

## **Asian Youth Orchestra**

The 104 members of the Asian Youth Orchestra (AYO) are among the finest young musicians in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Chosen through highly competitive auditions held throughout the region, they are together for six weeks each summer, initially for a three-week Rehearsal Camp in Hong Kong, then for a three-week international concert tour with celebrated conductors and solo artists.

Cellists Yo-Yo Ma, Steven Isserlis, Mischa Maisky, Wang Jian, Alban Gerhardt and Alisa Weilerstein, violinists Gidon Kremer, Gil Shaham, Elmar Oliveira, Young Uck Kim, Stefan Jackiw and Cho-Liang Lin, the Beaux Arts Trio, pianists Alicia de Larrocha, Leon Fleisher and Jean Louis Steurman are among those who have performed with AYO under the direction of principal conductor James Judd, music director emeritus Sergiu Comissiona, Alexander Schneider, Tan Dun, and the orchestra's co-founders, Yehudi Menuhin and Richard Pontzius.

Since its inaugural performances in 1990, the award-winning Orchestra has played some 366 concerts in Asia, Europe, the US and Australia to an audience of more than one million concertgoers. Millions more have seen and heard the orchestra around the world on CNN, CNBC, NHK and Radio and Television Hong Kong.

A tuition-free cultural exchange summer program that involves Asia's brightest young musicians in exceptional opportunities for study and performance in an international environment, the Asian Youth Orchestra is designed to ignite a pride for what can be achieved by Asian musicians *in Asia*, while affecting a positive influence on the brain and talent drain that continues to frustrate all Asian nations.

The AYO is a tax-exempt non-profit organization qualified under Section 88 of the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Ordinance. Contributions from the United States are tax-exempt through Give2Asia.