(Palo Alto, CA – October 1, 2016) The Season Opener Concert, October 29 at Flint Center in Cupertino features special guest, a native of St. Petersburg, Russia, and San Francisco Symphony violinist David Chernyavsky. The impressive All-Russian line-up will feature Tchaikovsky’s searing Symphony No. 5, Borodin’s galloping Polovtsian Dances, and Glazunov’s technically-brilliant Violin Concerto with Mr. Chernyavsky. The performance will begin at 7:30pm and tickets ($15 General/$8 Student-Senior) are available through Ticketmaster.com.

Soloist David Chernyavsky joined the San Francisco Symphony in 2009. A native of St. Petersburg, Russia, he began to study violin at the age of six. In 1996, he graduated from the Special Music School of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, where he studied with Alexander
Yuriev and later with the first violinist of the Taneyev Quartet, Vladimir Ovcharek.

In 1997, Chernyavsky came to the United States to study at the Indiana University School of Music with the famous professor Nelli Shkolnikova. He won the IU Concerto Competition and soloed with the Indiana University Concert Orchestra. In 2000, Mr. Chernyavsky, with his student quartet, won the Kuttner Quartet Scholarship. After graduating from the Juilliard School with a master’s degree, he joined the St. Petersburg String Quartet. As a member of the quartet, David performed hundreds of chamber music concerts and conducted numerous masterclasses throughout the world. In 2005, Chernyavsky was appointed an Assistant Concertmaster of the Washington National Opera Orchestra, and in 2007, he joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Mr. Chernyavsky has recorded several chamber music CDs with the St. Petersburg Quartet and with the Joel Rubin Klezmer Music Ensemble; he has also released his own solo CD, *Klezmer Violin*.

Mr. Chernyavsky currently serves as a principal second violin and a faculty member at the San Francisco Academy Orchestra’s Artist Diploma Program and also coaches the El Camino Youth Symphony violin section.

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
Composer Became an Icon in the People’s Republic, was published by Penguin Books in
September 2015.

At the Stanford University, he conducted the Stanford Symphony Orchestra for 11 years.
Maestro Cai is also the founder of the Stanford Pan-Asian Music Festival. Over its 12-year
history, the Festival - which is dedicated to promoting an understanding and appreciation of
music in contemporary Asia through an annual series of concerts and academic activities -
has become one of the most important platforms for the performance of Asian music in the
U.S.

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

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.

###