

Senior Recognition



TOREY BUTNER has been in the El Camino Youth Symphony for two years. Though this is a relatively short amount of time compared to other seniors, I feel I am part of the ECYS community. I learned so much about playing in a symphony and I really value my time in ECYS. Before I head off to the University of Illinois, I am looking forward to going on tour with all of the friends I've made in ECYS.



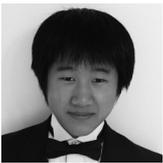
GARRETT CHAN is a 17-year old senior at Mission San Jose High School. He has been studying the piano since age 7 and the clarinet since age 8. He was a member of the ECYS Wind Orchestra and had won the 2010 ECYS Piano Concerto Competition. Garrett has been selected to All-State and NCBA Honor bands for 5 consecutive years. He is also a competitive swimmer who was selected to numerous all-star teams and won several top ten awards since age 8. He is the CFO of Tri-City Band Corps, a local band organization. Next year, he plans to attend UCSB to study Cell and Developmental Biology and plans to pursue a career in medicine. He intends to continue swimming and pursue his musical interests.



BLADE CHAPMAN, 17, began playing violin at the age of seven and has been with the Senior Symphony for four years. Currently studying under Jenny Rudin, Blade has had the opportunity to solo with ECYS three times in the past and, in addition to playing with the orchestra, enjoys chamber music, listening to his favorite performing group, Igudesman & Joo, and teaching aspiring young musicians. Aside from music, Blade also has a strong interest in engineering and enjoys working on programming projects with friends when he's not sleeping, eating, or practicing the violin. Blade plans to continue playing violin while studying computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He thanks ECYS for all the great years filled with invaluable memories and experiences.



Cello extraordinaire **WINSTON CHEN** is a senior at the Menlo School in Atherton, California. At the tender age of nine and after many years at the piano bench, Chen decided to tackle the next hurdle in the race that is life: the violoncello. Learning from renowned pedagogue Irene Sharp, Chen burst onto the orchestra scene in Sinfonietta, Senior Symphony's minor league affiliate, in 7th grade. After honing his skills for three years, Chen was called up to the big leagues and has been a proud member of ECYS ever since. When he isn't practicing cello, you will find Chen dropping dimes in a game of pick up or discussing modern cinema classics like *Blades of Glory* with friends. Next year, Chen will be taking his talents to Palo Alto to study at Stanford University. His favorite note is F#.



TOMMY CHEONG, a senior at Lynbrook High School, has been in the Senior Symphony for four years. In addition to ECYS, he plays in the KAMSA Youth Symphony Orchestra and is principal of the Lynbrook Chamber Orchestra. Tommy serves as a volunteer leader in the Academy of Music and Arts for Special Education, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the special needs community. Tommy also enjoys martial arts, as he is a third degree black belt in taekwondo and president of the Lynbrook Aikido Club. He will attend Brandeis University this fall.



JESSICA FAN, a senior at Lynbrook High School, currently plays flute in the Wind Ensemble. She first started flute lessons when she was in eighth grade, and has since joined El Camino Youth Symphony, Bay Area Youth Music Society (a community service organization for musicians), and a few smaller flute ensembles. She thanks BAYMS and ECYS for teaching her the joys of ensemble music, which she now teaches to younger flute ensembles at BAYMS part-time. In college, she plans to continue playing flute in orchestras or small ensembles. She would also like to pursue her other interests which include long-distance running, skiing, and singing.



TRISTAN FORD began his musical adventure as a trumpet player in marching band during his freshman year at Homestead High. He switched to the French horn mid-sophomore year and has since performed with Wind Ensemble in Carnegie Hall, and marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. This year, he was the Mellophone Section Leader, and Co-President of Homestead's Future Physicians of America and Red Cross Clubs. Tristan will attend the University of Rochester, NY, as a biomedical engineering/pre-med major with a minor in music at the Eastman School. Tristan hopes the ECYS Senior Symphony will continue teaching students to love and appreciate music as it has taught him. He's looking forward to an awesome tour in Eastern Europe!



SAM HALVORSEN started playing violin when he was eight and joined ECYS Chamber Players at age 11. He switched to viola four years later when he became a member of Sinfonietta. In addition to playing music, Sam appreciates exploring and listening to many different genres of music and is an avid collector of vinyl records. He is thoroughly interested in math and science, and is a member of the Astronomy and Electronics clubs at his high school. Following in his parent's footsteps, he enjoys bicycling frequently. Sam plans to study mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign next year and looks forward to continuing to play viola.



SEBASTIAN JUSUF is a senior at Bellarmine College Preparatory. He joined ECYS in 2006, playing in Camerata, Galbraith Strings, and Sinfonietta before becoming a member of the Senior Symphony this past year. In his free time, Sebastian enjoys reading, writing, current affairs, and video games. At Bellarmine, he is an active member of Speech and Debate and the Quiz Bowl teams, representing his school at various competitions and tournaments. This fall, Sebastian plans to study Bio-Engineering at Cornell University. He would like to especially thank his violin teacher, Mrs. Jane Singhal, for her support and guidance over the last two years.



YOKO KANAI was born in 1995 at a very young age. After being discovered as the next piano prodigy at age 5, Yoko pursued something truly unprecedented: the violin (#YOLO). She has studied under legendary acrobat Robin Sharp for 11 years, when she as a rebellious, bellicose child, thwarted her well-meaning but stern mother's attempt to tame her eccentric piano playing. Yoko will attend Vanderbilt University to study Ethnomusicology and Biology. She would like to thank her parents for their encouragement and beautiful genes, and the ECYS staff for their perpetual shock that she has grown since infancy.



LISA KAWADA, a senior at Leland High School, has been a member of ECYS for six years, including three years in Senior Symphony. Besides playing the violin, she is passionate about drawing, especially oil painting. As an assistant art teacher at her art school, she guided young students through the curriculum. During her free time, she enjoys doodling while listening to various instrumental soundtracks and playing video games. Lisa plans to double major in media art and psychology at UCSD, where she also hopes to continue the violin. She would like to thank her parents, her violin teacher, and everyone from ECYS for all their support.



YUKI KIMURA has been playing with the Senior Symphony for two years, this being her last. She would like to thank her friends for making rehearsals a much more exciting experience than solo violin playing. At home, her only audience consists of three cats and of course, her two parents. Though very enjoyable to be with as well, they provide less feedback. In her spare time, she practices Wushu (Chinese martial arts), draws, and bakes cake pops. Next fall, she will depart to Carnegie Mellon University and hopes to continue her violin practice as a member of their orchestra.



MARK KOFMAN is the valedictorian and an IB Diploma student at Capuchino High School. He has been playing the cello in ECYS for six years. He also plays the piano and plays and sings songs on the guitar in English, Russian, Spanish, French, and Italian, which he speaks fluently. In addition to music, Mark has been the first player on his high school's tennis team for four years and has a black belt in Tae Kwan Do. Mark enjoys opera, ballet, attending exhibitions, biking, alpine skiing, and snorkeling. Mark plans on majoring in biology and minoring in music at UC Berkeley.



KITTY LAN is a senior at Notre Dame High School in San Jose. The influence of ECYS and the New England Conservatory furthered Kitty's passion for violin, leading her to start a quartet and serve the community. Kitty is also passionate about politics, robotics, speech & debate, assuming leadership positions in these activities that she truly loves. Her proudest moments are being one of top 20 Extemporaneous speakers in the nation, and one of 9 Semi-Finalists in the state of California for Department of Education's U.S. Presidential Scholar. During her downtime, she loves running and traveling the world. Kitty will attend Georgetown University this fall, pursuing a two degree program with Columbia University in Political Economy and Financial Engineering.



DEREK LEE is currently a senior at Gunn High School. He joined Sinfonietta in 2010 and Symphony in 2011. This year marks his third season as a member of the viola section in ECYS. He studies viola with Yen-yin Lee and is also an enthusiastic pianist, studying under Anna Semyanovsky and Doris Lin. In his free time, he enjoys playing badminton, golf, writing and giving various speeches, as well as indulging in delectable eats of various cuisines of the world. He likes following the San Francisco 49ers and is also a die-hard San Francisco Giants fan. Derek will be attending Stanford University in the fall.



GRACE LEE has been a member of ECYS for 6 years. She played in the EC Flute Ensemble and the Sinfonietta Orchestra. She is currently a member of the Senior Orchestra. Outside of ECYS, she plays in the Gunn Wind Ensemble, KAMSA Orchestra and was a member of the Legally Blonde Pit Orchestra. Besides playing the flute, Grace is also the co-president of the Christian Club at her school, and a member of the Junior Stanford Archery Team. After graduation, Grace plans to study international relations at Carnegie Mellon University where she hopes to be able to continue her musical studies.



MATTHEW LEE is a student at De Anza College. He began his orchestral career in eighth grade, and has since held key positions in numerous orchestras: last chair of third violins, California Youth Symphony Intermediate Strings; last chair of second violins, California Philharmonic Youth Orchestra; and last chair of second violins, ECYS Senior Symphony. In 11th grade he was promoted for the first time to the last chair of the first violins. While he has since remained in that position--perhaps (alas) signaling a leveling off of the returns from his fine talent--he regards his whistling mastery as his higher achievement. Your favorite symphonies and concertos will form no more than a drop in his expansive whistling repertoire.



ANGELA LI joined Sinfonietta in 7th grade and the Senior Symphony freshman year. She studies violin with Ms. Kwok-Ping Koo and piano with Ms. Erna Gulabyan. She has won numerous competitions and performed at Carnegie Hall. A student at Castilleja, Angela is founder and leader of Music for the Community Club, co-host of Gator Radio (a student-run internet radio show), and layout editor of the school newspaper. In addition, she is a National Merit Scholar, member of the Cum Laude Society, and semi-finalist in the US Biology Olympiad. She was also named valedictorian of her senior class. In her spare time, she enjoys baking, photography, playing tennis, and shopping. Angela will be attending Stanford in the fall. She would like to thank her family, friends, and music teachers for their support, advice, and encouragement.



EVAN LI is a senior at Monta Vista High School. He has been at ECYS for four years starting at Sinfonietta for a year and ending with Senior Symphony for three years. Apart from practicing the violin, Evan occasionally swims, but because of the numerous hours he puts into practicing, he sometimes has to swim in the morning before school starts. Whenever he has free time, Evan enjoys playing Super Smash Bros Melee and Candy Crush. Next year he plans to study Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.



RICHARD LIAW has been a dedicated member of ECYS for a decade. From his humble beginnings in Chamber Players, Richard has slowly climbed the ECYS hierarchy, playing in the Galbraith Honor Strings, Sinfonietta, and then finally in the Senior Symphony for the last six years. Richard enjoys eating, sleeping, and music, especially the “Sunny Hyeseung Ellen” Concerto. At Cupertino High School, Richard is the co-president of Cupertino High School Future Business Leaders of America and concertmaster of his school orchestra. Richard plans to continue violin at UC Berkeley next year, where he will be majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He would like to thank his amazing teacher Mrs. Danielle Tarley for her unparalleled guidance and unwavering support, along with Dr. Camilla Kolchinsky for instilling in him a lifelong appreciation of music. #hLa2kewl4eCyS



KIRA LOBER is an 18-year-old senior at Menlo-Atherton High School. She has been playing the cello for 15 years and still finds it very enjoyable. Along with being a member of ECYS for the last 5 years she has kept herself active in the ECYS chamber music program. Kira is an avid musician in the community and has played at many different functions and coffee shops. She sings and plays a variety of instruments including guitar, banjo, piano, and harp. Kira has also been recording an album that will be released on May 25. Everyone should check it out because it is going to be awesome, go to wrenborough.bandcamp.com. She would REALLY appreciate it.



KHANH NGUYEN currently spends approximately 21% of his time confined within fourteen acres of concrete and asbestos (otherwise known as Mission San Jose High), and the remaining time striving toward attaining an ever-ascending standard of self-efficacy by pressing buttons on his metal music-tube. ‘Tis not mastery that makes the man, though, as Khanh is noted for some of his less-developed skills, including running, driving, singing, eating, wooing, tie-tying, knife-throwing, fedora-wearing, story-telling, harmonica-playing, drum-banging, clarinet-squeaking, and writing: humorously, sarcastically, and in the third-person. Khanh would like to give thanks to the many teachers that were unfortunate enough to have him under their tutelage for clearing the pathway to the Eastman School of Music.



JOSHUA OH, whose chiseled body is past the pinnacle of human perfection, is a senior at Palo Alto High School, and has been with the Senior Symphony for three years. At the age of nine the clarinet gods appointed Josh to become their next clarinet prodigy, and has been studying under Debra Gardner for eight years. Outside of music, you will find Joshua also dominating the world of sports. As

varsity football and lacrosse captain, Josh loves to be active, but is still able to keep his straight As with relative ease. Josh would love to give a shout out to his new girlfriend, Kate Beckinsale (#12!).



YUKA SAKAZAKI, a senior at Gunn High School, has been in ECYS since 7th grade. She played violin in Senior Symphony for 2 years, and she felt very happy, making music with so many people. At first, she often felt nervous and dizzy from all the notes flying around, but thanks to the discipline and motivation from her coaches, she gradually got used to learning new pieces quickly and discovered the joy of playing the right notes -- actually playing, not airbowing -- and hearing them

blend in with everyone else's. In the fall, she'll be at Caltech, majoring in physics and enjoying the company of turtles.



SERGEY SMIRNOV is a senior at Palo Alto High School and a second year student at Foothill College in the middle college program. Sergey joined Chamber Players as a keyboardist in 2003 and the Senior Symphony in 2009. He has played piano for 13 years with Irina Sharogradskia and percussion for 7, currently with Jim Kassis. With ECYS, Sergey travelled to Spain and France in 2011, performed at Davies Symphony Hall in 2012, helped mentor percussionists in the preparatory

groups, and is looking forward to the tour to central Europe this summer. This fall, he will attend Polytechnic Institute of New York University as a computer science major and hopes to participate in NYU's Symphony Orchestra. I'd like to thank everyone at ECYS who has helped me along the journey over the last ten years and all of my music teachers and coaches who have given me many unique experiences and insights.



ANDREW TRAN is currently a Senior at Independence High School. Under the guidance of Vladimir Klibanov, his viola teacher, he has been in the Senior Symphony for two years. Before switching to the viola, Andrew has played the violin for 8 years throughout middle school and high school. In addition to playing the viola, Andrew also leads volunteer events as a board member of the Interact Club and enjoys riding a bicycle in his spare time. He looks forward to majoring in

Computer Science at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, while continuing to play music in college.



JONATHAN UESATO has been playing flute since 6th grade, and with ECYS for the past three years. Outside of ECYS, Jonathan is also in the Lynbrook High School Wind Ensemble and a three-year member of the California All-State Honor Band. As Activities Coordinator for Lynbrook's Music for the Community club, he performs at senior centers and community events in order to help spread the joy of music. He would like to thank his amazing teacher, Darin Ishimatsu, the ECYS

staff, and all his friends whom he has played music with over the years. He will be attending MIT next fall.



NIKHIL UNNI, a senior at Lynbrook High School, has been with the Senior Symphony for 3 years. He began playing the trumpet in 7th grade, and has played with the Lynbrook Jazz Band for 5 years, and with the 6 O'Clock Daddios of De Anza College. Nikhil has also been playing the piano since the 4th grade. In school, he is a member of the Lynbrook Robotics Club. After graduation, Nikhil plans to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, studying Computer Science.

He also hopes to continue with his Jazz studies.



OLIVER WANG has played trombone in ECYS for several months and attends Palo Alto High School, where he is the captain of the varsity badminton team. He enjoys being the trombone section leader in school band, and will continue playing at UC Berkeley next year, where he hopes to study profound subjects.



MICHELLE WON has been a member of Symphony for 2 years, and has been playing violin for 10 years, most recently under Li Lin. She was a varsity basketball player at Saratoga High, and served as an officer and Vice President of the Saratoga Interact Club. She has been a volunteer leader at Academy of Music and Art for Special Education, and led the Music Education with Saratoga High program, bringing her passion for music and music education to special needs students and younger students in the community. Aside from ECYS, she was a member of KAMSA, SVVO, and All-State Orchestra. She was also named a national finalist for National History Day, where she presented a historical perspective on composer Dmitri Shostakovich. Next year Michelle plans to attend Rice University with the Trustee Distinguished Scholarship to pursue neuroscience and biology.



ISABEL YANG, a senior at Lynbrook High School, has been a member of ECYS for four years. She has been playing violin since she was five and she has also played in the Lynbrook High School orchestra. In addition to being a violinist, Isabel is a member of FBLA, Yearbook, Link Crew, and various other organizations on campus. In her free time, she enjoys playing iPhone games, graphic design, and watching movies. She will be studying engineering next fall at UC Berkeley.



JACK YU is a senior at Lynbrook High School and has been a member of the ECYS Senior Symphony for three years. Jack has been playing the clarinet since 5th grade, and has participated in honor groups such as All-State Band and Santa Clara All-County Band. Besides studying clarinet, Jack is an active member of Lynbrook's FBLA and CSF clubs. In addition, he has also been a part of the Lynbrook badminton team for the past three years. In his free time, Jack enjoys watching basketball games, listening to music, and playing badminton with friends. Next year, he plans on attending UC Irvine to study business but hopes to continue his musical involvement as well.



MAY ZENG chose to play trombone in sixth grade band because she thought it had a cool spit valve. Since that fortuitous assignment, she's been with Senior Symphony for five seasons and three tours, played principal/lead trombone in the Homestead High School wind ensemble, symphony orchestra, and jazz ensemble, marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as section leader, and developed a fondness for ska music. Outside of trombone, May is a five-year FBLA member and was on the 2012 Global Business national champion team. This fall, May will study trombone performance and physics at UCLA, where she hopes to someday meet Gustavo Dudamel. May would like to thank everybody who has ever supported her in music, either as a teacher, ensemble-mate, or audience member.

Congratulations Class of 2013!