

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

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Membership News

2009-2010 Annual Giving

On behalf of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, I would like to thank the many individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies providing financial assistance to the YSSO for performances and initiatives. The YSSO recognizes the financial challenges presented by the current economic climate and appreciates each and every gift of support.

The YSSO believes that all citizens should have access to cultural opportunities and that music offers both intrinsic and instrumental value in the education of young people. Music is a window on world history and cultural traditions. It opens hearts and minds, builds bridges between the past and present, and brings together families and people of all ages and backgrounds. Music participation teaches people to listen, share and collaborate, and develops important life skills such as discipline, teamwork, patience, leadership and cooperation. Music transforms lives.

The YSSO increases access to cultural opportunities, improves communities, augments programs in schools and enriches the lives of citizens. YSSO concerts offer the gift of music to people of all ages and infuse communities with vitality. The YSSO is dedicated to artistic quality, educational excellence and responsible stewardship of resources. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon helps ensure livable and lively southern Oregon communities and positive, enriching experiences for young people.

Your investment in the YSSO is critical to maintaining the level and quality of training and the YSSO's outstanding, affordable concerts. The YSSO 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 board coordinate events designed to increase community awareness about the YSSO, recognize donors and raise funds for the organization.

As you consider your gift to the YSSO, please keep in mind every contribution makes an impact on the YSSO. Contributions from individuals help pay for music, rehearsal facilities, performance venues, music coaches, instrument repairs and operations, as well as tuition and lesson scholarship assistance for YSSO musicians.

The YSSO's membership goal this year is \$33,000. To meet or exceed the goal we need your help. 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 organization and your contribution may be tax-deductible.

The YSSO looks forward to offering music opportunities for young people and building new audiences for classical music in the coming season and beyond. Thank you for investing in the YSSO.

Sharon Wilson ~ Executive Director

Quarter Notes

Volume 20 • Number 1 • Summer/Fall 2009

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Immediate Past President*

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Conductor & Artistic Director

Faina Podolnaya
Associate Conductor

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

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Symphony
of Southern Oregon

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Fall 2009 Concert Series Performances ~~~ November 14 and 15, 2009

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's 2009-2010 concert season opens with an evening performance on Saturday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater in Medford. An afternoon performance will be presented on Sunday, November 15 at 3:00 p.m. at Southern Oregon University's Music Recital Hall.

The Youth Symphony under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Hutton, YSSO Music Director and Conductor, will play Paul Creston's *Concertino for Marimba & Orchestra*. The featured soloist will be Taylor Wood, Ashland resident and winner of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's 2009 Concerto Competition. Ms. Wood, a member of the string bass section of Youth Symphony, is a student at Oregon Connections Academy and Southern Oregon University (SOU), where she is a member of the SOU Percussion Ensemble. Taylor observed that she found Paul Creston's *Concertino for Marimba & Orchestra* to be a "lively, exciting work that showcases the character of the marimba." She went on to say the Concertino is "a charismatic work that features playful qualities that tease musicians and audiences alike with recurring themes and variations. Each movement of the Concertino has its own personality." She shared that she is "honored to have an opportunity to present this dynamic work to Rogue Valley audiences and perform it with her Youth Symphony colleagues."

The Fall Concert Series program also includes the Youth

Fall 2009 Concert Series Soloist ~~~ Taylor Wood, marimba

Ashland resident and one of the winners of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's 2009 Concerto Competition, Taylor Wood is a student at Southern Oregon University (SOU) and Oregon Connections Academy. A private percussion student of Dr. Terry Longshore, she also has studied string bass with David Miller and Dr. William Jacoby. Taylor is a member of Youth Symphony and she has participated in the YSSO since 2006. Additionally, she has been a member of numerous other ensembles including the Ashland High School (AHS) Chamber Orchestra, AHS Jazz Band and Rutendo! Marimba Band, and has participated in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's (OSF) Daedelus Project and OSF Green Show. At present she is a member of the SOU Percussion Ensemble. Her school music teachers have included Jon Soderberg-Chase, Jenifer Carstensen, Dwayne Johnson, Louis

Symphony performing *Symphony No. 1* by Ludwig van Beethoven. Youth Orchestra will play Paul Dukas' *Sorcerer's Apprentice* (arranged by Jim Higgins), the "Finale" of Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* (arranged by Vernon Leidig) and Giuseppe Verdi's *Overture to Nabucco* (arranged by Sandra Dackow). Youth Strings, led by YSSO Associate Conductor Faina Podolnaya, will perform *March in D* by G.F. Händel, John Caponegro's *March of the Bowman* and *Patapan*, a traditional Burgundian carol.

Fall Concert Series Partner Southern Oregon Subaru, Volvo, Mitsubishi is providing financial support for these performances. The Carpenter Foundation, City of Ashland, Avista and U.S. Bank provided funding for 2009-2010 concert season performances. This project is funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. YSSO initiatives and operations are supported by annual contributions from individuals and businesses, as well as grants from the Collins Foundation, Jackson County Cultural Coalition/Oregon Cultural Trust and the Pacific Power Foundation.

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 14 performance in Medford also are available through the Craterian Theater box office.

Leger and Gerry Paré. Taylor's community music teachers include Jan Christensen, Duane Whitcomb, Musekiwa Chingodza, Themba Mawoko and Bongo Love.

Taylor has received numerous awards and accolades including AHS Jazz Band Newcomer of the Year, Ashland Middle School (AMS)



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Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 2009-2010 Concert Season

Fall 2009 Concert Series

November 14, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater,
Medford

November 15, 2009, 3:00 p.m.
SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

Winter 2010 Concert Series

February 19, 2010, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Grants Pass High School
Performing Arts Center
Youth Symphony Only
(lecture/demonstration & open
dress rehearsal)

February 20, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater,
Medford

February 21, 2010, 3:00 p.m.
SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

Spring 2010 Concert Series

May 22, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

May 23, 2010, 3:00 p.m.
Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater,
Medford

Chamber Music Series

December 12, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Historic First Presbyterian Church,
Jacksonville

December 13, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Oregon Shakespeare Festival's
Carpenter Hall, Ashland

Concerto Competition

February 1, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

Community Outreach Concerts Rogue Valley Manor

November 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
February 4, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
May 6, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Important News

From Our Conductor

Welcome from the YSSO Music Director

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and you are excited about joining us for another wonderful year of classical music. I look forward to working with everyone and I am confident the 2009-2010 season will be another outstanding year for the YSSO. I consider it a great privilege to be able to share the talents of our musicians with YSSO audiences, donors, parents and the community.

This season will include a wide variety of orchestral repertoire and will present all of the YSSO ensembles in concert. The Fall Concert Series will feature the second of the YSSO's 2009 Concerto Competition winners, Taylor Wood. Taylor is the first percussionist to perform as a soloist with the Youth Symphony and will perform Paul Creston's *Concertino for Marimba & Orchestra*. The work will be paired with Ludwig van Beethoven's elegant *Symphony No. 1*. Youth Orchestra will perform the "Finale" to Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and Verdi's *Overture to Nabucco*. This exciting music will get us started with great style and energy. During the winter term, the musicians in Youth Symphony will turn their attention to the more serious symphonic music of Johannes Brahms. The Youth Symphony will perform Brahms' *Symphony No. 4*, a lush and beautiful mature work. Youth Orchestra will perform Antonin Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8* and the *Light Cavalry Overture* by Franz von Suppé. The focus in the spring will be on the lighter side, featuring music for stage and film. The Youth Symphony will present John William's work for the motion picture *The Cowboys* and Aaron Copland's ballet suite *Rodeo*. The Youth Orchestra will perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom*

Taylor Wood, continued from previous page



Orchestra Student of the Year and AMS Band Student of the Year. She won the OSAA Solo and Ensemble District Competition (mallets) and placed third at the OSAA Solo and Ensemble State Competition (mallets). She has participated in the Britt Instrumental Jazz Camp, the Zimfest Zimbabwean Music Festival, Siskiyou Institute Workshops and

many other master classes and competitions.

A multi-instrumentalist, Taylor was drawn to the marimba because of its rich tone, warm colors and timbre, as well as the instrument's ability to communicate a range and depth of emotion. Its cross-cultural connections with

of the Opera and film composer Erich Korngold's music from the 1938 score for *Robin Hood and his Merry Men*.

In addition to Concert Series performances, the YSSO will continue to enhance, nurture and expand the musical growth of the musicians through its chamber music initiative. Chamber Music Series concerts will be presented in Jacksonville on December 12, 2009, at the Historic First Presbyterian Church and in Ashland on December 13, 2009, at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Carpenter Hall. I am excited about the opportunity for the musicians to work with professional music coaches and perform in small groups through this YSSO initiative again this year. The program offers another opportunity to develop musicianship and technique, and build camaraderie and teamwork skills. In addition to Concert Series and Chamber Music Series performance opportunities, YSSO musicians and ensembles will also present Community Outreach Concerts at the Rogue Valley Manor.

In closing, I wish to welcome both new and returning musicians to another outstanding season of music-making and character-building. As always, it is a pleasure to work with the YSSO's talented and dedicated young people and their families. For me, each Sunday afternoon 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 southern Oregon audiences again this year.

Cindy Hutton
Music Director & Conductor

world music styles and traditions offer musical interest both for the performer and listener. She also plays double bass, electric bass, piano, cello and percussion, and has studied Mbira, South African drumming and Zimbabwean marimba.

She wishes to thank her parents, school music teachers, the professional Zimbabwean marimba musicians with whom she has studied and worked, Dr. Terry Longshore and Jan Christensen for their wisdom, support and encouragement, and for teaching her to play from the heart. Each person has provided mentoring and inspiration on her personal journey of learning and discovery.

Taylor's post-high school plans include attendance at a music conservatory where she will major in music. She hopes to pursue a career as a professional musician.

Photos by Bryon DeVore

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's 2009-2010 concert season is underway! The board, the staff and the young musicians look forward to a wonderful year of learning and playing an amazing selection of music under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Cynthia Hutton, Faina Podolnaya and the terrific music coaches who work with the YSSO musicians.

On behalf of the YSSO governing board, I am excited and pleased to welcome eight new directors to the board: Wendy Arthur, Alan Bergstrom, Jolene Buccino, Grace Chu, Andrea Dunn, Dale Hardt, Peter Linington, and Ilana Rubinfeld. Our new directors offer diverse professional and community outreach skills to the organization. The board appreciates their willingness to share their knowledge and time with the YSSO. The YSSO board's long-time treasurer, Larry Cooper, retired from the board as did Cristina Sanz and we wish to thank them both for their service to the YSSO.

Board members Laura Barnes, Sarah Epstein, Wendy Arthur, Jolene Buccino, Virginia Silbowitz and Laura Winters planned a YSSO family event to kick-off the season. The YSSO Picnic was scheduled to take place at Grizzly Peak Winery in Ashland on October 17. Al and Virginia Silbowitz, owners of the winery, graciously agreed to host the event. Unfortunately, due to the wave of illness in the region and weather reports that were less than encouraging, the organizing committee elected to postpone the activity. Local businesses and companies donating items, food, beverages and equipment for this activity included John L. Scott Real Estate, Shop 'n' Cart, Cash & Carry, Costco Wholesale, Sherm's Markets, Franz Bakery and the McDonalds Corporation. The YSSO hopes to reschedule the picnic for another time later this year.

Last year, several YSSO parents and board members formed a Volunteer Steering Committee. The Steering Committee helps recruit, manage and coordinate volunteers for a variety of rehearsal, pre-concert and concert duties, including box office ticket sales, logistics, supervision, ushering, merchandise sales and rehearsal refreshments. If you wish to volunteer, a member of the Volunteer Steering Committee listed in this issue of the newsletter to learn more about these opportunities.

Throughout the summer and early fall, YSSO Executive Director Sharon Wilson has been managing operations, organizing schedules, researching and preparing funding requests and finalizing arrangements for auditions, performances and events. Her expertise and commitment to organization, planning and development continues to provide direction and stability for the organization.

I am pleased to share some recent funding news. To date, the following foundations, companies and agencies have awarded support for 2009-2010 initiatives, concerts and operations: Avista, Collins Foundation, City of Ashland, Carpenter Foundation, U.S. Bank, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. In addition, Southern Oregon Subaru, Volvo, Mitsubishi is providing Fall Concert Series Partner funding. The YSSO extends its appreciation to General Manager Gregg Sorensen for the company's interest in the musicians of the YSSO.

While the YSSO receives funding for special initiatives or activities from numerous foundations and agencies, typically more than 25 percent of the revenue needed to support the organization comes from contributed income. The YSSO needs the continued support of individuals to sustain the organization's music programs for young people, to offer affordable high-quality concerts for the public and to maintain day-to-day operations. As you plan your charitable giving for the year, please consider extending or increasing your investment in the mission of the YSSO or giving a gift in honor of a friend or family member.

The members of the governing board are grateful to all who serve and support the work of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon; whether musician, parent, volunteer, patron or teacher, your work and dedication enable the YSSO to continue to present outstanding learning opportunities and extraordinary concerts of classical music to southern Oregon audiences each year.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Anna Dunlap
President



PHOTO BY PAUL HOFFMAN

Volunteer News

The YSSO wishes to thank the parents and family members who donate hundreds of hours assisting with rehearsals, concerts and events each year. The YSSO looks forward to working with another group of dedicated volunteers this season.

Last season, the YSSO instituted new volunteer recruitment and communication procedures. The following members of the Volunteer Steering Committee and/or YSSO Governing Board will be coordinating volunteers this season. If you signed up assist with a volunteer task or duty, a Steering Committee member will contact you to remind you of the date, time and location of the volunteer activity. Questions about assignments may be directed to the appropriate contact person on the following list:

Volunteer Steering Committee & Coordinators

Anastasia Anderson ~ 826-8045
Ticket Sales & Comp Ticket Volunteers
Box Office Volunteers
Concert Program Insert Volunteers

Wendy Arthur ~ 734-9481
Rehearsal Refreshment Volunteers
Concert Hospitality Volunteers

Laura Barnes ~ 899-7429 or 944-2922
Orchestra/Symphony Music Librarian
Extended Rehearsal Volunteers

Larry Cooper ~ 482-5109 or 210-1458
Concert Logistics Volunteers

Anna Dunlap ~ 779-2164 or 210-0282
Poster Distribution Volunteers
Concert Supervision Volunteers

Sarah Epstein ~ 482-9813
Rehearsal Refreshment Volunteers &
Concert Hospitality Volunteers

Nicie Phillips ~ 664-3234
Concert Usher Volunteers

Linda Terry ~ 482-6725
Merchandise Sales Volunteers
Extended Rehearsal Volunteers

Marilyn Versteeg ~ 474-3277
Concert Supervision Volunteers