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BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9!

ECYS ANNOUNCES ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
SYMPHONY SILICON VALLEY CHORALE!

CONCERT APRIL 1, 2017, 7:30 PM at FLINT CENTER!

(Palo Alto, CA – March 16, 2017) Maestro Jindong Cai and El Camino Youth Symphony are joined by Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale, Elena Sharkova, Artistic Director, to present one of the most beloved and influential works of all time: *Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9*, a triumphant celebration, uniting orchestra, vocal soloists, and chorus in a joyous and unforgettable finale! Our distinguished vocal soloists are soprano Manhua Gao, mezzo-soprano Xiaohua Song, tenor Adam Flowers and
baritone Eugene Brancoveanu. The program also includes the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 with young soloist Nancy Zheng.

The Annual Benefit Concert will be held on April 1, 2017, 7:30PM at Flint Center in Cupertino. Tickets are $38/$28 (General Admission/Student-Senior) and available for purchase at Ticketmaster.com. Additional information can be found at www.ecys.org and questions can be directed to the ECYS Office: (650) 213-7111.

Special guest the Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale, directed by Maestra Elena Sharkova, has become known for its eclectic mix of vibrant programs. It most often performs at the California Theatre, where it accompanies the Symphony in performing major works. The Chorale also performs pieces from the classical and popular repertoire on its own and with guest soloists. Each December the Chorale presents a holiday concert, Carols in the California, that combines traditional and unusual holiday music with a refreshing major work and audience participation.

El Camino Youth Symphony, now in its fifty-fourth season of excellence, is led by the incomparable Maestro Jindong Cai, Conductor of the Senior Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of ECYS. Born in Beijing, Dr. Cai received his early musical training in China, where he learned to play the violin and the piano. He came to the United States for his graduate studies at the New England Conservatory and the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. In 1989, he was selected to study with famed conductor Leonard Bernstein at the Tanglewood Music Center, and won the Conducting Fellowship Award at the Aspen Music Festival in 1990 and 1992.

Professor Cai served on the faculties at the Louisiana State University, the University of Arizona, the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and the University of California at Berkeley. He held assistant conducting positions with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, and the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, working closely with conductors Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Erich Kunzel, and Keith Lockhart. Dr. Cai joined the Stanford University faculty in 2004 as the first holder of the Gretchen B. Kimball Director of Orchestral Studies’ Chair and Associate Professor in Music Performance. He is also the Artistic Director of the Stanford Pan-Asian Music Festival, which he founded in 2005. Mr. Cai serves as the Principal Guest Conductor of the Shenzhen Symphony in China and the Mongolia State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Ulaan Baatar. **He was recently named as Artistic Director of the National Youth Orchestra of China (NYO-China).** Together with his wife, Sheila Melvin, he co-authored the book *Rhapsody in Red: How Western Classical Music Became Chinese.* Their new book, *Beethoven in China: How the*
Two core principles underlie the ECYS mission: **Music Education**, to nurture, train and develop young musicians from culturally diverse backgrounds and encourage a lasting appreciation of music, and **Musical Excellence**, to provide high-quality performance opportunities for young people and outstanding musical events for the wider community. The Senior Symphony, El Camino Youth Symphony’s preeminent orchestra, is comprised of over 120 talented young musicians from all over the Bay Area who perform professional repertoire and travel internationally. ECYS offers its students the opportunity to learn from and perform with world-renowned musicians, recent guest artists include pianists Ilya Yakushev and Naomi Kudo, violinists Philippe Quint and David Kim, cellist Zuill Bailey, and Brandon Ridenour, trumpet. The orchestra has been honored to perform at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, most recently in January 2016 at the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival. Previous Music Directors include Dr. Camilla Kolchinsky, Melissa McBride, and Dr. Arthur Barnes. Virginia Chang Kiraly is the current President of the Board of Directors.

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