

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

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NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Volume 25 • Number 2 • Winter/Spring 2015

Quarter NOTES



Spring Concert Series

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 2014-2015 Concert Season concludes with a 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, May 29 at Southern Oregon University's Music Recital Hall in Ashland, a 7:30 p.m. performance at the Performing Arts Center in Grants Pass on Saturday, May 30 and a 3:00 p.m. performance in the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center in Medford on Sunday, May 31.

Marking her 20th full season as Music Director & Conductor, Cynthia Hutton will lead the Youth Symphony in performances of W.A. Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in A Major* with featured soloist and 2015 Concerto Competition winner Hengjian (Jerry) Su. Jerry shared, "I admire Mozart's aristocratic and elegant style. As a clarinetist, I am blessed to have an opportunity to experience one of Mozart's last breaths of brilliance." The Youth Symphony also will premiere a new work for orchestra by Mark Eliot Jacobs entitled *Crater Lake Fantasy: Another Sky at Our Feet*. The work was commissioned by the YSSO organization and funded with support from The Oregon Community Foundation. It is the second in a series of works commissioned by the YSSO showcasing the history, heritage, culture and geography of southern Oregon.

The Youth Orchestra, also under the leadership of Dr. Hutton, will play Piotr I. Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien* (arr. Leidig) and Robert W. Smith's *The Great Locomotive Chase*.

The performances also will include Youth Strings, led by Associate Conductor Faina Podolnaya, performing the *Minuet in G* and *Sonatina* by Ludwig van Beethoven and Harry Alshin's *Animal Survival Suite*. Ms. Podolnaya marks her 15th season with the YSSO this season.

The concerts will close with a special Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra combined performance of a medley of music from *The Sound of Music* by Richard Rodgers (medley arranged by Robert Russell Bennett).

Graduating seniors will be honored by the YSSO organization at the final performance of the season.

Tickets for the Spring Concert Series performances are available at Paddington Station in Ashland, Larry's Music in Medford and Oregon Books in Grants Pass. Tickets for the May 31 performance in Medford also are available through the Craterian Theater box office (541-779-3000).

Founded in 1988, the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing young musicians with opportunities to expand their knowledge of classical music by learning and performing challenging repertoire. The YSSO provides high-level training and performance experiences for young musicians under the leadership of professional conductors and music coaches and fosters a lifelong appreciation of classical music and the arts.

For YSSO audition information, rehearsal or concert schedules, special events or music opportunities, contact the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501, 541-858-8859, info@yosso.org or visit: yosso.org.

More than 150 accomplished and aspiring public school, private school, home school and college musicians from Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland, Jacksonville, Talent, Phoenix, Williams, Central Point, Eagle Point, Klamath Falls, Fort Jones (CA), and the surrounding region were selected to participate in the YSSO this season.

James M. Collier is the 2014-2015 Concert Season Partner. Spring Concert Series Partners are Jim and Dale Hardt, Hardt Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation. The Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, City of Ashland, Collins Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation and The Oregon Community Foundation provided funding for the season. In addition, this project is funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. YSSO initiatives and operations are supported by annual gifts from individuals, business contributions, Concert Series program advertising, Concert Series Partners and funding from foundations.



PHOTO BY CARI BAKER

Jerry Su, clarinet soloist

Winner of the 2015 Concerto Competition, Jerry Su is principal clarinet of the Youth Symphony. He joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) in 2009. Jerry is a senior at South Medford High School (SMHS). His school music teachers have included Mark Barnard, Michael Wing, Andrea Brock and Yoko Kan, his current teacher at SMHS. He has studied privately with Zheng-Li, Frank Kowalsky and Lori

Calhoun, his current teacher.

Jerry has played in the orchestra for Camelot Theater's production of the musical "The Producers," as well as in both the SMHS Wind Ensemble and Marching Band. He was selected to play in the Oregon All-State Wind Ensemble, won the District Solo & Ensemble Competition and placed first in the Oregon State Activities Association Solo & Ensemble Competition. *continued next page* ►

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Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

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Membership News

Concert Season Giving & Friends of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

As the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) organization's 2014-2015 Concert Season draws to a close, the governing board, staff and musicians wish to take this opportunity to thank the individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies providing financial assistance to the YSSO organization. The YSSO appreciates each and every gift. This support helps the YSSO offer enriching experiences for young people and affordable performances of classical music for the citizens of the Rogue Valley.

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon programs and concerts engage hearts, hands, minds and communities through classical music. Music brings together people of all ages and connects the past and present. Music participation teaches listening and teamwork skills. The YSSO's accomplished musicians demonstrate the value of music in learning and achievement, and the importance of music in our lives. Participation in a music ensemble nurtures creative workforce skills such as confidence, empathy, motivation and discipline. The YSSO organization increases access to cultural offerings and augments programs in schools. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is dedicated to artistic quality, professional management, thoughtful governance and careful stewardship of community resources.

As you respond to a pledge letter or renewal and consider your gift to the YSSO, please know that every contribution has an impact on the organization. Contributions from individuals help pay for music, rehearsal facilities, concert venues and general operations, and help underwrite tuition waiver and lesson assistance for YSSO musicians. When you receive a letter from the YSSO, please renew your membership or offer a gift to honor a friend, colleague or a family member. Checks should be made payable to the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and sent to the YSSO, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501. The YSSO is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and your gift may be tax-deductible. Please consult your professional tax advisor.

The YSSO organization looks forward to offering music opportunities for young people and building new audiences for classical music for many years to come. Thank you for investing in the remarkable Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and for joining the musicians at the inspiring performances this season.

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

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Recently, Jerry shared that he discovered Mozart's *Concerto in A Major* in the seventh grade through Mark Barnard, his St. Mary's School band teacher at the time. Jerry noted that he was drawn to the playfulness of the work, as well as to the composer's delicate and subtle phrases and the exquisite dialogue between the soloist and orchestra.

He has been accepted at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University (Bloomington). He plans to pursue a degree in music performance.

James M. Collier Concert Season Partner



Cultural arts patron, educator and philanthropist Jim Collier has offered his support to arts organizations and to programs benefit-

ing young people for many years. As a former educator, Jim has a special interest in fostering the development of arts programs and a personal mission to help sustain high-quality performance opportunities for young people. The governing board, staff, musicians, family members and audiences wish to thank James M. Collier for his investment in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization and for his generous support of the 2014-2015 Concert Season.



Composer Spotlight



Mark Eliot Jacobs Composer

A long-time resident of southern Oregon, composer Mark Eliot Jacobs is a well-known fixture of the Rogue Valley's music scene. He is principal trombonist in the Rogue Valley Symphony, trom-

bonist in the Rogue Valley Symphony Brass Quintet, and a sackbut and serpent player with the Jefferson Baroque Orchestra. Currently, he is the trombonist in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's (OSF) 2015 production of the musical "Guys and Dolls."

Dr. Jacobs holds a Bachelor of Music degree (Theory and Composition) from Western Illinois University and both Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois). He divides his time between composition, performance and teaching in Ashland and Medford. He is an adjunct professor at Southern Oregon University where he has taught music theory, composition and low brass.

He has composed music for orchestra, band, musical theater and chamber music. His tone poem *Las Ranas de Katanchel* was premiered by the Rogue Valley Symphony in 2010. It was recorded by the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra in 2013 for the Navona Records compact disc release "Spellbound." Southern Oregon University's 2011 production of Bertolt Brecht's play "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" featured his original musical score. He was commissioned by the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon to compose a suite for orchestra for its Silver Jubilee Anniversary Concert Season. *The Orchard City: Medford, Oregon 1913* was premiered by the Youth Symphony in March 2013.

Crater Lake Fantasy: Another Sky at Our Feet

Crater Lake Fantasy: Another Sky at Our Feet, a new work by Mark Eliot Jacobs for orchestra, showcases the unique geography, stunning vistas and natural history of Crater Lake National Park. The work was commissioned by the Youth

Symphony of Southern Oregon and funded by grants from the William G. & Ruth T. Evans Fund, Olsrud Family Fund and Campagna Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation.

The subtitle is a paraphrasing of a quote from an article by Samuel M. Evans in a 1911 issue of *Sunset Magazine* entitled "Forty Gallons of Gasoline to Forty Miles of Water: Recipe for a Motor Trip to Crater Lake, Oregon." The original quotation is "Another sky lay almost underneath our feet. We were on the rim of Crater Lake." The shape and sounds of *Crater Lake Fantasy* are also influenced by Dr. Jacobs' personal experiences and reflections while visiting the park.

In the form of an extended tone poem, *Crater Lake Fantasy* begins with *Mazama*, a cinematic sound image of Mount Mazama, a Western Cascade Range volcano that had its most destructive eruption 7,700 years ago, collapsed and formed the caldera structure of the lake. More than 42,000 years ago Mazama was at its tallest height at 12,000 feet. In comparison, its nearby sister peak, Mount Shasta, has an elevation of 14,000 feet. The Klamath people lived in the area at the time and must have witnessed the event.



PHOTO BY SHARON WILSON

The *Mazama* prelude is atonal, working with motives that will inform the tonal melodies and harmonies in the rest of the work.

The second movement is the first of two depictions of the Rim Drive which encircles the rim of the crater that forms the lake. The movement evokes a journey around the lake through the "circle of fifths." The Lodge is at the position of the key of C, Watchman Peak and Wizard Island are at D, Phantom Ship is between B-flat and F, et cetera. The Rim Drive 1 movement moves through three transits of the twelve-step circle of fifths in

the form of a rising fifth chord progression: C – G – D – A – E – B – F# – D-flat – A-flat – E-flat – B-flat – F – (C). Each orbit takes place at a different pace. The first two use exclusively bright sounding major seventh chords. The third, a night circuit, uses minor sevenths and major ninths. The atonal chaos of the *Mazama* movement coalesces into modern tonal music, much as the volcanic material of the mountain came apart and reformed into the spectacular lake seen today.

Movement three, Watchman Peak, is informed by a recent hike the composer took of Mount Scott

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"Mozart's music is so pure and beautiful that I see it as a reflection of the inner beauty of the universe."
—Albert Einstein



PHOTOS BY CARI BAKER



Annual Giving: Friends of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Gifts and contributions from individuals, businesses and families generate 20 percent of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization's annual revenue. Take a moment to renew or increase your gift, make an additional gift or honor a friend or colleague by making a contribution in his/her name. This is the perfect time to show your support for the YSSO organization. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and contributions may be tax-deductible. Please consult a professional tax advisor for details.

Categories of giving:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Director's Circle | \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Conductor's Circle | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$100 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Musician's Circle | \$2,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate | \$25 |

Please mail your gift to:
Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon
P.O. Box 4291
Medford, OR 97501

Name(s): _____

(as you wish the name/s to appear in the concert series program)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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METHOD OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is a check in the amount of: \$ _____

Please charge the gift to my: Visa MasterCard

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Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 2015-2016 Concert Season

(subject to change)

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
November 5, 2015

Fall Concert Series
November 14 & 15, 2015

Chamber Music Series
December 12 & 13, 2015

Concerto Competition
January 25, 2016

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
February 11, 2016

Winter Concert Series
February 19, 20 & 21, 2016

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
May 12, 2016

Spring Concert Series
May 20, 21 & 22, 2016

For 2015-2016 audition information, expectations, required music excerpts and the audition schedule visit the YSSO organization website (yso.org) or contact the Executive Director (info@yso.org; 541-858-8859).



Important Information

Crater Lake continued from second page
on the other side of the lake (key of A-flat). It is the sort of tune that might come to mind on a hike, this time in the bluesy Mixolydian mode.

The next movement is Phantom Ship. William Gladstone Steel (1854-1934), the “father of Crater Lake,” gave evocative names to all of the natural features of the park. Wizard Island and Phantom Ship are among the best known. Steel believed that the rock formation resembled a tall ship with full rigging plying its way across the water. To the composer, it also resembles a space ship as depicted in films from *Star Wars* to *Buckaroo Banzai*. This is the image portrayed in the piece. The Phantom Ship movement is in the form of a baroque passacaglia using the harmonic language and tempo of the American minimalist movement as exemplified by composers Philip Glass and Steve Reich.

Wizard Island comes next with a dramatic incantation from the wizard herself. This gradually evolves into a gentile and nostalgic melody depicting a sentimental and somewhat lonesome magician.

The piece concludes with Rim Drive 2. The movement uses similar themes heard in Rim Drive 1 but with a distinctive seven-step circular chord progression: C – A – F – D – B-flat – G – E-flat – (C).

After a quickening of pace and a dramatic flourish, the work concludes. *Crater Lake Fantasy* consists of 1,946 quarter-note beats, the depth of Crater Lake at its deepest point measured in feet.

Music Coaches, Adjudicators, Guest Musicians, Conductors

The YSSO organization would like to thank the following musicians and music teachers for serving as audition and concerto competition adjudicators and music coaches this season:

Pat Berlet, Dale Bradley, Lori Calhoun, Scott Cole, Kimberly Fitch, Mark Jacobs, Kristin Kessler, Phebe Kimball, Bruce McKern, David Miller, Bill Norfleet, Pierre Plax, Veronica Rodriguez-Pellegrini, Cynthia Stauffer, Thomas Stauffer, Mahjinka Stebbins, Heidi Strahm and Lauren Trolley.

Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Earlier this season, the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon was named the charitable beneficiary of the **Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation**. The governing board, staff, families, volunteers and the musicians of the YSSO organization are grateful for this extraordinary gift.

An annual distribution from this permanent fund will help underwrite tuition and lesson assistance for participating YSSO musicians with financial need beginning with the 2015-2016 season.

The establishment of this fund will help expand the YSSO organization’s capacity to serve young musicians, sustain the YSSO’s community benefit mission, support access to the programs and performance opportunities, and will help support the YSSO’s work with dedicated and deserving young musicians from throughout the region.



Annual Meeting

Friends of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

**Sunday, May 31, 2015, 2:00 p.m.
Second Floor – Craterian Theater**

Pre-concert hospitality, donor recognition & a brief business meeting.

All members in good standing of the *Friends of the YSSO* are encouraged to attend.

In Appreciation...

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization offers its thanks and appreciation to the volunteers, parents, musicians, teachers, schools, businesses, organizations and members of the governing board who assisted with rehearsals, concerts, initiatives and events this season.

Volunteers: Thank you to Anastasia Anderson, Anita Caster, Laurel Dryland, K.C. Dunlap, Ann Godwin, Patty Klein, Denise Poisson, Traci Walker and Paul Finwall for recruiting and managing volunteers this season. And to Sarah Epstein, former board member, for her help with special events. Thank you to all of the parents who provided refreshments for rehearsals and volunteered their time to assist with rehearsals, events and concerts.

Musicians, Families, Organizations: To the musicians, thank you for your commitment to your YSSO colleagues and for enriching the cultural life of the Rogue Valley. The YSSO wishes to thank the families of the musicians for their support and dedication. Thank you to all of the music coaches who worked with the musicians this year, to Rosie Dean, Morgan Byers and Tatsiana Asheichyk for their work as Youth Strings accompanists, and to Heidi Strahm for her help with Youth Strings in the fall. The YSSO offers its thanks and appreciation to school music teachers and private instructors for their work, for serving as music coaches and for their work as advocates for music education in schools and communities.

Concert Logistics: The YSSO could not present its concerts without the help of concert logistics volunteers and the help of YSSO orchestra manager Shea Pasche and orchestra assistant Jennifer Garcia.

Governing Board: The YSSO offers its thanks to governing board president Frank Phillips for his leadership, as well as to directors Anastasia Anderson, Paul Finwall, Anita Caster, Amy Watson, Miles Wiltrout, Lynn Sjolund, Ilana Rubinfeld, Laurel Dryland, Denise Poisson, Lana Haynes and Ursula Horstmann-Nash for their service and work on behalf of the organization.

Operations: The YSSO offers its thanks and appreciation to David Ruppe and Angel McDonald for their work on YSSO publications, Ingrid Edstrom and her staff for their help with bookkeeping, and Rory Tosh, CPA (Isler Medford, LLC) for preparing the annual reports. To Mark Eliot Jacobs, thank you for providing program notes again this season



and for composing *Crater Lake Fantasy* for the organization. Thank you to photographer Cari Baker for documenting each of the performances and to Patty Klein for her assistance with administrative projects and the music library.

Businesses: Thank you to Paddington Station in Ashland, Larry’s Music in Medford and Oregon Books in Grants Pass for selling concert tickets this season. The YSSO would also like to thank the many businesses who placed advertising in concert series programs. The organization offers its thanks to Eric & Julie Weisinger (Weisinger Family Winery) for hosting a fundraising event this season, Al & Virginia Silbowitz for hosting a special event at Grizzly Peak Winery, and Applebee’s Neighborhood Grill, Chipotle Mexican Grill and Mucho Gusto Mexican Kitchen for their support.

Funders: In addition to annual gifts and contributions from individuals, the YSSO received financial support from the following foundations, agencies and corporations this season: The Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, City of Ashland, Collins Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation, The Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The YSSO wishes to offer heartfelt thanks to James Collier for his extraordinary financial support for the 2014-2015 Concert Season. The YSSO extends its appreciation to Concert Series Partners Jim & Dale Hardt, Hardt Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, and Neil & Sharon Wilson.

Facilities & Venues: The YSSO would also like to thank the Medford School District Facilities Office and the staff at North Medford High School, Ashland School District, Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center, the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center, Southern Oregon University’s Center for the Arts, the Historic First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland. Thank you to Mary Jane Morrison, Ollie Sontag and Michael & Jo Ann Basin for helping to coordinate the YSSO concerts at the Rogue Valley Manor.

Each year, the YSSO relies on the help and support of the individuals, businesses, volunteers, families and community members to carry out its mission. It would not be possible to maintain the complex season of rehearsals, performances and events without the help of parents and community volunteers, the cooperation of organizations, schools, educators, businesses and music professionals, and the financial support of individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies.

Thank you to all for your commitment to sustaining high-level music programs, producing inspiring, affordable and accessible concerts, for helping to transform lives and improve communities.

Spring 2015 Concert Series at a Glance

Friday, May 29, 7:30 p.m.
SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

Saturday, May 30, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center,
Grants Pass

Sunday, May 31, 3:00 p.m.
Craterian Theater at the
Collier Center, Medford

Ticket Info

\$5.00 (students w/ID) &
\$10.00 (adults)

Tickets are available at Larry’s Music in Medford, Oregon Books in Grants Pass and at Paddington Station in Ashland.

Tickets for the performance at the Craterian Theater also are available through the Craterian box office (541-779-3000).

YSSO Family Ticket Policy

Each current YSSO family may receive two (2) complimentary tickets to the May 30 concert in Grants Pass and two (2) complimentary tickets to the May 31 concert in Medford. Complimentary tickets will be available to YSSO musicians/families at the two final Sunday rehearsals prior to the concerts. Remaining tickets will be sold to the general public.

Call Times for YSSO Musicians

Youth Orchestra - 90 minutes
before concert time
Youth Symphony & Youth Strings
- 60 minutes before concert time

Watch for e-mail alerts and reminders confirming or changing call times on certain dates or other information specific to each ensemble or performance.



CAITLYN AGUILAR *Symphony, Horn*

Caitlyn, a North Medford High School (NMHS) senior, is the daughter of Michelle Aguilar. She is the principal of the French horn section in the Youth Symphony. Caitlyn's private teacher is Cynthia Hutton. She plays in the NMHS Wind Ensemble under the direction of Steve Kessler.

ANNA BULLOCK *Symphony, Flute*

Anna, a senior at North Medford High School, is assistant principal of the Youth Symphony flute section. She is the daughter of Rachel Wedgman. In addition to the YSSO Anna plays in the NMHS Band led by Steve Kessler.



SARAH CHAN *Symphony, Violin*

A homeschool senior and Rogue Community College student, Sarah has played violin with the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon since 2012. Sarah has studied violin privately with Cynthia Cournoyer, Faina Podolnaya and Svetlana Terekhina. Her parents are Darren and Jessica Chan.

Sarah has enjoyed collaborating with her Youth Symphony colleagues to create beautiful memories and music. Favorite works include *The Nutcracker* by Piotr I. Tchaikovsky, *Zigeunerweisen* by Pablo de Sarasate and the first piece she played with the YSSO, *Andalucía Suite* by Ernesto Lecuona. The Youth Symphony Alumni Concert during the YSSO's Silver Jubilee Concert Season was also an inspiring and memorable experience for Sarah. Her advice to future YSSO musicians is "Practice makes perfect, have fun with it. Don't make it a chore." After graduation Sarah plans to pursue physical therapy and music studies at the University of Southern California.

JACOB CASTER *Symphony, Trombone*

A Phoenix High School (PHS) senior, Jacob Caster is a member of the trombone section of the Youth Symphony. He is the son of Joe and Leah Caster. In addition to the YSSO, Jacob has played in the PHS Band. His school music teacher is Mike Deroest.



RYLEIGH CHILDERS *Symphony, Viola*

Ryleigh chose to play the viola upon the advice of her sister who observed that the viola section always seems to be having fun. She is a senior at North Medford High School (NMHS) and plays in the NMHS Concert and Chamber Orchestras. Lynn Gervais is her NMHS school music teacher. Ms. Gervais taught her to be brave in taking on huge orchestra classes. Ryleigh's parents are Dennis and Shelly Childers.

Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*, performed by the Youth Symphony in November 2014, is a work Ryleigh enjoyed playing. She has appreciated the challenging music and the camaraderie of the YSSO. She wishes to thank Liza Rogers for her help and encouragement and Aly Watson for convincing her to join the YSSO. She is grateful for the support of her family as well. Ryleigh plans to attend Oregon State University to major in earth science and minor in music.

DOMINICK MCLEOD *Orchestra, Trumpet*

Dominick is a South Medford High School (SMHS) senior. He joined the YSSO mid-year this season and plays trumpet in the Youth Orchestra. In addition to the YSSO Dominick has played in the SMHS Band conducted by Yoko Kan.

TABITHA TAYLOR *Symphony, Bassoon*

A Grants Pass High School (GPHS) senior, Tabitha is the daughter of Alan and Angela Taylor. In addition to the YSSO, Tabitha performs with the GPHS Wind Ensemble. Her music teacher at GPHS is Joel Naegele. Tabitha has studied privately with Pierre Plax.

Tabitha plans to attend college in Amarillo, Texas where she will major in music.



LIZA ROGERS *Symphony, Violin*

A senior at North Medford High School (NMHS), Liza joined the YSSO in the eighth grade after attending a YSSO rehearsal with her cousin who played in the Youth Orchestra. Liza is the daughter of Keith and Lana Rogers. Lynn Gervais is her school music teacher at NMHS and she has studied privately with Zoryn Thompson, Beth Martin, Paul Grobey and Kimberly Fitch. In addition to the YSSO, Liza plays in the NMHS Chamber and Concert Orchestras.

Liza has appreciated performing the music of Piotr I. Tchaikovsky, a romantic composer whose work encompasses and expresses a wide variety of emotions. She cites Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No.1* as the work she found most challenging. Favorite YSSO memories for her include the Spring 2014 Concert Series which featured two opera singers. Liza recalls, "Their voices and expressions were amazing and they were captivating to watch." Liza has loved playing the challenging and fun music with her peers.

A musician who inspires Liza is her friend and colleague Sarah Klein. "Sarah plays with emotion and can incorporate joy and fun into her performances. She isn't afraid to change up the music and the way she plays it. I admire her courage and freedom," Liza said. Liza will be attending Oregon State University where she will pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.



PAUL SCHAAFSMA *Symphony, Cello*

The son of Eric and Doree Schaafsma, Paul is a senior with Logos Public Charter School. The school's "Pathfinder" program has enabled him to attend Rogue Community College. Paul has studied cello privately with Beth Goldstein for six years, and he credits her with inspiring him through her knowledge, patience, love and benevolence. With Ms. Goldstein's encouragement, Paul joined the YSSO in 2009.

Participating in the Chamber Music Series program formed some of Paul's favorite YSSO memories. This season, he appreciated being able to express the drama of Franz Schubert's *Quartet No. 14, "Death and the Maiden."* He has also enjoyed helping the musicians in the Youth Strings in performance. Paul's advice to future musicians is "The hard work of practicing an instrument is what allows a musician to master it."

For their inspiration, counsel, sponsoring and love in building him to the person he is, Paul cannot thank his parents enough. He will attend Southern Oregon University and major in biochemistry.



JERRY SU *Symphony, Clarinet*

The son of Guoying Su and Ling Zheng, Jerry is principal clarinet of the Youth Symphony. Jerry began his journey as a clarinetist at the age of eight when he received a clarinet as a gift and was immediately drawn to its romantic dark sound. Jerry joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in the seventh grade. He attends South Medford High School (SMHS). His school music teacher is Yoko Kan. He was selected to play in the Oregon Music Educators Association All State Wind Ensemble, won the District Solo & Ensemble Competition and recently placed first in the Oregon State Activities Association Solo Music Competition. Jerry offers his appreciation to Cynthia Hutton and Sharon Wilson for enriching his musical knowledge and offering to him avenues to pursue his passion for music. He wishes to thank Lori Calhoun, his private teacher, for instilling in him responsibility and diligence; Mark Barnard, a former school music teacher, for demonstrating professionalism; Andrea Brock, pianist and teacher, for her generous support; Yoko Kan, his music teacher at SMHS, for her kindness; and his parents for supporting him and tolerating his irregular practice schedules.

Jerry will be attending the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University (Bloomington) where he plans to pursue a degree in music performance.



PARKER WILTROUT *Symphony, Cello*

A North Medford High School (NMHS) senior, Parker is the son of Miles and Lisa Wiltrout. He joined the YSSO in 2010 following a visit to his school by Cynthia Hutton. In addition to the YSSO, Parker performs in the NMHS Concert and Chamber Orchestras. Parker's school music teacher is Lynn Gervais.

Parker has enjoyed the variety of music the YSSO performs finding Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*, performed on the Spring 2013 Concert Series program, to be his favorite work. He will remember the pleasure of making friends in the YSSO. His advice to future musicians is "Do your best, practice and enjoy it." Parker is an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He will attend the University of Portland where he will pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.



GILLIAN FREDERICK

Symphony, Violin

A South Medford High School (SMHS) senior, Gillian is the daughter of Greg and Allison Frederick. She is the concertmaster of the SMHS Chamber and Concert Orchestras. She wishes to thank SMHS music teacher Zoryn Thompson for recognizing her potential and giving her opportunities to shine. Gillian studies privately with Faina Podolnaya who has provided her with rigor and support. In addition to the YSSO, she performs with Siskiyou Violins.

Gillian shared that she has enjoyed playing challenging music with the Youth Symphony musicians. Favorite memories include Cynthia Hutton's rehearsal jokes. She admires her colleagues and is grateful for the opportunity to form "awesome friendships" during rehearsals, concerts and post-concert milkshakes. Piotr I. Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4* is a work Gillian found both "gorgeous and tragic."

For inspiring and supporting her, Gillian thanks her family and friends. She will attend the University of Oregon and major in violin performance.



SARAH KLEIN

Symphony, Violin

Sarah, a homeschool and North Medford High School (NMHS) senior and 2014 Concerto Competition winner, is the daughter of Les and Patty Klein. She began playing violin at the age of six after joining a choir that also had a violin program. In addition to the YSSO, Sarah performs with the NMHS Chamber Orchestra, Siskiyou Violins and the Rogue Valley Symphony. She considers Faina Podolnaya, her private teacher, a friend and mentor. She calls her school music teacher, Lynn Gervais, a fantastic teacher who has provided wonderful opportunities for her to grow and advance in music.

The 1812 Overture by Piotr I. Tchaikovsky and *Symphony No. 1* by Gustav Mahler are works Sarah cites as her favorites. She also loved playing the opera arias and duet with the guest artists in the Spring 2014 Concert Series.

Sarah wishes to thank her parents and brother for "...all their advice, encouragement, support and never ceasing enthusiasm for music" and her conductors and teachers for cultivating musical excellence. She has been selected to participate in the Oregon Music Educators Association All State Orchestras and the National Association for Music Educators All Northwest Orchestra, and she played in the orchestra for an Oregon Shakespeare Festival production. She plans to attend the University of Oregon where she will major in English and minor in music.



DEVIN MILLER

Symphony, Violin

A North Medford High School (NMHS) senior, Devin joined the YSSO in 2010 after moving from Minnesota and conducting a search for a local youth symphony in which to be involved. Prior to moving to the Rogue Valley, Devin performed with the Crow River Area Youth Orchestra in Hutchinson, Minnesota.

A video about an orchestra inspired Devin in the fourth grade to play the violin. He also plays the viola and mandolin finding counting and mastering vibrato to be common hurdles. Devin's parents are Scott and Linda Miller. Scott Cole is Devin's current private teacher. In addition to the YSSO, Devin plays in the NMHS Chamber Orchestra led by Lynn Gervais. Devin has enjoyed playing the challenging Youth Symphony music and finds the concerts to be enjoyable. He is grateful for Scott Cole's encouragement and inspired by Itzhak Perlman.



DREW BIANCA MORGAN

Symphony, Violin

Drew has played with the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) for 10 years. She is the daughter of Darren and Traci Walker. As a child, she and her mother attended YSSO concerts and after begging for a violin for three years she received one as a Christmas gift. Heidi Strahm, her first teacher, encouraged her to audition for the YSSO in 2004. Drew is a homeschool and South Medford High School (SMHS) senior who studies privately with Faina Podolnaya. In addition to the YSSO, Drew plays in Siskiyou Violins.

Drew shared that she will remember the great variety of repertoire and the lasting friendships she has made with fellow YSSO musicians. Favorite works have included Johann Pachelbel's *Canon in D* because she was so determined to be a part of the Youth Strings when they played it and *Le chasseur maudit* by César Franck, a work she played with the Youth Symphony.

Drew wishes to offer her thanks to her parents for their support and encouragement and to her brother Darian and sister Ryan for tolerating her years of practicing. She has been inspired by her passionate musical friends who encouraged her to progress and mature with her violin. She plans to pursue a degree in computer science with a minor in music performance at the University of Washington.

SENIOR PROFILES



KATHRYN MORIN

Symphony, Violin

Principal second violin of the Youth Symphony, Kathryn started playing the violin at the age of six after hearing and falling in love with Antonio Vivaldi's *Winter* (from *The Seasons*). She is a senior at Grants Pass High School where she plays in the Chamber Orchestra and Symphony. Her school music teachers have included Sarah Klein, Laura Boldon and Eric Cousineau. She studies privately with Cynthia Cournoyer. Kathryn's parents are Frank and Jennifer Morin.

Kathryn especially enjoyed repertoire such as Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*, with its lovely second violin part, and the *Rumanian Rhapsody No. 1* by Georges Enesco. A favorite YSSO memory for Kathryn will be shaking hands with Cynthia Hutton after finishing the concert this fall. Kathryn is grateful to her family for shaping her life through their teaching and by example. She will be attending Brigham Young University where she will study violin performance and computer science.

SOFIA A. NASH

Symphony, Horn

The daughter of Douglas Nash and Ursula Horstmann-Nash, Sofia is a senior at South Medford High School (SMHS). She began playing the French horn at the age of 12 after Cynthia Hutton told her she could start to study the instrument when she was big enough. In addition to the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, Sofia performs with the SMHS Marching Band, Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, and the Southern Oregon Honor Band. She studies French horn with Cynthia Hutton and piano with Natalya Pauwe. Yoko Kan is her SMHS music teacher.

Bringing to life extraordinary music with her musician colleagues will form Sofia's favorite YSSO memories. Her advice to future musicians is "Work hard and stick with it. There is nothing more beautiful than creating magic with a wonderful group of people."

Sofia has been inspired by her grandmother who still plays the piano at the age of 86, her parents for emotionally and physically supporting her study and participation in music and her band member colleagues who are like family to her. She has been in the National Honor Society for four years, Honor Band twice and plans to attend the University of Oregon.



KAITLYN NEER

Orchestra, Flute

Kaitlyn is a senior at Oregon Connections Academy. Her parents are Brent and Jennifer Neer. Loving its sound and look, Kaitlyn started playing the flute when she was 12 years old. She found it to be her "dream instrument." This is her first year with the Youth Orchestra and it has been a new experience to be a member of a full orchestra. In addition to her involvement with the YSSO, Kaitlyn performs with the Cascade Christian Concert Band and Concert Choir.

Franz von Suppé's *Light Cavalry Overture* performed on the Fall 2014 Concert Series, is a work Kaitlyn found fun to perform with the orchestra. For encouraging, supporting and helping her reach her musical goals Kaitlyn offers her thanks and appreciation to her parents and family. Kaitlyn plans to major in music and minor in intercultural studies in college.

JASMINE NORTHWAY

Symphony, Viola

Daughter of Blake and Judy Northway, Jasmine is a senior at South Medford High School (SMHS). Jasmine shared that she decided to play the viola in the sixth grade because "there were too many violins." In 2013, she was inspired by friends and a school visit by Cynthia Hutton to join the YSSO.

Connecting with YSSO musicians who share the same musical passion will be a favorite memory for Jasmine. *Romanian Rhapsody No. 1* by Georges Enesco was a particularly challenging work for Jasmine.

Jasmine is grateful for the guidance of her parents and shares, "They are my biggest support duo." She expresses her thanks to Richard Meyer for teaching her the basics of her instrument and creating a positive atmosphere for learning; Zoryn Thompson, her current school music teacher, for teaching her to be confident; and Scott Cole, her private instructor, for believing she could do better when she thought she couldn't. Jasmine plans to attend Oregon State University where she will study medicine. She hopes to become a pediatrician.

