



Hawaii Youth Symphony

October 1, 2012

Dear Hawaii Youth Symphony Supporter:

On behalf of the entire Hawaii Youth Symphony, I am writing to convey our sincere appreciation. Your support plays an extremely valuable role in our success. We closed the books on our 47th season on June 30, 2012 and humbly send this letter to report on the season's activities. You instill the confidence we need to make our work our very best, and so I hope this letter will demonstrate proof of a sound investment.

Highlights from our 47th Season (FY12)

Over 600 students served

- ♪ HYS directly served over 600 students from 83 schools on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Island. These students registered for HYS's 14 music programs throughout the season. HYS offers a wide spectrum of opportunities for youth to participate; from classes that serve beginners (with no prior experience) through our flagship orchestra Youth Symphony I, comprised of some of our state's finest young musicians. HYS has one of the country's most comprehensive programs and is Hawaii's only statewide youth orchestra organization.



24 concerts produced; 22 of them admission-free

- ♪ HYS believes in making symphonic music easily accessible to our community. Not only do we encourage attendance with free admission, but we increase public awareness for our organization by performing in public spaces that encourage our community members to enjoy and appreciate live symphonic music. The adrenaline sure flows at our concerts, and there's nothing more exhilarating than seeing nearly 100 youth performing a rousing overture or symphony! An estimated 20,000 people attended our concerts on Oahu and Hawaii Island.

Over \$50,000 in financial assistance

- ♪ HYS is committed to make music education accessible to any interested student, regardless of financial means. An endowment account established by a generous gift in honor of retired conductor Michael Nakasone, ensures HYS's ability to assist families in financial hardship with the costs of tuition, registration fees, instrument rentals, travel subsidies, and private lessons. Because HYS is committed to serving youth throughout the state, honing in on and supporting students who travel from the neighbor islands is a particular priority. In FY12, HYS disbursed \$50,133 distributed to 62 students, five of whom hailed from the neighbor islands and received full travel scholarships to participate in Youth Symphony I.



Unique programming with high standards & professional guest artists

- ♪ HYS strives to provide unique musical experiences for its students. Part of that philosophy is to bring in guest artists to inspire our students and serve as role models. HYS students performed with Willie K, Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus, Noel Okimoto (drums), Dean Taba (bass), Ginai (jazz vocalist), Bai He (soprano), and Stanton Haugen (trumpet), and the legendary Jimmy Borges. Youth Symphony I also performed a major world premieres of works by Dr. Byron Yasui, Dr. Neil McKay, and HYS alumnus and accomplished composer, Michael Thomas Foumai, HYS '05, violin. HYS also benefitted from volunteer emcee help from newscasters Billy V, Ben Gutierrez, and Howard Dicus.

13,000 school children attend FREE Listen & Learn educational concerts performed by fellow youth

- ♪ HYS understands that not all children can participate in our afterschool and weekend programs. We therefore make efforts to open our doors even further, thereby giving even more youth the opportunity to experience symphonic music first-hand. HYS also provides school teachers with supporting materials free-of-charge. While all HYS students participate in performance-based community outreach, the 285 students in our Symphony Program, volunteered to perform 12 school concerts on Oahu and Hawaii Island, serving nearly 13,000 children at Blaisdell Concert Hall, Pearl City Cultural Center, and Kahilu Theatre. These were the state's only educational concerts performed by full symphony orchestras!



More Open-Access, Community-Based Programs

- ♪ Between budget cuts, reductions in instructional time, and steep participation costs, Hawaii's young people have much difficulty accessing music instruction, classical music, and its benefits. Because HYS believes that every child has the ability to achieve in music, it is our priority to make as many of our programs accessible and affordable to youth as possible.
- ♪ Thanks to grants from the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation, the Julia Temple Davis Brown Foundation, and the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, HYS was able to offer FREE general music and band classes via its Music in the Clubhouse partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii. 74 students were directly served, many of whom came from schools whose music programs had been severely cut or otherwise diminished.

Music Helps Youth Achieve In and Beyond The Concert Hall

- ♪ HYS instills a sense of public service in its students in other ways as well. Our Spring 2012 Youth Symphony I concert was presented in partnership with Child Family Service; their mission of providing Hawaii's children with positive avenues for growth and development mirrors our own. Our Youth Symphony II, Concert Orchestra, and HYS Academy String Program orchestras all participated in the national campaign Orchestras Feeding America; over 900 lbs. of canned goods were donated at those orchestras' respective community concerts with food donations made by attendees and performers alike.



Our 48th season is already off to a running start. I am personally enthused about this year, as it will be the first full season I will witness as HYS's new Executive Director. My connection with HYS began over twenty years ago, when I began as bassist in String Orchestra; eventually working my way up to Youth Symphony I, and returning many summers in college and beyond as a clinician at HYS's Pacific Music Institute. As a HYS alumnus, I can personally attest to how HYS's standards for excellence, its footprint, and dedication have influenced decades of youth.

With so many worthy causes out there to support, HYS is especially grateful for your dedication to our work. Although we will continue to weather the loss of some one-time grants this season, we have already begun to make new connections and are welcoming new supporters to our family. As you know, my predecessor Selena Ching did a fantastic job with all aspects of HYS, and therefore I intend, at a minimum, to both maintain last season's gains and continue HYS's forward momentum.

Thankfully, classical music (and specifically that of symphony orchestras), is trying to make a comeback here in the islands. The professional symphony, the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, played a 16-week season last Spring, to stellar applause. I myself attended most of the concerts (and even played in a few) and saw many HYS students and families in attendance. There were also a handful of fellow HYS alumni on stage! This reinforced to me how large HYS's footprint is, and reminded me that investments made in HYS truly have lifelong returns.

Thank you again for being a part of our Hawaii Youth Symphony family. We cherish your investment in music and our youth.

Respectfully yours,

Randy Wong
Executive Director