

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

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NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Volume 27 • Number 2 • Winter/Spring 2017

Quarter NOTES



Spring 2017 Concert Series



29th Concert Season Closes with Concerts on May 19, 20 & 21

The Spring Concert Series opens with a 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, May 19 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 20 at the

Performing Arts Center in Grants Pass and closes with a 3:00 p.m. performance on Sunday, May 21 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 showcases orchestral favorites, Brazilian dance rhythms and themes, stage and film music, and a dazzling *tour de force* violin concerto. The program will include Franz von Suppé's *Poet & Peasant Overture*, selections from the musical *Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber, music from John Williams' scores for the *Star Wars* and *The Force Awakens* films, *Uptown Hoedown* by Ralph Ford, *Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor* by Henryk Wieniawski and Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4*. The *Youth Symphony* and *Youth Orchestra* will be led by YSSO Music Director & Conductor Dr. Cynthia Hutton. The featured soloist is violinist Lindan Burns, Youth Symphony Concertmaster and one of the winners of the 2017 Concerto Competition. Graduating seniors will be honored during the Sunday afternoon concert.

The drawing for Spring Raffle items will be held at the final concert of the series. Raffle items have been donated by Stephen Bacon of Bellwood Violin, the Ashland Independent Film Festival, Britt Music & Art Festival, Harry and David, Mt. Ashland Association, Mt. Shasta Ski Park, Cabaret Theater, the Guitar Center, Eric Werner of Artistic Piano, Amy Watson and Bella Union Restaurant. Raffle tickets will be sold at the performances. The drawing will take place on Sunday.

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) is a nonprofit 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, Williams, Klamath Falls and northern California were selected to participate this season.

Funding for the 2016-2017 Concert Season has been awarded by the City of Ashland (Ashland lodging tax revenues), Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, Collins Foundation, Dunlap Silsby Family Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Oregon Arts

Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon, Pacific Power Foundation 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.

Concert images and photographs of soloist Lindan Burns, as well as Courtney Badura and the orchestras are by Cari Baker Photography.

Annual Meeting

Friends of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Sunday, May 21, 2017, 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.

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Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon
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(541) 858-8859
www.yso.org
info@yso.org

Membership News

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

As the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) organization's 2016-2017 Concert Season draws to a close, the governing board, volunteers, staff, musicians and families wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies for providing financial assistance to the YSSO organization this season. The YSSO appreciates each and every gift. 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 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 confidence, empathy and discipline. The YSSO organization increases access to cultural offerings 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.

The YSSO organization looks forward to offering stellar music opportunities for young people for many years to come. Next season marks the organization's 30th Anniversary Concert Season and the YSSO will present special music, a new collaboration and programming in honor of this milestone.

Thank you for investing in the remarkable Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and for joining the musicians at the performances this season.

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

Spring 2017 Concert Series at a Glance

Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Oregon Center for the Arts Music Recital Hall at SOU, Ashland

Saturday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center, Grants Pass

Sunday, May 21, 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 20 concert in Grants Pass and two (2) complimentary tickets to the May 21 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 - 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

Lindan Burns, violin soloist 2017 Concerto Competition Winner



Lindan Burns, Concertmaster of the Youth Symphony, has participated in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) since 2009-2010. Lindan shared that when she joined the YSSO at the age of nine, she was intimidated by the “big kids” but the lush sound of the *Youth Symphony* helped

her overcome her trepidation. As a homeschooled student from grades six through nine, involvement in the YSSO offered her opportunities to work with a conductor and play with accomplished young musicians. A lover of chamber music, Lindan has enjoyed playing in the Chamber Music Series each season. Most recently, Lindan played in two piano trios and a mixed ensemble with Youth Symphony colleagues Morgan Byers, Javier Mitchell Vargas, Michael Dugan, Paul Schaafsma, Camille Schaafsma, Chris Bock, Anthony Bock and siblings, Alex and Julie Burns. Lindan also plays in the Rogue Valley Symphony (RVS) and the RVS Chamber Players.

In 2015, Lindan placed 3rd in the State Solo Competition. Also in 2015, she placed 2nd in the Junior Division of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) National Solo Competition. In 2016 she studied with Helen Callus through the Colburn School of Music's pre-college program. She has participated in Suzuki Camps, the Foulger International Music Festival, the Young Artist's Program in Ottawa, the Castleman Quartet Program and the Perlman Music Program. Lindan has participated in master-classes and worked with Samuel Rhodes, Lawrence Dutton, Brett Deubner and Steven Tenebom. Lindan began playing violin at age 2½. Her teacher was Linda Reams. Though she enjoys playing violin in orchestra, her primary instrument is viola. Lindan's viola and bow were loaned to her by the Maestro Foundation.

Lindan wishes to express her appreciation to her violin and viola teachers and chamber music coaches in the Rogue Valley and Portland, including Kendra Law, Susan Brown, Scott Cole, Kimberly Fitch (viola), Brian Quincey (viola), Clarisse Atcherson, Tom and Cynthia Stauffer and Bill Norfleet for their guidance and encouragement.

At present, Lindan attends Rogue Community College. She plans to continue her studies with Helen Callus in Evanston, Illinois. Lindan wishes to attend a university in order to pursue a broader education prior to earning a degree at a conservatory.

2017 Concerto Competition

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's annual Concerto Competition was held on Monday evening, January 23, 2017, 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.



Participants this year included Courtney Badura (North Medford High School), Trevor Haugen (Rogue Valley Adventist Academy), Nathaniel Savage (St. Mary's School), Alex Burns (Homeschool/Reach Charter School), Aubrey Huggins (Logos Charter School), Rosie Dean (Ashland High School), Lindan Burns (Homeschool/Rogue Community College), Morgan Byers (Homeschool) and Javier Mitchell Vargas (Ashland High School). The musicians performed works by Bruch, Mozart, Shostakovich, Kabalevsky, Saint-Saëns, Wieniawski, Haydn and Albinoni.

Lindan Burns, violin, and Courtney Badura, flute, were selected as winners this year. Lindan is the featured soloist with the Youth Symphony in May 2017 and Courtney will be a featured soloist during the 2017-2018 Concert Season.

The judges for the 2017 Concerto Competition were Lori Calhoun and Mahjinka Stebbins.

Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

In December 2015, the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon was named the sole 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 musicians of the YSSO organization 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 each season. It has helped strengthen the YSSO's work with and for dedicated young musicians from throughout the region.

The establishment of this fund has expanded the YSSO organization's capacity to serve young people, sustain the community benefit mission of the YSSO and support access to training and performance opportunities.

IMPORTANT

Spring 2017 Raffle

Members of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon governing board's fund development committee are coordinating a Spring Raffle to benefit the YSSO. Tickets are \$10.00 each and will be available at the Spring Concert Series performances. Musicians in the Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony have tickets for sale as well. Raffle items have been donated by generous businesses and individuals including Stephen Bacon of Bellwood Violin, the Ashland Independent Film Festival, Britt Music & Art Festival, Harry and David, Mt. Ashland, Mt. Shasta Ski Park, Cabaret Theater, the Guitar Center, Eric Werner of Artistic Piano, board president Amy Watson and Bella Union Restaurant. The drawing will take place on Sunday at the final concert of the season.

Music Coaches & Adjudicators

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon would like to thank the following musicians and music teachers for serving as audition and concerto competition adjudicators, music coaches and substitute conductors this season:

Pat Berlet, Dale Bradley, Lori Calhoun, Scott Cole, Cynthia Cournoyer, Ai DeVore, Bruce Dresser, Shelly Granger, Gwen Hutchings, Mark Jacobs, Kristin Kessler, Patrick McLain, Bruce McKern, James McWhorter, Bill Norfleet, Pierre Plax, Faina Podolnaya, William Scharen, Cynthia Stauffer, Thomas Stauffer, Mahjinka Stebbins, Heidi Strahm and Sarah Traff.



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: _____

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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



ROWAN LOVICH

Symphony, Viola

Rowan is the daughter of Steve Lovich and Tracy Samples. She shared that it was the warm and powerful sound of the viola that drew her to the instrument. She was in the fourth grade when she joined the YSSO. Rowan is a senior at St. Mary's School where she also plays in the St. Mary's School Orchestra conducted by Booke Robison. Kimberly Fitch and Heidi Strahm are Rowan's private viola teachers.

When asked what she enjoyed about playing in the YSSO, Rowan shared that she loved the incredible feeling of playing with everyone on stage and all their hard work coming together in each of the performances. Her advice to future YSSO musicians is to "Practice, practice, practice." Her parents are her biggest mentors. She appreciates all their support and guidance through the years. Rowan plans to attend the University of Oregon where she will major in human physiology.

NATHANIEL SAVAGE

Symphony, Violin

Son of Jim and Jackie Savage, Nathaniel is a senior at St. Mary's School. He was five years old when he became fascinated with the violin and began playing the instrument. He has studied with Virginia Wickham and Kimberley Fitch, his current teacher. Ms. Fitch has helped him mature as a musician through her talent and knowledge of the violin. Nathaniel joined the YSSO in the eighth grade.

Cynthia Hutton inspires Nathaniel with her passion and enthusiasm for the music. He enjoyed and will remember the humor of the Youth Symphony musicians. Nathaniel wishes to express his gratitude to his parents for their willingness to pay for lessons and for their encouragement to be an active musician in his community. He thanks his mom for always encouraging him to practice. Nathaniel is a Cum Laude Society member, was awarded the Excellence in English Award, the Excellence in Oral Communications Award and "Magna Cum Laude" on the National Latin Exam. This fall he will attend college to pursue a degree in business.



LILLIANA VAN MATER

Symphony, Violin

Daughter of Benjamin and Tanya Van Mater, Lilliana is a senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS). The beautiful sound of the violin has kept her playing since she was nine years old. In addition to the YSSO, Lilliana has played in the River City Violins and the GPHS String Orchestra. Her school music teacher is Krista Debolt and her private teacher is Cynthia Cournoyer.

Lilliana shared that she has enjoyed working with the talented people in the YSSO on challenging music. She advises future YSSO musicians, "Enjoy any opportunity to play your music and never give up or be afraid to try." Her parents and her nana and papa have encouraged and pushed her to do her best in whatever she does. She is grateful for their influence. Lilliana will attend Corban University where she will major in music and minor in psychology.

HARRISON WILTROUT

Symphony, Violin

A North Medford High School senior (NMHS) and son of Miles and Lisa Wiltrout, Harrison joined the YSSO in 2009. In addition to his involvement in the YSSO, Harrison plays in the NMHS Chamber Orchestra. Lynn Gervais has been his school music teacher for seven years. She is his favorite teacher and has influenced his interest in music through her guidance and by providing opportunities for him to improve his skills. Harrison has studied privately with Gary Knoll. He currently studies with Heidi Strahm.

Harrison has enjoyed sharing the experience of opening their music folders to new and challenging classical music with other talented musicians. A favorite YSSO memory is the comradery of hanging out with a soloist and other friends in the dressing room before the performances. Beethoven's *Egmont Overture* and Enesco's *Rumanian Rhapsody No. 1 in A Major* are two pieces Harrison liked playing with the YSSO. "Each one sounded amazing and tells a unique story," he shared. Harrison wishes to thank his father for introducing him to the violin and his mother for purchasing his first violin. Harrison plans to enroll in the pre-med program at the University of Portland through a National Army ROTC Scholarship.



In Appreciation...

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 Anita Caster, K.C. Dunlap, Patty Klein, Jill Savino, Denise Poisson and Jackie Beck for recruiting and managing volunteers. A special word of thanks to Ursula Horstmann-Nash and the members of the board's Fund Development Committee for their work on this season's fundraising 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 your commitment to your YSSO colleagues and for enriching the cultural landscape of the Rogue Valley. Thank you to the families of the musicians for your involvement in the YSSO and its work. Thank you to all of the music coaches who worked with the musicians this year. The YSSO offers its thanks and appreciation to school music teachers and private instructors for their work, for serving as music coaches and for advocating for music education in schools and communities.

Concert Logistics: The YSSO offers its thanks to Jennifer Garcia, Jacob Caster and Geo Betus for their help with rehearsals, logistics and concert production.

Governing Board: I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to retiring governing board president Amy Watson for her leadership, patience, humor and hard work. Thank you to directors Stacy Brubaker, Anita Caster, Frank Phillips, Ann Godwin, Denise Poisson, Ursula Horstmann-Nash, Jill Savino, Traci Walker and Eric Werner for their enthusiasm and for sharing their time and expertise with the YSSO.

Operations: The YSSO offers its appreciation to David Ruppe and Angel McDonald for their work on YSSO publications, Ingrid Dux for her help with bookkeeping, 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 documenting 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, Panda Express and Mucho Gusto for their support.

Funders: In addition to annual gifts and contributions from individuals, the YSSO received funding from the following foundations and agencies this season: The Arthur R. Dubs Foundation, Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, City of Ashland, Collins Foundation, Dunlap Silsby Family Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon, Pacific Power Foundation and the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation.

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, the Oregon Center for the Arts at Southern Oregon University, the Historic First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland. Thank you to Mary Jane Morrison and Ollie Sontag for coordinating 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-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.



Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 2017-2018 Concert Season

(subject to change)

30th Anniversary Concert Season

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
October 26, 2017

Fall Concert Series
November 4 & 5, 2017

Youth Symphony & Youth
Symphony Alumni Concert
December 20, 2017

Concerto Competition
January 22, 2018

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
February 8, 2018

Winter Concert Series
February 24 & 25, 2018
Featuring a musical collaboration
with the Rogue Valley Chorale's
Youth Choruses

Community Outreach Concert
Rogue Valley Manor
May 10, 2018

Spring Concert Series
May 18, 19 & 20, 2018

Next season the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon marks its 30th Anniversary. The season will feature special music, a collaboration with the Rogue Valley Chorale's Youth Choruses and a celebratory Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert. Former Youth Symphony musicians are encouraged to contact the YSSO via e-mail (info@yso.org) to request further information.

Auditions for Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony will take place on September 8, 9, 10 & 12. Musicians may contact the YSSO office beginning August 30 to schedule an audition. Audition times are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Certain days/times are reserved for specific instrument sections. Join us next season for another joyous year of music-making!



JOHN ALMAGUER *Symphony, Violin*

An Ashland High School (AHS) senior and principal second violin of the Youth Symphony, John has participated in the YSSO for six years. He shared that he was inexplicably attracted to the violin during a YSSO recruiting visit to his fifth grade class. He signed up to join the Youth Orchestra shortly thereafter. In addition to his involvement with the YSSO, he plays in the AHS Chamber Orchestra and Siskiyou Violins. His private teacher is Faina Podolnaya and his school music teacher is Lauren Trolley.

John shared that he found it exhilarating to overcome the challenges posed by a work that at first glance appeared insurmountable. He enjoyed playing Georges Enesco's *Romanian Rhapsody No. 1 in A Major* and Antonin Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88*. His advice to future YSSO musicians is that if you don't practice you are missing a wonderful opportunity to accelerate your growth as a musician. John extends his gratitude to his parents, John Almaguer and Alma Rosa Alvarez, for supporting him through the years, driving him to rehearsals and for attending his performances. John will pursue a degree in economics or English literature at college.

GEO BETUS *Symphony, Trombone*

Geo is principal trombone of the Youth Symphony. He is a senior at Phoenix High School and the son of George and Mary Betus. In addition to the YSSO, Geo plays in the Phoenix High School Symphonic Band and Jazz Band. Mike DeRoest is his school music teacher.



MORGAN BYERS *Symphony, Cello*

Morgan, Youth Symphony co-principal of the cello section, began playing the cello when he was 14 years old. He studies cello, piano and music composition with Stephan and Lisa Truelove. Morgan is a Fort Jones (California) homeschool senior. Morgan noted that he appreciates his parents, Robert and Shawna Byers, for their willingness to drive him an hour and a half to and from Youth Symphony and Chamber Music Series rehearsals. He joined the YSSO in 2014.

March Slave, Op.31 by Piotr I. Tchaikovsky was one of the first works Morgan performed with the YSSO. It was a huge and epic piece and it remains a personal favorite. He has enjoyed contributing to the powerful and intricate sound of a full orchestra. Prospective YSSO musicians should, "Practice efficiently in the smallest of sections," he advises. Morgan has been inspired by the guidance he has received from his teachers and chamber group coaches. He will attend a community college in the fall and major in music composition.



GRACE CONNELLY *Symphony, Viola*

Principal violist Grace Connelly joined the Youth Symphony in 2016. She has loved playing difficult music with YSSO musicians whom she found to be welcoming and kind. She is a senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS) and the daughter of Vic and Teresa Connelly. Grace is grateful for her parents' belief in her and her dreams. In addition to the YSSO, Grace plays in the GPHS Chamber Orchestra.

Patricia Berlet has been Grace's private viola teacher for seven years. "Ms. Berlet inspires me to be a better musician by holding me to a high standard and pushing me to grow and learn," Grace says. Her school music teachers have included Krista Debolt and Laura Bolden. Among her many honors and accolades, Grace is the GPHS National Honor Society President, GPHS Valedictorian, Oregon Music Education Association All-State Orchestra musician, and a recipient of the Oregon School Activities Association Academic All-State Award. She will attend Pacific University to pursue a degree in environmental sustainability.



GAGE FLAMING *Symphony, Violin*

Gage is a senior at Grants Pass High School. In addition to the YSSO, he plays violin in the Grants Pass High School Chamber Orchestra. His school music teacher is Krista Debolt. His parents are Tyler Flaming and Laura Buksar.



TREVOR HAUGEN *Symphony, Cello*

Trevor, Youth Symphony co-principal of the cello section, is a senior at Rogue Valley Adventist Academy (RVAA). He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Haugen. Trevor has participated in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) since 2012. He has studied privately with Beth Goldstein and currently studies with Tom Stauffer. Wendy Riveria is his school music teacher.

Trevor shared that he has enjoyed the friendships he has made as a member of the YSSO musical family. Other favorite memories include Dr. Hutton's jokes, patience, love and dedication to the musicians. He advises future YSSO musicians never to underestimate challenges presented by the music and always to practice. Trevor is grateful for the encouragement and discipline of his parents and for his sister, Kendra, who made him believe that he could do better. He was the RVAA varsity basketball team captain for three years, youth representative for the Oregon Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists and on the Honor Roll for three years. Trevor will attend Walla Walla University with the goal of becoming a radiation oncologist. He also plans to minor in music.



GABRIELLE JOHNSON *Symphony, Violin*

An Ashland homeschool senior, Gabrielle joined the YSSO when she was nine years old. She joined her grandmother in playing the violin after hearing its lovely sound on the radio. Her parents are Eric and Michelle Johnson. She has studied with current private teacher Faina Podolnaya and with Gary Kroll. Gabrielle revels in the sound of the orchestra, playing in a symphony and listening to the intertwining parts.

Gabrielle thanks her parents for their help and encouragement throughout the years and her grandparents for their support. She also is grateful for the inspiration, passion and love of her private teacher Faina. This fall Gabrielle plans to attend Rogue Community College.



ERYL KENNER *Symphony, Bassoon*

Co-principal of the Youth Symphony bassoon section, Eryl is a senior at Ashland High School. He studies bassoon privately with Brian Carpenter. Eryl participates in the Ashland High School Band as well as the YSSO. His school music teacher is Travis Moddison. Eryl is the son of Allen Kenner and Wendy Schilling.



AMELIA LETHLEAN *Symphony, Violin*

Amelia is a senior at North Medford High School (NMHS). She is the daughter of Greg and Rebecca Luce. After hearing about the YSSO from friends, Amelia joined the organization when she was 14 years old. In addition to the YSSO, she plays in the NMHS Chamber and Concert Orchestras. Her school music teachers include Lynn Gervais, Steve Kessler and Richard Meyer. Amelia has studied violin privately with Faina Podolnaya and Sarah Klein. She wishes to thank her teachers for being mentors who inspired a love for music.

Amelia's advice to future YSSO musicians is, "Practice makes perfect AND use a metronome." Amelia will remember the fun and laughs and good memories of her time with her YSSO friends. Amelia's parents encouraged her to do what she loves and always have supported her, and she is grateful for them. Amelia is a member of Torch Honor Society and on the Honor Roll, and she is a recipient of the Western Undergraduate Exchange scholarship. She will pursue a degree in business administration at Boise State University.



RACHEL MILLER *Symphony, Flute*

Rachel is a senior at North Medford High School. She performs with the North Medford High School Jazz Ambassadors and Wind Ensemble. Steve Kessler is her school music teacher. Her parents are Scott Miller and Linda Miller.

