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Youth Orchestra's*

2024-2025 Season Finale



April 13, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Guam

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### TRISTAN ALVAREZ



Tristan Alvarez is currently an 11th grade student at Okkodo High School. He started his musical journey in 6th grade with the UMS band program. It is here he started to learn how to play percussion instruments. During the COVID 19 pandemic, he started learning piano through online class. In his 8th grade year, he was appointed Stage Manager of the UMS band and was a lead soloist in the UMS Spring Concert. He has received a Certificate of Exemplary Musicianship for his achievements in music such as achieving the highest level of acuity and acumen for Aural Skills and Advanced Music Theory. Currently, Tristan is serving as a student conductor for the Okkodo High School Concert band as well as section leader for Tenors in Okkodo's Magnifico! Choir. His music prowess extends to outside ensembles as he is a current member of the Guam Territorial Band and the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra. He has traveled with both ensembles to Vienna, Austria and participated in the Summa Cum Laude Music Festival. He has been participating in the Tumon Bay Music Festival since it reopened in 2023. He has participated in the Tumon Bay International Woodwind Orchestra since then. He has also been a part of pit orchestras for musicals on Guam such as Beauty and the Beast and Into the Woods. In the future, he hopes to continue to grow as a musician and hopes music will remain a big part of his life for the years to come.

### XANDER CASTRO



Xander Castro is currently a Junior at Harvest Christian Academy. Born in Maryland and eventually settling in Guam in 2011, Xander's musical journey began with piano before he discovered his true passion for playing the bass. He is deeply inspired by his father and brother, both of whom have played significant roles in shaping his love for music. Xander enjoys playing a variety of contemporary genres, including Rock, R&B, and Jazz, and has performed with several groups around Guam, such as the UOG Jazz Band, Harvest Symphony, Guam Symphony, and TBYO. Music has been a life-changing passion for him, and he is dedicated to continuing his growth as both a performer and a musician. He is also the Vice President of Harvest's Tri-M Honor Society, demonstrating his leadership and commitment to the music community. Looking ahead, Xander plans to pursue a career in music, with hopes of making an even greater impact as an artist.

### LEODY ERSANDO



Leody Ersando is a musician who has spent most of his life loving the art of music. To this day he continues to perform music on many occasions often at various events, usually performing alongside his fellow musicians in the different ensembles that he takes part in, such as the Guam Territorial Band, the John F. Kennedy High School Concert Band, the Tumon Bay Junior Band, and the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra. Leody continues to excel in these ensembles with his contributions of playing as a percussionist for each group, while also being given the opportunity to play piano or any other keyboard instruments. Over time, Leody has also found interest in arranging and composing music, which in his own time he has created works that were even featured as part of the repertoire of some of his ensembles. As of today, Leody continues to pursue his studies as a high school freshman at the age of 14, and he continues to develop his musical knowledge and skills to bring joy to others, ensuring that even a few minutes of a performance leaves a lasting impression.

### HILARY GUTER



Hilary Guter was born and raised in Dublin Ireland. Her music training on various instruments was based on the British System of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. She has organ and piano diplomas from the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music London England. After graduating from Trinity College Dublin with an honors degree in music she taught piano at the Dublin College of Music for a year. She then moved to Amsterdam for advanced organ studies with Piet Kee. While living there she was appointed Director of Music at the English Reformed Church in the Begijnhof, Amsterdam. There she performed in many concerts on piano and organ and taught multiple piano students. While living and working in Amsterdam, she eventually met and married the American student minister, Frank Guter. Since 1989 they have lived in 5 countries--USA, Netherlands, Canada, England and Ireland. In each place, Hilary has built up a piano studio and performed many organ and piano concerts. Since 2003 she has been Director of Music in churches in London England, Dublin Ireland, Oakland California, Manasquan New Jersey and Grand Rapids Michigan. Starting in Montreal in 2000, Hilary became passionate about enabling children to sing. She has then done this in every subsequent place, in both schools and churches. She arrived on Guam in July 2022 after her husband was called to

become pastor of Faith Presbyterian CRC Church in Mangilao. In Tumon Bay, she discovered a beautiful German built tracker action pipe organ in the wedding chapel of the Lotte Hotel, which she has access to practice regularly. She directs elementary, middle and high school choirs for the GHSA, has 24 piano students, and plays piano at her husband's church where she also arranges special music for all ages.

### DANIEL KIM



I was born in Seoul and started playing the violin at the age of 24 after completing my military service. My journey with both English and the violin began in the Philippines, and later, I moved to New York to study violin under Professor Stephen Clapp of The Juilliard School. I have performed as a soloist with Paganini Violin Concerto No. 1 and have been a guest musician with the KBS Orchestra, the Korean Symphony Orchestra, and other major ensembles in Korea. Currently, I am a music teacher at St. Paul Christian School.

Mr. Kim is a multi-GOLD award winner of the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

### SEJIN YEON



Sejin Yeon is a 9-year-old third grader at Tamuning Elementary School in Guam. She began playing the piano at age 4 and the cello at age 5 in Korea. After moving to Guam in 2024, she joined the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra (TBYO) at age 8, becoming the youngest full member in the orchestra's history.

Sejin has had a wonderful musical journey. She won 1st place as a pianist at the Korea Genius Music Competition on August 19, 2023, and was awarded 2nd prize as a cellist at the Great Composers Competition on March 21, 2025.

Sejin loves sharing music with others and creating special memories with her fellow musicians at TBYO. Despite her young age, she works hard to make her cello sound beautiful and bring joy to the community. In the future, Sejin hopes to perform music with various communities, learn from different cultures, and create memories that last a lifetime. She is excited to continue improving and see where her musical journey will take her!

## BIOGRAPHIES

### VINICIA SOO-AH KIM



Vinicia Soo-AH Kim is currently a junior who attends St. John's School. Born on the neighboring island of Saipan, she moved to Guam in first grade and began her musical journey at the age of 10, debuting in St. John's School's elementary orchestra. Inspired by the wonder of music, she took up both the violin and piano. Since joining the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra (TBYO) in 2019, Vinicia has been an active member, serving on the Youth Steering Committee for two years and holding the position of second chair principal for two years. In the summer of 2024, she traveled to Europe with TBYO where they attended the Summa Cum Laude Festival. She is also involved in her school's musical programs, including the SJS School Orchestra, Glee Club, and Tri-M Music Honor Society, as well as her church's music ministry. Looking ahead, Vinicia aspires to pursue a career in the medical field, specifically in neuroscience, while continuing to explore her musical interests.

### SHIYORI SHIBAHATA



Born in Osaka, raised in Guam, Shiyori Shibahata is a senior at Harvest Christian Academy and the president of the Tri-M honor society at HCA. She started playing the violin in fourth grade with her school's beginning orchestra, then joined the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra in tenth grade. Her violin teacher, Mr. Ao Zhang, played a great part in encouraging her to perform a solo for TBMF for the first time. Where she stands now wouldn't be possible without her parents who supported her through all these years of her continuous musical interest. Shiyori enjoys sharing live music with the community and participating in various musical groups including pit orchestras.

### KAI SPENCE



Kai Spence, son of Miwa and Bennett Spence, is 17 years old and is a junior attending Harvest Christian Academy. Exposed to music from an early age, Kai finds himself in many music groups around the island including a number of groups at his school as well as out of school groups such as the Guam Territorial Band, the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra and the Guam Symphony Society. To begin his musical journey, Kai began learning the piano at an early age for a few years, developing his basic understanding of music and at the age of 12, began his time in the percussion section. Throughout his middle school years, Kai played in the Harvest beginning band as well as the Harvest Middle school band, but it was not till September of the year 2022 where Kai would begin playing music for the community of Guam. Being part of the pit orchestra of the Miss Saigon production, produced by the World Theater Production, Kai found himself in a new setting of playing music for a musical. Despite the new experience, Kai heavily enjoyed it and few months later would be invited to the Guam Territorial Band by none other than the maestro himself, Mr. Max Ronquillo. Fast forward a couple of months, Kai would later find himself joining this very orchestra a few weeks prior to their finale concert for the 22-23 season. Along with these 2 music groups, Kai also spends his time playing for the Guam Symphony Society, the Harvest High school Band, and the Harvest High school symphony orchestra, however it doesn't stop there as Kai has also been involved in many theatrical productions around the island such as Beauty and the Beast, Frozen Jr. and the one that started it all, Les Misérables.

### HANNAH STO. NIÑO



Hannah Sto. Niño graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science in December 2021, at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas.

She currently works as a medical lab technologist at the Guam SDA Clinic in Tamuning. While her job is challenging and brings her a sense of satisfaction, her real passion is music. Music, especially ensemble music, has been a fundamental part of her life ever since childhood, when she first began piano lessons at the age of five and sang in her church's Children's Choir. Since then, she has continued to pursue music, joining her high school's choir, wind ensemble, chamber orchestra, and handbell choir, and eventually becoming a part of Southwestern Adventist University's touring choir, the University Singers, with whom she has performed in her university's annual music festival at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Texas, and traveled across the world to sing in many different countries in Europe. While at university, she studied music theory for two years and continued to receive piano lessons under Dr. Marcin Parys, an accomplished concert pianist well-renowned for his interpretations of works by Frédéric Chopin.

Presently, she performs with the members of the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra and has participated in Guam's 2022 production of Miss Saigon, TBYO's recent music tour to Saipan, and the annual Young Artist Competition hosted in January by Guam Symphony Society, in which she collaborated with three of the competition's finalists. Her greatest joy is found in making music with others, and she holds a special place in her heart for praise and worship music, remembering that every opportunity to make music with others is a chance to be used as an instrument of blessing.



## BIOGRAPHIES



**JAMIE XU**

Jamie is a junior at St. John's School. She started learning violin at the age of 5 and is mentored by Mr. Ao Zhang. She has participated in music competitions since elementary school and is multiple prize-winner in both international and island-wide music competitions. She performed at Carnegie Hall as First-Prize winner at the 2024 Golden Classic Music Awards International Competition in December 18, 2024

She is the first young musician from Guam to earn a place in NYO2, the prestigious National Youth Orchestra for outstanding American instrumentalists, ages 14-17, who are recognized by Carnegie Hall to be among the most promising young players in the country. The 89 members of NYO2 2025 represent 32 states plus Guam. Jamie is chosen as one of the 28 violinists in the nation. Representing the United States of America, NYO2 will hold its annual concert in Carnegie Hall on July 27 and take part in the Edinburgh International Festival in Scotland in August as the festival's resident orchestra.

Jamie is TBYO's current concertmaster.



### **STRINGSTARS DUET**

Grand Prix Winner (tie)  
2025 Tumon Bay Music Festival

Jamie Xu is a junior from St. John's School. She has actively been playing the violin and the piano from the age of 5 and is currently the concertmaster of the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra and is also a part of the St. John's School Symphony Orchestra. Raylene DeBenedictis is a senior, also from St. John's School, and has been playing the piano and the violin from the ages of 5 and 9, respectively. She is currently the concertmaster of the St. John's School Symphony Orchestra. Both avid competitors of the Guam Symphony Young Artists' Competition and other local and international music competitions, Jamie and Raylene came together in 2024 to become a part of the small ensemble Stringstars that ultimately won the TBMF Sweepstakes Award. They are very excited to be able to showcase their love for music and perform together one last time.

Repertoire: Navarra Op. 33 by Pablo E. Sarasate

The Power in ME – MUSIC EDUCATION highlights the transformative impact of music education in Guam's schools, showcasing how it fosters creativity, teamwork, and essential life skills while uniting students of all backgrounds.



Watch the full documentary video and performances now at [PBSGUAM.ORG](http://PBSGUAM.ORG) or simply scan the QR CODE above!



# PROGRAMME

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*Donna De Jesus & Joanne Matanane, Emcees*

OPENING REMARKS (reminder about baton auction)

Concerto No. 5 in A, 1st Movement, K. 219 – W. A. MOZART (1756-1791)  
Shiyori Shibahata, violin | accompanied by Hilary Guter, piano

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1 in G – BWV 1007 - J. S. BACH (1685-1750)  
Sejin Yeon, cello

“Meditation” from Thais – J. MASSANET (1842-1912)  
Daniel Kim, violin | accompanied by Hilary Guter, piano

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS

Highlights from WICKED - S. SCHWARTZ (1948 -  
Arr. Ted Ricketts

SYMPHONY No. 7 in A, Allegretto, Op. 92 – L. BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

ENIGMA VARIATIONS, IX. NIMROD (Adagio), Op. 36 - E. ELGAR (1857-1934)  
Hannah Sto. Niño, conductor

NAVARRA, Op. 33 - P. SARASATE (1844-1908)  
Jamie Xu & Raylene DeBenedictis, violins

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION  
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane & the 38th Guam Legislature

Selections from WEST SIDE STORY – L. BERNSTEIN (1918-1990)  
Arr. Jack Mason

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

BATON AUCTION WINNING PRIZE PERFORMANCE

SWAN LAKE, Act 2, No. 10, OP. 20 – P. TSCHAIKOWSKY (1840-1893)

EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK, Allegro, K. 525 - W. A. MOZART (1756-1791)  
Leody Ersando, conductor

COLDPLAY CLASSICS, Arr. Michael Brown  
Vinicia Kim, conductor

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE - SAM SMITH (1992-  
Xander Castro, arranger and conductor

JAZZ SUITE NO. 2, WALTZ, Op. 50b - D. SHOSTAKOVICH (1906-1975)  
Arr. Flávio Régis Cunha  
Tristan Alvarez, conductor

HAIL AND FAREWELL

STUDIO GHIBLI ANIME MEDLEY – J. HISAISHI (1950-  
Arr. Yoanita Kartadihardja  
*Exclusive authorized arrangements for the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra*





## **Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra**

**Maximo Ronquillo, Jr., Maestro**

The Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra™ (TBYO) is Guam's international award-winning community youth orchestra. The ensemble is open to all youth ages 25 and under. Current membership includes college students and gifted youth from Guam's public, private, defense and home schools.

In July 2024, the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra & the Guam Territorial Band - Official Band of Guam, USA (GTB) represented Guam and the USA at the SUMMA CUM LAUDE MUSIC FESTIVAL in Vienna, Austria. TBYO is the 3rd place winner of the Symphony Orchestra category. Both TBYO and GTB previously represented Guam at the 2019 Australian International Music Festival in Sydney, Australia bringing back two GOLD Awards.

Prospective members must audition to join the orchestra. New members are welcome at any time, year-round. The main goals for the TBYO are to provide a platform for youth musicians from various schools to build camaraderie through music. The repertoire for the ensemble is vast and includes the grand masterworks of centuries past to the latest movie or video game soundtracks. We aim to entertain audiences of all ages.

Since the Fall of 2023, TBYO has established a second orchestra (TBYO 2027) composed of youth who are in their high school sophomore year or younger. The ensemble welcomes new members who have previously taken an introductory ensemble course (beginning band/orchestra) or are concurrently taking private music instruction - no auditions are required to join.

### **Artists**

Violin I: Jamie Xu, concertmaster, Yiju (Riley) Hwang, Clara Kim, Daniel Kim, Vinicia Kim, Cianna Santos, Shiyori Shibahata, Vera Yoon;  
Violin II: Seth Beaver, Esther Cho, Hanyul Cho, Sunyul Cho, Sophia Jang, Isaac Kalie, David Kim, Andrew Taitano, Justin Taitano, Lucas White; Viola: Hannah Sto. Niño, Claire Suh; Cello: \*Daniel Ohno, Andrew Kalie, Edward Kim, Avin Paguio, Jayaniah Tiong, Sejin Yeon;  
String Bass: \*Xander Castro, Samuel Guo; Flute: \*Bella Perez, Jessica Pangelinan, Tristan Villavicencio, Hajin Yeon; Oboe: Elijah Dixon, Ken Kawamura; Clarinet: Jihoo Cha, section leader, \*Thalia Jones, Cadie Ignacio; Bassoon: Charles Hardy; Alto Saxophone: Jayven Botha; Tenor Saxophone: Jasrich Ibay; Trumpet: \*Rin Bejerana, Ross Miller; French Horn: Azelet Lopez, brass section leader, Joseph Ngowakl; Trombone: Jayvee Elomina; Tuba: Kwame Nyame; Keyboard: Leody Ersando, Hannah Sto. Niño; Percussion: \*Nathaniel Dafrad, Tristan Alvarez, Ysabella Bermeo, Jonathan Flis, and Kai Spence.

\*Principal

### **Leadership**

Jasmine Zhao, Orchestra Manager  
Claire Suh, Orchestra Manager  
Kai Spence, Equipment Manager  
Elijah Dixon, Librarian



*Congratulations*

AND

*Best Wishes*

**for this extraordinary achievement.  
May your future be full of success!**

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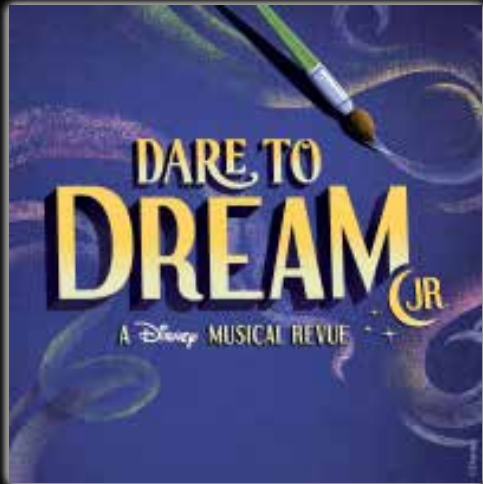
As the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra wraps up their 2024-2025 series, we are proud to support this ensemble of exceptional musicians, guided by their talented young conductors. We hope you continue to grow, thrive, and play on.

*Encore!*

Together we thrive.

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**SHOW DATES:** July 4–6, 2025  
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**SHOW DATES:** August 29–31, 2025  
(No Age Limit)

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Headshot, Résumé (CV) & Audition Video – link or file



*Interested? Fill out our  
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### VIDEO AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Include a brief introduction at the beginning stating your name and the song title you'll be performing.
- Video link of yourself singing your best 16 bars (approximately 30 seconds) of a Disney, pop or rock-and-roll song that best showcases your vocal range.
- Your current headshot and resume as PDF attachments. Please include best phone number and email address to contact you.

**DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2025**  
(OR UNTIL ALL ROLES ARE CAST)

For more information, please email [info@wtpguam.com](mailto:info@wtpguam.com).



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Contributors to the fund may designate their gifts towards two efforts:

## CHENCHULE' (SOCIAL RECIPROCITY)

Based on inafa'maolek (to make well), gifts towards this effort provide immediate support to current programming, which include:

Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra  
String Starter Workshop  
TBYO Hands Across the Sea Tour (Japan)  
Dare to Dream, Jr.  
Jesus Christ Superstar

## HALIGI (FOUNDATION)

Gifts towards this effort provide enduring support to the GPF. The intent of this effort is to establish an endowment (initial goal of \$2M) which will ensure the longevity of the organization. Upon reaching the initial goal, the GPF aims to establish a modern performing arts rehearsal facility and concert hall; and expand music education programs throughout Guam and all of the Micronesia.

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Delgado Pereira (Familian Abing)  
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## Mission

To be a leader in music and arts education for youth and adults throughout Guam and Micronesia and to present innovative programming and repertoire choices that showcase both local and internationally acclaimed artists.

## Vision

...until all in Guam and Micronesia can artistically express freely.

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**... and those too numerous to mention.  
Si Yu'os Ma'ase!**



1975 –2025

**“Commemorating 50 years of Inafa’maolek”  
Exploring the Legacies of “Operation New Life”**

**Project Overview**

Starting in April 1975, tens of thousands of Vietnamese and other foreign nationals fled from the collapsing country of South Vietnam and its capital of Saigon. This was one of the most significant and concentrated migrations of modern history.

The island of Guam (Guåhan) became a refuge in this global episode of mass displacement, exodus, and migration. With “Operation New Life” (ONL), military and civilian institutions on the island received, housed, and processed more than 110,000 refugees.

Unfortunately, many in American society know very little about this historical episode.

A team led by Dr. Nam C. Kim (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will be starting a project, generously supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, in 2025 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Operation New Life. This project is concerned with the legacies of ONL and seeks to feature and celebrate the experiences of all communities that have any connection to the camps. Our team is interested in learning more about all the participants and stakeholders of ONL legacies, including former refugees, military personnel, volunteers, religious organizations, and more.

We believe many stories remain hidden, untold, and underappreciated. In the end, our team seeks to empower public audiences by raising awareness and generating knowledge about the pivotal role Guam played in this significant episode of global history. We wish to do so with as many points of view as possible.

**Community Engagement Events**

Our team is seeking to connect with all community members with an interest in this history. We are planning a series of workshops, gatherings, public lectures, and site visits for 2025. All would be welcome to attend in order to listen, reflect, and share. We hope that these engagement activities will link people and forge new community networks.

**Seeking Participants for Oral History Interviews**

Our team is especially interested to hear from all communities with anything to share about the ONL experience, whether the experiences and knowledge are direct or indirect. This can include memories, stories, photographs, documents, artifacts, heirlooms, or other materials. We will be collecting oral histories from varied communities, such as former refugees and their descendant family members. Interviews will also be conducted with members of the receiving communities, including military and civilian groups, that were in Guam at the time of ONL (such as NGO and/or faith-based volunteers, family members of military service personnel, among others).

**Contact**

Feel free to contact us if you would like to learn more about the project, have information to share, and/or would like to be notified when public events are scheduled.

**Email:**

info@guamphilharmonic.org


**About the Project Lead**





Dr. Nam C. Kim is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was a year old when he and his parents fled a collapsing Saigon in 1975, arriving on the island of Guam. Nam and his family hold a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude for Guam and its communities for the reception and generosity they received as they began a new chapter in the family history.





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