

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Post Office Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501-0163

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Membership News

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

Thank you for attending concerts and for investing in the vision, values, mission, and musicians of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon for thirty-five years. After a hiatus due to the pandemic, the musicians returned to the concert stage as a Combined Symphony-Orchestra last season. This season, the organization's 35th Anniversary, the YSSO presented two full orchestras: Youth Symphony (advanced) and Youth Orchestra (intermediate/preparatory).

Music brings together people of all ages and makes connections with history and cultures. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon expands access to arts opportunities, augments school programs, and improves the quality of life in our region. The YSSO enhances the Rogue Valley's arts sector and offers exemplary music programs for young people. Whether a career path or calling is that of an engineer, educator, nurse, physician, public administrator, civic or faith leader, professional musician, volunteer, parent, architect, attorney, accountant, or astronaut, each young person will be better prepared through teamwork, intellectual challenges, and social interaction. Involvement in the YSSO empowers young people, develops social bonds, builds friendships, and nurtures positive habits.

Concerts, initiatives, and operations are supported through annual gifts from individuals, foundation and agency grants, ticket sales, tuition, and fund-raising activities. Though the YSSO organization charges annual tuition, all qualified musicians may participate regardless of financial circumstances. Each season, 40-45 percent or more of the musicians receive financial assistance. An annual distribution from the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of

Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation provides support for tuition and lesson assistance; however, the organization needs additional support from individuals and foundations to underwrite training, performances, concert production expenses and operations, as well as to maintain high artistic standards and financial stability, and to ensure assistance for YSSO musicians with financial need.

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. Contributions may be sent via mail to the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501. Each gift has an impact on the mission of the YSSO organization and its future. Please take this opportunity to renew your annual contribution to the organization or make an additional gift to honor a friend, family member, musician, or colleague. The YSSO needs your support! A contribution of any amount is appreciated.

I would like to offer my gratitude to the individuals, foundations, and agencies providing financial assistance to the organization. The governing board, volunteers, families, musicians, and staff members appreciate each gift of support.

Thank you again for attending the performances and for investing in the YSSO.

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Volume 33 • Spring 2023

Quarter NOTES



Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 35th Anniversary Season concludes with works by Mendelssohn, Márquez, Stravinsky and others

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon will conclude its 35th Anniversary Season with performances on Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Oregon Center for the Arts' Music Recital Hall on the Southern Oregon University campus in Ashland and at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21 at the Collier Center's Craterian Theater in Medford. The concert program includes music by Felix Mendelssohn, Gustav Holst, Arturo Márquez, Hans Zimmer, and others. Tickets are \$15 (general/adult) and \$10 (students w/I.D.) and will be available at the performances. Advance tickets (cash/check only) for both concerts are available at Artistic Piano, 112 West Main Street in Medford. Advance tickets for the concert on May 21 are available through the Craterian Theater box office (541-779-3000).

The Youth Symphony will play the *Berceuse and Finale* from "The Firebird Suite" by Igor Stravinsky (arr. Isaac), *Conga del Fuego Nuevo* by Arturo Márquez, *Hopak* from the comic opera "Sorochinsky Fair" by Modest Mussorgsky (arr. Lyadov; ed. McAlister), and the first movement of Felix Mendelssohn's *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in E minor, Op. 64*. Co-Concertmaster of the Youth Symphony, T.J. Snyder, one of the winners of the 2023 Concerto Competition and music student at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass, is the featured violin soloist.

The Youth Orchestra will play *Jupiter, The Bringer of Jollity* from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst (arr. Leidig), *Mexicana*, an arrangement by Robert Bauernschmidt, and *Scenes from The Old West* by Bob Cerulli. Musicians in the Youth Orchestra will join the Youth Symphony for a combined performance of music from the film score for *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* by Hans Zimmer (arr. Lavender/Longfield). Music Director and Conductor Cynthia Hutton, D.M.A., will lead the orchestras. Graduating seniors will be honored at the performance on Sunday afternoon.



Accomplished public school, private school, home school and college brass, string, percussion, and woodwind musicians from Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass, Jacksonville, Central Point, Eagle Point, Talent, Phoenix, Klamath Falls, Williams, and other communities participated in the Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra this season.

The Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, Dunlap Silsby Family Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Joe and Frances Naumes Family Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation, and the Sharkey Foundation awarded support this season. In addition, YSSO concerts and operations were funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Dunlap Silsby Foundation and Sharon Wilson provided Concert Series Partner support for the winter performances. The annual distribution from the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation helped underwrite tuition and lesson assistance for participating YSSO musicians with financial need. YSSO initiatives and operations have been underwritten by gifts from Robert T. Kuntz, as well as through contributions from individuals, tuition, ticket sales, and foundation grants.

Founded in 1988, the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing young musicians with opportunities to expand their knowledge of classical music by learning and performing challenging repertoire. The YSSO provides exceptional performance experiences and training for young musicians under the leadership of a professional conductor and professional musicians and fosters lifelong appreciation of music and the arts. For more information, contact the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501, 541-858-8859, info@yso.org or visit: yso.org. Photographs are by Cari Baker Photography.

Governing Board Officers

Clay Alumbaugh
President

Sally Snyder
Vice President

Tisha Woolf
Treasurer

Charla Crawford
Secretary

Directors

Rebecca Dyson
Carolina Livi
Mary Jane Morrison
Chiharu Sai
Renia Shterenberg
Shaneé Von Strahl
Ben Wayman

Staff

Dr. Cynthia Hutton
Conductor &
Music Director

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

Patty Klein
Executive Assistant

Oliver Maude
Orchestra Assistant

David Johnson
Stage Manager

Owen Lucas
Payton Mustain
Assistant Stage Managers

Cari Baker
Cari Baker Photography
Angel McDonald
Newsletter Design
Ingrid Perry
NP Bookkeeping by ID, LLC
David Ruppe Impact Publications
Graphic Design
Rory Tosh, Linda Houck, Macy
Smetzler KDP CPA, LLP
KDP Certified Public Accountants, LLP
Ryan D. Suvoy, Senior Vice President
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

Youth
Symphony
of Southern Oregon

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



T.J. Snyder, violin
2023 Concerto
Competition Winner

Co-Concertmaster of the Youth Symphony and one of the winners of the 2023 Concerto Competition, violinist T.J. Snyder has participated in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) since 2019. The son of Travis Snyder and Sally Snyder, T. J. began violin study at the age of ten. A resident of Grants Pass, he attends Rogue Community College (RCC) where he is a music student of Chiharu Sai, D.M.A. His current private violin teacher is Abigail Wilensky. He has also studied violin privately with Cynthia Courmoyer. T.J.'s teacher at Grants Pass High School (GPHS) was Krista Debolt. In addition to his involvement in the YSSO, T.J. participates in the RCC Chamber Ensemble. While a student at GPHS, he was a member of the school's Chamber Orchestra. T.J.'s post-college goal is to play in a professional symphony orchestra.

T.J. shared that Felix Mendelssohn's *Concerto in E minor for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 64*, the work he will play with the Youth Symphony, is one of his favorite concertos due to its lyrical elegance and finesse, rich expression, virtuosic demands, and technical challenges. T.J. will play the first movement, *Allergo molto appassionato*, which features a haunting melody and a unique mid-movement cadenza. The work is a cornerstone of the repertoire and ranks among the finest violin concerti of the nineteenth century.

Important Information

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon Special Gifts, Funds and Endowment



The governing board of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon entered a formal partnership with The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) in 2006 to manage and administer an **Endowment Partner Fund** for the YSSO. The mission of The OCF is to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. It is a statewide nonprofit foundation established in 1973 as a vehicle for Oregonians to increase philanthropy. The OCF works with individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to create charitable funds to support the critical work of nonprofits throughout Oregon. Funding from the estate of Robert Johnson and gifts from individuals and families provided the seed money for the YSSO organization's initial investment with The OCF. Contributors to the YSSO Endowment Fund to date include Penny Lee Austin, Alan Bergstrom, Hardt Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, Robert Johnson Estate, Michael Klein, Sharon Minchow, Neil and Davida Stockton, Ron and Lynda Weinhold, and Sharon Wilson.

In 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**. An annual distribution from this permanent fund helps underwrite tuition and lesson assistance for participating YSSO musicians with financial need. The establishment of the fund expands the organization's capacity to serve aspiring young musicians and supports inclusion and access.

Recent bequests from **Robert T. Kuntz** form the core of the YSSO organization's **Reserve Fund**. The fund helps sustain the community benefit mission of the YSSO, supports initiatives and operations, and strengthens the organization's financial position.

The YSSO governing board, staff, and musicians are grateful for these extraordinary legacy gifts.

Music Coaches, Adjudicators, Accompanists

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, guest musicians and mentors, and accompanists, and for providing technical assistance this season:

Dale Bradley, Lori Calhoun, James Dyson, Jodi French, Mark E. Jacobs, Kristin Kessler, Faina Podolnaya, Renia Shterenberg, Emily Severson, Nancie Linn Shaw, Cynthia Stauffer, Kathleen Strahm, Anna-Christina Streletz, Alexander Tutunov, and Andrew Zucker.

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Musicians interested in participating in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon should contact the YSSO (info@yso.org). Information about the 2023-2024 Concert Season will be available online in late July.



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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Composer's Circle | \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musician's Circle | \$2,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate | \$25 |

Please mail your gift to: **Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon**
P.O. Box 4291
Medford, OR 97501

Name(s): _____

(as you wish the name/s to appear in the concert series program)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

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

Please charge the gift to my: Visa MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____ Expiration: _____

Senior Profiles Continued

Isiah Williams, Youth Symphony Viola



Isiah Williams is a senior at Grants Pass High School. In addition to his involvement in the Spring 2023 Concert Series, Isiah performed with the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon during the abbreviated 2019-2020 season and played in the Fall 2019 Concert Series and the Winter 2020 Concert Series. He is the son of Mary Williams.



Max Woolf, Youth Symphony Percussion

Max Woolf, a South Medford High School senior, is the son of Neil and Tisha Woolf. Max joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon percussion section in his senior year. He enjoys performing and quickly learned to play timpani by participating in both the Youth Orchestra and the Youth Symphony. His primary instrument is the piano which he has studied since he was five years old. Max is active in sports, his church group, and is a strong academic student. Following graduation Max plans to serve as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and then will pursue a college degree.



Kristy Yan, Youth Symphony Violin

Kristy Yan is a South Medford High School senior. She performs in the South Medford High School Chamber Orchestra. Her school music teacher is Zoryn Thompson. Kristy studies violin with Ben Gardner. Her parents are Donovan Simpson and Daqiong Wang.

In Appreciation...

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

Sharon Wilson, Executive Director

I wish to offer my appreciation to everyone who participated in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's 35th Anniversary Season.

Musicians & Families: To the musicians, thank you for participating in the weekly rehearsals, preparing music, and performing with the Youth Orchestra or Youth Symphony this season. The YSSO offers its thanks and appreciation to parents and family members, school music teachers, and private instructors for providing guidance and support this year. A special note of appreciation to the alumni who participated in the celebratory Youth Symphony & Alumni Concert this season, especially soloists Sean Bullock, Clara Haptonstall, Kate Savino, Kathleen Strahm, Abby Young, and Gabe Young.

Governing Board: The organization offers its thanks to governing board directors Clay Alumbaugh, Sally Snyder, Tisha Woolf, Charla Crawford, Shanée Von Strahl, Mary Jane Morrison, Chiharu Sai, Renia Shterenberg, Rebecca Dyson, Ben Wayman, and Carolina Livi for their commitment to the YSSO and its music education mission. A heartfelt thank you to Mary Jane Morrison and Shanée Von Strahl both of whom retire from the board as of June 30, 2023, after six years of devoted service. The staff and board will miss you!

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 KDP Certified Public Accountants, LLP for preparing annual reports. The YSSO offers its appreciation to Mark Jacobs for providing program notes and to the music coaches and school music teachers who mentored the musicians. Thank you to Patty Klein for her work on administrative tasks, senior profiles, concert

music, and maintaining the YSSO's music collection. Thank you to Oliver Maude and Ellie Crawford for their work as orchestra assistants this season, and to stage manager David Johnson and his team, Owen Lucas, Payton Mustain, and Caleb Landis.

Funders: In addition to annual gifts and contributions from individuals and families, the YSSO received funding from the Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian 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, and the Sharkey Foundation, and a distribution from the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation. Bequests from Robert T. Kuntz continue to help underwrite initiatives and operating costs.

Facilities & Venues: Thank you to Mary Jane Morrison for facilitating live-streamed Community Outreach Concerts for the residents of the Rogue Valley Manor and Bert Chumbler for concert publicity. The YSSO would also like to thank the Medford School District Facilities Office and the staff at North Medford High School, the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center, and the Oregon Center for the Arts at Southern Oregon University. Thank you to Anna Wayman, Compass House in Medford, for hosting the YSSO pancake breakfast.

Thank you to all for your commitment to the work of cultural arts organizations in our communities, as well as music education programs and 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 for years to come.



Concerto Competition & Alumni Concert

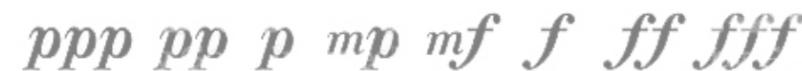
2023 Concerto Competition

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's annual Concerto Competition was held on January 31, 2023, at the Oregon Center for the Arts Music Recital Hall at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. Advanced-level Youth Symphony musicians competed for an opportunity to play with the Youth Symphony as a soloist. This year's participants included Dalton Burchette, Emily Bullock, Lucas Bower, James Dyson, and T.J. Snyder. The musicians performed excerpts from works by Bruch, J. Haydn, W.A. Mozart, and Mendelssohn. T.J. Snyder and James Dyson were selected as winners. T.J. will be the featured soloist in the Spring 2023 Concert Series and James will be featured during the 2023-2024 Concert Season. Judges for the 2023 Concerto Competition were Kristin Kessler and Kathleen Strahm.



Youth Symphony & Alumni Concert

In celebration of the YSSO's 35th Anniversary a Youth Symphony & Alumni Concert was presented in December at the Craterian Theater. The program included the *Concerto for Four Violins in B minor, Op. 3, No. 10* by Antonio Vivaldi, J.S. Bach's *Concerto for Oboe & Violin in C minor*, the third movement of Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in A Major, Hungarian Dances 5 & 6* by Brahms (Ryden), *Romanian Rhapsody No. 2* by Georges Enesco (Rich), and other works. Featured soloists included Clara Haptonstall, clarinet, Gabe Young, oboe, Abby Young, violin, Kathleen Strahm, violin, and Sean Bullock, violin. Music Director & Conductor Cynthia Hutton led the musicians. The Dunlap Silsby Family Foundation and Sharon Wilson provided Concert Partner support for the performance.



Alumni Concert Soloists



Top: Sean Bullock, Clara Haptonstall, Kate Savino Bottom: Abby Young, Kathleen Strahm, Gabe Young

Emily Bullock, Youth Symphony Violin



Emily Bullock is a senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS) and has participated in the YSSO since she was ten years old. In addition to the YSSO, Emily performs with the GPHS Chamber Orchestra. Emily thanks her parents, David and Kirsten Bullock, for supporting her pursuit of music, and Sean Bullock, her brother, for inspiring her to be better. She is grateful for her private teacher, Cynthia Cournoyer, and her school music teachers, Laura Boldon and Krista Debolt, taught her the skills she would need to succeed, to play technically, to express emotion, and to be a leader. She credits her parents, brother, and teachers with having given her opportunities to be creative and to enjoy the wonderful community of musicians.

The Planets, Suite for Large Orchestra by Gustav Holst is a work that Emily enjoyed performing with the YSSO because of its epic sound. Other favorite YSSO memories Emily shared include musicians going to Sheri's Restaurant after concerts as well as playing in the Chamber Music Series. Emily has participated in the OMEA All-State Orchestras. She plans to attend Oregon State University and study environmental biology.



Jirapreeya (Tawan) Buranathamawat, Youth Symphony Bass

South Medford High School (SMHS) senior Tawan Buranathamawat joined the YSSO when she was in the ninth grade. She is the Youth Symphony's principal bass this season. In addition to the YSSO, Tawan is the principal bass with the SMHS Chamber Orchestra, directed by Zoryn Thompson, and she plays with the Rogue Valley Symphony. She studies privately with David Miller who started her on the bass when she was eleven years old. "He has helped develop me into the musician I am today," Tawan states. Tawan's parents are Sirasak (Hut) and Niparat (Tuk) Buranathamawat. Tawan thanks her mom for supporting her love for music even though she chose a difficult instrument to store and move. Tawan has enjoyed playing with the other double bass players in the YSSO and making so many friends. Favorite YSSO memories for Tawan include being able to hang out with the different sections before performances and performing *The Composer is Dead* by Nathaniel Stookey and

Lemony Snickett because every instrument had a chance to be "spotlighted" in the work. Tawan will be attending Southern Oregon University where she will pursue a degree in sustainability.



Dalton Burchette, Youth Symphony Viola

Grants Pass High School (GPHS) senior Dalton Burchette is viola section co-principal in his first year with the YSSO. Dalton was drawn to the deep-toned viola when he was nine years old. He shared that he has enjoyed playing challenging music like Antonin Dvořák's *Serenade for String Orchestra*. A favorite YSSO memory for Dalton was participating in the 35th Anniversary Season Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert with his private music instructor Michael Sorensen, a YSSO alumnus. He has also studied viola with Tommy Moore. Dalton has played in the GPHS Chamber Orchestra and the OMEA All-State Orchestra. His school music teacher is Krista Debolt. Dalton is the son of Joshua and Chelsea Burchette. Dalton would like to thank his church music director, Kate Campbell, for her contagious love of music, her encouragement, and her continuous support. Upon graduation, Dalton plans to attend Oregon State University to study engineering.

Sawyer Conlogue, Youth Symphony Trombone

Sawyer Conlogue is a senior at North Medford High School. He has been a member of the Youth Symphony's trombone section throughout the 2022-2023 season. His mother is Amy Conlogue. Sawyer plans to attend Rogue Community College next year.



Molly Crawford, Youth Symphony Violin

A senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS), Molly Crawford began to play the violin when she was eleven years old. Her parents are Michael and Charla Crawford. Molly is grateful for her mother's encouragement and for persuading her to audition for the YSSO. Krista Debolt is Molly's private instructor as

well as her school music teacher. Molly plays with the GPHS Honor Orchestra and GPHS String Orchestra. Molly says she will have fond YSSO memories of spending time working on challenging works and then getting to perform them. Favorite works she was excited to perform with the YSSO were *Hungarian Dances No. 5 & No. 6* by Johannes Brahms. Her advice to future YSSO musicians, "Have fun with it! The music is going to be challenging, but if you can have fun and laugh then the whole experience will be so much more fun." Molly will pursue a degree in history at the University of Colorado Springs.



Myles DeAngelo, Youth Symphony Violin

South Medford High School (SMHS) senior Myles DeAngelo began playing the violin when he was eleven years old. His decision to join his middle school orchestra was influenced by a violin he had previously been given as a Christmas present. He studies violin privately with Ben Gardner. In addition to the YSSO, Myles performs with the SMHS Concert Orchestra and the SMHS Chamber Orchestra conducted by Zoryn Thompson. When asked what he enjoyed most about playing in the YSSO Myles replied, "The feeling when we're all playing together, when everything sounds tuned and all of our parts are complimentary, it's extremely cathartic. Playing with others, especially with such a large and diverse group as symphony, it's a really profound experience for me." A favorite work Myles liked working on and performing with the Youth Symphony was *Romanian Rhapsody* by Georges Enesco. "It was quite difficult to learn but a beautiful, fun piece to play," he shared. Myles intends to be dual enrolled at Rogue Community College studying digital arts and media and at Southern Oregon University pursuing music performance and theory.



Shyannah Jackson, Youth Symphony Clarinet

A North Medford High School senior, Shyannah Jackson is a member of the North Medford High School Wind Ensemble. Steve Kessler is her school music teacher. Shyannah's parents are Jeremiah Jackson and Sherea Parnell. This season was Shyannah's first season in the YSSO. She was a member of the Youth Symphony clarinet section.



Natalie Jones, Youth Symphony Flute

Natalie Jones is the daughter of Don and Julie Jones. She is a senior at St. Mary's School. Shelly Granger is Natalie's private flute and piccolo instructor. She has participated in the YSSO since she was in the eighth grade and has played in both the Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony.

Stella Mason, Youth Symphony Cello

Stella Mason is a senior at Ashland High School (AHS). When asked what influenced her choice of instrument Stella shared that she chose the cello because "it was the one I didn't have to hold up." She studies privately with Lisa Truelove. Stella has performed in the AHS Concert Orchestra and AHS Chamber Orchestra. Her school music teacher is Lauren Trolley. Stella is the daughter of Alianor True and Alan Mason. She is grateful for their support, encouragement, transportation, and help with her instruments.



Piotr Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* was one of her favorite works to play with the YSSO because it inspired personal growth. The grandeur and challenge of the music with a full ensemble is something Stella will remember. She also enjoyed meeting musicians from different schools and connecting through music. Stella is an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Commended Scholar, and AHS Valedictorian. She will study chemistry at Cornell University.

Thomas Mitchell, Youth Symphony Trumpet

Thomas Mitchell is a senior at North Medford High School (NMHS). He started playing the trumpet when he was eleven years old. Thomas was encouraged to audition for the YSSO by his eighth-grade music teacher David Sommers. His current music teacher, Steve Kessler, convinced him to play the trumpet, telling him he had the perfect embouchure for it. Thomas is thankful Mr. Kessler pushed him to be his best. He performs in the NMHS Jazz Ambassadors and the NMHS Wind Ensemble. Thomas is the son of Alice Mitchell and Steve Mitchell



The amazing sound and trumpet solos in John Williams' *Superman March* and James Horner's score for the film *Apollo 13* made these pieces Thomas' favorite works to play with the YSSO. His advice to future YSSO musicians is, "Strive to be your best." Thomas plans to participate in the Fire Science program at Rogue Community College.

Elijah Rimes, Youth Symphony Viola

Elijah Rimes is the Youth Symphony viola co-principal and a senior at Ashland High School (AHS). He has played the viola since the fifth grade after falling in love with its rich mellow tone. He studies viola with Michael Sorenson. In addition to the YSSO, Elijah performs with the AHS Chamber Orchestra conducted by Lauren Trolley. His parents are Carrie Phylky Rimes and Sean Rimes. Elijah has enjoyed performing in a symphony orchestra and playing pieces by Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Dvořák, and Beethoven. He stated that he loves the emotions invoked and the technical challenges. Advice Elijah would give future YSSO musicians is, "have fun and remember you'll be a lot less stressed if you practice your part." Elijah plans to attend the Royal Holloway, University of London to take part in the Bachelor of Music program.



Kai Savage, Youth Symphony Violin

Kai Savage is Co-Concertmaster of the Youth Symphony this season. He has been part of the YSSO since he was six years old. "My grandma played old time fiddle and classic violin so I enjoyed listening to her as a small child," Kai shared when asked what influenced his decision to play violin. A favorite YSSO memory for Kai is spending time with his grandmother, Christine Moody, and seeing how happy she was listening to the YSSO concerts. Kai thanks his parents, Brian and Jen Savage, and his grandma for always being there for him. Kai is a senior at South Medford High School; his school music teacher is Zoryn Thompson. Kai has studied violin with Faina Podolnaya whom he credits with teaching him exquisite form and musicality, Kathryn Lucktenberg who inspired him through technique and by exposing him to talented musicians, and his current private teacher Fritz Gearhart whom Kai says challenged him by giving him opportunities and skills for success in any musical setting. Kai intends to pursue a

double major at Oregon State University in the fields of engineering and music performance.

Sean Stephenson, Youth Symphony Violin

Sean Stephenson was two years old when his mom, Wendy Savage, started teaching him to play the violin. He says he will always consider his mother to be his biggest mentor and supporter. She has allowed him to follow the opportunities and paths he has chosen. He currently studies violin with Faina Podolnaya and performs with Siskiyou Violins. Sean is a senior at Phoenix High School. He previously attended Klamath Union High School (KUHS) where he participated in the KUHS Chamber Orchestra and KUHS Orchestra both taught by music teacher Brent Hakanson. Sean has enjoyed being part of the YSSO, surrounded by like-minded musicians who enjoy playing music. A favorite YSSO memory for Sean was playing in the 35th Anniversary Season Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert and learning what directions the alumni had taken in life after the YSSO. Sean is grateful for the consistent support and love from his family and friends. He is going to attend Oregon State University and double major in mechanical engineering and chemical engineering.



Justin Vinyard, Youth Symphony Viola

Justin Vinyard is the son of Ronald and Melanie Vinyard. He credits his parents for molding him into the person he is today. He is thankful for their encouragement and support. Justin has studied viola privately with Ben Gardner and Cynthia Cournoyer. He is a senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS) where he plays with the GPHS Chamber Orchestra. His school music teacher, Krista Debolt, encouraged him to audition for the YSSO in his junior year. When asked what he has most enjoyed about playing in the YSSO Justin stated, "I enjoy the different types of musical literature we get to experience and the difficulty of some of the music." He found the most challenging pieces to be his favorites, enjoying the great feeling he'd get have after learning them. Talking with all the musicians who stand outside during the rehearsal breaks is a favorite YSSO memory for Justin. Justin is an Academic Masters' Competition finalist in music and science. He intends to pursue a career as an orthopedic surgeon.