El Camino Youth Symphony Association

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(images of Dr. Jindong Cai, Music Director, David Kim, violin, & John Eells, Conductor available at ecys.org)

ECYS ANNOUNCES LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION CONCERT WITH SPECIAL GUEST DAVID KIM AND ON FEBRUARY 4 IN CUPERTINO!

DAVID KIM WILL CONDUCT A VIOLIN MASTERCLASS ON FEBRUARY 3 IN MOUNTAIN VIEW!

(Palo Alto, CA – January 12, 2017) ECYS presents ***Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra David Kim*** performing the beloved Mendelssohn Violin Concerto at the **Lunar New Year Concert on February 4, 7:30pm at Flint Center**. The concert is a true celebration, bringing to the stage both the Senior Symphony, conducted by ***Maestro Jindong Cai***, and the Sinfonietta Orchestra, led by ***John Eells***; as well as a meeting of East and West with a program featuring Tan Dun's *Symphonic Poem of Three Notes,* and works by Beethoven, Bao Yuankai, and Tieshan and Yuan. Catherine Huang, piano, will also solo. The concert will open with a special performance by

the OngDance Company, a Korean drum and dance ensemble.

Symphonic Poem of Three Notes, from renowned living composer Tan Dun, takes the audience on a journey from nature, through industry, and back to nature again, featuring unique sound sources such as wind, stones, and car brake drums!

Tickets ($25 General/$15 Student-Senior) are available through Ticketmaster.com and the Flint Center Box Office.

In addition to the concert performance, distinguished musician and educator, ***David Kim of the Philadelphia Orchestra***, will conduct a masterclass on the eve of the Lunar New Year Concert: **Feb. 3, 2017, 7:00pm at the Tateuchi Hall at Community School of Music and Arts.**

As a highly sought-after pedagogue, Mr. Kim has presented masterclasses at schools and institutions such as Juilliard, the New World Symphony in Miami, Yale, the Korean National University of Arts, and universities and colleges across the United States. David has recently held teaching/performance residencies at Oberlin College, Bob Jones University, and the Boston Conservatory.

The masterclass will feature several talented ECYS Senior Symphony violinists. Observe a master teacher at work as he helps the students polish their performances!

The masterclass is a free!

Biographies for the conductors and special guests are listed below.

Interviews and additional photographs are available upon request!

Violinist David Kim was named concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1999. Born in Carbondale, Illinois, in 1963, he started playing the violin at the age of three, began studies with the famed pedagogue Dorothy DeLay at the age of eight, and later received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School.

Highlights of Mr. Kim's recent 2015-16 season include teaching/performance residencies at Oberlin College, Bob Jones University, and the Boston Conservatory; continued appearances as concertmaster of the All-Star Orchestra on PBS stations across the United States and online at the

Kahn Academy; recitals, speaking engagements, and appearances with orchestras across the United States; performances of the Brahms Double Concerto with Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Cello Hai-Ye Ni and the Orchestra under the baton of Donald Runnicles; and the launching of the first annual David Kim Orchestral Institute of Cairn University in Philadelphia.

Mr. Kim appears as soloist with The Philadelphia Orchestra each season as well as with numerous orchestras around the world. He also appears internationally at such festivals as Grand Teton, Brevard, MasterWorks (US), and Pacific (Japan).

Mr. Kim has been awarded honorary doctorates from Eastern University in suburban Philadelphia, the University of Rhode Island, and Dickinson College. His instruments are a J.B. Guadagnini from Milan, ca. 1757, on loan from The Philadelphia Orchestra, and a Michael Angelo Bergonzi from Cremona, ca. 1754. Mr. Kim resides in a Philadelphia suburb with his wife, Jane, and daughters, Natalie and Maggie. He is an avid runner, golfer, and outdoorsman.

El Camino Youth Symphony, now in its fifty-fourth 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. ***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 Great Composer Became and Icon in the People's Republic*, was published by Penguin Books in September 2015.

John Eells, in his second season as Conductor of the Sinfonietta Orchestra, received his undergraduate degree from York University in England and completed his graduate work in conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He also achieved a Graduate Diploma in French Horn. Mr. Eells was the founding Music Director of the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra (FVSO), which he directed from 1981 until 2013, and the Rhode Island Philharmonic Community Orchestra, which he led from 2006 - 2013. In 2006 the FVSO celebrated its 25th anniversary with a performance at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Eells has guest conducted concerts with the Hartford (CT) Symphony Orchestra, as well as the New Britain and Meriden symphony orchestras (CT), the Jacksonville (FL) and Spokane (WA) symphony orchestras, the Leeds Symphony Orchestra (UK) and the Hermitage State Orchestra in St. Petersburg (Russia).

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.