

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

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QUARTER NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY OF SOUTHERN OREGON

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Membership News

2012-2013 Silver Jubilee Concert Season Giving & Friends of the YSSO

As the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization begins its Silver Jubilee Concert Season, I would like to thank all of the individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies providing financial assistance to the YSSO organization. These individuals, foundations, businesses and agencies truly are Friends of the YSSO. The governing board and staff, and our volunteers and musicians appreciate each and every gift of support.

Music engages hearts, hands and minds, bridges the past and present, and brings together people of all ages and backgrounds. Music participation teaches people to listen and work together, and develops teamwork and leadership skills. Music offers both intrinsic and instrumental value in the education of young people and it transforms families and communities.

The YSSO organization increases access to cultural opportunities and augments programs in schools. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is dedicated to artistic quality, professional management, thoughtful governance and responsible stewardship of resources. The YSSO organization is proud of its 25 years of community service and high-quality cultural programming, and its role in helping to ensure livable Rogue Valley communities.

Your investment helps the YSSO maintain high standards of performance and present outstanding, affordable concerts. The organization receives support through contributions from individuals, concert partner (sponsor) funding, and foundation, corporate and agency grants. The YSSO generates additional revenue through ticket sales, program advertising and nominal tuition. Members of the governing board coordinate special events to generate financial support.

As you consider a gift in support of the Silver Jubilee Concert Season, please know that every contribution makes an impact on the YSSO. Contributions from individuals help pay for music, rehearsal facilities, concert venues and 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 Silver Jubilee Concert Season 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 during this milestone season of celebration and into the future. Thank you for investing in the remarkable Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization and for joining the musicians at the wonderful performances this season.

Sharon Wilson -Executive Director

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Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

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Silver Jubilee Concert Season Fall 2012 Concert Series Performances ~~~ November 10 and 11, 2012

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's 2012-2013 Silver Jubilee Concert Season opens with an evening performance at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 10 at the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater in Medford. An afternoon performance in Ashland will be presented on Sunday, November 11 at 3:00 p.m. at Southern Oregon University's Music Recital Hall. James M. Collier is the Silver Jubilee Concert Season Partner and the Fall Concert Series Silver Level Partner is Combined Transport, Inc.

The musicians in Youth Symphony, under the direction of Music Director & Conductor Dr. Cynthia Hutton, will play Johannes Brahms' *Academic Festival Overture* and *A Short Ride in a Fast Machine* by John Adams. The concerts also will feature Elana Cooper, one of the 2012 Concerto Competition winners, in performances of *Violin Concerto No. 5 in A minor* by Henri Vieuxtemps.

The Youth Orchestra will perform arrangements of *March to the Scaffold* by Hector Berlioz and the *Finale* of Johannes Brahms' *Symphony No. 1*, among other works. Associate Conductor Faina Podolnaya will lead the musicians of Youth Strings in music by Purcell and others.



Photograph by Bryon DeVore

Fall Concert Soloist

Elana Cooper, a winner of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) Concerto Competition and Co-Concertmaster of Youth Symphony, has been involved in the YSSO organization for ten years. An Ashland High School (AHS) senior, Elana's music teacher at AHS is Gerry Paré. Previous school music teachers include Jenifer Carstensen, Dwayne Johnson and Jon Soderberg-Chase. She has studied violin privately with Faina Podolnaya for 11 years. In addition to the YSSO, Elana has played in Siskiyou Violins, the Rogue Valley Symphony, Jefferson Baroque Orchestra and AHS ensembles, and was selected to participate in the Oregon All-State Orchestra. A versatile musician, Elana also plays the trombone and guitar. She has participated in the Britt Festivals String Quartet Academy, Marc O'Connor Fiddle Camp, the Advanced Suzuki Institute

The Carpenter Foundation, City of Ashland, Sharkey Family Charitable Foundation and the U.S. Bancorp Foundation have awarded funding for 2012-2013 concert season performances and operations. In addition, this project is funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon initiatives, programs and operations are supported by annual gifts from individuals, business contributions, corporations and funding from foundations.

Tickets are \$5.00 for students/seniors and \$10.00 for general admission. Tickets are available at Paddington Station in Ashland and Larry's Music in Medford. Tickets for the November 10 performance in Medford also are available through the Craterian Theater box office.

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing exceptional performance and training opportunities for young people under the leadership of professional conductors and music coaches and to fostering a lifelong appreciation of classical music and the arts.

at Stanford University and the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and has worked with several visiting artists presented by the Southern Oregon University Chamber Music Series including Frank Huang (Ying Quartet) and Matthew Denton (Carducci Quartet).

When asked about Belgian composer Henri Vieuxtemps' *Violin Concerto No. 5 in A minor*, Elana observed, "[although] the work does not seem to be played often . . . the beautiful melodies have grown on me and I have come to love it. I am excited to share it with everyone in the Youth Symphony and in the audience." Composed in 1861, it consists of three movements: *Allegro non troppo*; *Adagio*; *Allegro con fuoco*. The second movement borrows from an aria in the one-act opera *Lucile* by André Grétry.

Elana shared that her father has had an impact on her growth and development as a musician. She noted, "He has attended all of my weekly violin lessons since I began playing in first grade which has allowed him not only to encourage me but also to learn with me and use that knowledge to coach me at home." A key mentor is Faina Podolnaya, who has guided Elana, provided encouragement and created a nurturing

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Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon Overview

Founded in 1988 by music educators and professional musicians, the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) organization's mission is to provide exceptional performance experiences under the leadership of professional conductors and music coaches and to foster a lifelong appreciation of classical music and the arts. Members of the founding board included Nina Locke, Terrie Henderson, Vicki Jorgensen, Don Bieghler, Judy Bjorlie, Peter Cotton, Barbara Head, Deanne Knowles, Ken Kigel, Mary Leyes, Janis Rands, Margie Weck and Bob Wilson. Arthur Shaw was Music Director. The inaugural concert was presented on December 4, 1988, by the Youth Symphony under the direction of Clarence Shaw.

Board presidents have included Nina Locke, Ken Kigel, Larry Stubson, Nancie Shaw, Sherril Kannasto, David Miller, Mei Wen Richards, Debra Anker, Alan Bergstrom, Penny Austin, Ursula Nash, Lori Long, Marilyn Schreiber, Anna Dunlap, Kate Moore and Dale Hardt. More than 150 devoted community leaders from throughout the Rogue Valley have served on the board over the years. Hundreds of parents and volunteers have assisted with special events, rehearsals, concerts and activities throughout the organization's history. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, revenue is generated through annual gifts from individuals, foundation and agency grants, nominal tuition, ticket sales and fund raising events. Businesses provide support through Concert Series program advertising and

Concert Series Partner (sponsor) support. The support of individuals, foundations, families, audiences and businesses has contributed to the success and stability of the organization.



Youth Symphony conductors have included Clarence Shaw, Art Shaw, Fred Palmer, Sylvain Frémaux, Leanna Sterios, Phillip Bayles and Cynthia Hutton. The organization initiated a concerto competition for advanced Youth Symphony musicians in 1990 and added a Preparatory Orchestra (now Youth Orchestra) for intermediate-level musicians in 1991. Cindy Hutton's first performances as Music Director & Conductor were in November 1995. Youth Strings, a string ensemble for entry-level musicians, was formed in 1998. It was led by YSSO Associate Conductor Ellie Malzahn. Faina Podolnaya became Associate Conductor & Conductor of Youth Strings in 2000. The Chamber Music Series was initiated in 2004-2005. Sharon Wilson, Executive Director, joined the staff in 2005 and Ryan Johnson became Orchestra Manager in 2011.

Concert repertoire has included an impressive array of works by Vieuxtemps, Vivaldi, Händel, Mozart, Stamitz, Telemann, Purcell, Lully, Bach, Hummel, Haydn, Schubert, Rossini, Strauss, Brahms, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven,

Mendelssohn, Grieg, Sibelius, Dukas, Susato, Glière, Liszt, Kabalevsky, Prokofiev, Mahler, Stravinsky, Verdi, Bizet, Ravel, Bruch, Berlioz, Elgar, Wagner, Vaughan-Williams, Holst, Bartok, Shostakovich,

Saint-Saëns, Offenbach, Franck, Smetana, Rimsky-Korsakov, Suppé, Barber, Copland, Bernstein, Gomez, Jacobs, Moncayo, Lalo, Khachaturian, Lecuona, Hultgren, Ford, Daniels, Bossuat, Creston, Korngold, Caponegro, Badelt, Alshin, Higdon, Bloch and Williams. Over the years, more than 2000 young musicians have had an opportunity to learn and perform music by these composers.

The Youth Symphony performed at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene as part of the Oregon Music Educators Association 2011 State Conference. Members of the Youth Symphony have collaborated with the Rogue Valley Symphony in side-by-side performances. The YSSO was a recipient of the Arts Council of Southern Oregon's Arts Education Award. The YSSO organization is an integral part of the region's cultural community.

The Silver Jubilee Concert Season includes eight Concert Series performances, a Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert, three Community Outreach Concerts at the Rogue Valley Manor, and a Concerto Competition for eligible advanced Youth Symphony musicians. More than 160 musicians from throughout the region are participating this year. The dedication, hard work and vision of thousands of individuals paved the way for this milestone year for the organization. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon wishes to express its appreciation to all who have participated in and contributed to the organization.



PHOTOS BY CARI BAKER

2012-2013 Silver Jubilee Concert Season

(subject to change)



Community Outreach Concert

For the Residents of the Rogue Valley Manor

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Youth Symphony

Fall Concert Series

Saturday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Craterian Theater, Medford

Sunday, Nov. 11, 3:00 p.m.

SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland



Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Craterian Theater, Medford

Concerto Competition

Monday, Jan. 28, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

Community Outreach Concert

For the Residents of the Rogue Valley Manor

Feb. 2013, 7:00 p.m. (date TBA)

Chamber Music & Soloists



Winter Concert Series

Friday, Mar. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Parkway Christian Center, Grants Pass

Saturday, Mar. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Craterian Theater, Medford

Sunday, Mar. 3, 3:00 p.m.

SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

Community Outreach Concert

For the Residents of the Rogue Valley Manor

Thursday, May 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Youth Orchestra & Youth Strings



Spring Concert Series

Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.

SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

Saturday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Grants Pass

Sunday, May 19, 3:00 p.m.

Craterian Theater, Medford

PHOTOS BY CARI BAKER

James M. Collier Silver Jubilee Concert Season Partner



Retired educator James Collier relocated to the Rogue Valley several years ago from Delano, California where he had taught high school

English for 35 years. Reflecting on his work as an educator, Mr. Collier observed, “my instrumental music [students] were among my best-producing pupils and [were] a pleasure to have in class.”

An interest in opera sparked an exploration of other areas of the performing arts and classical music and an inheritance allowed him to embark on a new journey as an arts patron and philanthropist. Mr. Collier’s generosity has extended to groups from Des Moines, Iowa and Bakersfield, California to leading presenting organizations in the Rogue Valley. He has donated three concert grand pianos and four upright pianos to various organizations, including the Rogue Valley Manor, garnering him the title “The Piano Man.” 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 opportunities for young people.

Cultural arts patron, educator and philanthropist Jim Collier has extended his support to arts organizations and to programs benefiting young people for many years. This season, the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization is honored to be a beneficiary of his generous support for the Silver Jubilee Concert Season. The governing board, staff, musicians, family members and audiences wish to thank him for his investment in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization.

Welcome from the Music Director

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and early fall and that you are excited about joining us for another wonderful year of classical music. We are excited about our 2012-2013 Silver Jubilee Concert Season. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization will celebrate its 25th Anniversary throughout the year and we are pulling out all the stops to present a tremendous year of music. Each Concert Series and performance has its own special twist.

The Fall Concert Series begins the celebration with American composer John Adams’ *A Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, a work of energy and force that will propel us into the year. The work will be paired with the warmth and beauty of Johannes Brahms’ *Academic Festival Overture*. The November 10 and 11 concerts also will feature one of the 2012 Concerto Competition winners, Elana Cooper, performing Henri Vieuxtemps’ *Violin Concerto No. 5*. The Youth Orchestra will play arrangements of the first movement from Brahms’ *First Symphony* and *March to the Scaffold* by Hector Berlioz. The musicians in Youth Strings, led by Associate Conductor Faina Podolnaya, will be featured in each Concert Series performance during the season.

The Winter Concert Series in early March will push the creative edge. The Youth Symphony will present the premiere of a commissioned work by composer Mark Jacobs. The piece will be dedicated to the YSSO organization in honor of its Silver Jubilee. The series also will feature virtuoso violinist, Gilles Apap. Solo selections by Gilles will include W. A. Mozart’s *Violin Concerto No. 4*, plus the *Hangman Gigue* and *Dracula Breakdown*. The Youth Orchestra will perform *The Great Locomotive Race* by Robert W. Smith, and arrangements of the overture to Mozart’s opera *The Marriage of Figaro* and Cesar Franck’s, *Symphony in D minor*.

The Spring Concert Series in May extends the Youth Symphony to its emotional and musi-

cal limits with performances of Gustav Mahler’s *First Symphony*. That’s it, all Mahler! The Youth Orchestra will finish the season with *Radezky March* by Richard Strauss and a return to Andrew Lloyd-Weber’s exciting, *Phantom of the Opera*. Everyone will want to be in the Youth Orchestra!

December 18, 2012, is a special date for the organization. It marks the date of our first Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert. We have been working hard to contact Youth Symphony alumni, a cheerful and rewarding process. The ensemble will include alumni from throughout the organization’s history, many of whom will travel to the Rogue Valley to help us celebrate the Silver Jubilee. Youth Symphony alumni and the 2012-2013 Youth Symphony will perform dances from *The Nutcracker Ballet*, *Sleigh Ride* and special music to honor some of our distinguished alumni. Because of this concert we will not present the annual Chamber Music Series this season. But it will return in the future. We will present a chamber music concert at the Rogue Valley Manor in the winter so musicians should be thinking of solos, duets and trios.

I am excited about the season and want to welcome both new and returning musicians joining us for this very special year. As always, it is a pleasure to work with the dedicated young people of the YSSO organization and their families. For me, each Sunday rehearsal is a wonderful gift! Music touches that magical place in all of us and I look forward to sharing the magic of music with Rogue Valley audiences again this year. Twenty-five years of making great classical music together. What a remarkable thing to celebrate!

Cindy Hutton
Music Director & Conductor

YSSO Concert Series Information & Tickets

Concert Ticket Information

\$5.00 (students/seniors) & \$10.00 (adults)

Tickets for both performances are available at Larry’s Music in Medford and at Paddington Station in Ashland. Tickets for the November 10 performance also are available through the Craterian box office.

YSSO Family Ticket Policy

Each YSSO family may receive two (2) complimentary tickets to the November 10 Fall Concert Series performance at the Craterian Theater. Complimentary tickets will be available to YSSO musicians at the two 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 for specific venues on certain dates, as well as for required concert attire and other policy information.

President’s Letter

Greetings and welcome to the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon’s Silver Jubilee Concert Season! Can you believe it? We’re embarking on our twenty-fifth year of helping the talented young musicians of the Rogue Valley make beautiful classical music together. To celebrate, we have a very exciting season planned for all to enjoy.

First I’d like to thank the founding members of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon for their vision in creating this wonderful musical organization. We are looking forward to having Nina Locke, Chair of the founding board, join us on December 18 for our special Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert.

The governing board bids farewell to two directors, Peter Linington and Alan Bergstrom, and we thank them for their dedicated service. We are delighted to welcome new director Diane Hess, a retired music educator from Grants Pass.

All of us involved with the Youth Symphony organization offer a special thank you to James Collier, who made a most generous donation to allow us to plan and carry out the Silver Jubilee season.

Our creative and talented conductors, Dr. Cynthia Hutton and Faina Podolnaya, have an exceptional season of music planned. The Fall Concert Series opens our season with performances on November 10 and 11 featuring violinist Elana Cooper, a winner of the 2012 Concerto Competition.

On December 18 we are having our first-ever alumni concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Craterian Theatre. The concert will feature former Youth Symphony musicians joining with the current members of the Youth Symphony to play an evening of Brahms, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky and seasonal favorites. Following the concert, there will be a champagne gala. Tickets prices are \$15.00 for the concert alone or \$35.00 for the concert and the gala reception. All tickets for this concert will have reserved seating. Due to space limitations, only 225 \$35.00 concert plus reception tickets are available so be sure to visit or call the Craterian box office (541-779-3000) and come celebrate with us. Tickets are available only through the Craterian Theater box office for this performance.

The Winter Concert Series on the first weekend in March will feature the premiere of a new work by Mark Jacobs commissioned by the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon. It will be dedicated to the organization on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee. In addition, the performances will feature guest artist Gilles Apap. This program will include movements from W.A. Mozart’s *Violin Concerto No. 4* plus eclectic works and special arrangements suggested by Mr. Apap.

Mark your calendars to attend the March 13 performance of “The Sound of Music” at Camelot

Theatre in Talent. The tickets will be at the regular price for a musical and Camelot will donate 80% of the ticket price to the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, less credit card charges. So let’s all pay cash!

The season will climax in mid-May with performances of Gustav Mahler’s dramatic *Symphony No. 1*, “Titan.” Be sure to come to all these exciting concerts and check the organization’s web site (www.yssso.org) for details about the times and locations of all performances, as well as for ticket information.

There are many hands working behind the scenes to make these musical experiences come together. Our organization’s Executive Director, Sharon Wilson, works tirelessly managing operations, coordinating publications and materials, developing foundation/agency proposals, handling advertising and scheduling, planning auditions and rehearsals, and countless other tasks. She is invaluable and we thank you very much, Sharon, for all your efforts on behalf of the YSSO organization. We also thank all the parents, governing board members and volunteers who assist with activities, events and concerts. If you wish to volunteer or want to learn more, please contact Sharon Wilson (541-858-8859 or info@yssso.org).

I am also pleased to share funding news in addition to the generous support provided by Jim Collier. The Oregon Arts Commission and National Endowment for the Arts awarded operating support to the YSSO organization for 2012-2013. Additional foundation and agency support for Silver Jubilee concerts, programs and operations has been awarded by The Carpenter Foundation, City of Ashland, Sharkey Family Charitable Foundation and U.S. Bancorp Foundation. Combined Transport, Inc. will be our Fall Concert Series Silver Level Partner and Southern Oregon Subaru will provide Winter Concert Series Silver Level Partner funding.

I invite you to become a member of the “Friends of the YSSO.” We need the continued support of individuals to sustain the organization’s music programs, to offer affordable high-quality concerts, and to maintain day-to-day operations. As you plan your charitable giving this year, please consider extending or increasing your investment in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon mission and in celebration of the organization’s Silver Jubilee.

The members of the governing board are appreciative of all who serve and support the work of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon. Our outstanding young musicians look forward to playing for you and we look forward to seeing you at the concerts. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dale Hardt
President, Governing Board

Youth Symphony & Alumni Concert

Tuesday, December 18, 2012,
7:30 p.m.
Craterian Theater at the Collier
Center for the Performing Arts,
Medford

This Silver Jubilee Concert Season performance will feature the Youth Symphony and Youth Symphony Alumni under the direction of Music Director & Conductor Cynthia Hutton. The concert will honor the history, performances and achievements of the organization and its accomplished musicians. The first-ever performance with distinguished alumni will be followed by a gala reception.

The concert program will include the *Concertino for Flute, Viola & Strings* by Ernst Bloch, Antonio Vivaldi’s *Concerto No. 10 in B minor, Fantasia on Greensleeves* by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, *Nutcracker Ballet Dances* by Piotr Tchaikovsky and Leroy Anderson’s *Sleigh Ride*.

Tickets are available only through the Craterian Theater box office (541-779-3000) located at 16 South Bartlett Street in Medford. All seating is reserved for this performance. Ticket prices are \$15.00 (for the concert only) and \$35.00 (for the concert & reception – limited availability).

Soloist from page 1

musical environment within which to explore repertoire and interpretation. Additional mentors include Ilana Rubinfeld, writer, conductor and pedagogue, and Stephen Bacon, Bellwood Violin luthier and musician. Elana cites Scott Cole, concertmaster of the Rogue Valley Symphony, as another important music mentor who “taught me much about music, especially orchestral violin playing.” She wishes to thank Cynthia Stauffer for her help preparing the work for the performances. She extends her thanks and appreciation to her mother Lisa, father Larry, her brother Eli and sister Shana for their inspiration and support.

Upon graduation from AHS, Elana plans to attend a college although her field of study is undetermined at this time. She hopes to explore an interest in languages. She plans to continue her involvement in music throughout her life.