highlighting his accomplishments and contributions to our community.

But perhaps no award will be as lasting or impactful on Hawaii's music community than the



Olivia De Jane with Michael Nakasone

Legacy Mr. Nakasone leaves with HYS. **Ms. Olivia De Jane**, a musician and generous philanthropist, established the **\$500,000 Michael Nakasone Legacy Fund in honor of Youth Symphony II**. A true visionary, Ms. De Jane left a highly acclaimed operatic and concert career to succeed also as an educator, like Mr. Nakasone. Inspired by his tireless work ethic, leadership and outstanding performances, Ms. De Jane honors Mr. Nakasone by creating the largest gift in HYS's history: a legacy endowment that ensures HYS's financial assistance completely in perpetuity. Because of Ms. De Jane, HYS can make certain that no interested student will ever be turned away from a quality music education based on financial needs. This is a powerful statement, and one for which we are eternally grateful to Mr. Nakasone and HYS's benevolent Ms. Olivia De Jane. HYS extends a timeless standing ovation to them Both. 

1) Conductor Nakasone with his hallmark smile; 2) HYS held its Aloha Concert Luncheon on May 16 in honor of Mr. Nakasone. HYS Music Director Henry Miyamura gives Mr. Nakasone an inscribed KoAloha ukulele in appreciation for his 21 years of service. 3) Mr. Nakasone reads a card signed by orchestra members and illustrated by YSII violinist **Eura Ha**. 4) YSII Concertmaster **Justin Park** presents Mr. Nakasone with an illustrated portrait from the orchestra, coordinated by **Joanne Hanagami** who served as Mr. Nakasone's concert parent for nearly 20 years.

Photo by Ann Ravelo

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HYS Family,

Welcome to Hawaii Youth Symphony's 46th season! This year has gotten off to an overwhelming start... but it all bodes well for us. By now, all of our students are settled in their classes and orchestras. This year, we are booking the largest enrollment in HYS's history. We are servicing more than 700 students, ages 5-18, from more than 120 schools, up 17% over last year. The growth has been phenomenal, affirming that there is very high demand for quality music programs in our community.



The largest area of growth has been in our HYS Academy. We had our greatest number of applicants ever auditioning for our Concert String Orchestra and String Orchestra Ensemble, up 21% over last year. We opened additional Music4Kids classes, our free general music classes for students ages 5-10. The response has been tremendous, up 6 fold over last year. And our free Boys & Girls Club Band has 25 members enrolled and playing their hearts out. We are very excited, and extend our gratitude to the **Boys & Girls Club** for being accommodating hosts for our Academy.

Thanks to a partnership with the City and other generous donors, HYS added two more Listen & Learn concerts at Blaisdell to our educational performances schedule. We will be servicing 14,000 students during eight free concerts on Oahu alone, up



40% over last year. Even with the offering of extra seats, we filled every concert within a week's time. We thank the Department of Education for supporting and endorsing these concerts and send a huge mahalo to **RUTH KOMATSU** for creating all the educational materials for teachers and students to prepare them for our performances.

HYS is growing in leaps and bounds. We are only able to do this with the help of our friends in the community and our supportive families. You'll read about extraordinary people in this issue who have gone beyond the call to ensure HYS is not only solvent but well cared for. Thank you to each and every one.

Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to the magnificent **OLIVIA DE JANE** who has not only given HYS our largest gift in history, but has shown a vested interest in our programs. We thank our Lucky Star for shining eternally on our students and for leaving a meaningful legacy for Mr. Nakasone at HYS.

We're off to a great start this season. Thanks for your support, enthusiasm and confidence in our young people and their music.

Aloha.

Selena Ching



In the Spotlight

Highlighting HYS's Star Volunteers

Mel & Lance Uchida Super Duo



Can you imagine raising four kids... all violinists and all home schooled?? **Mel and Lance Uchida**, are a super duo who are not only raising tremendously talented and smart kids, but are also volunteers who have been (and will be) hanging in the HYS volunteer Hall of Fame for a long, long time.

HYS is grateful to have a strong corps of dedicated parents who often go beyond the call. But it's unusual for us to have both parents participating so comprehensively and absolutely as the Uchidas. Over the past eight years they've been with the program (thankfully, there are many more to come!) Lance and Mel have each done just about every volunteer duty that HYS has to offer... and then some.

After warming up as lead parent in the HYS String Program where the Uchida children have taken turns as concertmasters, Lance stepped up as the highly esteemed and poetic YSI Concert Parent for 4 years while his eldest daughter, Jaycee, fiddled away. Famous for his witty weekly emails to the orchestra that often included haiku and verse, Lance is endeared by our students who appreciate the levity of his antics, admire his in-depth knowledge of pop culture and consider him one of their own. His tenor voice and *kolohe* humor, also made him a perfect emcee for HYS Academy, Listen & Learn and Symphony concerts. A past clarinetist and mechanical engineer by trade, Lance has a strong graphical eye and has donated Academy concert programs, banners and beautifully designed event signage to HYS. He was often seen toting his laptop and color printer around to print photos-on-demand at concerts for students. Lance has also flexed his brawn for HYS by constructing shelving for our storage unit at the Boys & Girls Club. All of this and he still manages to find time to spear fish and help moderate the Hawaii Skin Diver forum.

Mel takes the lead with homeschooling the four Uchida children. She has donated the outstanding designs for HYS's t-shirts for the past five years. Her hip and fun designs have added to HYS's bottom line as well as our marketing value. Mel is a talented craftswoman who has been spotted working on stunning and creative projects while waiting for her kids to finish rehearsals and lessons. Many of these craft projects have benefitted HYS at silent auctions and country stores. After taking turns with Lance as lead parent in our String program, Mel is this year's Concert Orchestra Concert Parent where Megan, the youngest Uchida, is the concertmaster.

The Uchidas are a model family that keeps everything balanced with good humor, happy spirit and an incredible capacity for giving to others. Their generosity of time, talents and resources is legendary at HYS. And every HYS staff member agrees that the warmth, grace and humility in which they give is unmatched. We thank you both for making HYS a part of your family. Bravo! 🎵

Stars Turn Out for Aloha Concert Luncheon



835 people attended HYS's final concert of the 2009-2010 season at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on May 16. The stars came out full-force to help HYS bid farewell to retiring conductor Michael Nakasone and to congratulate 61 graduating seniors. Karen Hida, HYS10, percussion, delivered a moving invocation to begin the festivities, and Ben Gutierrez emceed the event. Mahalo to everyone who made it an afternoon to remember. ♪

Photos: top: YSII with Mr. Nakasone. Bottom l-r: Gabe Baltazar; Dean Taba, HYS81, horn; Ginai; Isla Tango dancers Elizabeth Caraggio and George Garcia; Iris Eunji Jang on Korean drum; Pierre Grill; and Noel Okimoto



Photos by Abel Rivera

2010 Pacific Music Institute Successes

100+ Students from Oahu, Maui, Big Island & the Mainland Participate in Summer Music Immersion Program, July 17-25, 2010



PMI hit another high note this summer as students from across the state gathered for workshops, sectionals, chamber groups, large ensembles and great performances at the UH Music Dept. and Pearl City Cultural Center. Oboe clinician **Derek Fujio**, HYS04, arranged a unique work especially for PMI, a Studio Ghibli piece for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn and tuba.

We send a heartfelt mahalo to **Lance Jo**, PMI co-founder and clinician for more than two decades. His sage guidance and quiet strength have been invaluable to developing the program and directing its success. ♪

1) Flute clinician **Lynn Muramaru**, HYS alumnae, flute, with sectional; 2) **KeAnuenue Hayashi**, HYS00, trombone, lower brass clinician; 3) Conductor **Derrick Yamane** with Symphony; 4) DOE Fine Arts Specialists **Alison Ibara-Kawabe** observed PMI. Shown with oboists working on reed making; 5) Saxophone clinician and Jazz Band Director **Todd Yukumoto** works with PMI Jazz Band; 6) Retired UH Band Director **Grant Okamura** directs Concert Band

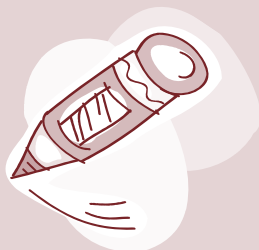
HYS Academy Setting Strong Foundation for Learning

HYS Academy has been rapidly expanding over the past three years. Pictured here are scenes from our Summer Strings program taught by Chad Uye-hara, HYS93, violin. Fifty-eight students enrolled in daily lessons from June-July. Photos also show student learning in our Music4Kids FREE general music program. 91 children, ages 5-10, are currently enrolled in three Music4Kids classes at the Boys & Girls Clubhouse. 🎵



Write and Win!

HYS's annual essay contest is back on the books and we're looking for what YOU have to say. We want to give our HYS students a chance to express yourselves outside the rehearsal halls. Cash prizes and opportunities to publish your writing are all part of this year's contest. Cash prizes range from \$30-\$150! Essays will be accepted in three categories: Division III, grades 2-6 (1st place: \$50; 2nd place: \$30), Division II, grades 7-9 (1st place: \$80; 2nd place: \$60) and Division I, grades 10-12 (1st place: \$150; 2nd place: \$100). Contest deadline is October 29, 2010. Winners will be announced right after Thanksgiving. Winning essays will be published partly or entirely in HYS's newsletters. We know many HYS students have a lot to say about music, and we want to read about it. For essay topics and more information, visit HYS's website. Good luck! 🎵



THANK YOU to our 2010-2011 **CONCERT PARENTS** who make our rehearsals and concerts possible. They have all been working very hard and we applaud each of them:

Concert Orchestra: **MELANIE UCHIDA, DEREK LOUI** and **GARY TODOKI**

Youth Symphony II: **JOANNE HANAGAMI, JIM ARAKI** and **GWEN MOTOSHIGE**

Youth Symphony I: **KAREN FUJIMOTO** and **ROBERT YOUNG**

And for setting the longevity, incredibly hard-working volunteer example, we thank our irreplaceable 20+-year volunteer chief, **Les Murata**, HYS's Vice President, for bravely leading the way. 🎵

Ways You can Help Keep the Music Playing

Travel Deals for You; Dollars for HYS



HYS has joined Hawaiian Airlines Preferred Affiliate Program. This means every time you book your Hawaiian Air travel using HYS's code (or enter the Hawaiian Air website from our HYS website), you will not only get the lowest available web fares, you will be giving HYS one Hawaiian mile for every \$1 you spend. You still get mileage credit in your account too! You even get an additional 5% discount for transpacific flights booked through this program. Other promotional offers may also be available so keep checking before you book. It's quick and easy, and it's a win for you and HYS. So the next time you're looking to take a vacation, visit family or just get away, please take HYS along with you. If you can't actually take us along, please consider booking through our website www.HiYouthSymphony.org or going to www.HawaiianAir.com/Affiliate and use HYSYMPHONY. Mahalo for your help and happy trails to you! 🎵



Please support HYS by making a donation at Foodland or Sack N Save from September 1-30 so your donation can be matched by Foodland and the Western Union Foundation. Show your Maika'i Card (free, if you don't have one), and use our Hawaii Youth Symphony code **77060** to donate at any store cashier across the state. For more information, visit our website. Mahalo!



Avon Look at HYS

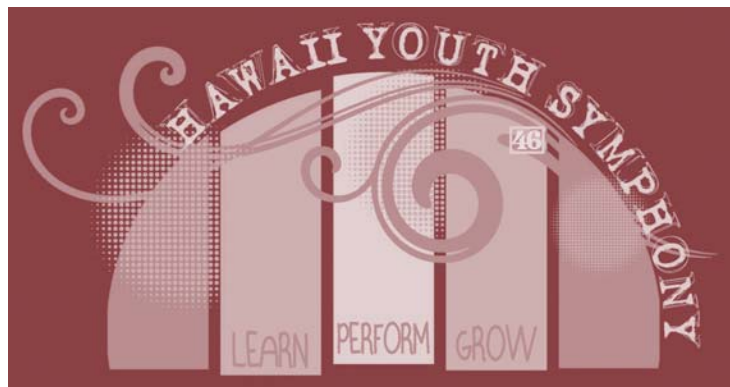
Thanks to CO parent **Kelli Takara** and her Avon representative Grace Sugimoto, HYS has been included as part of Avon's community fundraising program. Conveniently shop online at www.youravon.com/gsugimoto, and 25% of what you spend will come directly to HYS. Just click on the *online events* tab. Our HYS code is HYS100. It's a great way to pamper yourself, get holiday shopping done AND help our young musicians. There's stuff for him, her, the kids, the home... something for everyone! Happy shopping and thank you! 🎵

Alumnae Raises \$2,000



Big mahalo to **Jennifer Lai**, HYS05, violin, who had her senior piano recital at the Atherton Studios this past August. She designated the recital as a benefit for HYS, and raised \$2,000 for our financial assistance program. Jennifer has gone on to medical school. HYS is always especially touched when we see our alumni doing

so well and giving back to our programs. Many thanks to Jennifer, Lai Family Friends and Friends of Ann Tanabe Studio. 🎵



HYS 2010-2011 T-Shirts

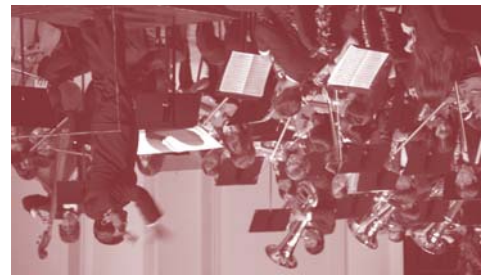
2010-2011t-shirts available for order, \$10 (100% cotton). Designed by our very own parent volunteer **Mel Uchida**. This fun and refreshing design captures the music as it floats across our concert stage. 3 shades of green on a navy blue shirt. Color samples and order forms at www.HiYouthSymphony.org. 🎵



City & County of Honolulu Partners with HYS

This past August, the City & County announced a partnership with HYS that will allow HYS to hold two FREE concerts at the Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall each year for the next 3 years. The City is substantially reducing the cost to use the concert hall in order for HYS to produce its concerts. This is a tremendous opportunity for HYS to secure its concert schedule and ensure that it can make its music accessible to everyone in the community. Part of

HYS's MusicAlive initiative, the first of the free concert series will be on **April 10, 2011, 4:00 pm**, when HYS will collaborate with the **Aloha International Piano Festival**, **Oahu Choral Society**, violinist **Iggy Jang** and composer **Mike Foumai**, HYS05, violin, to bring an afternoon of exciting and innovative orchestral music to our communities. Stay tuned! 🎵



www.HiYouthSymphony.org and visit us on Facebook
(808) 941-9706 admin@HiYouthSymphony.org

Honolulu, HI 96826
1110 University Ave., #200

Hawaii Youth Symphony



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Don't Miss this Concert Event

We are so thrilled that it's happening again! HYS is partnering with **Willie K** to offer one of THE entertainment events of the year! And this year, he's bringing along the **Makaha Sons!!** Come be a part of an evening that will feature our 94-member Youth Symphony I with these classic and beloved performers. The music will soar on October 24 as we pay tribute

to Bruddah Iz. It will be a blockbuster evening with some of the finest music our islands have to offer. Tickets are \$95 for a Hawaiian-style dinner and the concert. It's a great deal AND you're supporting ALL of HYS's music programs. Please join us. It really will be a great show! Call the HYS office for tickets (941-9706) or visit our website to download order forms at www.HiYouthSymphony.org. ♪

Help Make Money for Kids & Music

HYS is looking for all kinds of stuff to auction and sell at our upcoming He Makana O Na Mele fundraiser. This is our only benefit of the year and we depend on our families and community for its success. We would be grateful for *new silent auction items* or things to sell at our store. Store items could include *plants, homemade cakes, cookies, mochi, or other delectable goods that are packaged for sale*. We also welcome *homemade craft items* for the holiday season. Our thanks go out to YSII Concert Parent and all-around great guy, **Jim Araki**, and the hard-working and tireless

Vicky Chiu-Irion for volunteering to repeat-chair this year's auction. Donations accepted at the HYS office until the event. For more information, call 941-9706. Event proceeds go towards supporting ALL HYS programs. Thank you for these gifts from the heart. ♪

He Makana O Na Mele The Gift of Music

Sunday, October 24

Hilton Hawaiian Village,
Coral Ballroom

4:30 pm Silent Auction
and store

5:30 pm Hawaiian-style
dinner

7:00 pm Concert with
Willie K &
Makaha Sons

HYS Winter Concert: *La Jeunesse Musicale!*
dedicated with eternal gratitude to *Olivia De Jane*

Sunday, December 5, 2010, 4:00 pm
Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall

HYS Symphony Program

Youth Symphony II

Derrick Yamane, Conductor

Concert Orchestra

Susan Ochi-Onishi, Conductor

Hannah Watanabe, Associate Conductor

This concert is made possible through support from the Aloha International Piano Festival and First Hawaiian Bank Foundation

Youth Symphony I

Henry Miyamura, Conductor