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# B's rule at Symphony show

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Piano soloist Kanae Matsumoto and Conductor Wayne Abravanel / Donna Stone/Special to The Desert Sun

Written by **Dodie Cross**  
Special To The Desert Sun

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It really was “The B's Knees” as Conductor **Wayne Abravanel** took the Coachella Valley Symphony through the music of Bach, Beethoven, Berlin and Brahms. More than 350 music lovers purchased tickets to help support the symphony, while also enjoying the talents of the musicians at Sun City, Palm Desert.

The highlight of the evening was the incredible world-renowned pianist **Kanae Matsumoto**, who amazed all with the fabulous Beethoven Piano Concerto #4 and received a standing ovation.

The multi-generational 70-piece symphony orchestra (ages range from 16 to 92) was enchanting. At the end of the performance, maestro Abravanel told the crowd he'd like to play “God Bless America.” But, he added,

the music was written without thought of a singer so he would get someone from the audience. He called out a seat number and a very bashful lady walked to the stage. He asked her what key she'd like for her song. “I don't know, I don't really have a key,” she responded. Then she broke out into a beautiful rendition of the song, at which time the audience realized that she was a plant. The lovely lady was soloist **Patricia Welch**, who also received a standing ovation.

Board president **David Wolfe** thanked the CVS league and especially major supporters General **Ken and Karen Miles** and **Gerald and Martha Napier** for their invaluable support of the CVS Educational Outreach Program.

This program includes the Buddy Rogers Youth Symphony (BRYs),

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**NEXT EVENTS:** The symphony has a series of two upcoming concerts: "Mostly Mozart Redux" on Feb. 11 and "A Symphony of Rockin' Jazz" on April 16. Also a 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Concert on March 12.  
**INFORMATION:**  
[www.cvsymphony.com](http://www.cvsymphony.com) or (760) 360-2222.

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as a full orchestra for the valley's young musicians and the Beginning Strings Conservatory (BSC).

High school freshman **Alex Bautista** and second-grader **Felicia Chin** were awarded scholarships, which enables them to study their instrument with a private music instructor.

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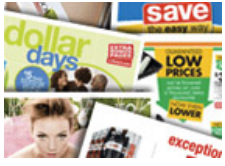
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