ECYS ANNOUNCES LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION CONCERT
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JIEBING CHEN AND THE CALIFORNIA YOUTH CHINESE SYMPHONY ON FEBRUARY 7 IN CUPERTINO!

(Palo Alto, CA – January 9, 2015) The Year of the Sheep will take center-stage on February 7, 2015 at Flint Center in Cupertino for the fourth Annual El Camino Youth Symphony Lunar New Year Celebration Concert. The 4:00PM performance will begin with a lion dance and feature the ECYS Senior Symphony and Sinfonietta Orchestras, special guests Grammy-nominated erhu soloist Jiebing Chen, and the California Youth Chinese Symphony, Dr. Jindong Cai, conductor.
The East meets West program will feature traditional Chinese works like Bao Yuankai’s *Chinese Sights and Sounds*, Li Huanzhi’s *Spring Festival Overture*, and Wenjin Liu’s *Memorable Water Splashing Festival*, as well as classical repertoire like Sarasate’s *Ziguenerweisen* with violinist Jonathan Lin and Offenbach’s *Parisienne*. The highlight will be Chen and He’s rapturous *Butterfly Lovers Concerto with Jiebing Chen, erhu, and the ECYS Senior Symphony Orchestra*.

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

Biographies for the conductors, soloists, and special guests are listed below.

*Interviews and additional photographs are available upon request!*

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. 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 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](#).
**Dr. Camilla Kolchinsky**, Conductor of the Sinfonietta and Galbraith Honor Strings, received a Master of Music Degree with distinction from the State Music Conservatory of Moscow and completed the doctoral level program in conducting at the State Music Conservatory of Leningrad (St. Petersburg). She appeared regularly with the Bolshoi Theater, the National USSR State Orchestra, and the Moscow Philharmonic.

Since coming to the West in 1976, she has conducted the Philharmonic Orchestra in London, the Israel Philharmonic, the Swedish Radio Orchestra in Stockholm, the Oslo Philharmonic, the Brussels Radio Symphony Orchestra and many others. Before arriving in the Bay Area she served as Music Director and Principal Conductor of the University Symphony Orchestra and Opera of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Kolchinsky is the Permanent Guest Conductor of The First Austrian Chamber Orchestra in Vienna and the Guatemala Symphony in Guatemala.

Featured soloist **Jiebing Chen** began performing at age six in her native Shanghai. Recognized as a child prodigy, her talent was saved during the Chinese Cultural Revolution when, at age nine, she was taken into the Chinese Navy Orchestra, (one of China’s few musical organizations at the time). As a very young musician she found herself playing martial music and performing in the orchestra that accompanied Madame Mao’s ‘model operas’. Chen studied and graduated with top honors from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in 1982. She was the youngest performer to be named "National First Rank Performing Artist," the highest honor the Chinese Government awards to artists in recognition of their talent and achievements. In 1989 Chen came to the United States to study at the State University of New York in Buffalo, receiving a MA degree in Music Theory.

Since 1988, Jiebing has frequently appeared as soloist with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, the Shanghai Chamber Orchestra and the Shanghai Opera House. Chen then began to tour Australia, Asia and Europe as a Chinese cultural exchange artist in "Marvelous Strings." She has also appeared as featured soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, the New Moscow Symphony, the Hungarian Symphony, Taipei Municipal Chinese Classical Orchestra, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the New Century Chamber Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Los Angeles philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra and others. Her CD, Tabla Rasa, in collaboration with Bela Fleck and Vishwa Bhatt, was nominated for a 1996 Grammy Award for Best World Music album. Read Jibing Chen’s full biography [here](#).
The California Youth Chinese Symphony (CYCS), led by Dr. Jindong Cai, has more than 100 students in its instrument and orchestra programs. The CYCS orchestra performs and introduces Chinese music and traditional instruments to the public through participation in many community cultural events such as the Moon Festival, Chinese New Year celebrations, fundraisers for the home of elderly, and as guest performers in concerts organized by other community organizations. Over the past year, CYCS has become a unique orchestra as the new American-born generation embraces the Chinese musical heritage.

CYCS has taken a leadership role in promoting Chinese music and instrument in the nation. In October 2007, CYCS has successfully organized the American Regional Competition for the China Central Television (CCTV) Chinese Instrument TV Competition. In November 2008, CYCS and the Central Conservatory of Music of China organized the first Chinese Instrument Grade Examination ever in the United States.

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.