



Hawaii Youth Symphony

2014 Year-End Letter

Dear Hawaii Youth Symphony Supporter:

Thank you for your continued support of Hawaii Youth Symphony! With thanks to you, we were able to sustain high momentum throughout our 49th Season (2013-14) and into our 50th Anniversary Season (2014-15). Please allow us this opportunity to recap and update you on our work and news.

Highlights from our 49th Season (2013-2014)

Over 600 students served

- HYS directly served **603 students**, ages 7-18, from 110 schools on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Island. These students registered for HYS's 12 programs throughout the season. Approximately 65% of these students attended DOE schools; 30% attended independent schools; and 5% represent home schools.
- Staying consistent with our goals of having engaging as many interested students as possible, HYS offered a multiplicity of classes so that students of any experience or skill level could participate. Via Music4Kids (our general music offering), to Beginning Strings & Clubhouse Band, HYS offers a comprehensive selection of classes that can engage students without any prior experience.

24 concerts produced; 21 of them admission-free

- HYS is committed to producing concerts that service the public; not only by broadening exposure to classical music, but also by building awareness for our youth's efforts, hard work, and determination through performance. Nearly 20,000 people attended these concerts. 57% of attendees (11,430 people) were children attending Listen & Learn educational concerts on Oahu and Maui.
- Our admission-free community concerts are designed by our Music Director and conductors for community consumption. The music, often chosen for its cultural significance, also represent a variety of styles/genres, and is presented in ways that makes it accessible and educational. Top music educators assist HYS in designing teaching materials to scaffold and support these HI DOE-endorsed activities.
- Youth Symphony I traveled to Maui and performed at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. These concerts were sponsored in part by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation.

Over \$30,000 given in financial assistance

- HYS is committed to make music education accessible to any interested student, regardless of financial means. An endowment account established by a generous gift in honor of retired conductor Michael Nakasone, ensures HYS's ability to assist families in financial hardship with the costs of tuition, registration fees, instrument rentals, and private lessons. Last year, we distributed over \$30,000 in financial assistance.
- Additionally, HYS reaches neighbor island communities by providing qualified students with travel assistance so that these students may participate in our Symphony Program.



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Continued: Highlights from our 49th Season (2013-2014)

Continued Exploration into Open-Access Music Programs for Kids

- HYS continues to believe in open-access programs that encourage kids without prior experience or training to participate. Thanks to a strong partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii, as well as grants from the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation, Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts, and the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, HYS was able to offer low-cost (\$20/year) general music and band classes via its Music in the Clubhouse program.

Collaborations with World-Class Entertainers

- HYS works hard to ensure unique musical experiences for its students. In FY14, HYS collaborated with Jimmy Borges & The Waitiki 7, UH piano professor Dr. Jonathan Korth, world percussionist Sangomuyiwa, and local entertainers Hot Club of Hulaville. These experiences push students beyond the realm of Western/Classical music and gave them a taste for midcentury Americana, Exotica, Latin, and French/Gypsy Jazz.
- Additionally, students across all our programs receive coaching by professional musicians (e.g., from the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and Royal Hawaiian Band), whom reinforce musically high standards.

A Special Honor: HYS named Finalist in the 2014 Na Hoku Hanohano Awards

- HYS was honored to be named Finalist in the category "Instrumental Album of the Year," for the live recording from our 'Na Mele: The Gift of Music' concert, starring local entertainer Jimmy Borges and modern exotica group The WAITIKI 7. It was the first time HYS has received a nomination in the Na Hoku Hanohano Awards!

Pacific Music Institute has highest enrollment in 20 years!

- Nearly 130 students from Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Islands participated in HYS's Pacific Music Institute, a ten-day intensive music festival that bridged the gap between our 49th & 50th seasons.

Celebrating HYS's 50th Anniversary Season (2014-2015)

Our 50th Anniversary Season is already underway, and off to a very strong start! We kicked off with our annual fundraiser, *He Makana O Na Mele: The Gift of Music*, featuring guest artist Makana with Youth Symphony I. Pianists from the Aloha International Piano Festival performed with our top orchestras, YSI & YSII, on the Symphony Program's Winter Concert at Blaisdell Concert Hall; and Mayor Kirk Caldwell issued a Proclamation declaring December 7, 2014 as Hawaii Youth Symphony Day!

In closing, Hawaii Youth Symphony is very grateful for your continued support. Without your generosity, we would not be able to carry out our programs. I hope that you see a positive return on your investment. We are striving to continue all of our programs so that as many of Hawaii's children may benefit. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact me directly. Mahalo for supporting our youth!

Randy Wong
Executive Director