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**OAKLAND EAST BAY SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES OAKLAND SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2014--2015 SEASON UNDER NEW PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OMID ZOUFONOUN**

**THREE-CONCERT SEASON FEATURES NEW YOUNG COMPOSER COMPETITION, WINNERS OF THE OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA CONCERTO COMPETITION AND THE MOZART REQUIEM WITH OAKLAND SYMPHONY CHORUS**

**WORKS BY BACH, MOZART, BRAHMS, SCHUBERT, BRUCH, STRAVINSKY, BERNSTEIN, SUK, WIENIAWSKI, MARQUEZ AND RIMSKY-KORSAKOV**

**CONCERTS NOV. 2, FEB. 8 AND MAY 17 AT VARIOUS EAST BAY VENUES**

Oakland, CA, September 29, 2014 – Oakland East Bay Symphony has announced the 2014-2015 season of the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra, **Michael Morgan, Artistic Director, and Omid Zoufonoun, new Principal Conductor**, featuring a new Young Composer Competition, the annual Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition winner and other highlights, including the Mozart Requiem with **Oakland Symphony Chorus with Chorus Director Lynne Morrow** conducting. The three-concert season will run November 2, 2014 through May 17, 2015 at various East Bay venues. For more information, visit [oeps.org](http://oeps.org).

Says new Principal Conductor Omid Zoufonoun, "We are excited to build upon our first 50 years with a great season and some new features like the Young Composer Competition, a large-scale collaboration with the Oakland Symphony Chorus and Lynne Morrow, a performance by our Concerto Competition winner and a return to our home stages following a successful and rewarding tour to Argentina and Uruguay two summers ago."

**Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra 2014-2015 Season**  
**Michael Morgan, Artistic Director**  
**Omid Zoufonoun, Principal Conductor**

All concerts conducted by Omid Zoufonoun unless otherwise noted.

Program 1

November 2, 2014 4:00pm

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

\$15 General Admission

with Oakland Symphony Chorus, Lynne Morrow, Chorus Director; and Jessica Cao, violin

Bach/Stokowski: *Komm süßer Tod* (conducted by Michael Morgan); Mozart: Requiem (conducted by Lynne Morrow, Oakland Symphony Chorus Director); Bruch: Violin Concerto No.2 in D minor With Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition winner Jessica Cao; Stravinsky: *Firebird* (1919 version)

Program 2

February 8, 2015 2:00pm

San Leandro High School Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

Free Admission

With Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition winner Jonathan Chen, violin

Bernstein: *Candide* Overture; Wieniawski: Violin Concerto No.2 in D minor, Op.22, D minor with Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition winner Jonathan Chen; Marquez: *Danzón* No. 2; Schubert: Symphony No.8 in B minor "Unfinished"; Rimsky-Korsakov: Russian Easter Overture, Op.36

Program 3

May 17, 2015 2:00pm

Valley Center for Performing Arts, Holy Names University, 3500 Mountain Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619

Free Admission

World premiere featuring brass and percussion ensemble by new Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra Young Composer Competition winner; Concerto to be

announced featuring a winner of the Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition; Suk: Scherzo fantastique, op.25; Brahms: Symphony No.1, in C minor, Op.68

### **About Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra**

Founded in 1964 as the educational arm of the Oakland Symphony, at 50 years old, the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra is recognized as an outstanding musical organization in Oakland and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Youth Orchestra features eighty-five talented music students aged 12 to 22 from throughout the region. Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra maintains a commitment to cultural exchange and has toured extensively in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean Islands, Costa Rica, Mexico and Cuba, Italy, Australia and New Zealand, Greece and, most recently in 2013, Argentina and Uruguay. In addition the organization has a history of commissioning, premiering and recording the works of American composers. Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra is a member of the League of American Orchestras, Arts First Oakland, ASCAP, Association of California Symphony Orchestras, BMI and Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Together with the Oakland East Bay Symphony and Oakland Symphony Chorus, it operates as a unified organizational entity providing performances and music education to youth and adults.

### **About New Principal Conductor Omid Zoufonoun**

Omid Zoufonoun is a conductor, guitarist, educator and award-winning composer. His compositions blend his Persian musical heritage, learned under the guidance of his father Ostad Mahmoud Zoufonoun, with western practices of counterpoint, harmony and orchestration. Recent commissions include a Cello Sonata for the duet Martha & Monica, a guitar octet for the Guitar Foundation of America, a choral setting of four Rumi poems for the Pacific Mozart Ensemble, and a four-movement orchestral work for the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra. Maestro Zoufonoun conducted the premiere of this latter work at the Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland, and a professional premiere followed by the Oakland East Bay Symphony under the direction of Maestro Michael Morgan in 2012 on the Symphony's acclaimed *Notes from Persia* program. As a conductor, his recent recording of Bill Horvitz' suite, *A Long Walk*, was featured as an Editor's Pick in *Downbeat* magazine. A passionate educator and advocate for public arts education, he has taught orchestral studies, chamber music, guitar, composition and AP music theory at Oakland School for the Arts.

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