



SAN JOSE YOUTH
SYMPHONY

YAIR SAMET - MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

MAY 2016 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The **San Jose Youth Symphony**, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor **Yair Samet**, presents its **Season Finale Concert** on **June 10th 2016**, featuring one of the most prominent Israeli musicians **Yaron Gottfried** with his jazz trio, in a **San Jose Premiere** of his critically acclaimed exuberant new arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, remade for Jazz Trio and Orchestra, and performed for the first time by a youth orchestra.

FOR ALL MEDIA AND OTHER INQUIRIES RELATED TO THIS CONCERT, PLEASE CONTACT:

Shoko Michael, Executive Director

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PROGRAM:

Sviridov – *Overture to Time Forward!*

Gavrilin – *Anyuta: Grand Waltz and Tarantella*

Shostakovich – *The Gadfly*

Mussorgsky/Gottfried – *Pictures at an Exhibition - Remake for Jazz Trio and Orchestra*

San Jose, CA – May 2016 – The **San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra**, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor **Yair Samet**, presents its **Season Finale Concert** to be held on **Friday evening, June 10 at 8 pm at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95113.**

The program will open with Sviridov's *Overture to Time Forward!* and will conclude with an exciting new arrangement of Mussorgsky's *Pictures At an Exhibition, remade for Jazz Trio and Orchestra*, featuring its composer, Yaron Gottfried, in the Trio at piano, along with Dave Captein, bass, and Yonatan Oleiski, drums.

HOW TO GET TICKETS: Tickets can be purchased in advance either online at www.sjys.org or by calling the SJYS Office at (408) 885-9220, or at the box office one hour before the concert.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please go to www.sjys.org, or contact the SJYS Office at (408) 885-9220, sjys@sjys.org or shoko@sjys.org

FOR CALENDAR LISTING:

San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) Philharmonic Orchestra presents its **Season Finale Concert**, featuring **Yair Samet**, Music Director and Conductor, and **Yaron Gottfried**, one of the most prominent Israeli musicians of his generation.

Friday, June 10, 2016, at 8 pm. California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95113

San Jose Youth Symphony (www.sjys.org)
595 Park Avenue, Suite 302, San Jose, CA 95110
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YARON GOTTFRIED COMPOSER & PIANIST

Conductor, composer and pianist Yaron Gottfried is one of the most prominent musicians of his generation in Israel, a multidisciplinary artist who bridges classical, contemporary and jazz music.

Gottfried held the position of *Music Director and Principal Conductor* of the *Netanya Kibbutz Orchestra* for 11 years between 2002-2013 with great success, presenting fresh innovative programs, packed halls,

rave reviews and over 120 concerts in a season.

He graduated his studies at the *Rubin Academy of Music* in Jerusalem under Maestro Mendi Rodan. Gottfried's conducting repertoire spans from the renaissance period to contemporary music. In January 2015 he led the **Israel Philharmonic Orchestra**, replacing Maestro Valery Gergiev at short notice with an Israeli premier of Shostakovich 4th Symphony; the concert received rave reviews from the critics. As a result the IPO invited him to lead the 2016 Annual Gala event in October in an all-Gershwin program. In September 2015 he performed a German premier with WDR Funkhausorchester of his "Pictures at an Exhibition-Remake" for jazz trio and orchestra after Mussorgsky.

Highlights of the 2016-17 season include concert series with the Israel Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony, San Jose Youth Philharmonic, Raanana Symphonette, Tel Aviv Soloists Orchestra, as well as 3 world premieres of new compositions.

Gottfried was awarded the "*Israeli Prime Minister's Award for Composers 2014*," and he is regularly invited to conduct and perform his works with major orchestras, festivals and halls worldwide such as *Israel Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony (IBA), Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Jerusalem, Raanana Symphonette, Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, China Philharmonic, Beijing Symphony, Chengdu Philharmonic, Manila Philharmonic, WDR Funkhausorchester, Potsdam Chamber Orchestra and Chorus, Tbilisi Symphony, Thüringen Symphony, Budapest Concert Orchestra, Debrecen Philharmonic, Kodaly Philharmonic, Brazos Valley Symphony, La Crosse Symphony, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, Salta Symphony, L'Auditori - Barcelona Symphonic Band and Tallinn Festival Orchestra*, among others. He is regularly invited as a guest artist to perform at major halls in China such as "Forbidden City Concert Hall" (FCCH), Beijing Concert Hall, Beijing NCPA as well as festivals in China, Italy, Denmark, Georgia and Estonia.

Gottfried's unique approach to rhythm and sound is deeply reflected in his compositions which represent a fusion between genres and styles. His works are published by *Sikorski Music Publishers*. His "Pictures at an Exhibition-Remake" was released in May 2014 on a new CD with *GPR Records* and is distributed by *Naxos USA*. The album received great reviews from *Fanfare Magazine* and in the Israeli press. Among his works are concertos, orchestral works, vocal works and orchestral arrangements. His "Baroque Jazz Project" for jazz trio and orchestra has been performed over 50 times, receiving high acclaim all over the world with many orchestras. A new tango album which he musically produced and arranged for international artist Yasmin Levy was released by *Harmonia Mundi* in September 2014.

Gottfried is the *Head of Composition and Conducting Department at Rimon School for Contemporary Music and Jazz*. He is also the Artistic Director of the new concert series "Out of the Box" held at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

The Israel Cultural Excellence Foundation selected Maestro Gottfried as its chosen artist for 2003-2007. He is a member of the prestigious *MacDowell Colony* in the USA and 1st prize winner of the Young Artists Conductors competition held by the Israel Philharmonic and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, and 1st prize winner of the Red Sea Jazz Festival Composition Competition.

Gottfried's deep musical interests in jazz led him to perform with major jazz artists such as: *Eddie Gomez, Eddie Daniels, Didier Lockwood, Dave Liebman, Ira Sullivan, Randy Brecker, Georgie Fame, Kitty Margolis, Benny Golson and Jimmy Heath* to name a few.



DAVE CAPTEIN, BASS

Dave Captein is an accomplished performer on both string bass and bass guitar, having worked as a professional musician for over 40 years in the Pacific Northwest. A Portland native, he studied with Alice Leyden (Portland Opera Orchestra), Herman Jobelmann (Principal, Oregon Symphony), Ring Warner, James Harnett (Principal, Seattle Symphony) and Chuck Deardorf (Seattle Jazz Bassist). He has attended master classes of greats like Ray Brown, Edgar Meyer, John Clayton, Christian McBride and Dave Holland. A music graduate of Western Washington University and the University of Washington, where he was awarded a composition scholarship, Dave has performed in a broad range of productions, from symphonic performances to studio and club work, as well as many jazz concerts and festivals around the country and in Europe.

He has worked with many well-known jazz artists. He freelances in the Portland area, and is a very active member of the music community there, frequently appearing in the city's many clubs and concert venues, as well as recording studios. He is a favorite choice for the region's many bandleaders and always in demand for his solid sound, time and feel, as well as his soloing abilities. He has played on numerous local artists' CD's, as well as nationally distributed releases by Tom Grant and Jessica Williams. He was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame in 2015. He has also been a long-time instructor, having taught at the University of Oregon for 10 years, he now teaches privately from his home in southeast Portland and at Lewis and Clark College.

He has appeared with many "greats" including Mose Allison, Richie Cole, Tal Farlow, Art Lande, Red Holloway, Ernestine Anderson, Jack Sheldon, Nu Shooz, Marlana Shaw, Frankie Avalon, Jeff Clayton, Paul McCandless, Larry Coryell, Andy Narell, Jerry Hahn, Dave Frishberg, Randy Brecker, Steve Million, Ron Miles, Rick Braun, Kenny Drew, Jr., Jessica Williams (appearing on 10 of her CDs), Joey De Francesco, Eric Alexander, Pete Christlieb, Gary Smulyan, Ron Eschete, Bud Shank, Ingrid Jensen, Jackie Naylor, Bobby Shew, Wynton Marsalis, Dick Hyman, Ken Peplowski, Steve Allen and Paul Smith, Bill Mays, Jeff Lorber, Benny Green, Lewis Nash, Terrell Stafford, Mike Wofford, Jeff Hamilton, Danny McCaslin, and local luminaries such as Ron Steen, Mel Brown, Dan Balmer, Garry Hobbs and Rebecca Kilgore.



YONATAN OLEISKI, DRUMS

Yonatan Oleiski is an acclaimed drummer, born in Tel Aviv, Israel, a recipient of the 2008 Jazz Musician of the Year Award from the Rimon School of Music. Becoming a professional at age 17, Yonatan's career is diverse and encompasses many musical styles and genres, playing with many of the top Jazz and Pop artists in Israel, including Arnie Lawrence, Omer Avital, and Efrat Gosh. Yonatan toured China and the Philippines with Maestro Yaron Gottfried as a featured soloist, as well as collaborating with

Gottfried and Brazilian singer Maucha Adnet.

Currently living in New York, he is a requested drummer for jazz, hip hop, and pop acts, playing in renowned venues and festivals worldwide. The late jazz great and Grammy-winning trumpet player, Mr. Clark Terry, mentored Yonatan.

Yonatan is also involved in art education, giving drum clinics at music schools and workshops, and served as musical director for modern dance and ballet schools in Israel.



YAIR SAMET, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Versatile and highly acclaimed conductor **Yair Samet** enjoys a widespread international career spanning three continents. He is consistently cited for his high level of artistry and exceptional knowledge of the repertoire.

Mr. Samet was appointed first associate conductor of the *San Jose Symphony Orchestra* in 1994. In addition, he was nominated Music Director and Conductor of the San Jose Youth Symphony, with whom he has toured Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Japan, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Spain, Poland, Chile and Argentina.

Mr. Samet has conducted the famed *Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra* on tour in Germany, the *Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra* in Serbia, the *Saarländisches Staatsorchester* in Saarbrücken, Germany, the *Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra* in China, and the *Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra* in Bosnia. In addition, he conducted the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra and the St. Petersburg Glinka Capella at Finland's Tampere International Music Festival. In Israel he conducted the *Haifa Symphony*, the *Rishon Le-Zion Symphony Orchestra*, and the *Israeli Sinfonietta*.

He has performed with renowned artists such as Pinchas Zukerman, Vadim Repin, David Shifrin, Han-Na Chang, Helène Grimaud, Lara St. John, Raphael Wallfisch, Jon Nakamatsu, and Jon Kimura Parker.

In addition to his professional conducting accolades, Mr. Samet also serves on the music faculty of the University of California Santa Cruz as principal guest conductor, leading the UCSC Symphony Orchestra in concerts annually.

Born in Jerusalem, Yair Samet attended the Rubin Academy High School of Music and Arts
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where he studied piano and bassoon, and was invited as the institution's youngest student to join the composition department under the guidance of internationally renowned composer Mark Kopitman. As a teenager, Mr. Samet performed frequently as soloist and chamber musician throughout Israel and for Israeli National Television.

Throughout his undergraduate and graduate studies, Yair Samet was the recipient of three scholarships from the American Israel Cultural Foundation. He began his formal orchestral conducting and musicology studies at Tel-Aviv University during which he founded the Young Israel Chamber Orchestra, a group he led for 4 years. Mr. Samet made his professional conducting debut in his early twenties with the *Rishon Le-Zion Orchestra*, a privilege offered only to finalists of Israel's International Course for Conductors under the direction of Maestro Noam Sheriff.

Having earned a national reputation as a gifted young conductor and musician, the *Young Israel Philharmonic*, a wing of the famed *Israel Philharmonic*, created the position of assistant conductor for him in 1989. This unique distinction allowed him to view closely the work of conductors such as Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur and Claudio Abbado. Mr. Samet completed his graduate studies in conducting and composition in the United States at Indiana University where he directed the Indiana University String Orchestra and conducted each of the University's five orchestras.



SAN JOSE YOUTH SYMPHONY

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the U.S. Founded over six decades ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education.

SJYS's mission is to give young people a foundation for life through orchestral music. We create programs that assure young musicians achieve technical proficiency, musical knowledge and an emotional connection to music. We strive to make each performance for the community, uplifting, spirited and exciting.

SJYS member musicians, of ages 8 to 20, are selected from more than 600 applicants through our annual auditions. SJYS comprises 11 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras; a chamber orchestra; two flute choirs; concert winds; saxophone; percussion and harp ensembles; and two string ensembles. Each group performs a scheduled series of concerts every season and rehearses weekly from September through early June. In addition, all musicians participate in a weeklong summer camp and receive special coaching from professional musicians to supplement their work with SJYS artistic staff.

As part of its outreach activities, SJYS offers afterschool instrumental classes to local schools throughout the San Jose area through its *Music Matters* program.

The Philharmonic Orchestra is the premier ensemble of SJYS, led by Music Director and Conductor, Yair Samet, former Associate Conductor of the San Jose Symphony. The orchestra performs concerts regularly at the historic California Theatre, in downtown San José. It also performs in community and city events, including the annual Season of Hope Concert in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, and collaborates regularly with both local and international performing arts groups, including the Ireland Youth Orchestra, San Jose Taiko, the Okayama Youth Orchestra, and Mariachi Cobre. The orchestra embarks on a biannual international concert tour, most recently to Portugal and Spain in the summer of 2015, performing at Granada's famous International Music Festival and at Valencia's beautiful Palau de la Musica.