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Quarter NOTES



Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 2019-2020 Season in Review

In response to the pandemic, the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO), along with arts organizations, educational institutions, businesses, and venues suspended programs, canceled classes and events, and pivoted to remote work. Young people and families adapted to profound changes in work, home, and learning environments. Arts groups turned to technology and developed virtual programs to engage constituents. To help stabilize the nonprofit sector, foundations and agencies modified guidelines or expanded funding opportunities to help underwrite operating costs. Government assistance through CARES Act federal legislation provided direct programming funds and Small Business Administration loans to businesses, including nonprofit groups. Individual donors stepped up to help sustain the critical work of community organizations.

Prior to the pandemic, the arts and culture sector in the U.S. (nonprofit, commercial, education) was a \$919.7 billion industry supporting 5.2 million jobs. The sector represented 4.3 percent of the economy in 2019 according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The arts and cultural sector has had an impact on economic development, tourism, education, social cohesion, and the creative prosperity of communities.

Americans for the Arts, a national advocacy, research, and leadership association, surveyed arts organizations and agencies throughout the country to assess the human and financial impact of COVID-19 on the arts and cultural sector in the United States. More than 19,000 organizations responded to the survey. Of those, 11 percent were not confident of survival and 66 percent anticipated severe financial impact. Of the 906 Oregon nonprofits that participated in the survey, 11 percent were not confident of survival and 71 percent expected severe financial impact. In a May 2021 research update, Americans for the Arts reported that to date, financial losses to nonprofit arts and culture organizations are an estimated \$16.5 billion.

Despite social disruptions, heightened levels of stress and anxiety, and concerns about financial performance, nonprofits continued to have a positive impact on communities. The results of a survey conducted by the Public Interest Management Group (PIMG) in partnership with the Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO) and The Impact Foundry, showed that groups adapted to new protocols, board members and staff adjusted to remote work and meetings, and leaders maintained an

optimistic outlook for the future. Groups and leaders remained focused on mission, displayed resiliency, and crafted new strategies for interacting with constituents.

The YSSO adapted to the challenges of the past year by offering virtual classes and lectures, an online music project, and three streamed outreach concerts. Although the organization's two orchestras were unable to rehearse and perform, many Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra musicians from last season from throughout the Rogue Valley, as well as Southern Oregon University and Rogue Community College students, participated in these learning opportunities.

A virtual series of classes entitled *Music Theory for Performing Musicians* developed by YSSO music director & conductor, Cynthia Hutton, D.M.A. was offered during the fall 2020 term. The first class addressed pitch, treble and bass clefs, and the circle of fifths. The second class focused on rhythm, time signatures, divisions, and subdivisions. Week three offered instruction on pitch, rhythm, minor scales, circle of fifths in minor, compound time, and the dotted beat. Intervals - consonance, dissonance, major, minor, diminished, and augmented - were addressed in session four. The fifth session addressed triads and figured bass. Week six featured dominant and diminished seventh chords and harmonic cadence. The seventh class highlighted authentic, plagal, half, and deceptive cadences, song forms, blues, and modes. The series concluded with music in context, terms and symbols, and interpretation.

The winter 2021 virtual lecture series entitled *Bach to the Future: Great Works for Orchestra* was created and led by Dr. Hutton. The opening lecture - "The Origins of the Modern Orchestra" - highlighted Gabrieli, Monteverdi, J.S. Bach, (*The Brandenburg Concertos*), and Händel (*Water Music Suite for Orchestra*). "The Orchestra Evolves: The Rise of Absolute Music" focused on Haydn (*Symphonie No. 6, Symphonie No. 44, Symphonie No. 104*) and Mozart (*Symphony No. 40*). "The Age of Revolution" featured Mozart (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Dittersdorf (*Symphony No. 3 in C Major*) and Beethoven (*Symphony No. 3, Symphony No. 9*). "The Romantics and Their Orchestra" featured Berlioz (*Symphonie Fantastique*), Brahms (*Symphony No. 1*) and Wagner (*Leit Motifs in Opera*). "Nationalism in the Nineteenth Century" included Smetana (*The Moldau*), Verdi (*Nabucco*), Sibelius (*Finlandia*), and Tchaikovsky (*1812 Overture*). "The Expanding Orchestra" offered music by Mahler (*Symphony No. 1*) and (*Symphony*

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Membership News

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

As the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) organization concludes its thirty-third season of programs for young musicians, I would like to offer my gratitude to the individuals, foundations, and agencies providing financial assistance to the YSSO organization. The governing board, volunteers, families, musicians, and staff members appreciate each gift of support.

During a time of uncertainty, isolation, and stress-inducing challenges, the importance of the arts in our communities and lives has been amplified. Music resonates throughout communities and with people of all ages. Whether a young person's career path or calling is that of an engineer, educator, epidemiologist, nurse, physician, public administrator, civic or faith leader, professional musician, volunteer, parent, architect, attorney, accountant, or astronaut, she/he will be better prepared through teamwork, intellectual challenges, and social interaction. Involvement in the YSSO empowers young people, develops social cohesion, builds friendships, and nurtures skills and positive habits.

Your investment helps the YSSO maintain high artistic standards as well as present affordable concerts. The organization receives support through contributions from individuals, concert partner (sponsor) funding, and foundation 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, please know that every contribution makes an impact on the YSSO. Contributions from individuals help pay

for virtual classes and in-person training, rehearsal facilities, concert venues, music, 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 make a gift to honor a friend, colleague, musician, 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. Your gift may be tax-deductible. Please consult your professional tax advisor for details.

The public health crisis has had an enormous impact on young people, families, communities, businesses, organizations, and schools. It has also highlighted the value of interaction, cooperation, and collaboration. The YSSO looks forward to reconnecting with families, student musicians, educational institutions, community groups and the public-at-large in the coming season. As YSSO staff and board leaders plan programs and performances, the organization will emphasize best practices in instruction and performance, community engagement, planning and implementation, and decision-making. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon will remain dedicated to artistic quality, thoughtful governance and management, and careful stewardship of resources.

Thank you for investing in this resilient organization and its remarkable young musicians.

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

Governing Board

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Special Gifts to the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Several foundations, agencies and other funding sources awarded financial support this season. **The Carpenter Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, Dunlap Silsby Family Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Joe and Frances Naumes Family Foundation, the Oregon Arts Commission** (with funding from the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts), and the **Jackson County Cultural Coalition/Oregon Cultural Trust** (CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund for Cultural Support) provided support for virtual classes, concerts, music programs, and operations

In late 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 annual distribution from this permanent fund helps underwrite tuition and lesson assistance for participating YSSO musicians with financial need. This season, the Hewitt Fund distribution combined with bequests by **Robert T. Kuntz** and foundation support, enabled the YSSO to waive tuition for all 2020-2021 season musicians. The Hewitt Fund and Kuntz bequests expanded the organization's capacity to serve young musicians and offer exemplary music programs. The YSSO is grateful for these legacy gifts.

The financial support of these funds, foundations, agencies, and individuals helped ensure the financial stability of the YSSO during a time of uncertainty and unprecedented challenges. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon extends its thanks and appreciation to these funders, and individual donors for their support of and faith in the YSSO and its services for young people.

Important Information

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No. 8) and R. Strauss (*Alpine Symphony*). "New Sounds for a New Century" focused on Debussy (*La Mer*), Ives (*Symphony No. 4*) and Stravinsky (*The Rite of Spring*). The final lecture, "The Power of Music in Film," spotlighted film genres including Fantasy (J. Williams, *Harry Potter*), History (Horner, *Glory*), Western/American West (Morricone, *The Good Bad and the Ugly*; Broughton, *Silverado*), Horror (Hermann, *Psycho*; Carlos/Elkind, music editors for *The Shining*), and Leit Motif (J. Williams, *Star Wars*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Jaws*).

The spring 2021 virtual masterclass series entitled *Finding the Inner Musician: A Collaborative Masterclass* offered masterclasses moderated by Cindy Hutton. Sessions featured discussions about musicianship, self-confidence and poise, self-assessment tools, and provided musicians with the opportunity to share work with YSSO colleagues and receive constructive feedback in a positive environment. Sessions emphasized artistry, interpretation, and expression.

Beginning in the fall 2020 and extending through mid-January 2021, a large number of last season's Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra musicians collaborated on a virtual music project for full orchestra. The YSSO provided musicians with parts for an arrangement of music from Richard Wagner's opera *Die Meistersinger*, as well as listening examples, rehearsal tempos, and other guidance. Musicians worked independently to prepare parts. The YSSO subscribed to the online platform Soundtrap, developed instructions for use of the platform, and asked each musician to record his/her part within the YSSO project on Soundtrap. Once parts were recorded, the individual parts/files were "mixed." YSSO parent Rebecca Dyson provided advice, input, and technical assistance to the staff and musicians.

In addition to virtual programs, the YSSO presented three Community Outreach Concerts for Rogue Val-



ley Manor residents. Numerous soloists and small ensembles participated in the concerts. Noted pianist and pedagogue Alexander Tutunov accompanied several musicians. The concerts featured works for violin, bassoon, oboe, cello, horn, and ensemble by Bruch, Strauss, Khachaturian, J.S. Bach, Gardel, Piazzolla, Tchaikovsky, and Falla, among others. The Manor streamed the performances to residents.

It is the policy of the YSSO that all qualified student musicians may participate regardless of financial circumstances. In response to the hardships and stress brought about by the pandemic, devastating fires, and school disruptions, the governing board approved tuition waivers for participants in 2020-2021 season programs and activities. The YSSO is the sole beneficiary of the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation. Each year, an annual fund distribution helps support tuition waivers for musicians with financial need. Additional foundation support helped underwrite tuition waivers this season.

The Carpenter Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, Dunlap Silsby Family Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Joe and Frances Naumes Family Foundation, the Oregon Arts Commission, and the Jackson County Cultural Coalition/Oregon Cultural Trust (CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund for Cultural Support) provided operating and program support. Individual contributions provided additional revenue. The YSSO received bequests from Robert T. Kuntz. The organization also received an SBA PPP loan. The support of these foundations, agencies, and individuals ensured the financial stability of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon this season.

Looking forward, the YSSO will transition to in-person rehearsals and the exemplary musicians will return to the concert stage as soon as it is feasible and safe to do so. The organization is monitoring state and local directives, health and safety guidance, and restrictions concerning facility use. Musicians, school music teachers and private instructors, and family members interested in receiving information about the 2021-2022 season, are asked to send an inquiry via e-mail to the YSSO (info@yso.org). Please include the name of the musician, instrument(s), grade level in school, school, parent name(s), telephone number, and e-mail address.

Your Support is Appreciated!



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. Please 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. 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
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P.O. Box 4291
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Positive News

Young Musicians in a Pandemic

by Patty Klein

Participation in music enriches the fabric of young musician's lives, uplifting their creative, social, and emotional well-being. It builds listening and collaborative skills, inquisitiveness and expressiveness. It builds friendships and community. So what happens when a history changing virus causes a worldwide public health emergency, a pandemic? Sunday, March 8, 2020, was the last rehearsal that YSSO musicians collaborated in person. They were left grappling with a rapidly changing world. A world that canceled their school, rehearsals, performances, lessons and socializing. A year later, what does a young musician's musical world look like? We asked them.

Music lessons in the pandemic have developed into virtual lessons, practicing has been re-focused and technology is the mode of communication. Clara Dyson is an eleventh grade musician who plays oboe for the Youth Symphony. She finds virtual lessons can be difficult, with technical challenges cutting the sound off intermittently and the mic not picking up all the nuances of her playing. Alden Hill, a senior Youth Symphony violinist, finds some things harder to receive instruction through virtual lessons. His violin teacher would often physically move him positionally, something that is harder to communicate in the virtual lessons. Technology has also opened up new opportunities. Clara tells us that musicians have found more options for private instruction. Not having to travel for virtual lessons has provided options for scheduling as well as options for lessons from instructors outside the area. Magdalene Von Strahl, a senior who plays violin in the Youth Symphony, "It [the pandemic] has given me more time to practice, especially pieces I want to learn, however it has taken away my motivation since I can't perform." This was a thought expressed by most of the musicians. The motivation to practice shifting from a performance goal to the freedom of choosing their own pieces to work on. "I have enjoyed spending more time on solo pieces and developing my skills that way," said senior Adelle Robison, a Youth Symphony cellist.

Rehearsing and performing together has been a rite lost in the pandemic, one that enhanced musicianship and formed friendships. Clara "finds it harder to be motivated to work on ensemble pieces with no performance goal." Adelle said, "The pandemic has limited the types of pieces I can play with ensembles like the YSSO and



has prevented us from meeting to play together, which is always a valuable experience." Musicians often find online platforms difficult to use for ensemble-playing. "Only one person can play at a time," says Nathan Wick, eighth grade Youth Orchestra bass player. The time lag online makes it impossible to play in synchronicity. Synchrony is a powerful tool that creates a sense of belonging. Because he tends to be a perfectionist, Alden finds recording pieces for Soundtrap and similar programs difficult to decide when a piece is finished and ready to submit. "I find myself doing it over and over till I get something I like," he said. Nathan finds "programs don't always register notes correctly." A benefit that Clara finds in Soundtrap is in its ability to inform her about what was correct and what needed improvement in her recordings. Each musician expressed a longing to rehearse and perform with each other, that being together in person is better. There is a collective energy that comes from being together. Dr. Karissa Niehoff is the executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations, "The pandemic hopefully has helped us to become better people-thankful and appreciative for what we have." "We definitely have learned that nothing can replace parents, students and others in the community when it comes to lending positive support... We have missed the cheers, the applause, the encouragement... JWe have missed being together."

Albert Einstein said, "If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music... I get most joy in life out of music." The shutdown has compelled our musicians to be stretched beyond comfort. Through the disappointments and challenges of these times they are discovering joy through musically moving forward with tenacity, flexibility, refocusing, and by grasping new opportunities.

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

Sharon Wilson, Executive Director

I wish to offer my appreciation to all of the musicians, families, and governing board directors who endured difficult circumstances and persevered despite enormous challenges over the past year.

Musicians & Families: To the musicians, thank you for participating in the YSSO's online programs and for adapting to the virtual learning environment. Thank you to the YSSO families for supporting the organization and the musicians during a stressful time. The YSSO offers its thanks and appreciation to school music teachers and private instructors for providing guidance, support, and music opportunities for young people.

Governing Board:

I wish to express my thanks to Stacy Brubaker, Kriko Michaels, Shanée Von Strahl, Sally Snyder, Tanya Kerr, Mary Jane Morrison, Collette Rotter, Charla Crawford, Jill Savino, and Tisha Woolf for their hard work, positive attitudes, and commitment to the YSSO mission as

the organization navigated uncharted waters. A special note of appreciation goes to Ann Godwin who retires from the board as of June 30, 2021, following six years of board service. Although board and committee meetings were conducted remotely this season, directors and staff came together to oversee programs, monitor financial position, and formulate plans for the future.



In Appreciation...

Operations: The YSSO offers its appreciation to Angel McDonald for her work on the newsletter, Ingrid Perry (NP Bookkeeping by ID, LLC) for bookkeeping assistance, and Rory Tosh, CPA (Partner, KDP Certified Public Accountants, LLP) for preparing the annual reports. Thank you to Patty Klein for her work on administrative tasks, senior profiles, and the music library. Kudos to Cindy Hutton for developing and leading fall, winter and spring term virtual lectures and classes. Thank you to Rebecca Dyson for assisting staff with the Soundtrap music project.

Funders: In addition to annual gifts and contributions from individuals and families, the YSSO received funding from the Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, Dunlap Silsby Family Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Joe and Frances Naumes Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, a state

agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts, Pacific Power Foundation, the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation, the Jackson County Cultural Coalition/ Oregon Cultural

Trust (CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund for Cultural Support), as well as bequests from Robert T. Kuntz. Thank you to Kris Yenney of the Cage Free Musicians and Virginia and Al Silbowitz, owners of Grizzly Peak Winery for organizing and hosting a concert in May to benefit the YSSO.

Facilities & Venues: Although the YSSO was unable to present the multi-performance fall, winter, spring Concert Series, Chamber Music Series performances, or the Concerto Competition this season, the Rogue Valley Manor enabled the YSSO to present several solo musicians and small groups in performances streamed to Manor residents. Thank you to Mary Jane Morrison and Bert Chumbler for facilitating and coordinating three Community Outreach Concerts this season.

Thank you to all for your commitment to sustaining the work of cultural arts organizations in our communities, as well as music education programs, affordable and accessible concerts. Thank you for transforming lives and for contributing to 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.



BRYCE BOGGS *Symphony, Violin*

Principal second violin of the Youth Orchestra, Bryce Boggs joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in 2019. He is a senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS). In addition to the YSSO, Bryce performed with the GPHS String Orchestra. His music teacher at GPHS is Krista Debolt. Brian and Judi Boggs are Bryce's parents.

JULIE BURNS *Symphony, Viola*

Daughter of Ramon Burns and Sharon Reagan, Julie is a high school senior who attends Rogue Community College. She has been principal viola in the Youth Symphony. When Julie was eight years old, her mom had a violin restrung as a viola for her and she joined her siblings in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon. A favorite YSSO memory for Julie was performing in the same group with her siblings. Julie has studied viola privately with Scott Cole for 10 years. She wishes to thank her family and teachers for helping her become a better musician.

A work that Julie found challenging to play was *Romanian Rhapsody* by Georges Enesco. "I found it difficult because of all the high shifts, fast passages, and getting the timing right," she remembers. She enjoyed learning new music and making new friends in the YSSO. Her advice to future YSSO musicians is "Don't forget to practice your parts because it will show in rehearsals. And bring your own snacks." After high school Julie plans to pursue a career in the medical field.



JULIA FERGUSON *Symphony, Horn*

Principal French horn of the Youth Symphony, Julia Ferguson joined the YSSO following a visit to her sixth-grade class by YSSO music director Cynthia Hutton. Following the visit, Dr. Hutton recruited her to play in the Youth Orchestra. Julia shared that she enjoys the horn because, "Its sound is rich and sonorous." She has found it challenging to hear each note clearly before playing it. Julia has studied horn with Cynthia Hutton for six years and noted that she is thankful for Dr. Hutton's encouragement. A senior at Ashland High School (AHS), Julia participated in the AHS Wind Ensemble led by Travis Moddison whom she credits with shaping who she is through his kindness and energy. Julia has also played in the Western International Band Clinic and the Oregon Music Education Association All State Orchestra. Julia's parents are Kirsten and Deltra Ferguson.

Julia said a favorite part of being in the YSSO was making music with awesome friends. She discovered her love for classical music through the works performed by the Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony, including *The Planets* by Gustav Holst.

Julia will be attending the Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music where she plans to major in French horn performance.



GENOVA HARTLEY *Symphony, Cello*

Genova Hartley joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in the winter 2019. She has played in the Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony, and she participated in the 2019 Chamber Music Series. Genova is a senior at Ashland High School (AHS). In addition to the YSSO she plays in the AHS Chamber Orchestra. Lauren Trolley is her music teacher at AHS. Genova is the daughter of Athena Hartley.



ALDEN HILL *Symphony, Violin*

An Eagle Point home school senior, Alden Hill has participated in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon since the fall 2019. Alden shared that he has enjoyed how the sounds of the instruments blend together. The beautiful recurring themes in Giacomo Puccini's *Preludio Sinfonico* it a favorite work to play. His advice to future YSSO musicians is to enjoy your instrument and practice diligently.

Alden has studied violin privately with Gabrielle Johnson. His current private teacher is Faina Podolnaya. He shared that virtual lessons, virtual performances, and "porch concerts" are some of the challenges and opportunities brought about due to the pandemic.

Alden wishes to thank his parents Michael and Marti Hill, for their encouragement and investment of time in his musical pursuits. He is also grateful for the many years of support from Roy Sutton and Donna Ritchie. Following high school, Alden plans to continue studying film music composition.



ELIZABETH MOORE *Symphony, Violin*

A Medford home school senior, violinist Elizabeth Moore joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon when she was a high school sophomore in the fall 2018. She studies violin privately with Heidi Smith. Elizabeth is the daughter of Cheri Moore.

ADELLE ROBINSON *Symphony, Cello*

Adelle Robison has been involved in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon since she was in the seventh grade. She has been a member of both the Youth Orchestra and the Youth Symphony. A senior at Ashland High School (AHS), Adelle participated in the AHS Chamber Orchestra conducted by Lauren Trolley. She has studied cello privately with Beth Goldstein and Tom Stauffer. Daughter of Jason and Anne Robison, Adelle says she has always been inspired by her mom. "I admire how dedicated she has been to the cello and how she always finds the time to play...hearing her play inspires me to keep working hard at my instrument," she shared.



"*The Planets* by Gustav Holst has been one of my favorite works since I first played [the movement] *Jupiter* with the Youth Orchestra. Having the chance to play [the] *Mars* and *Venus* [movements] when I joined the Youth Symphony was a really incredible experience," Adelle reminisced. Another of Adelle's favorite YSSO memories was performing Ludwig von Beethoven's *String Quartet No. 4 in C Minor, Op. 18* in a YSSO Chamber Music Series concert. "It was an exciting challenge to work on a piece with a small ensemble and [it was] rewarding to perform." Adelle is a National Merit Semifinalist, AP Scholar with Honor, National Honor Society member, and a member of Mu Alpha Theta.

KATELYN SAVINO *Symphony, Violin*

Katelyn Savino, a senior at Rogue Valley Adventist Academy, attended Cascade Christian High School as a freshman, sophomore, and junior. In 2020, Katelyn was selected as one of the winners of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's (YSSO) Concerto Competition. She also served as Youth Symphony assistant concertmaster during the 2019-2020 season. She has participated in the YSSO for 11 years. Katelyn joined at the recommendation of her private teacher, Faina Podolnaya, with whom she has studied with for 11 years. In addition to the YSSO, Katelyn has played with Siskiyou Violins and the Rogue Valley Symphony. Joe and Jill Savino are Katelyn's parents.

Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture by Piotr I. Tchaikovsky was one of the works Katelyn enjoyed performing with the Youth Symphony. "The themes throughout the piece are so lovely and dramatic, showing every ounce of affection and suspense," she reminisced. She also shared that she loved connecting with and building friendships with people through the rehearsal process and performances.

Katelyn received a Superior Rating in 2020 from the Oregon Band Directors Association State Solo Invitational, a First Place-Violin in the Oregon Music Education Association 2020 District 8 Solo Music Contest, and she is a Brookings-Harbor Friends of Music Scholarship Winner. She will be attending Southern Adventist University where she will pursue a degree in business administration and minor in music.



MAGDALENE VON STRAHL *Symphony, Violin*

Magdalene Von Strahl is a senior at South Medford High School (SMHS). She was in the sixth grade when she joined the YSSO. Magdalene shared that she often found the most challenging music, such as *The Planets, Suite for Large Orchestra* by Gustav Holst, became favorite works. She noted that she has a vivid memory of an early rehearsal when she was aware that the music was starting to coalesce. Throughout her involvement in the organization, Maggie shared that she has loved learning and performing powerful, emotional music.

Maggie studies violin privately with Heidi Smith. In addition to the YSSO, she performs with the SMHS Chamber Orchestra, led by Zoryn Thompson, and Siskiyou Violins, conducted by Faina Podolnaya. Paul and Shanée VonStrahl are her parents. Magdalene is especially grateful for her mother's encouragement to be her best.

When asked about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on music instruction and playing her violin, Maggie shared that although the situation has afforded more practice time it has also reduced personal motivation due to the absence of performance opportunities.



Maggie will be attending the University of Utah where she will study physics and music composition.