**Senior Biographies**

**ZACHARY BLUMENSTEIN** has graced the ears of ECYS listeners with the sonorous notes of his breathtaking horn playing for the past three years. In addition to ECYS, he has played principal horn in the Clarion Brass Ensemble, the Santa Clara County Honor Band, and the California All-State Wind Ensemble. Using his sharp wit and almost encyclopedic knowledge of virtually all subjects, Zach competes with his high school’s Quiz Kids team. It is activities such as these that have gained Zach acceptance to one of our nation’s most esteemed higher educational institutions; Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. By Aaron Shuler

**ALVIN CHANG** has been with ECYS senior orchestra for four years. He will be going to the University of Chicago to study Economics, with a strong interest in both microeconomics and management. He hopes to enter Wall Street and work in the financing department for Goldman Sachs.

**GINA CHANG**, has been a member of ECYS since third grade and in the Symphony for three years. She attends Menlo School where she is a member of Knight Vision, a community service organization. She has participated in the Stanford Summer Internship in Cardiothoracic Surgery, and is currently interning with Stanford’s Anatomy Department. She is a Merit Finalist and earned the Rotary Recognition Award for Biology. Next year, she plans to play in the orchestra and pursue her interests in biology and medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. She thanks her cello teacher for his guidance and support, as well as Allison Ma for her constant friendship and humor.

**KEVIN G CHEN** has been a part of ECYS ensembles for six years and Symphony for the past three. In addition to ECYS, he has been a member of the Fremont High School concert bands and drum major of the marching band. Kevin would like to thank Dr. Kolchinsky, Debra Gardner, and most of all, his parents for their endless guidance and support through his musical endeavors. Kevin has also been heavily involved in the non-profit environmental organization Project EPIC, tutoring for his high school chapter of National Honor Society, and captaining Fremont’s Ultimate Frisbee Club. Kevin will travel to faraway and frigid New Hampshire to pursue Economics at Dartmouth College.

**STEPHANIE CHU**, a senior at American High School, has been a member of ECYS since her freshman year and a member of Symphony for three years. Stephanie began studying flute at age eleven under Ms. Chang Lu. She has also studied piano for ten years under Ms. Larisa Kagan. At school, she is part of the symphonic band and has participated in various state and county honor bands. After graduation, Stephanie plans to major in speech-language pathology and audiology performance at University of the Pacific. She thanks her flute teacher, her parents, and her friends for their infinite guidance and support, and most of all, her piano teacher for suggesting she pick up the flute, or else her participation in orchestra and band would never have been possible.

**SAM COLMAN** is a senior at Los Altos High School. He has been playing viola for eight years, six of those years with ECYS, and the last three in Symphony. Outside of ECYS, Sam participates in his school’s orchestra, choir and cross-country team. Sam’s hobbies include biking, video games, and playing chess. Sam will attend Brandeis University’s joint program with Columbia University majoring in physics and engineering respectively.

**EMMA DOHNER** has been a member of ECYS for ten years, beginning in Camerata and playing with the Symphony for the last four years. She studies violin with two wonderful teachers, Renee Ruetsz and Debra Fong. At Gunn High School, Emma plays trumpet for the Wind Ensemble and participates in cross-county, track and the Academic Quiz Kids team. She is a National Merit Finalist and will attend Stanford University in the fall, where she hopes to continue her music. Emma would like to thank Dr. Camilla Kolchinsky and Dr. Michail Gelfandbein for being such an important and influential part of her musical education.

**JUSTIN FANG** is a senior at Palo Alto High School and has played oboe in ECYS for four years first in Sinfonietta, and moving to Symphony. He has competed in two different soccer leagues since age eight and enjoys playing other sports such as basketball, football, and bowling. At school, he is the vice president of International Care Ministries, a fundraising club. Justin plans to attend the University of Michigan with an undecided major. He wishes to continue playing oboe after high school.

**ANDREW HEDGE** is a senior at Palo Alto High School and has been playing percussion in the senior symphony for three years. At school, he plays in the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and the pit orchestra for the school musical. Along with playing percussion he also plays guitar and bass in various rock and jazz groups. He enjoys writing and recording original compositions. He is planning to attend Ithaca College next year in the Jazz Studies program.

**JULIAN HUANG**, a senior at Lynbrook High School, has been playing in the Symphony for three years. He has played clarinet since sixth grade, and has participated in All State and All County Honor bands. Aside from clarinet, Julian has an endless interest in the life sciences, and has done scientific research that he hopes will become a larger part of his college life and career. Next year, Julian will attend Harvard College. He is going into college with an undeclared major, but biology, research, and clarinet are sure to have important roles during his next four years on the East Coast.

**ASHLEY HUH**, a senior at Lynbrook High School, has been playing the cello for nine years and currently studies under Jonathan Koh. She has been a member of ECYS Symphony for three years. In the fall, she plans to attend Boston University to study communication.

**THOMAS HEE YOON JANG**, a senior at Monte Vista High School, has been in ECYS for six years. He has played in numerous recitals throughout Northern and Southern California. Thomas has won various state competitions and has also been a qualifier to national competitions. As a recipient of the Talented Student Award scholarship, he will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign next fall and plans to study with Brandon Vamos with a major in Cello Performance. In his free time, Thomas loves spending time with his friends and loves to eat.

**AUDREY KNOX**, a senior at Gunn High School, has played in the Symphony for three years. At school, she is a member of the Gunn String Orchestra where she has served as concertmistress for the past two years. She is also a member of the Gunn Green Team and runs cross country in the fall. In her free time, you will find her hanging out with friends, playing with her dog Zoey, or listening to NPR podcasts. Next fall, she will attend Oberlin College. Her favorite pieces that she has played with ECYS are Scherazade and Symphonic Dances from West Side Story.
After graduating, she will be majoring in film production at Chapman University. Tino Production. In her free time, she likes to play sports, especially tennis. National Honor Society and the co-founder of her school's film production club: continue playing in college. At school, she is the co-President of the Japanese Symphony for one year. At school, she is a member of the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. She plans to study Mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley, and that her one true love is her trombone, you realize she’s really quite average. -By Zach Blumenstein & Emma Dohner

AARON SHULER, a senior at Leigh High School, has captivated many ECYS fans not only with his gorgeous looks, but with the vivacious and strident sound of his godlike frisbee playing. Aaron bestowed his talent to other sports and activities like Swimming and Mock Trial. Aaron is also an avid photographer, praised for his photos of the extraordinarily attractive ECYS trombone and horn principals. He will continue his education at UC Davis, where he will bicycle everywhere to charm all the people in the world with his dazzling smile. -By Hina Sakazaki

CARISA TONG is happy to have joined ECYS in her senior year! She has been playing viola for five years and started with violin at age five. At Homestead High School, she was involved with journalism and music as a member of the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. She plans to study Mathematics at Northeastern University in Boston, MA next year.
CATHERINE WANG, a senior at Cupertino High School, has been playing in the Symphony for four years. She is captain of the varsity field hockey team as well as the varsity softball team. She was also crowned homecoming queen her senior year. Catherine will attend UCLA in the fall to study physiological science in pursuit of becoming a doctor.

JULIA WONG, a senior at Palo Alto High School, has been a member of ECYS for five years, starting in Camerata. She began playing violin in seventh grade and switched to the viola in tenth grade. At school, she has been a section editor of the yearbook for three years and actively participates in YCS/Interact, CSF, Model United Nations, and Link Crew. In junior year, she earned the Outstanding Student of the Year Award and the Rachel H. Austin Prize for French. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hanging out with friends, and listening to GLEE :) She also loves playing Block Me on friends’ iPhones. Next year, she plans on attending USC. Go Trojans!

CATHERINE WU is a senior at Gunn High School and has been with ECYS since her elementary school days in Chamber Players. In addition to music, Catherine’s passions include badminton, food, and le francais (which she will use liberally in France this summer). She wants to thank ECYS for nurturing her love for classical music, her fellow musicians for making her years at ECYS a blast, and her family for always supporting her. She intends to study computer science and continue making music at Princeton University this fall. Mambo!

DESIREE XU has been a member of ECYS for three years, beginning in Sinfonietta. She started studying violin at age seven but decided to take on viola during eleventh grade, upon entering Symphony. Currently, she studies both instruments under Dr. Jiang Wu. Besides music, Desiree is also a participant in Odyssey of the Mind at Mission San Jose High School, and triumphed by placing second at the state competition. She dedicates her Saturdays to assisting autistic children in various classes. She also enjoys singing, playing videogames and cards, and spending time with her friends. This fall, she plans to pursue her interest in economics at Carnegie Mellon University.

TIMOTHY YU, a senior at Cupertino High, joined ECYS in third grade and the Symphony in sixth grade, where he has been Concertmaster for the past four years. At school, he has been a member of FBLA and NHS, and founded Synthesis, a musical group, which won both the school and district talent shows. He enjoys playing basketball, watching the Lakers and Giants, and giving private violin lessons. Next year, he will be a violin performance major at UCLA while also pursuing a major in the biological sciences field. He would like to thank ECYS, his mentors, friends, fans and family, especially his mother, for the amazing support and inspiration given to him throughout his journey, and will greatly miss everyone.

TINA YU, a senior at Cupertino High School, has played in the Symphony for four years. She has participated in chamber music in various organizations, music camps, and music programs such as Summer Music West and Pacific Music Camp. Besides the viola, she has studied piano for twelve years. She also has held a few officer positions at her school clubs, one being the vice president of STARS Club. Tina enjoys helping people in different ways, including giving music lessons and volunteering at OSF. With an interest in public relations, Tina plans on majoring in Media, Communication, and Culture at New York University’s Steinhardt School.