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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 9, 2010

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**THE GREATER TWIN CITIES YOUTH SYMPHONIES PRESENTS**  
**“YOUNG SOLOISTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT”**

**The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS)** celebrates **Young Soloists in the Spotlight** in a special concert at **2pm on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at Ted Mann Concert Hall**, 2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis on the University of Minnesota’s West Bank. GTCYS’ accomplished **Symphony Orchestra** will share the spotlight with the musical stars of tomorrow when it hosts the winners of GTCYS’ annual Concerto Competition. A perennial audience favorite, this year’s concert will include a performance of Brahms’ dynamic Symphony #1, sparkling excerpts from Prokofiev’s *Love for Three Oranges*, plus concertos placing our young soloists front and center in an unforgettable display of musical achievement, performing under the baton of **Artistic Director Amir Kats**. **Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children and seniors**, and can be purchased at the door, or in advance by calling GTCYS at 612-870-7611.

Selected from a pool of six elite student musicians at the competition finals at the SPCO Center in St. Paul on November 9, the winners – **Sophia Parente, oboe** and **Michael Wu, cello** – are both members of the Symphony Orchestra. Sophia Parente will perform the Concerto in C, 1<sup>st</sup> movement: *Allegro aperto* by Mozart, and Michael Wu will present Tchaikovsky’s Rococo Variations.

The Young Soloists Concerto Competition—a tremendous educational opportunity available to all GTCYS members—is a tradition which dates back to GTCYS’ inception in 1972. This year’s competition was sponsored by **All Strings Attached, House of Note, and Fein Stringed Instruments**, who have joined together to support GTCYS’ educational mission and student musicians.

With year-round opportunities for beginning to advanced musicians, GTCYS' programming is inclusive, rigorous and comprehensive, and is designed to help young people of all ages achieve their full potential through music education. Six academic-year orchestras, two non-auditioned summer orchestras, a chamber music program with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, outreach at public schools, and numerous community performance opportunities instill discipline, artistry, and a passion for service in our students. GTCYS provides over \$10,000 every year in full and partial scholarships so that any student can participate regardless of ability to pay. **For more information, visit [www.gtcys.org](http://www.gtcys.org).**

### **About the Soloists**

**Sophia Parente** is a full-time PSEO student at the University of Minnesota and will graduate from Wayzata High School in 2010. She studies oboe with John Snow and plays in the Wind Ensemble at the U of M and in the Symphony orchestras of GTCYS and MYS. Sophia has spent the last two summers studying music at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Michigan. Next year she plans to major in oboe performance as a college freshman.



**Michael Wu** began playing cello as a fourth-grader in California. Since moving to Minnesota in 2004, he has studied with Mr. Peter Howard, retired principal cellist of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. His first winter in Minnesota, Michael joined GTCYS, and has enjoyed playing great music with his friends in GTCYS since. Michael was a winner of the GTCYS Concerto Competition in 2007. He has also been a winner of the MacPhail Concerto Competition and prize-recipient of YPSCA, the Mary West Solo competition, and the Minnetonka Young Artist Competition. Now a senior at Edina High School, Michael is a member of the Quiz Bowl team and the co-captain of the Knowledge Masters team. He also loves foil fencing and has, as a member of the Minnesota Sword Club Varsity Team, won or medaled in various state and Midwest fencing competitions.



Digital photos available upon request  
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