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GOLDEN STATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR STARTING IN 2022-2023 SEASON



(Palo Alto, CA - March 22, 2022) Maestro John Eells, Music Director and Conductor of the Senior Symphony and Camilla Kolchinsky Orchestra will be leaving Golden State Youth Orchestra at the end of the 2021-22 season. Succeeding him will be Yun Song Tay, a dynamic and engaging up-and-coming conductor, ready to lead GSYO into 2023 and beyond.

Tay, the eleventh music director of Golden State Youth Orchestra since its founding in 1963, has conducted numerous symphonies, bands, and youth orchestras. He previously served as the Assistant Conductor for Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras from 2020-21 and Arizona State University Orchestra from 2018-2021. During his

time in the valley, he also led the Phoenix Symphony in their Education Concert Series. Other ensembles he has conducted during his vibrant career include Orchestra de Camera Fiorentina, Berlin Sinfonietta, European Youth Wind Orchestra, Dutch Royal Guards Band, Cleveland Heights Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Collective (Singapore), MusicaNova Orchestra, and the US Army Field Band. A strong advocate for contemporary music, Yun Song has also conducted the Cleveland Institute of Music New Music Ensemble in multiple performances.

Yun Song is the recipient of the Sim Hay Lum Music Scholarship and has received grants from the National Arts Council of Singapore. He was a semifinalist of 2014 Wind Band Conducting Competition in Jarvenpaa and a quarter-finalist in the 2017 Fitelburg Orchestral Conducting Competition. He was also a finalist in the Houston Symphony Assistant Conductor search in 2019 and was selected as a Reynolds Conducting Institute fellow in 2021.

A passionate music educator, Tay has taught music courses and guest-lectured at Bethel University, Arizona State University, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. An accomplished flautist, he has performed with the The Philharmonic Orchestra (Singapore) and Singapore Armed Forces Band among many other ensembles.



Maestro Tay had this to say about his new appointment: “I am extremely honored to be appointed as the Music Director of one of the premier youth orchestras in the Bay Area. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the orchestra during the audition and am excited to be joining the Golden State Youth Orchestra team and meeting the young musicians again in July. I look forward to creating meaningful concert programs and collaborations for the orchestra and audience members in the coming seasons ahead.”

Yun Song will receive his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting under Dr. Jeffery Meyer in May 2022. He received his Master’s degree in Orchestral Conducting at Cleveland Institute of Music and Bachelor’s degree in Wind Conducting at Conservatorium van Amsterdam, where his conducting mentors included Carl Topilow and Danny Oosterman. He has also conducted in masterclasses and lessons for esteemed conductors such as Leonid Korchmar, Lutz Kohler, Jahja Ling, JoAnn Falletta, Tito Muñoz, Carl St.Clair, Giancarlo Guerrero and Larry Rachleff.

Said Christine Kittinger, GSYO Board President of Maestro Tay’s appointment: “The Board and I are delighted to be welcoming Maestro Tay to GSYO. It was a joy to see how he connected with our students. He is a true artist and educator. What a wonderful addition to our staff and our GSYO community! We cannot thank Maestro John Eells enough for all his contributions to GSYO. Our students have all loved working with him and he has been a true partner to Seth, our staff, and our Board. Best wishes on your well-earned retirement, Maestro Eells. We will miss you.”