

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Post Office Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501-0163

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 281
Medford, OR 97501

Membership News

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

As the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) organization's incredible 30th Anniversary Concert Season closes, the governing board, volunteers, staff, musicians and families wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every individual, business, foundation and agency for providing financial assistance to the YSSO this season. This support helps the YSSO offer enriching learning experiences for young people and affordable performances for the citizens of the Rogue Valley.

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon programs and concerts engage hearts, hands, minds and communities through music. Music brings together people of all ages and connects the past and present. Music participation builds cognitive, listening and teamwork skills. The YSSO's accomplished musicians demonstrate the value of music in learning and the importance of music throughout our lives. Participation in a music ensemble nurtures confidence, empathy, focus and discipline. The YSSO organization increases access to cultural offerings in our communities and augments programs in schools.

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, insurance and operations, as well as tuition and lesson assistance for YSSO musicians. When you receive a letter from the YSSO, please renew your membership or consider making a gift honoring a friend, colleague, musician or 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.

Thank you for investing in the remarkable Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and for joining the musicians at the performances this season. With your continued help and investment, the YSSO organization will continue to offer music opportunities for young and old alike for many years to come.

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Volume 28 • Number 2 • Winter/Spring 2018

Quarter NOTES



Spring 2018 Concert Series

30th Anniversary Season closes with performances on May 18, 19 & 20

The Spring Concert Series opens with a 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, May 18 at the Oregon Center for the Arts Music Recital Hall at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. The Concert Series continues with a performance at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 at the Performing Arts Center in Grants Pass and closes with a 3:00 p.m. performance on Sunday, May 20 at the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center in Medford.

Concert tickets are \$10 and \$5 (students w/ID). Tickets are available at Paddington Station in Ashland, Oregon Books in Grants Pass and Artistic Piano in Medford. Tickets for the Medford concert are available through the Craterian box office (541-779-3000). Tickets also are sold at the door.

The concert series will showcase the Youth Symphony performing *Symphony No. 4 in E minor*, op. 98 by Johannes Brahms. In his notes for the concert programs, Mark Eliot Jacobs writes that due to the fourth symphony's somber and contemplative character, the composer was concerned that it would challenge audiences and listeners to the point of relegating the work to obscurity. Jacobs goes on to share that in fact, of the composer's four symphonies, the one in E minor took the longest to gain popularity. He notes that some writers have suggested that each of Brahms' four symphonies can be viewed as movements of a vast "meta" symphony. Heinz Becker writes in notes for a 1973 Brahms symphony collection conducted by Claudio Abbado on the Deutsche Grammophone label:

The dramatic Symphony in C Minor, the lyrically pastoral one in D Major, the idyllic and sensitive one in F Major, and the elegiac and balladesque one in E minor can easily be regarded in the light of a cyclic sequence of movements...

The musicians of the Youth Orchestra will play the popular and well-known *Hungarian Dance No. 5 in G minor* by Brahms (arr. Bauernschmidt), the exuberant folk dance-inspired *Huapango del Oso* by contemporary composer Gabriel Musella and music from the 2007 film *Pirates of The Caribbean: At World's End* by Hans Zimmer (arr. Lavender & Longfield). Both orchestras will be led by YSSO music director Dr. Cynthia Hutton. Graduating seniors will be honored during the Sunday afternoon concert. Spring Concert Series Partners are Neil and Sharon Wilson.

The concert series will also feature a Silent Auction. Individuals may bid on items until intermission on May 20. Auction items have been donated by many businesses, individuals and organizations.

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing young musicians with opportunities to expand their knowledge of music by learning and performing masterworks, orchestral favorites and contemporary music, music from opera, musical theater, film scores and chamber music. The YSSO provides performance experiences and training for young musicians under the leadership of professional conductors and musicians, and fosters lifelong appreciation of music and the arts. Public and private school, home school and university string, woodwind, brass and percussion musicians from Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass, Jacksonville, Talent, Eagle Point, Phoenix and Williams were selected to participate this season.

Funding for the 30th Anniversary Concert Season has been awarded by the City of Ashland (Ashland lodging tax revenues), Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon, Pacific Power Foundation, Trust Management Services (Braemar Charitable Trust) and the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Friends of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon.

For more information, contact the YSSO, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501, 541-858-8859, info@yso.org or visit: yso.org.

Photographs are by Cari Baker Photography.

Annual Meeting

Friends of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 2:00 p.m.
Second Floor – Craterian Theater

Light refreshments, donor and volunteer appreciation & a brief business meeting.

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

Governing Board Officers

Stacy Brubaker
President

Ann Godwin
Vice President

Jill Savino
Secretary

Denise Poisson
Treasurer

Directors

Andrew Gramley

Mary Jane Morrison

Kriko Michaels

Shaneé Von Strahl

Traci Walker

Eric Werner

Staff

Dr. Cynthia Hutton
Conductor &
Music Director

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

Patty Klein
Executive Assistant

Jennifer Garcia
Orchestra Assistant

Zachery Marshall
Logistics & Concert
Production

Ingrid Dux NP Bookkeeping by ID
Rory Tosh, CPA
KDP Certified Public Accountants, LLP
David Ruppe Impact Publications
Graphic Design
Angel McDonald
Newsletter Design
Cari Baker
Cari Baker Photography

Youth
Symphony
of Southern Oregon

Youth Symphony of
Southern Oregon
P.O. Box 4291
Medford, OR 97501-0163
(541) 858-8859
www.yso.org
info@yso.org

Spring 2018 Concert Series at a Glance

Friday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.
Oregon Center for the Arts Music Recital Hall at SOU, Ashland

Saturday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center, Grants Pass

Sunday, May 20, 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 Artistic Piano 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 19 concert in Grants Pass and two (2) vouchers which may be redeemed at the Craterian Theater box office for tickets to the May 20 concert in Medford. Complimentary tickets and the vouchers 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 - 60 minutes before concert time

Call time is when each musician must be tuned, seated and ready to rehearse. Arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the call time to allow sufficient time to unpack and tune. Musicians must be in concert dress during the pre-concert rehearsals.

Musicians & Families: Always read e-mail alerts and reminders confirming or changing call times for specific venues on certain dates, as well as for concert attire requirements and protocol, music, music folders and other information.

Important Information

2018 Concerto Competition

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's annual Concerto Competition was held on Monday evening, January 22, 2018, at the Oregon Center for the Arts Music Recital Hall at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. Advanced-level Youth Symphony musicians competed for an opportunity to play with the Youth Symphony as a soloist.

This year's participants included Katelyn Savino, violin, Javier Mitchell Vargas, cello, Christopher Bock, cello, Aubrey Huggins, oboe and Caleb Hutchins, bassoon. The musicians performed excerpts from works by Antonin Dvořák, Édouard Lalo, Domenico Cimarosa, Carl Maria von Weber and Felix Mendelssohn.

Youth Symphony principal bassoonist Caleb Hutchings was selected as the winner this year. He will be a featured soloist during the 2018-2019 Concert Season.

The judges for the 2018 Concerto Competition were Lori Calhoun and Kathleen Strahm.



Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

In December 2014 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 YSSO governing board, as well as the staff, families, volunteers and musicians are grateful for this extraordinary legacy gift.

An annual distribution from this permanent fund helps underwrite tuition and lesson assistance for participating YSSO musicians with financial need. The establishment of this fund expands the organization's capacity to serve aspiring young musicians, helps sustain the community benefit mission of the YSSO, supports inclusion and access to programs and performance opportunities, and supports the YSSO's work with dedicated and deserving musicians from throughout the region.

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 2018-2019 Concert Season

(subject to change)

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
November 1, 2018

Fall Concert Series
November 10 & 11, 2018

Chamber Music Series
December 8 & 9, 2018

Concerto Competition
January 28, 2019

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
February 7, 2019

Winter Concert Series
TBA

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
May 9, 2019

Spring Concert Series
May 17, 18 & 19, 2019



Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 2018-2019 Season Auditions

Auditions for Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony will take place in early September. An audition schedule with dates, times and locations, as well as the required music excerpts will be posted on the YSSO website by early July. Musicians may contact the YSSO office beginning August 29 to schedule an audition. Audition times will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Certain days/times are reserved for specific instrument sections.

Join us next season for a joyous year of music-making!

IMPORTANT

Spring 2018 Silent Auction

Members of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon governing board's fund development committee are coordinating a Silent Auction to benefit the YSSO. Bidding will take place at the concerts on May 18, 19 & 20. Bidding closes at intermission on Sunday, May 20. Items have been donated by generous businesses and individuals including Stephen Bacon of Bellwood Violin, Eric Werner of Artistic Piano, Al & Virginia Silbowitz of Grizzly Peak Winery, the Jacksonville Inn, Alchemy at Winchester House, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Britt Festivals, Porter's, Medford Food Co-op, Rogue Ski Shop, Cowhorn Winery, Crowne Jewel, John Hill Violin Maker, Jolene's Sweets, The RRRink and many others.



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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Director's Circle	\$10,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Conductor's Circle	\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Composer's Circle	\$5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$50
<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: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

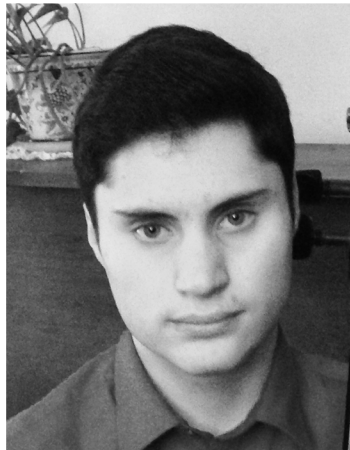
Enclosed is a check in the amount of: \$ _____

Please charge the gift to my: Visa MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____ Expiration: _____

SENIOR PROFILES



JAVIER MITCHELL VARGAS

Symphony, Cello

An Ashland High School (AHS) senior and the son of Steve Mitchell and Marcela Vargas, Javier joined the YSSO in 2011. He chose to play the cello because of its versatility and deep rich tone. In addition to the YSSO, Javier participates in the AHS Chamber Orchestra. His school music teachers include current teacher Lauren Trolley and former AHS teacher Gerry Paré. His private teacher is Michal Palzewicz of whom Javier says, "He pushes me to levels I had no idea were inside me."

Javier shared that he will treasure the friendships he has made as a member of the YSSO. He added that the performances with his YSSO colleagues have been a joy. He will long remember and listen to the challenging pieces he has played with the YSSO. He noted that his favorite work was Antonin Dvořák's *Symphony No. 8* in G Major, op.88. Javier also mentioned how much he enjoyed participating in the Chamber Music Series each year. He plans to pursue a degree in cello performance in college.

MASON TEAGLE

Symphony, Viola

Son of Kevin and Wendy Teagle, violist Mason Teagle joined the Youth Symphony this season and played in the Winter Concert Series. He is a senior at Grants Pass High School where he plays in the Chamber Orchestra. His school music teacher is Krista Debolt.

MAXIM P. WORTHYLAKE

Symphony, Viola

Youth Symphony principal viola, Maxim Worthyake is a senior at North Medford High School where he performs with the Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Lynn Gervais. Max studies viola privately with Pat Berlet. He is the son of Rhonda Worthyake.



Thank you for your support of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Sharon Wilson, Executive Director

I wish to offer my sincere appreciation to the volunteers, parents, musicians, teachers, schools, businesses, organizations and members of the governing board who assisted with rehearsals, concerts, initiatives and special events this season.

Volunteers: Thank you to K.C. Dunlap, Patty Klein, Jill Savino and Jackie Beck for recruiting and managing volunteers. A special word of thanks to Kriko Michaels for heading the team that organized the fall fundraising breakfast at Applebee's Restaurant, as well as Traci Walker and Kriko for leading the Silent Auction and the governing board for their work on this season's special events. Thank you to the parents who provided refreshments for evening rehearsals and receptions, and who volunteered their time to help with activities and concerts.

Musicians, Families, Organizations: To the musicians, thank you for participating in the YSSO and for helping to enrich the cultural landscape of the Rogue Valley. Thank you to the families of the musicians for supporting the YSSO and its work. Thank you to all of the music

coaches who mentored the musicians this year. The YSSO offers its thanks and appreciation to school music teachers and private instructors for their work and for advocating for music education in schools and communities. A word of thanks to choral conductors Shauneen Garner, Rogue Valley Youth Chorus (Cantare Chorus), Pam Nordquist and Pete Nordquist, Rogue Valley Youth Chorus (Youth Ensemble), Andrea Brock, South Medford High School and Kendra Taylor, North Medford High School, and their choral groups for their involvement in the Winter Concert Series performances of works by John Rutter and Aaron Copland.

Concert Logistics: The YSSO offers its appreciation to Jennifer Garcia, Zachery Marshall and Gideon Becker and for their help with rehearsals, stage logistics and concert production.

Governing Board: I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to directors Stacy Brubaker, Ann Godwin, Jill Savino, Denise Poisson, Traci Walker, Kriko Michaels, Shanée von Strahl, Mary Jane Morrison, Andrew Gramley and Eric Werner for their hard work, dedi-

In Appreciation...

cation and spirit and for sharing their time with the YSSO. I wish to take this opportunity to share a few words of appreciation about director Michael Wing who passed away in February shortly before our Winter Concert Series. A devoted music educator, gifted musician and good friend to young and old alike, Michael was a kind person and an enthusiastic volunteer. We are grateful for his involvement in our organization. His contributions to so many organizations and schools, and his work with young people will continue to have impact on the Rogue Valley for years to come.

Operations: The YSSO offers its appreciation to David Ruppe and Angel McDonald for their work on YSSO publications, Ingrid Dux (NP Bookkeeping by ID, LLC), and Rory Tosh, CPA (KDP Certified Public Accountants, LLP) for preparing the annual reports. To Mark Eliot Jacobs, thank you for providing illuminating program notes again this season and for serving as a music coach. Thank you to photographer Cari Baker for docu-

menting each of the performances and to Patty Klein for her assistance with numerous administrative projects and the music library.

Businesses: Thank you to Paddington Station in Ashland, Artistic Piano in Medford and

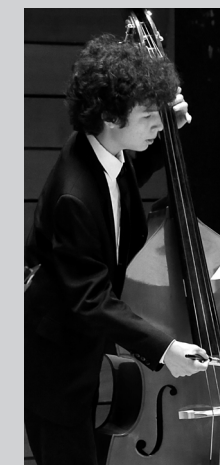
Oregon Books in Grants Pass for selling concert series tickets this season. The YSSO would also like to thank the businesses who placed advertising in concert series programs. The organization offers its thanks to Applebee's Neighborhood Grill for its support as well.

Funders: In addition to annual gifts and contributions from individuals, the YSSO received funding from the following foundations and agencies this season: The Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, City of Ashland (Ashland lodging tax revenues), Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon, Trust Management Services (Braemar Charitable Trust), Pacific Power Foundation and the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation. A special note of thanks to Anna Dunlap, Youth Symphony Alumni Concert Partner. In addition, my husband and I are honored to have the opportunity to be the Spring Concert Series Partners this season.

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 and the Oregon Center for the Arts at Southern Oregon University. Thank you to Mary Jane Morrison and Ollie Sontag for coordinating YSSO concerts at the Rogue Valley Manor. Another word of appreciation to the staff at the Craterian Theater for their help with the Youth Symphony Alumni Concert in December and the February collaboration with the Rogue Valley Youth Choruses, and choruses from North Medford High School and South Medford High School.

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-quality music programs, to ensuring affordable and accessible concerts, and for transforming lives and augmenting the creative prosperity of our region. The YSSO looks forward to serving Rogue Valley communities, families and audiences next season and for years to come.



COURTNEY BADURA

Symphony, Flute

Youth Symphony principal flute and a 2017 Concerto Competition winner, Courtney Badura joined the Youth Symphony when she was in the eighth grade after a presentation by Cindy Hutton at her middle school. She is a senior at North Medford High School (NMHS) where she performs with the NMHS Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ambassadors. Her school music teachers have included Kendra Taylor and David Sommers, and current NMHS band teacher Steve Kessler. Courtney studies flute privately with Shelly Granger. Mark and Bethany Badura are Courtney's parents. She wishes to offer her gratitude to them for their constant support.

A favorite YSSO memory of Courtney's is standing for the applause in recognition of her solos in Antonin Dvořák's *Symphony No. 8*, a work she found both difficult to master and rewarding to perform. Courtney has participated in the Western International Band Clinic and Southern Oregon Honor Band. Her college plans include pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in flute performance.



SPENCER BLACK

Symphony, Cello

Co-principal of the Youth Symphony cello section, Spencer is a senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS) where he plays in the Chamber Orchestra. In his sophomore year at GPHS, Spencer joined the YSSO following a visit to his school by Dr. Hutton. Spencer enjoyed playing with other motivated musicians and developing new friendships. A favorite YSSO musical highlight was performing Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* in the 2017 Fall Concert Series.

Spencer wishes to thank his parents, Michael and Natasha Black, for the opportunities they have provided to him. His school music teachers have included Laura Bolden, Eric Cousineau, Sarah Klein and his current music teacher Krista Debolt. He studies privately with Lisa Truelove. Spencer was the winner of the Oregon Music Education Association (OMEA) District Solo Contest in his sophomore year. He also was selected to play in the OMEA All State Orchestra in 2018. Spencer plans to attend medical school and become a physician.



CHRISTOPHER BOCK *Symphony, Cello*

Son of Charles and Lisa Bock, homeschooled senior Christopher Bock joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's Youth Strings ensemble in 2010. He began playing the cello when he was eight years old after being inspired by recordings of Yo-Yo Ma. He has studied privately with Beth Goldstein. His current teacher is Tom Stauffer. Chris offers his appreciation to his parents for encouraging him to persevere.

Christopher enjoys performing with the YSSO and contributing towards a common goal of excellence. His favorite pieces are also ones he found most challenging, Antonin Dvořák's *Symphony No. 8* and Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*. Favorite YSSO memories include playing cards with other musicians while waiting to perform as well as participating in the YSSO Chamber Music Series. His advice to future YSSO musicians, "Be sure to laugh at Cindy's jokes during rehearsals." Christopher plans to study biomedical engineering in college.



DANIEL CERVANTES

Symphony, Trumpet

North Medford High School (NMHS) senior, Daniel Cervantes has played in both Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra. He has been involved in the YSSO organization since the eighth grade. In addition to playing trumpet in the YSSO, Daniel plays in the NMHS Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ambassadors. His NMHS music teacher is Steve Kessler. Daniel's parents are Ricardo and Anahi Cervantes.

JACK DIAB

Symphony, Bass

Youth Symphony principal bass and Ashland High School (AHS) senior, Jack Diab began playing the instrument at age 11 when he was lent a bass. In addition to the YSSO, Jack plays with the Creekside Strings, AHS Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band, and his own groups The Diab Quartet and Jack-Attack and the Monsters. His school music teachers have included Gerry Paré, Travis Moddison, and current AHS music teacher Lauren Trolley. Jack studies privately with David Miller.

Jack shares that he can't believe that his parents, Assaf and Julie Diab, were willing to help lug his bass around all these years. He went on to say that he is grateful for their endless support. Because of a fondness for music from the romantic era, Jack loved performing Piotr I. Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture Fantasy* and Antonin Dvořák's *Romance in F minor* with the Youth Symphony. Jack is a 4.00 Honor Roll student. He is a recipient of the Orchestra Student of the Year Award and the Gold Presidential Community Service Award. He will be attending Southern Oregon University where he plans to pursue a degree in chemistry and minor in music.



ANDREW DONAHUE

Symphony, Horn

A love of the French horn sound led North Medford High School (NMHS) senior Andrew Donahue to begin playing the instrument in the sixth grade. He has enjoyed playing in an orchestra since joining the YSSO in the ninth grade. Andrew's school music teachers include Steve Kessler, Kendra Taylor and David Sommers. They have inspired him to strive for excellence. In addition to the YSSO, he performs with the NMHS Concert and Chamber Orchestras, the NMHS Wind Ensemble and the Jazz Ambassadors. He studies privately with Cynthia Hutton. His parents are Gordon and Jami Donahue. In an expression of thanks, Andrew says, "I couldn't have done anything involving music without the help, love and support of my parents and my sister."

Andrew plans to major in music education. His goal is to become a high school band director.



EMMA EMPOL

Symphony, Viola

A South Medford High School (SMHS) senior, Emma joined the Youth Symphony after an inspiring visit to her school by Cindy Hutton. She has been playing the viola since she was 12 years old. In addition to the YSSO, Emma plays in the SMHS Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. Emma is grateful for the confidence instilled in her by her parents, Mitch and Meredith Empol, as well as the encouragement of Zoryn Thompson, her school music teacher. A special YSSO memory for Emma was meeting Aubrey Huggins, who has become her best friend. She noted that she found works by Antonin Dvořák to be the most challenging to play with the YSSO.

Emma was chosen by the American Legion Auxiliary to represent Oregon at Girls Nation, the national civics training program in Washington D.C. She serves on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Team and the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission. In addition, she has received the Scholar Athlete Award for four years. Emma's college degree plans include a double major in political science and mathematics.



OLIVER MAUDE

Symphony, Trombone

Oliver Maude, a senior at Ashland High School (AHS), has performed with the Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra. Oliver has participated in the YSSO since the eighth grade. In addition to the YSSO, he plays in the AHS Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble conducted by Travis Moddison. Oliver is the son of Stuart and Tiffany Maude.

