ECYS ANNOUNCES ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT APRIL 2, 2016 IN CUPERTINO
WITH VAN CLIBURN AWARD WINNER JON NAKAMATSU
AND CONDUCTOR DR. JINDONG CAI

(Palo Alto, CA – March 10, 2016) World-class musician, prolific performer, and Bay Area
treasure Jon Nakamatsu headlines the El Camino Youth Symphony Annual Benefit Concert on
April 2, 7:30pm at Flint Center in Cupertino. The program features Grieg’s most widely regarded
orchestral work, his dramatic Piano Concerto in A minor with guest soloist Mr. Nakamatsu as
well as Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5, a calculated tribute to his homeland.
Nakamatsu brings “solid technique and a gentle, introspective, interpretive spirit” (The New York Times) to Grieg’s Norwegian masterpiece, as clean and clear and the glaciers and fjords it pays homage to. Born and raised in the South Bay, Nakamatsu was a Gold Medalist at the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Tickets ($38 General/$28 Student-Senior) are available at Ticketmaster.com and the Flint Center Box Office.

Biographies for the Dr. Jindong Cai and Jon Nakamatsu are listed below.

**Interviews and additional photographs are available upon request!**

American pianist Jon Nakamatsu continues to draw unanimous praise as a true aristocrat of the keyboard, whose playing combines elegance, clarity, and electrifying power. A native of California, Mr. Nakamatsu came to international attention in 1997 when he was named Gold Medalist of the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, the only American to have achieved this distinction since 1981. Mr. Nakamatsu has performed widely in North and South America, Europe, and the Far East, collaborating with such conductors as James Conlon, Marek Janowski, Raymond Leppard, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Osmo Vänskä and Hans Vonk. He also performed at a White House concert hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton.

Mr. Nakamatsu's extensive recital tours throughout the U.S. and Europe have featured appearances in New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Washington D.C.’s Kennedy Center, and in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Paris, London and Milan. He has worked with various chamber ensembles - among them the Brentano, Tokyo, Kuss, Jupiter, Cypress, Prazak and Ying String Quartets - and has toured repeatedly with the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet. Together with clarinetist Jon Manasse, Mr. Nakamatsu tours continually as a member of the Manasse/Nakamatsu Duo. The Duo also serves as Artistic Directors of the esteemed Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival in Massachusetts.

Since 1997, Mr. Nakamatsu has served on multiple international piano competition juries and has also been invited as a guest speaker at numerous institutions including the Van Cliburn Foundation, Stanford University and the Juilliard School.
Mr. Nakamatsu studied privately with Marina Derryberry and has worked with Karl Ulrich Schnabel, son of the great pianist Artur Schnabel. He is a graduate of Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in German Studies and a master's degree in Education.

El Camino Youth Symphony, now in its fifty-third season of excellence, is led by the incomparable Dr. 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. 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 Great Composer Became and Icon in the People’s Republic, was published by Penguin Books in September 2015.

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 Kiraly is the current President of the Board of Directors.

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