ECYS ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR THE 2016-17 SEASON!

(Palo Alto, CA – January 15, 2016) Young musicians looking for a challenging and inspiring orchestral experience are invited to audition for the world-renowned El Camino Youth Symphony, as it celebrates its 54th Season providing excellent music education and performance opportunities for students across the Bay Area. Led by the award-winning Senior Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Jindong Cai, conductor, ECYS is distinguished by its large and diverse number of ensembles, a creative structure that enables ECYS faculty to offer an enriching education to the widest possible range of youth. 2016-17 is shaping up to be another fantastic season for the Senior Orchestra, highlighted by some beloved orchestral repertoire, professional guest artist performances, and culminating in an international concert tour.
Talented elementary through high school age woodwind, brass, string, and percussion players are encouraged to apply online at www.ECYS.org. Auditions are by appointment only and will be held on various dates March and early April, 2016.

El Camino Youth Symphony, currently 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.

About the El Camino Youth Symphony: 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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