



Discover

TRANSFORM

# Youth Symphony

of Southern Oregon

Amaze  
Inspire

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

P.O. Box 4291 · Medford, OR 97501 · 541-858-8859 · yssso@mind.net · www.yssso.org

## Youth Symphony

of Southern Oregon

### Mission and Goals

The mission of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is to provide exceptional performance experiences under the leadership of professional conductors and music coaches and to encourage a lifelong appreciation of classical music and the arts. The YSSO is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing young people with opportunities to expand their knowledge of classical music by learning and performing challenging orchestral repertoire. YSSO goals are:

- ▶ to offer classical music performance opportunities to young musicians;
- ▶ to ensure access to music resources and training for young people;
- ▶ to supplement music programs in schools;
- ▶ to work with professional musicians and cultural organizations; and
- ▶ to build audiences for classical music and serve as a cultural resource for the region.

# Collaborate Dazzle!

## Meet the Conductors

Founded in 1988 by music educators and professional musicians, the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon has grown from one ensemble to an organization composed of three orchestras under the leadership of a Music Director, professional conductors and music coaches, an Executive Director, a Governing Board of community members and volunteers who donate hundreds of hours assisting with rehearsals, concerts and events each year. The season has expanded from three concerts by one ensemble to 14 performances involving three large ensembles, chamber music groups and individual musicians presenting major symphonic works and chamber music.

Musicians audition each year. Following auditions, musicians are placed in Youth Symphony, Youth Orchestra or Youth Strings. Weekly rehearsals begin in the fall and continue through spring. Rehearsals are led by Dr. Cynthia Hutton, Music Director of the YSSO and Conductor of Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra, and Faina Podolnaya, YSSO Associate Conductor and Conductor of Youth Strings. YSSO musicians also participate in small group rehearsals or mini-master classes guided by professional musicians.

Participation in the YSSO develops music technique and teamwork skills, and encourages an appreciation of classical music. YSSO concerts and educational opportunities transform the community by enhancing the cultural life of Southern Oregon and enriching music programs provided by schools.

Concert Series performances typically take place in Medford, Ashland and Grants Pass. The YSSO concert season also includes Chamber Music Series performances in community settings and Community Outreach Concerts at retirement communities. The annual Concerto Competition showcases advanced YSSO musicians who compete for an opportunity to perform as soloists with the Youth Symphony.

The YSSO is a vital part of the cultural and educational communities in the Rogue Valley. The YSSO has collaborated with Rogue Opera, Chamber Music Concerts, North Medford and South Medford High School choirs and local children's choirs. The YSSO has performed in Klamath Falls and has hosted youth orchestras from Portland and Vancouver, as well as Ota, Japan and Melbourne, Australia. The YSSO also works with schools and school districts in Medford, Grants Pass and Ashland, as well as Southern Oregon University. YSSO musicians have participated in Britt Festival events and performed with the Rogue Valley Symphony Orchestra. In addition, the YSSO received the Arts Council of Southern Oregon's *Arts Education Award*.

The YSSO is a nonprofit organization. Individuals, businesses and corporations, agencies and foundations provide funding for YSSO concerts, education initiatives, outreach opportunities, training and operations.

Please join the outstanding young musicians of the YSSO on a journey of discovery and transformation through classical music and attend the next concert.

See you at the performances!

For information about concerts, tickets, annual giving, concert program advertising, corporate or business support, audition procedures or volunteer opportunities, please contact the YSSO or visit the YSSO website.

P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501  
541-858-8859 · yssso@mind.net

[www.yssso.org](http://www.yssso.org)



### Cynthia Hutton Music Director & Conductor

Cynthia Hutton has served as YSSO Music Director and Conductor of Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra since 1995. In addition to her work with the YSSO, Dr. Hutton is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Southern Oregon University where she teaches conducting, music theory, brass methods and instrumental music education. She is a member of the Rogue Valley Symphony Orchestra and the SOU Faculty Brass Quintet. Dr. Hutton has served on the board of directors for both the Oregon Music Educators Association and the College Band Directors National Association – Northwest Division. Dr. Hutton received the *Alteria M. Bryant Award* honoring women in the arts in 1993. She was awarded SOU's *Elmo Stevenson Presidential Award* in 2002 for outstanding service to the university. Prior to coming to Southern Oregon, Dr. Hutton served as Director of Bands and horn instructor at the University of California, San Diego, and was Assistant Conductor of the La Jolla Civic University Orchestra. She received her doctorate in conducting from the University of Colorado at Boulder.



PHOTO BY DAVID GIBB

### Faina Podolnaya Associate Conductor

Faina Podolnaya joined the YSSO in 2000–2001. Upon completion of her studies in violin performance and teaching at the Soviet Conservatory of Music she accepted a teaching position at Kazakhstan's most prestigious music academy where she worked privately with students, lectured and coached ensembles preparing for competitions and concerts. She has received numerous awards, including the Soviet Union's *Teacher of the Year*. Ms Podolnaya maintains a thriving private studio for violin and viola. She has led the Siskiyou Violins, an ensemble of musicians in her studio, in a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City and most recently in a concert in Los Angeles.



PHOTO BY DAVID GIBB



## Youth Symphony

of Southern Oregon

providing exceptional  
performance  
experiences under  
the leadership of  
professional  
conductors and  
music coaches and  
encouraging a  
lifelong appreciation  
of classical music  
and the arts.

# Learn

Although the artistic success of the YSSO is due to the tremendous dedication and hard work of the young musicians and the exceptional teachers and conductors who guide them, it is the financial support of individuals, businesses and foundations that ensures the availability of training and performance opportunities, as well as high-quality concerts for the public.

Funding from individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies underwrites concert hall and rehearsal facility rental fees, music rental, instrument maintenance, fees for music coaches, administrative and artistic staff, printed materials, and tuition and lesson assistance for YSSO musicians. Although nominal tuition is charged, it is the policy of the YSSO to include all qualified musicians regardless of financial circumstances. It would not be possible to provide music training and performance opportunities for young people without the help and generosity of individuals, the region's business and professional communities, foundations and families.

Contributions from individuals generate approximately 25 percent of the YSSO's annual revenue. Please consider investing in the work of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon by becoming a member of the *Friends of the YSSO* or by giving a gift in honor of a friend or colleague. Donors are acknowledged in Concert Series programs and receive a newsletter.

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is a nonprofit organization and contributions may be tax-deductible. Gifts may be sent to the YSSO by mail or may be made at any concert. Please consider the impact the YSSO has on the life of each musician and the contribution the YSSO makes to the cultural life of the region and give as generously as possible.

Thank you.



The YSSO is funded, in part, by the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.