

The 60th Anniversary of Okayama and San Jose Sister City Relationship

# Okayama City Junior Orchestra San Jose Youth Symphony Joint Concert

Okayama City Junior Orchestra — Conductor: Junji Yamagami

Peter Warlock - "Capriol" Suite

Pietro Mascagni - "Intermezzo" from Opera "Cavalleria Rusticana"

Ralph Vaughan Williams - "Fantasia on Greensleeves"

San Jose Youth Symphony — Music Director and Conductor: Yair Samet

Jean Sibelius - "Karelia Overture"

Amilcare Ponchielli - "Dance of the hours from La Gioconda"

Okayama City Junior Orchestra & San Jose Youth Symphony Joint Performance

John Philip Sousa - "The Stars and Stripes Forever" — Conductor: Yair Samet

Teiichi Okano - "Furusato" — Conductor: Junji Yamagami



Sunday, August 6, 2:00pm Tickets \$5.00



**Hammer Theatre Center**

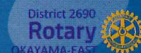
101 Paseo de San Antonio - San Jose

408-924-8501 [www.sjsu.edu/hammertheatre](http://www.sjsu.edu/hammertheatre)

San Jose Youth Symphony office : 595 Park Avenue, Suite 302, San Jose CA 95110

408-885-9220 [www.sjys.org](http://www.sjys.org)

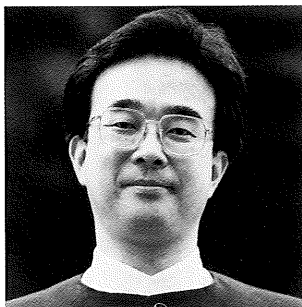
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**Junji Yamagami - Conductor**



Junji Yamagami, born in Mito city in 1960, graduated from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in the Conducting Course and completed master's degree in the graduate course of the above. He studied conducting under Yasuhiko Shiozawa, Masahisa Endo, Akeo Watanabe, and Victor Feldbrill. He had taught at Sakuyo College of Music since he was in the second year of the master course of the University and he took charge of Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and conducting. He worked as full-time lecturer and assistant professor until March of 1994.

He had studied abroad for two years at Hochschule für Musik Detmold in northwestern Germany since 1990. He mainly studied conducting for operas under Prof. Karl-Heinz Bloemeke, and Prof. Peter Jacoby. He also studied under Moshe Atzmon, Gary Bertini, Michael Gielen and Miklos Erdelyi. During the time he studied in Germany, he went on the stage of regular concerts of Filarmonica de Stat Oradea of Romania, The West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra of Czech Republic, Filharmonia Sudecka of Poland and so on. In Germany, he also conducted the performance of Offenbach's operetta "Croquefer".

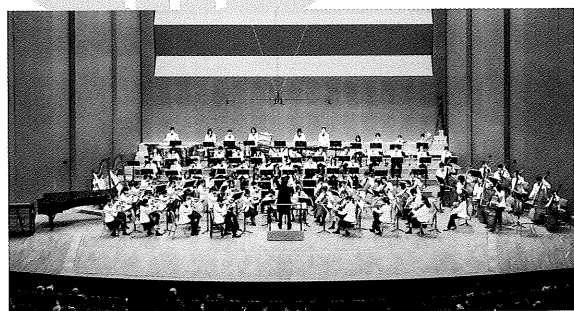
In Japan, he conducted Gunma Symphony Orchestra, Chiba Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra, Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra, Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra, Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, Okayama Philharmonic Orchestra, Seto Philharmonic Orchestra, Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, Sapporo Symphony Orchestra and so on. In the field of opera, he directed "Le nozze di Figaro", "Cosi Fan Tutte", "Die Zauberflöte", "La Traviata", "Rigoletto", "Aida", "La Bohème", "Madame Butterfly", "Turandot", "Carmen", "Die Fledermaus", "Onbashira" and so on. In the field of ballet, he conducted "Swan Lake", "The Nutcracker", "Don Quixote" and so on. He went on the stage of the new National Theater with Haydn's opera "L'Isola disabitata" for the first time in January of 2003.

Okayama City Junior Orchestra was formed as the first youth orchestra managed by the local government in Japan and it started with 165 members and 10 instructors.

Currently, this orchestra always has members from the 3rd grade students of elementary school to university students. The members are not only students from within Okayama City but also from neighboring areas where there is no orchestra activities. The members, instructors and persons concerned work together to form rich sense of humanity through music. The members make effort to enhance the level of performing technique by regular practice four times every month on Sunday for three hours from 9:30 A.M. (Okayama City Okayama Central Elementary School) and also by intensive practice immediately before the concerts.

This orchestra has been performing fresh and genuine classic music to the citizens of Okayama and it will have joint concert with San Jose Youth Symphony this August in U.S.A. for commemorating the 60th anniversary of sister city relationship of Okayama City and San Jose City.

It is expected that this orchestra can play an active role for communicating with other cities and for international goodwill as a representative of Okayama City through performances of regular concerts and requested concerts by cherishing the relationship of the people.



Okayama City Junior Orchestra

**YAIR SAMET - Conductor**



Maestro 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 Europe, South America and the Far East.

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

He has led performances 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 served on the music faculty of the University of California Santa Cruz as principal guest conductor for two decades.

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.

The mission of SJYS 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.

The musicians of SJYS, ranging in age from 8 to 20, are chosen from more than 600 applicants through our annual auditions. The SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras, a chamber orchestra, two flute choirs, two string ensembles, a jazz ensemble, concert winds, saxophone, percussion and harp ensembles. Each orchestra and ensemble performs a scheduled series of concerts every season. SJYS ensembles rehearse weekly from September through early June. In addition, all musicians participate in a weeklong summer camp in late July or early August. Each ensemble receives sectional coaching from professional musicians to supplement the work with SJYS artistic staff.

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 Philharmonic Orchestra has collaborated with both local and international leading arts groups, including the San Jose Symphony, the Asian Youth Orchestra, the Ireland National Youth Orchestra, the Okayama Youth Orchestra, San Jose Taiko, Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra, Mariachi Cobre, San Jose Children's Musical Theatre, the Latin Jazz Ensemble from San Jose State University, and the Los Gatos Ballet.

For more information, please visit [www.sjys.org](http://www.sjys.org)

**San Jose Youth Symphony**

