

# Sustaining Notes

The Newsletter for Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra for Strings

Vol. 2  
No. 6  
June 1,  
2021

## SJO News

Welcome to summer! As the world gradually returns to normal, be assured that we are planning for the return of the orchestra and we will alert everyone as soon as our venue is available. We will be VERY happy to see and hear everyone!

Also, we are eager to start auditions for potential orchestra members, so if you know of anyone (age 12 or older) who might be interested in joining SJO, please have them contact Mrs. Tacchia at (951)203-0759 or [mbernardel@gmail.com](mailto:mbernardel@gmail.com).

In this issue we are focused on four SJO alumni in an expanded "Where Are They Now?" section. We hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful work these talented young people are doing.

This month we honor the birthday of Arianna H. on June 14<sup>th</sup> and our SJO dads, granddads, and like-a-dad's on Father's Day, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes to all!

## Mrs. T.'s Listening List

### Twelve Variations on "Ah vous dirai-je, Maman", K. 265 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Many composers wrote variations on a chosen or original theme. One such composition is for piano by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. (1756-1791), composed when he was about twenty-five years old. The piece is titled, Twelve Variations on "Ah vous dirai-je, Maman", K. 265, which translates to English from French as: Oh! Shall I tell you, Mama. It is a popular children's song in France which first appeared in 1761.

The melody, which you will recognize, has been used for many children's songs such as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", "Baa Baa Black Sheep" and the "Alphabet Song". This work of Mozart consists of the Theme followed by 12 variations on the theme. And if you think the piece is as easy as playing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" - guess again! The piece lasts approximately twelve and a half minutes. So, please, this month listen to Twelve Variations on "Ah vous dirai-je, Maman", K. 265 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

## Where Are They Now? Featuring Four Former SJO Members

### Theo Nguyen, Violin

It is lovely to connect with you all! SJO holds a special place in my heart. I am honored to be able to share a bit of myself in this newsletter and hopefully offer you some interesting reading material.

I am a charter member and auditioned for SJO not expecting too much. My orchestra teacher, Mr. Brannon at San Geronio High School, recommended that I audition and it was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life. I looked forward to SJO every Saturday because it was a place to de-stress from the study load of school and play all different kinds of pieces. Mrs. T. always made sure the music she chose for us would be inclusive for members of any skill level.

That stuck with me because what I learned from SJO is that no matter what skill level you may be, there is always something to learn and be humbled by. If you really enjoy playing music, SJO is the perfect avenue to go down and there will never be a shortage of inspiring moments.

I started playing violin in middle school in 8th grade. I am pretty much self-taught because I never had the luxury of a private teacher. I want everyone to know out there that if you are determined when it comes to learning music, if you are motivated by the love of playing, you will see the rewards of your hard work. Just never give up! I was in orchestra in high school, made it to concertmaster, and then moved on to UC Irvine to study Chemistry where I joined the symphony. There I was exposed to professional level music and like SJO, that experience will stick with me forever as one that I hold dearly.

After graduating in 2016, I did a 180 and moved to Sydney, Australia to pursue my lifelong goals in hospitality and to keep my mom company since she moved back here to her former home. I am now Assistant Restaurant Manager and

Sommelier (aka fancy wine expert) at 6HEAD in Sydney which is a fine dining steakhouse. I still play violin just about every day - even if it's only for 20 minutes! Violin is something I will never give up.

If there are words of advice that I may lend, it is to follow your passions and never give up, don't take life too seriously to where you are constantly stressing yourself, care less about what other people think (in a good way), and know that even in the hardest of times, everything will be alright in the end.

Thank you for reading! And don't be a stranger should you ever find yourself Down Under in Australia on the other side of the planet.

### Alejandra Davila, Viola

*I was a member of SJO's viola section from 2010 to 2015, and credit that experience as the catalyst for my love both of music and of community building. I have fond memories of how music can bring people from different backgrounds together to unite them in a common experience, and I also have a deep admiration for Mrs. T. and the parents, volunteers, and community partners who came together to make SJO a reality.*

*I graduated from Cajon High School in 2015 and received my B.A. in Politics and Gender & Women's Studies from Pomona College in 2019. I am currently in the Bay Area, working as an academic counselor for youth on probation at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL). Music is a powerful way to build rapport with my students who crave a more creative curriculum and are interested in a career in music.*

*I will be pursuing a Master's in Public Policy in the fall of 2021, to advocate for changes in the juvenile justice and education systems, as well as expanding my career in writing.*

*My advice: playing in an orchestra is the embodiment of community building. Cherish the moments when you all come together as musicians to create songs and recognize that each different person plays a necessary part in that creation.*

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**Gemma Coronel, Violin**  
I first had the opportunity to study violin under Mrs. Tacchia at Palm Ave Elementary. I was so excited to join SJO mid-season 1 in 2009, and I can say that our time together still holds many of my fondest memories, from tours to Cambria, performances at Disneyland, and playing in the tour orchestra for American Idol artist, David Archuleta.

After graduating from Cajon HS in 2014, I studied human biology at UC Santa Cruz. Unsure what my next steps would be, I took a leap of faith and applied to a medical school that trained doctors to be teachers, while focusing on treating the whole person.

Coming from a diverse community like the Inland Empire highlighted the disparities that often get overlooked by Western and alternative medicine. In 2018, I enrolled at the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon. During my time here I have learned the ins-and-outs of primary care through the lens of traditional medicines.

This summer, I will begin clinical rotations towards becoming a licensed Naturopathic doctor. As an ND, my hope is to give back to communities like ours. It fostered great role models and strength despite the lack of financial resources. The challenges, especially in this last year have taught me the importance of holding on to my roots. Music has been a great source of grounding! My advice to you: do not give up on your dreams, especially when it seems like all odds are against you (and don't be afraid to ask for help and advice).

SJO's music always fills my soul, I hope to hear you all as soon as we can do so safely!"

**Jesus Chuy Flores, Viola**  
My name is Chuy and I began my musical journey in the fourth grade at Burbank Elementary as an "OG" violist under the mentorship of Doug Williams.

While my parents were not able to support my musicianship financially, I was fortunate to have their support driving me to

several orchestral programs throughout my public school education. By my junior year at Cajon High School in 2011, I joined the few but mighty violists at SJO and still hold fond memories performing at many different venues around Southern California.

I continued my education at Occidental College in Los Angeles majoring in Urban and Environmental Policy with a minor in Ethnomusicology. Unready to stop playing music, I received a 4-year scholarship from Occidental to continue playing the viola while also venturing into other non-European instruments including the jarana (Veracruz, Mexico) and conga (Cuba). It was during this time that I had my first formal private viola lessons with Minor Wetzel from the LA Philharmonic.

After college, I worked in the State government in Sacramento working on environmental justice and climate policy initiatives for a year before returning to school at UCLA to receive my Master of Urban Planning degree. Now as an urban planning consultant, I work with government agencies and nonprofit organizations developing policies and programs that improve the quality of life in communities across the U.S. I also now serve as a Planning Commissioner for San Bernardino, where I advise City staff on developments and policy affecting our community.

Although I do not play the viola anymore, I take the lessons I've learned about practice, patience, and passion in my everyday work. My advice to current members: Listen to one another and thank your parent(s)!

## Vivo Vocabulary

**Ausgabe** ~ (Ger.) edition

**Dur** ~ (Ger.) major key

**Moll** ~ (Ger.) minor key

**Festschrift** ~ (Ger.) publication on the occasion of a celebration

**Handschrift** ~ manuscript

**Satz** ~ (Ger.) movement

**Urtext** ~ (Ger.) original text

## > **Accent On Former Students**

"Accent On" this month features four SJO Alumni from the early days and our beginnings as the new youth orchestra in town! As I revisit fond memories of all my students, I would like to remember a sentence or two from my early work with each of you four:

**Theo!** When our first tour to Cambria was announced, you ran up to me saying that Cambria was the only place one could find Olallieberries, and could we PLEASE look for them when we got there. Your answer from me was a resounding YES! And we did. I knew then and there that you were destined to be in the high-end restaurant business.

**Gemma!** I met you in your 5th grade year. You wanted to learn violin, but your old school didn't have music. Your mom worked at my school and asked if I could work with you. You, too, were met with a resounding YES! Two years later, you were ready for SJO~~audition piece: Air & Caprice by Clark.

**Alejandra!** You came to me in 4th grade wanting to learn viola. By Season 2 of orchestra, you were ready to audition for us. If memory serves me, you were the first to nickname us "SJO" in huge letters in the sand on the beach at Santa Barbara on our first tour.

**Jesus-Chuy!** Though I didn't meet you until you were a junior in HS, you clearly LOVED playing the viola. You played the 2nd Bach Cello Suite, Sarabande (memorized) at your audition and we had the pleasure of having you join our 6-member viola section before you went off to study at Occidental College. Thank you all for the memories.

~ Mrs. Tacchia

~ Coda ~

"Make new friends,  
but keep the old,  
One is silver  
and the other gold."

from a poem by Joseph Parry (1841~1903)  
and adapted into the  
Girl Scout Songbook, 1925