

# Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

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NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Volume 35 • Spring 2025

# Quarter Notes



## Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon concert season concludes with a cello concerto and film favorites

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's 2024-2025 Concert Season concludes with Spring Concert Series performances at 7:30PM on Saturday, May 17 at the Oregon Center for the Arts' Music Recital Hall at SOU in Ashland and at 3PM on Sunday, May 18 at the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center in Medford. Tickets are \$15 (adult) and \$10 (students w/I.D.). Advance tickets are available at Artistic Piano (cash/check), 112 West Main Street in Medford. Tickets for the performance at the Craterian Theater are also available through the Craterian box office (541-779-3000). Tickets can be purchased at the performances.

The performances mark Cynthia Hutton's final concerts as Music Director & Conductor of the YSSO. Dr. Hutton retires this season after 30 years of exemplary work with and on behalf of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon.

The concerts will showcase Edward Elgar's *Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85* with 2025 Concerto Competition winner Samuel Severson as soloist. The concerto was Elgar's last major completed work. The Edwardian Era (circa 1901-1910) was the zenith of Elgar's popularity as a composer. The London Symphony Orchestra premiered the concerto at the inaugural concert of its 1919-1920 season with Elgar at the podium. The American premiere in 1922 featured cellist Jean Gerardy with the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski at Carnegie Hall in New York. The Youth Symphony will play the first movement (*Adagio-Moderato*) and second movement (*Lento-Allegro molto*).



Also featured on the program is film music by John Williams, James Horner, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Alan Silvestri, as well as a piece by John Williams commissioned by NBC for its news programs. The Youth Symphony will play *The Mission-NBC Theme* by John Williams, *Concert Suite* by Alan Silvestri & Glen Ballard (arr. J. Brubaker) from the film *The Polar Express*, and an arrangement of selections from Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. The Youth Orchestra will play music from James Horner's score for the film *Apollo 13* and *Raiders March* from John Williams' score for *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony will combine to present an arrangement

of music from the film *Star Wars-The Force Awakens* also by Williams

Graduating seniors will be honored at the performance on Sunday afternoon at the Craterian Theater.

More than 130 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, White City, and other communities participated in the Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra this season.

The Carpenter Foundation, Carrico Family 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. Mary Jane Morrison and Sharon Wilson provided Concert Series Partner support for the Spring Concert Series. 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 the estate of Robert T. Kuntz, as well as through the James M. Collier Fund for YSSO of The OCF and contributions, tuition, ticket sales and special events.

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*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: Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501, 541-858-8859, info@yso.org or yso.org. Photographs are by Cari Baker Photography.*

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www.yso.org  
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## Membership News

### Annual Giving

Thank you for attending the performances and for investing in the vision, mission, and musicians of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon for thirty-seven years.

Music brings together communities and makes connections with cultural traditions. 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 non-profit arts sector and offers exemplary music programs for young people. Whether a career path or calling is that of an engineer, educator, electrician, economist, nurse, physician, civic or faith leader, professional musician, volunteer, parent, architect, attorney, agronomist, 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, 45-50 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, 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 in 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 concerts and demonstrating your support for the young musicians.

Sharon Wilson, Executive Director



**Samuel Severson**  
*2025 Concerto Competition Winner*

Cellist Samuel Severson, one of the winners of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's (YSSO) 2025 Concerto Competition, is a junior at Logos Public Charter School in Medford where his music teacher is Colin Braley. Michal Palzewicz is Sam's private cello teacher. Sam has participated in the YSSO since 2021.

Honors and awards include his selection for the 2025 All-Northwest Orchestra and 1st Place at the 2025 Oregon Music Education Association (OMEA) District Solo Contest. Recently, he traveled to Vienna with Siskiyou Violins for the 2024 Summa Cum Laude International Music Festival. A scholar-athlete, Sam has received awards for both athletic and academic achievement including a varsity letter in swimming from Crater High School and 1st Place in the National Conservation Foundation's Envirothon State Competition.

Sam commented that he found Edward Elgar's *Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85* to be "...the most challenging piece I have learned so far." He went on to say, "It has been an amazing experience that has taught me many lessons and greatly improved my playing. I've also found more joy in learning this piece than any other..."

Sam is grateful for the support and encouragement of the following: Michal Palzewicz, Cynthia Stauffer, Faina Podolnaya, Cynthia Hutton, Colin Braley, Lucas Bower, Will Scharen and Bellwood Violin, and Hillary Larson, as well as his parents and grandparents.

## Important Information



### Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon Special Gifts, Funds & 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 OCF improves the lives of Oregonians through philanthropy. Established in 1973, The OCF works with individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to create charitable funds to support the critical work of nonprofits throughout Oregon. Contributors to the YSSO Endowment Fund to date include Penny Lee Austin, Alan Bergstrom, Hardt Family Fund of The OCF, 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. A new fund, the **James M. Collier Fund for YSSO of The OCF**, provides unrestricted support for the organization.

Gifts from the estate of 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.

*sf sfz fz rinf rf fp*

### 2025 Concerto Competition

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's annual Concerto Competition was held on January 27, 2025, 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 Jordan King, string bass, violinists Rowyn Burnside, Amara Hershey, and Amelia Hill, Aylee Drake, viola, and cellist Samuel Severson. The musicians performed excerpts from works by Haydn, Händel, Pichl, Lalo, Beriot, and Elgar. Accompanists included Liane Alitowski, Andrea Brock, and Cynthia Stauffer. The judges selected Amelia Hill and Samuel Severson as winners. Sam will be the featured soloist on the Spring 2025 Concert Series. Amelia will be a featured soloist during the 2025-2026 Concert Season. Judges for this year's Concerto Competition were Nancie Linn Shaw and Kristin Kessler.



### Music Coaches, Adjudicators, Accompanists

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon would like to thank the following musicians and music educators for serving as audition and concerto competition adjudicators, music coaches, guest musicians and conductors, and accompanists, and for providing bowing and other technical assistance this season:

Liane Alitowski, Charlie Baldwin, Andrea Brock, Jenifer Carstensen, Sandra Cepero, Cynthia Cournoyer, Bruce Dresser, James Dyson, Rebecca Dyson, Lisa Frank, Linda Harris, Mark Eliot Jacobs, Kristin Kessler, Steve Kessler, Manon Robertshaw, Anne Robison, Emily Severson, Nancie Linn Shaw, Cynthia Stauffer, Kathleen Strahm, Lisa Truelove, Abigail Wilensky, and Andrew Zucker.

### Interested in joining the YSSO?

Musicians interested in participating in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon are encouraged to contact the YSSO (info@yso.org). Information about the 2025-2026 Concert Season will be available online in 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:

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Please mail your gift to:

**Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon  
P.O. Box 4291  
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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon wishes to thank the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their assistance, guidance, and support:**

Liane Alitowski  
 Anima Mundi Productions  
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 Ashland School District  
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 Ryan D. Suvoy, Morgan Stanley  
 Rory Tosh & Macy Smetzler, KDP CPA's  
 Abigail Wilensky  
 YSSO Volunteers

**And...Thank you to the music teachers, private instructors, professional musicians and music coaches who work with the musicians throughout the year, and the parents, volunteers, businesses, foundations, funds/agencies and individuals who support the mission and musicians of the YSSO organization.**

**Thank you!**

## 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 2024-2025 Concert Season.

**Musicians & Families:** To the YSSO's musicians, thank you for participating in weekly rehearsals, practicing at home, and performing with the Youth Orchestra and/or Youth Symphony. The YSSO offers its appreciation to parents, school music teachers, and private instructors for providing the musicians with support throughout their musical journey. I also wish to salute my long-time colleague Cindy Hutton on her thirtieth season as music director and conductor. Thank you, Cindy.

**Governing Board:** The organization offers its thanks to Sally Snyder, Clay Alumbaugh, Rebecca Dyson, Carolina Livi, Ben Wayman, Mary Jane Morrison, Chiharu Sai, Dawnette Tyler Hadji, Youngsook Kim, Carol Mills, and Lillian Yuan for their help with and focus on the search for a music director, as well as fundraising, community advocacy, and volunteer service. Thank you to Virginia Silbowitz, former governing board director, for welcoming the board to Grizzly Peak Winery for the board retreat and music director candidate receptions and former director Jolene Buccino for her help with the receptions.

**Search/Review Committee:** A special thank you to Music Director Search/Review Committee Members, Clay Alumbaugh, Rebecca Dyson, Lisa Frank, Steve Kessler, Ursula Horstmann Nash, and chair Sally Snyder, for sharing their time, expertise, and wisdom this year. Their input, guidance, and thoughtful consideration of applicant submissions and the organization's needs has been outstanding.

**Operations:** The YSSO offers its appreciation to Angel McDonald for her work on the newsletter and David Ruppe, Impact Publications, for his concert material designs, Ingrid Perry for bookkeeping assistance, and Macy Smetzler, KDP Certified Public Accountants, LLP for preparing state and federal reports. Thank you to Ryan D. Suvoy, Morgan Stanley Senior Vice-President & Financial Advisor for his guidance. The YSSO offers its appreciation to Mark Jacobs for providing wonderful program notes. Thank you to Elizabeth Soper, orchestra assistant, and concert logistics specialists IGI



Innovations, David Johnson, Greg Riesner and Will Goldman, for their dedication throughout the season.

**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, and the Sharkey Foundation, and distributions from the Roger G. Hewitt Fund for Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon of The Oregon Community Foundation and James M. Collier Fund for YSSO of The OCF. Bequests from Robert T. Kuntz underwrite initiatives and ongoing operations. I was honored to have an opportunity to join with Mary Jane Morrison to provide Spring Concert Series Partner funding this season.

**Facilities & Venues:** Thank you to Mary Jane Morrison for facilitating Community Outreach Concerts at the Rogue Valley Manor. 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 Artistic Piano for serving as a ticket outlet, to Cari Baker for her photography, and to Steve Bacon and Will Scharen for Bellwood Violin's support of the YSSO.

Thank you to all for your commitment to cultural arts opportunities and music education programs. The YSSO looks forward to continuing to serve communities, families, young people, and audiences.



## Thank you Cindy!



**Thank you to Cindy Hutton for 30 years of music-making, friendship, fun, and service. Current and former YSSO musicians, governing board directors past and present, staff members, patrons and audiences, and music education colleagues will miss Cindy's energy and exuberance, and dedication to music education.**



PHOTOS BY CARI BAKER

## Senior Profiles



**Adeline Bell, Bassoon** A senior at South Medford High School (SMHS) where she plays in the SMHS Wind Ensemble, Adeline Bell's school music teacher is Eric

Osberg. She studies bassoon privately with Tiffany Schmidt. In addition to the SMHS ensemble, she also plays with the Three Rivers Orchestra and the Medford City Band. She has played in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon since 2023. Adeline shared she has enjoyed being surrounded by the dedicated, talented, and kind musicians of the YSSO.

Adeline wishes to thank private teacher Tiffany Schmidt for believing in her and "...for putting up with my sass" and her parents, Katie and Bryce Bell, for their support and attendance at concerts and events. Adeline cited her sister Elizabeth as a mentor.

College plans include attending Brigham Young University (Idaho) where she will study statistics and computer science. Adeline also plans to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

### Ethan Dille, Oboe

An Ashland High School (AHS) senior, Ethan Dille joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in the seventh grade after a visit to Ashland Middle School by Cynthia Hutton. In addition to his participation in the YSSO, Ethan



also plays in the AHS Wind Ensemble where his band teacher is Adam Harris. Ethan has studied the oboe privately with Kristin Kessler. He has been playing his instrument since the age of eleven. Ethan's advice to future YSSO musicians is "Practice, practice, practice!"

His parents are Sen Dille and Dawn Dille. His post-graduation plans include pursuing an electrician apprenticeship with the goal of becoming a journeyman electrician.



**Aylee Drake, Viola**, Youth Symphony violist Aylee Drake is a senior at St. May's School where her music teacher is Chris Bingham. Her private teacher is Faina

Podolnaya. In addition to the YSSO, she plays in Siskiyou Violins. She joined the YSSO in 2018. Her parents are Trent and Yasuyo Drake.

Favorite and challenging chamber music and symphonic works performed with Youth Symphony colleagues included Antonin Dvorak's *American Suite* and Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Aylee's advice for future YSSO musicians is always "...have fun playing your instrument and making music...and [remember] practicing is important. Do not forget to practice your music!"

Aylee offers her appreciation to her parents for providing opportunities to pursue the viola, as well as to Faina Podolnaya and Cynthia Cournoyer for their encouragement, and to Dr. Hutton for many years of wonderful music opportunities.

She plans to major in East Asian Studies and pursue a double minor in International Relations and Music Performance at Mount Holyoke College.

### Liam Durand, Tuba

A member of the Youth Symphony, Liam Durand is a senior at Ashland High School where his music teacher is Adam Harris. Liam's mother is Emily Carr.



**Jack Dyson, Trumpet** Youth Symphony principal trumpet and senior at Ashland High School (AHS), Jack Dyson joined the

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon at age ten to play challenging music with siblings and friends. In addition to his involvement in the YSSO, Jack plays in the AHS Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band, the Ashland City Band, Southern Oregon University's Wind Ensemble, and the SOU Jazz Band. His school music teacher at



AHS is Adam Harris. Dr. Alex Gonzalez leads the SOU Wind Ensemble.

Jack shared a favorite work played with his colleagues in the Youth Symphony was *Conga del Fuego* by Arturo Marquez. His parents are Rebecca Dyson and Peter Halt. Post-graduation college plans have not yet been determined but Jack shared that he will continue playing the trumpet.



**Ari Halley, Percussion** Ari Halley is a senior at Phoenix High School (PHS) where he plays in the PHS Marching Band and Symphonic Band. His music teacher at PHS is Mike DeRoest.

Ari's parents are Tony and Patty Halley. He cites Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* as one of his favorite works performed with the Youth Symphony. He joined the Youth Symphony this season.

### Gibson Hull, Cello

Youth Symphony cellist Gibson Hull is a Crater High School senior. His parents are Becky Hull and Brandon Hull. Gibson studies cello privately with Lisa Truelove. In addition to the cello, he also plays piano. After graduation Gibson will attend the University of Utah. He also plans to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.



**Jordan King, Bass** Youth Symphony principal bass Jordan King has been a member of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon for several years. A South Medford High School

(SMHS) senior, Jordan's school music teacher is Zoryn Thompson. He has studied privately with David Miller. His father is Ron King.

Jordan hopes to attend the University of Oregon where he will study music and music education.



## Senior Profiles



**Elliette Hutchings, Oboe & Flute** A multi-instrumentalist, Elliette Hutchings is a senior at North Medford High School (NMHS). Elliette is principal oboe in the Youth

Symphony. She also plays in the NMHS Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ambassadors, the Rogue Valley Symphonic Band, and the Timberline Express Big Band. Her music teacher at NMHS is Steve Kessler. Elliette studies privately with Kristin Kessler and Georgia Weidman-Clarke. A former flute teacher, Lisa Nichols, encouraged Elliette to audition for the YSSO when Elliette was in the fifth grade. In addition to the oboe, she plays flute, saxophone, and the guitar. Elliette has participated in the Western International Band Clinic, All-State Band, and the Southern Oregon University Honor Band.

Asked about her involvement in the YSSO Elliette shared that she appreciated having an "...opportunity to play in a full symphony orchestra...and to flourish as a musician." She went on to say, "Playing famous pieces and challenging works is incredibly rewarding." She extends her appreciation to Lisa Nichols, Georgia Weidman-Clarke, Tiffany Schmidt, David Sommers, Kristin Kessler, Daryl Fjeldheim, Martin Behnke, Christi Lundahl Fritz, Alex Gonzalez, and Steve Kessler for their guidance.

She will pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and pre-med requirements. She hopes to become a pediatric surgeon with a specialty in robotic surgery. Elliette's parents are Gwen and Tim Hutchings.

### Ian Kempf, Violin

A Crater High School senior, Ian Kempf is a member of the Crater High School Band where his music teacher is Travis Mills. His private teacher is Cynthia Cournoyer. He plays trumpet and guitar in addition to the violin.



A YSSO musician over several years, he has played in both the Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony. Favorite works performed as a YSSO musician include *Die Meistersinger* (Wagner), *Toccata and Fugue* (Bach), *the Overture to William Tell* (Rossini), and *the Egmont Overture* (Beethoven). He found the *Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture* most challeng-

ing. His advice to future YSSO musicians is "Always give 100%. Practice, and most importantly, have fun!"

Ian offers his appreciation to his parents Chrissy and Lonny Kempf for their support of his interest in music, Cynthia Cournoyer for her help and encouragement, and his friends for helping to keep him involved in music. Ian's college plans include attending Rogue Community College for two years and then transferring to the University of Oregon where he will major in business and minor in music.



**Jaiden Olson, Viola** Violist Jaiden Olson joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in January 2025. An Ashland High School (AHS) senior, she plays in the AHS Orchestra under the

direction of Lauren Trolley. Jaiden also plays violin, guitar, piano, and mandolin. Her mother is Kathy Olson.

She noted she has enjoyed working with dedicated Youth Symphony colleagues who share similar interests in music. She quipped, "Having nine violas in my section...was memorable for me!" She found *Roman Carnival Overture* by Hector Berlioz presented technical challenges. A favorite work to date this season was an arrangement by Merle Isaac of music from the opera *Samson and Delilah* by Camille Saint-Saëns.

Jaiden extends her appreciation to AHS music teacher Laurent Trolley for connecting her with the YSSO, Ivan Olinghouse for encouraging her to try new things, and her family for their support of music.

Jaiden will attend Southern Oregon University where she will study psychology and music. Jaiden plans to pursue a career as a counselor/therapist.

### Rowan Pastrano, Violin

Youth Symphony violinist Rowan Pastrano is a senior at South Medford High School (SMHS) where he plays in the SMHS Chamber Orchestra led by Zoryn Thompson. His private teacher is Faina Podolnaya. He also plays the piano in addition to the violin.



Rowan cites the overture to the opera *William Tell* (Rossini) and *Die Meistersinger* (Wagner)

as two of the most challenging works he has played with the Youth Symphony and *Pirates of the Caribbean* (Zimmer) as a favorite work.

Following graduation, Rowan will serve a mission in Santiago, Chile for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Upon completion of his mission, he will attend college. Rowan's parents are Kelly Pastrano and Joe Pastrano.



### Blakeley Schreiber, Viola

Grants Pass High School (GPHS) senior Blakeley Schreiber plays in the GPHS Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Krista DeBolt. His mother is Sheila Schreiber.

He has participated in the Youth Symphony and the YSSO Chamber Music Series program.

### Johanna Sophia Sutton, Oboe

Homeschool senior Sophia Sutton has participated in the YSSO since 2022. She studies oboe privately with Kristin Kessler. Her piano teacher is Victoria Sutton. Sophia's parents are David and Cathy Sutton. In addition to the Youth Symphony, she plays in a church ensemble and in a family trio with her sisters.

Sophia found the overture to the opera *William Tell* (Rossini) and *Roman Carnival Overture* (Berlioz) two of the most challenging works she has played with YSSO colleagues. Her favorite works include Rossini's *William Tell Overture* and *Bacchanale* from the opera *Samson and Delilah* by Camille Saint-Saëns.

College plans are undecided; however, Sophia will study elementary education and pursue a teaching career.

