

## Conductor / Artistic Director

### **Bill Benson**

#### Artistic Director/Conductor

In addition to his responsibilities as Artistic Director and Conductor for the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras, Bill Benson is a member of the applied music faculty at Moorpark College, freelance musician (double bassist), teacher, adjudicator and conductor throughout Southern California.

He is a 1976 graduate of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana and holds a degree in Music Education with Master's credit in conducting with Jackson Wiley, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana and Elizabeth Green, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Mr. Benson has been conducting youth orchestras since 1974 and has held numerous positions as youth orchestra conductor throughout the Midwest.

His youth orchestra work began in southern California in 1992 as coach for the Conejo Youth Symphony where, after the transition to the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra, he created a string-feeder program. Upon the retirement of Mrs. Carol Alexander in 1999, Maestro Benson accepted the position of Artistic Director/Conductor of the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras.

In June 2002, Mr. Benson was honored to receive the Encore Statue Award representing Excellence in the Arts, from the Thousand Oaks Arts Commission.

In July 2009, Maestro Benson, and selected CVYO students, traveled to Vienna, Austria where they performed as part of the International Haydn Festival Orchestra.

In July 2011, he will be conducting two concerts in Honolulu, Hawaii as part of the Global Community Orchestra in a "Salute to Valor", a commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

## Youth Strings Director / Associate Conductor

### **Karen Sanchez**

#### Youth Strings Director & Associate Conductor

Mrs. Sanchez is a graduate of the California State University, Long Beach where she majored in viola. She works as a freelance musician and teacher throughout Southern California.

Mrs. Sanchez began her career with CVYO in 1999 and is an extremely important asset to the youth orchestra program. She has a special ability to motivate and train young string players. Her kind and caring approach to young musicians produces a very high quality of music education. Her students excel and strive for excellence while learning and having fun. Karen is the wife of a California firefighter, has two sons and a daughter; she resides in Newbury Park.

## 2010/2011 Concert Series Dates

### **November 11, 2010; 10:45 AM:**

"CVYO Salutes the Veterans"  
Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

### **December 12, 2010; 5:30 PM:**

"Holiday on the Hill"  
Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

### **January 30, 2011; 3:00 PM:**

"50 Years of Music (A Reflection)"  
Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza

### **June 5, 2011; 2:30 PM:**

Concert **AND** Celebration  
"50 Years of Music (Moving Forward)"  
Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza



# Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras



## History of CVYO

The Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra was founded in 1961 by Betty Bowen, at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, California and is dedicated to the study and performance of contemporary orchestral literature and providing music education and performance opportunities for musically talented youth.

Under the guidance of Artistic Director/Conductor Maestro Bill Benson, our program continues to develop and enhance the music education of local students and to provide symphonic orchestral music experience as a supplement to music education in the schools.

Performances are held at the Fred Kavli Theatre at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza.

## Mission Statement

Reaching and Inspiring Youth through Music:  
To enrich the current and future lives of Conejo Valley youth, of all ages, aspirations and levels, through a unique musical experience, while also developing key life skills in a setting of mutual respect, learning and fun.

### **Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras**

**Post Office Box 1152**

**Moorpark, CA 93020**

Web site address: [www.cvyo.com](http://www.cvyo.com)

Email address: [contact@cvyo.com](mailto:contact@cvyo.com)

*Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras operates as a non-profit organization*

## The Orchestras

There are currently 3 levels available: Conejo Valley Youth Strings, Conejo Valley Preparatory Youth Orchestra, and Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra.

### **Conejo Valley Youth Strings**

Directed by Mrs. Karen Sanchez. This is our entry level program. Designed to develop basics, such as technique, listening skills, following a conductor, and learning to perform with an ensemble.

### **Conejo Valley Preparatory Orchestra**

Directed by Mr. Bill Benson. This is the intermediate level group. Music with a higher degree of technical demands is selected and adds woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

### **Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra**

Directed by Mr. Bill Benson. This orchestra is comprised of our most advanced musicians. They perform major, original scores by such masters as Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, and Bach.

A selected group of musicians from this orchestra also perform as a Chamber Orchestra.

### **Other Ensembles**

In addition to the Orchestras, CVYO offers opportunities to students with a Harp Ensemble, a Brass Quintet, and Percussion Ensemble.



**CONEJO VALLEY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS**  
*Inspiring Youth Through Music*

**50 Year Anniversary!**  
**1961-2011**



**Please join us in celebrating our 50 years of making music!**

**January 30, 2011** performance will feature reflections from the past 50 years.

**June 5, 2011** performance will feature 50 years of music moving forward.

**Immediately following the concert on June 5th**, there will be a celebration at the Mary and Richard Carpenter Park (located at the Civic Arts Plaza).

- Classical, Jazz, & DJ Areas
- Children's Area
- BIG Cake
- Basket Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Dancing
- Food & Drink
- FUN! FUN! FUN!

Ticket Information available at:  
[www.cvyo.com/50thanniversary.html](http://www.cvyo.com/50thanniversary.html)