ECYS ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY CONCERT
WITH CONDUCTOR DR. JINDONG CAI ON DECEMBER 14 IN SAN JOSE!

FEATURED TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS YOUNG HYE LEE AND LINUS LU!

(Palo Alto, CA – November 10, 2014) The El Camino Youth Symphony’s fifty-second season of excellence marks the beginning of a new era in artistic leadership when Dr. Jindong Cai lifts the baton as Conductor of the Senior Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of ECYS. The upcoming season will be full of fantastic works and collaborations all culminating in an exciting tour of Spain in Summer 2015.
The beautiful California Theatre in Downtown San Jose is the site of the December 14 **Holiday Concert**, which will feature two young artists: Young Hye Lee performing Saint-Saen’s *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* and Linus Lu performing Walton’s Viola Concerto, Mvt. I. Filling out the rest of the program is Tchaikovsky’s stirring *Swan Lake Suite*, Suppe’s *Light Calvary Overture*, and two whimsical Leroy Anderson pieces: *Christmas Festival* and audience favorite *Sleigh Ride*. Tickets ($15 General/$8 Student-Senior) for the 2:30pm performance are available for purchase at the California Theatre Box Office on the day of only.

Born in Beijing, Music Director and Conductor **Dr. Jindong 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 currently the Music Director and Conductor of the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, the Stanford Philharmonia Orchestra, and the Stanford New Ensemble. He is also the Artistic Director of the Stanford Pan-Asian Music Festival, which he founded in 2005. Read Dr. Cai’s full biography [here](#).

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 2014 at the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival. Previous Music Directors include Dr. Camilla Kolchinsky, Melissa McBride, and Dr. Arthur Barnes. Grace Lai is the current President of the Board of Directors.

*Interviews and additional photographs are available upon request!*