FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / November 15, 2016

(Palo Alto, CA – November 15, 2016) The Holiday Pops Concert, December 11 at the California Theatre in San Jose, features talented young artists Erica Nagase, performing movement one of the Reineke Flute Concerto in D Major, and Arthur Oung, performing movements one and two of the Elgar Cello Concerto. Celebrate the season with ECYS as Broadway favorites light up the stage! Oh! What a Beautiful Program of hits from Rodgers and Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Lerner and Loewe. The performance will begin at 2:30pm and tickets ($15 General/$8 Student-Senior) are available at the California Theatre Box Office day of only.
Soloist **Erica Nagase** is a senior at Homestead High School. She has been playing the flute for eight years and currently studies with Isabelle Chapuis. Erica has received various prizes at competitions, including the American Protégé International Competition, USOMC, Junior Bach Festival, and has participated in both the Santa Clara County Honor Band and California Band Director’s Association All-State Honor Band. Erica is principal flutist of Homestead High School’s Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. She also regularly performs in senior homes as a member of the Bay Area Youth Music Society.

Soloist **Arthur Oung**, age 15, is a student at the Harker School in San Jose. He also studies at the Pre-College Division at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of Amos Yang. Arthur began learning the cello at the age of five and is in his third season at the El Camino Youth Symphony. Arthur also participates in the Harker School Orchestra as well as many small chamber groups.

Arthur performed at Carnegie Hall in Spring 2016. He is also a repeat California Music Education Association State Festival winner, receiving gold for his solo and ensemble performances in 2011, 2012, and 2015. Arthur has also won first place at the American Protégé in 2015, as well as first in the 2015 American Fine Arts Festival Romantic Music Competition and the Junior Bach Festival.

**Maestro Jindong Cai** assumed the position as Music Director of El Camino Symphony and Conductor of the Senior Orchestra in 2014. In his premiere season he challenged the orchestra with programs that featured Mahler’s Symphony No. 1 and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* from Suite No. 2, and led the orchestra on an acclaimed tour of Spain that included lauded performances on the main stage of the Granada Festival of Music and Dance, and standing ovations in Barcelona’s Palau de la Música de Catalana. His first season also featured the US premiere of “Perseus” from *Three Astral Poems*, for local and international tour performances and collaboration with award-winning Spanish-American composer Miguel A. Roig-Francoli.

Over the 30 years of his career in the United States, Maestro Cai has established himself as a dynamic conductor, scholar, educator, and leading advocate of music from across Asia. He is a professor of music at Stanford University, serves as the Principal Guest Conductor of the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra in China, and the Mongolia State Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet in Ulaan Baatar.
Maestro Cai started his professional conducting career with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra where he held assistant conducting positions and worked closely with music director Jesus Lopez-Cobos, conductor Keith Lockhart, and Cincinnati Pops conductor Erich Kunzel. Dr. Cai is a three-time recipient of the ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music. As a scholar and an expert on music in contemporary China and Asia, Dr. Cai is frequently interviewed by news media around the world including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the BBC, and NPR. Together with his wife Sheila Melvin, Maestro Cai co-authored the book Rhapsody in Red: How Western Classical Music Became Chinese. Their new book, Beethoven in China: How the Great Composer Became an Icon in the People’s Republic, was published by Penguin Books in September 2015.

Born in Beijing, Cai received his early musical training in China, where he learned to play violin and 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.

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 Jon Nakamatsu, 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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