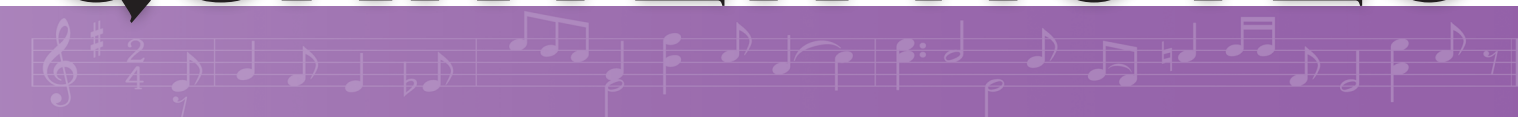




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QUARTER NOTES



NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Volume 21 • Number 2 • Winter/Spring 2011

Membership News

2010-2011 Annual Giving

On behalf of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, I wish to express my gratitude to the Friends of the YSSO for providing financial assistance for performances and initiatives this season. The YSSO appreciates every gift of support. The YSSO has established itself as an important and permanent cultural resource for Rogue Valley communities and families through the commitment of these individuals, families, businesses, agencies and foundations.

Music opens hearts and minds and brings together families and people of all ages and backgrounds. Music participation teaches people to listen and collaborate, and it develops life and creative workforce skills such as critical-thinking, teamwork, respect, discipline, leadership and cooperation. The YSSO believes that all citizens should have access to cultural opportunities and that music offers both intrinsic and instrumental value in the education of young people. The YSSO believes that music transforms young people and communities.

Your annual investment helps ensure the YSSO can maintain high quality training and present outstanding, affordable concerts. The YSSO receives support through contributions from individuals, concert partner (sponsor) funding, concert series program advertising and foundation, corporate and agency grants. The YSSO generates additional revenue through ticket sales, program advertising and nominal tuition. Members of the board coordinate special events designed to increase community awareness about the YSSO and raise funds for the organization.

Please know that every level of gift makes an impact on the YSSO. Contributions from individuals help pay for music, rehearsal facilities, performance venues, music coaches and operations, as well as tuition and lesson scholarship assistance for YSSO musicians. Your support helps the YSSO increase access to cultural opportunities, augment programs in schools, offer the gift of music to people of all ages and infuse the Rogue Valley with vitality.

The YSSO's membership goal this year is \$33,000. To meet or exceed the goal we need your help. Checks should be made payable to the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and sent to the YSSO, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501. The YSSO is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and your contribution may be tax-deductible. Please consult your professional tax advisor.

The YSSO looks forward to offering music opportunities for young people and building new audiences for classical music for many years to come. The YSSO looks forward to seeing you at the upcoming concerts in May and next season on November 12 & 13, 2011, December 10 & 11, 2011, February 17, 18 & 19, 2012, and May 18, 19 & 20, 2012.

Thank you for investing in the YSSO and for your commitment to this wonderful community organization.

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

Governing Board

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Conductor & Artistic Director

Faina Podolnaya
Associate Conductor

Sharon Wilson
Executive Director

Youth
Symphony
of Southern Oregon

Youth Symphony of
Southern Oregon
P.O. Box 4291
Medford, OR 97501-0163
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www.yssso.org
yssso@mind.net

2010-2011 YSSO Season Concludes with Performances on May 20, 21 & 22

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's twenty-third concert season concludes with a Spring Concert Series performance on Friday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Parkway Christian Center in Grants Pass, on Saturday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Southern Oregon University's Music Recital Hall in Ashland and on Sunday, May 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the Craterian Theater in Medford.

The 75-member Youth Symphony, the YSSO's advanced orchestra under the baton of YSSO Music Director Cynthia Hutton will perform three works: Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral*, Piotr I. Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* and Leroy Anderson's *Fiddle-Faddle* for Soloist & Orchestra.

One of the featured works on the concert program is *blue cathedral* by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon. *The Washington Post* has described Higdon as "a savvy, sensitive composer with a keen ear, an innate sense of form and a generous dash of pure esprit." Commissioned by The Curtis Institute of Music to compose a work commemorating the Institute's 75th anniversary, Dr. Higdon began composing *blue cathedral* at a unique moment in her life. She had recently suffered the loss of her younger brother, Andrew Blue, and was reflecting on the journey each of us takes through our lives. Dr. Higdon shared,

"The piece represents the expression of the individual and the group...our inner travels and the places our souls carry us, the lessons we learn and the growth we experience. In tribute to my brother [the work] features solos for clarinet (the instrument he played) and the flute (the instrument I play). Because I am the older sibling, it is the flute that appears first in the dialogue. At the end of the work, the two instruments continue their dialogue but it is the flute that drops out and the clarinet continues on in the upward progressing journey."

The Youth Symphony also will perform Piotr I. Tchaikovsky's *The Year 1812, Festival Overture in E flat Major, Op. 49*, popularly known as the *1812 Overture*. Written in 1880 to commemorate Russia's defense of Moscow against Napoleon's advancing Grande Armée at the Battle of Borodino in 1812, the overture debuted in Moscow in 1882. *Fiddle-Faddle*, composed by Leroy Anderson, was one of a number of pieces commissioned by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra. It is based on the childhood nursery song "Three Blind Mice."

Dr. Hutton will lead the musicians in Youth Orchestra in performances of *Jupiter-Bringer of Jollity* (from *The Planets*)

by Gustav Holst (arranged by Vernon Leidig), Gioachino Rossini's *William Tell Overture* (arranged by Jerry Lehmeier) and a suite from Richard Wagner's opera *Tannhäuser* (arranged by Merle Isaac). The musicians of Youth Strings, under the guidance of YSSO Associate Conductor Faina Podolnaya, will perform two traditional fiddle tunes and works by J. S. Bach and W. A. Mozart.

Tickets are \$5.00 for students/seniors and \$10.00 for general admission and are available at Paddington Station in Ashland, Great Northwest Music in Grants Pass and Larry's Music in Medford. Tickets for the May 22 performance in Medford also are available through the Craterian Theater box office.

Funding for the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's 2010-2011 concert season was awarded by The Carpenter Foundation, City of Ashland, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, U.S. Bank and the members of the Friends of the YSSO. Additional support for YSSO programs and initiatives was provided by the Collins Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation and Pacific Power Foundation. YSSO operations and programs also were supported in part by a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing exceptional performance and training opportunities for young people under the leadership of professional conductors and music coaches and to fostering a lifelong appreciation of classical music and the arts.



PHOTOS BY CARL BAKER



Spring 2011 Concert Series Dates & Times

Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.
Parkway Christian Center, Grants Pass
229 NE Beacon Drive
Saturday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.
SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland
Sunday, May 22, 3:00 p.m.
Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater,
Medford

Call Times for YSSO Musicians

Youth Orchestra - 90 minutes before concert time
Youth Symphony & Youth Strings - 60 minutes before concert time
Musicians & Families: Always read the e-mail alerts and reminders confirming or changing call times for specific venues on certain dates, as well as for concert attire, music and other policy information.

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 22, 2:00 p.m.
Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater,
Medford

All current members-in-good-standing of the Friends of the YSSO are invited to attend.

Spring 2011 Raffle & Silent Auction

Members of the Governing Board's Development Committee are coordinating Raffle to benefit the YSSO again this spring. The grand prize in the Raffle is an iPad 2. The drawing for Raffle prizes will take place at the performance on May 22. A Silent Auction will take place on Sunday, May 22. Bids may be made until intermission. Please visit the lobby for details.

Numerous businesses, corporations and individuals throughout the Rogue Valley and beyond have provided wonderful items for both the Raffle and Silent Auction. The board and staff wish to thank them for their generous support of classical music programs for young people.

Important News

YSSO Spring Concert Series Information and Tickets

Concert Ticket Information

\$5.00 (students/seniors) & \$10.00 (adults)

Tickets are available at Larry's Music in Medford, Great Northwest Music in Grants Pass and at Paddington Station in Ashland. Tickets for the performance at the Craterian Theater are also available through the Craterian box office.

YSSO Family Ticket Policy

Each YSSO family may receive two (2) complimentary tickets to the May 20 concert in Grants Pass and for the May 22 concert in Medford. Complimentary tickets will be available to YSSO musicians at the two Sunday rehearsals prior to the concerts. Remaining tickets will be sold to the general public.

Being Music - - Symphony, Orchestra and Strings



PHOTOS BY CARI BAKER

YSSO Event Review

2011 Concerto Competition

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's annual Concerto Competition was held on Monday evening, January 31, 2011, at Southern Oregon University's Music Recital Hall in Ashland. Several outstanding Youth Symphony musicians competed for an opportunity to play with the Youth Symphony as a soloist in the upcoming concert season.

Participants this year included Hannah Barchet (Ashland Middle School), Chloe Brown (Ashland Middle School), Elana Cooper (Ashland High School), Alison Dresser (Ashland High School), Ryan Hoe (Ashland Middle School), Aaron Klein (North Medford High School/Home School), Nolan Peard (St. Mary's School), Esther Aviana Platt (Home School), Paul Shubat (St. Mary's

Winter Concert Series 2011

Winter Concert Series performances this season included the Youth Symphony playing Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with featured soloist Jasmine Terry-Shindelman, Youth Symphony Co-Concertmaster and one of the winners of the 2010 YSSO Concerto Competition. Also on the concert program was Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel's Overture in C and Antonin Dvořák's Slavonic Dances, Nos. 2, 4, 7 & 8. The Youth Orchestra played arrangements of the first movement of Symphony No. 5 by Ludwig van Beethoven, the finale to Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 "Reformation," and Slavonic Dance No. 3 by Dvořák. The musicians of Youth Strings performed works by Beethoven and Mozart, as well as two traditional works for strings.

Youth Symphony Performs at OMEA

Cynthia Hutton, YSSO Music Director and Conductor, recently shared that this season was remarkable for many reasons. Dr. Hutton noted that she will remember it as perhaps the most demanding in terms of commitment and complexity, and the most exciting in terms of the range of repertoire and performance opportunities for the musicians.

In addition to the thrilling side-by-side performances of four of Antonin Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances* performed with the musicians of the Rogue Valley Symphony (RVS) and RVS Maestro Martin Majkut this season, the Youth Symphony was invited to perform at the Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) state conference. The Youth Symphony

(School), Anne Soyeon Kim (Ashland Middle School), Diane Jung (North Medford High School), Luke Wilder (South Medford High School) and Madeline Wilson (Home School).

The musicians performed excerpts from works by J. S. Bach, W.A. Mozart, Robert Schumann, Richard Strauss, Howard Hanson, Max Bruch, Camille Saint-Saëns and others. It was an outstanding evening of wonderful music.

Alison Dresser, horn, and Paul Shubat, cello, were selected as the winners this year. Alison and Paul will be featured soloists during the 2011-2012 concert season.

The judges for the 2011 Concerto Competition were Lori Calhoun, Thomas Stauffer and Arlene Taylor.

The YSSO wishes to thank Bill & Sarah Epstein for providing Concert Series Partner funding for the performances in February. In addition, The Carpenter Foundation, City of Ashland, the James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation and U.S. Bank awarded funding for the 2010-2011 concert season. This project was funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. YSSO initiatives and operations are supported by annual gifts from individuals, business contributions and funding from the Collins Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation and the Pacific Power Foundation.

performed at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts (Soreng Hall) in Eugene in January 2011.

The Youth Symphony played Camille Saint-Saëns' *La muse et le poète, op. 132*, featuring soloists Ashley Hoe, Co-Concertmaster, and Chas Barnard, Principal Cellist. Ashley and Chas were two of the winners of the 2010 YSSO Concerto Competition. The concert program also included César-Auguste Franck's symphonic poem *Le chasseur maudit* and Paul Dukas' Fanfare from *La Péri* performed by the Youth Symphony Brass Ensemble.

The Youth Symphony of Youth Oregon would like to thank the OMEA for extending this invitation to the Youth Symphony and its heartfelt appreciation to all of the parents, board members and others who shared their time and energy with the organization to make the trip and performance possible.

2010-2011 Music Coaches & Adjudicators

The musicians, governing board and staff of the YSSO would like to thank the following musicians and music teachers for sharing their expertise with the YSSO as audition and concerto competition adjudicators, and as music coaches: Mark Barnard, Pat Berlet, Dale Bradley, Lori Calhoun, Jenifer Carstensen, Scott Cole, Cynthia Cournoyer, Ai DeVore, Bruce Dresser, Kimberly Fitch, Beth Goldstein, Kenton Gould, Debra Harris, Mark Jacobs, Sarah Klein, Sarah Kreger, Gary Kroll, Bruce McKern, David Miller, Staci Scalfari, Thomas Stauffer and Arlene Taylor.

2010 Chamber Music

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon presented its annual Chamber Music Series concerts on December 11 and 12, 2010, at the Historic First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Ashland. Both concerts attracted capacity crowds.

The Haydn Quartet, Pecky W.A.M. Quartet, Mendelssohn Quartet, American Quartet, Festive Flutes, Brahms Trio, Serendipity Violins, Caroling Horns and the Brass Five performed a wonderful array of chamber music. The concerts featured works by Antonin Dvořák, G. F. Telemann, Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms, W. A. Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Thomas Ravenscroft and George Frederick McKay, and selections for the holiday season. Pat Berlet, Scott Cole, Bruce Dresser, Kimberly Fitch, Beth Goldstein, Cynthia Hutton, Phebe Kimball and Thomas Stauffer, coached the chamber music groups this year.

The Carpenter Foundation, City of Ashland and Collins Foundation awarded funding to help underwrite this year's Chamber Music Series concerts. In addition, the project was funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



PHOTO BY BEYON DEVORE

SENIOR PROFILES



ASHLEY HOE

Symphony, Violin

An Ashland High School (AHS) senior Ashley is Co-Concertmaster of the Youth Symphony. Her parents are Jeup Hoe and Heakyoung Kwon. She has participated in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) since 2004. In addition to her participation in the YSSO, Ashley has played with the Rogue Valley Symphony, Siskiyou Violins, the AHS Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Band and Pit Orchestra, and the Shoenaard Trio. She also has participated in the YSSO Chamber Music Series. Her school music teachers have included Gerry Paré, Jon Soderberg-Chase, Jenifer Carstensen and Dwayne Johnson. Ashley has studied privately with Faina Podolnaya, Kristina Foltz, Alexander Tutunov and Cynthia Stauffer.

As a 2010 YSSO Concerto Competition winner, Ashley and co-winner Chas Barnard performed Saint-Saëns' *La muse et le poète* with the Youth Symphony in November and as part of the Youth Symphony's performance at the Oregon Music Educators Association conference. Being in the YSSO has been an important part of Ashley's life. She shared, "No matter how bad the weather was, no matter how bad our days were we all came to rehearsal and played music together." She went

on to say, "I loved seeing my friends at rehearsals and because of the YSSO, I have kept many relationships that might have been hard to keep were it not for the YSSO." The post-concert evenings at Standing Stone [restaurant] will be cherished memories as well.

Ashley wishes to thank her teachers for their guidance and support, her parents for their love and Cindy Hutton for providing musical opportunities. Her advice to YSSO musicians is, "Love your Sundays. When you go off to college, Sunday will feel empty."

Among many honors, Ashley was selected Student of the Month by the International Rotary Club in 2010, and was chosen to participate in the 2009 Interlochen Summer Arts Camp. She was the 2006 and 2008 Oregon Junior Bach Festival winner and won first place at the Oregon Music Teachers Association (Rogue Valley District) Sonata Contest. She also was the district winner of the 2008 and 2009 Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Her post graduation plans include attending college and majoring in piano performance. Ashley's many goals include teaching, composing, being a studio musician, playing in a symphony, studying psychology and learning five more languages.

JOE VERSTEEG

Symphony, Cello

A Youth Symphony cellist, Joe is a senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS). His parents are Ron and Marilyn Versteeg. Joe's school music teachers have included Lana Haynes and Laura Bolden, his current teacher at GPHS. He has played in the GPHS String Quintet and Chamber Orchestra, and the Grants Pass Middle School Honor Orchestra in addition to the YSSO. His private music teachers have included Lana Haynes and Beth Goldstein. Joe has been a member of the YSSO since the 2007-2008 season.

Joe noted that the work he found most challenging was *Jupiter* from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst. "It was technically demanding." Favorite works include *Mars* and *Jupiter* from *The Planets* and John Williams' *Overture to The Cowboys*. A favorite YSSO memory also involves *Mars*. "About halfway through the work there was a loud dramatic moment that followed a series of rapid notes. I would always look up and watch Cindy's face. She had an expression on her face that made me think she was running into battle."

Joe sends his appreciation to his parents for driving him to rehearsal every Sunday and for never missing a performance, Cindy Hutton for her enthusiasm and commitment to the YSSO, his school music teachers, Mrs. Haynes and Mrs. Bolden, for preparing him to play in an orchestral setting, Beth Goldstein for her kindness and dedication, and his brother Sam.

His honors and awards include First Place in the 2010 Josephine County Academic Masters Competition. He also received the 2009-2010 GPHS Orchestra Leadership Scholarship and attended the Advanced Suzuki Institute at Stanford University. After graduation Joe will attend the University of Oregon where he plans to major in history.

The members of the staff and board wish each of the graduating seniors success in all of their future music, education, professional and personal endeavors. The YSSO hopes they will stay in touch with the YSSO and share their experiences with the organization in the coming years.

PHOTOS BY CARI BAKER



In Gratitude & Appreciation

On behalf of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to the volunteers, parents, musicians, teachers, schools, businesses, organizations and members of the governing board who assisted with rehearsals, concerts, initiatives and events this season.

Volunteers: My thanks to the members of the Volunteer Steering Committee, Anastasia Anderson, Wendy Arthur, Larry Cooper, Anna Dunlap, Sarah Epstein, Nicie Phillips, Paul Finwall and Marilyn Versteeg for managing their teams of volunteers. A special note of appreciation to Sarah Epstein, who coordinated rehearsal refreshment volunteers and the wonderful post-concert receptions for a third year. Thank you to all of the parents who provided refreshments for rehearsals and assisted with rehearsals, concerts and events this season. I would like to offer a special note of appreciation to all of the parents and board members who assisted with the trip to the Oregon Music Educators Association state conference and the Youth Symphony's performance at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene. This event would not have been possible without the time, dedication and teamwork of the many individuals who served as chaperones, assisted with planning, coordinated logistics and traveled with the musicians.

Musicians, Families, Organizations: To the musicians, thank you for your commitment to your YSSO colleagues and the organization, and for enriching the cultural life of the Rogue Valley. The YSSO wishes to thank the families of the musicians for their support and dedication. Thank you to all of the music coaches who provided musical guidance, to Nicie Phillips for her service as music librarian this year, and to Cynthia Hutton and Faina Podolnaya for their guidance and leadership. The YSSO offers its thanks and appreciation to our region's school music teachers and private music teachers for their tireless efforts on behalf of music education. Thank you to the musicians and staff of the Rogue Valley Symphony and RVS Music Director Martin Majkut for helping to facilitate the wonderful side-by-side performances of four of Antonin Dvorák's *Slavonic Dances* this season. The YSSO wishes to thank the Camelot Theater for selecting the YSSO to be a beneficiary of a special performance of *Funny Girl*.

Concert Logistics: The YSSO could not present its concerts without the help of former board member Larry Cooper, his team of concert logistics volunteers and YSSO Stage Manager Ryan Johnson. The YSSO also appreciates the weekly assistance of Ai DeVore, Youth Strings accompanist and music coach.

Governance, Community Outreach & Development: I would like to thank YSSO Board President Anna Dunlap for never-failing enthusiastic support of the YSSO, and Executive Committee members, Anna Dunlap, Grace Chu, Sarah Epstein, Marilyn Versteeg and Peter Linington, for their leadership. Thank you to the Governance Committee - Anna Dunlap, Grace Chu, Marilyn Versteeg, Peter Linington - for the Committee's ongoing work on board and policy development.

Thank you to the members of the Advisory Committee, Alan Bergstrom, Linda Terry and Ilana Rubinfeld, for their work on several issues this year. Thank you to Finance Committee members Dale Hardt and Peter Linington for their expertise and assistance.

The members of the board's Development Committee organized several events again this year. Thank you to Al and Virginia Silbowitz for opening their home for a fall picnic for YSSO families, for the Food & Wine Pairing fund raising event, for hosting the annual board retreat. The YSSO offers its appreciation to Sarah Epstein, Jolene Buccino and the members of the Development Committee for planning the 2011 Raffle & Silent Auction; to Wendy Arthur for organizing the second annual YSSO Rummage Sale; to Dale Hardt for coordinating the benefit performance of "Funny Girl" at the Camelot Theater; and to Sarah Epstein and her team for managing the YSSO Family Picnic.

The YSSO bids farewell to board members Linda Terry, Virginia Silbowitz, Wendy Arthur and Grace Chu who retire at the end of June 2011. Thank you for your many years of service to the YSSO.

Operations: My thanks and appreciation to David Ruppe and Angel McDonald for their work on YSSO publications and to the office of Lisa Sclan Cooper, CPA, for providing assistance with payroll services. To Mark Jacobs, thank you for providing illuminating program notes for many, many years. The YSSO offers a very special word of thanks to Cari Baker for documenting the musicians and performances, and to Bryon DeVore for photographing the YSSO soloists each season.

Businesses: Thank you to Paddington Station in Ashland, Great Northwest Music in Grants Pass and Larry's Music in Medford for sharing their staff time to sell tickets this season. The YSSO would also like to thank the merchants, businesses, individuals and corporations that provided items for the Raffle & Silent Auction and for advertising in the concert series programs. The YSSO extends its appreciation to Gregg Sorensen of Southern Oregon Subaru for providing Fall Concert Series Partner funding this season, and to Bill and Sarah Epstein for providing Winter Concert Series Partner support. When you visit these businesses or speak with these individuals, please thank them for their commitment to the YSSO.

Funders: In addition to annual gifts and contributions from individuals, the YSSO received financial support from the following foundations, agencies and corporations this season: The Carpenter Foundation, City of Ashland, Collins Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation, the Presbyterian Foundation (estate of Sal & Geraldine Shangler), the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, as well as U.S. Bank, Southern Oregon Subaru, The Barton Family, South Valley Bank & Trust and Bill and Sarah Epstein.

Facilities & Venues: The YSSO would also like to thank the Medford School District, the staff at North Medford High School, Ashland School District, Grants Pass School District and Southern Oregon University and the staff of each concert venue for their help. Thank you to Lisa Thomas, Gary and Julie Crites, and Ruth Pepple at the Rogue Valley Manor for facilitating the YSSO's concerts for Manor residents this year. The YSSO appreciates the assistance of Terri Gieg, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, as well as the staff of Jacksonville's Historic First Presbyterian Church and the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Ashland for their help with this year's Chamber Music Series concerts.

Each year, the YSSO relies on the help and support of the individuals, businesses, volunteers, families and community members to carry out its mission. It would not be possible to maintain the complex season of rehearsals, performances and events without the help of parents and community volunteers, the cooperation of organizations, schools, educators, businesses and music professionals, and the financial support of individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies.

Thank you for your commitment to maintaining the YSSO's high-quality programs and concerts, and for sustaining the YSSO's presence in the Rogue Valley and beyond.

Sharon Wilson, Executive Director



**KAI DOWDING***Symphony, Clarinet*

Daughter of Krista Norton and Kent Dowding, Kai is a senior at Ashland High School (AHS) and principal clarinet of Youth Symphony. In addition to her participation in the YSSO, Kai has been a member of the AHS Symphonic Band, AHS Pep Band and Pit Orchestra, and she has participated in the Western International Band Clinic, All-State Honor Band, SOU Honor Band and the Oregon Ambassador of Music program. She also plays keyboard in the rock band, Turpentine. Her school music teachers have included Jenifer Carstensen and Jon Soderberg-Chase. Kai's private teachers have included Dennis Freese, Lori Calhoun, Cindy Hutton and Ann Bass. Kai also plays horn, piano, flute, alto saxophone and both Cuban and West African drums.

Kai shared that she could not recall why she wanted to play the clarinet. She quipped, "I just came home from school one day and asked my parents if we could rent a clarinet from Cripple Creek Music. They agreed and I skipped a soccer practice [in order to] go rent a clarinet. It signaled the end of my athletic career and the beginning of my musical adventures." In the fifth grade, after hearing her middle school music teacher play the theme from a Harry Potter film on horn, Kai decided to take up the French horn.

Kai cited Piotr I. Tchaikovsky's *Marche Slave* as one of her favorite works "because it showcases the clarinet section."

When asked about favorite YSSO memories she said, "I love the people the most. Playing beautiful music with such an energetic group is a very special experience." Kai lists Cindy Hutton, Lori Calhoun, Dennis Freese, Ann Bass and Sue Lundquist as music mentors. Her advice to YSSO musicians is, "Practice, practice, practice!"

Kai wishes to thank her parents for their unwavering support, for "schlepping her to and from lessons and rehearsals, and for attending the concerts," and for "pretending not to listen whenever I practice." Kai will be attending Pomona College following a year of travel.

AZURE GINSBERG*Symphony, Violin*

Youth Symphony violinist and Ashland High School (AHS) senior, Azure is the daughter of Mel and Stephanie Ginsberg. A member of the YSSO since the eighth grade, Azure also has participated in the AHS Chamber Orchestra and Mixed Choir, and Siskiyou Violins. Her school music teachers have included Gerry Paré, Jenifer Carstensen, Dwayne Johnson and Holly Johnson. Azure studies privately with Faina Podolnaya. In addition to violin, Azure also plays flute and guitar. She shared that she selected violin as her principal instrument because during a demonstration of the instrument, she became fascinated with the upper register and "wanted to play that super high note."

Azure went on to say she has enjoyed "playing [with] and being around so many talented people and [a] wonderful conductor [in a] positive atmosphere." A favorite YSSO memory will be the Youth Symphony's trip to Eugene and the performance at the Oregon Music Educators Association state conference. Her advice to future YSSO musicians is to "enjoy and appreciate the time and the love music gives you and others while it lasts."

She would like to thank her parents "for giving her a new life about which she never could have dreamed!" She also wishes to acknowledge the help, love and support of Faina Podolnaya. Azure plans to stay near her family, attend Rogue Community College and work on an associate degree. She hopes to study nursing and photography.

**VICTORIA GALLEGOS***Symphony, Cello*

A Grants Pass senior and cellist in Youth Symphony Victoria has been a member of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon since 2005. She currently studies through the Oregon Connections Academy. She has studied cello privately for six years. Her private teacher is Beth Goldstein. In addition to her involvement in the YSSO, Victoria has attended the Advanced Suzuki Institute at Stanford University and the Northern California Suzuki Institute.

Victoria shared that being involved in the YSSO gave her opportunities to make new friends and play beautiful music together with them. She went on to say that she found Paul Creston's *Concertino for Marimba and Orchestra* the most challenging work she played as a member of Youth Symphony. Victoria noted that her favorite works include to date, the *Overture to The Cowboys* by John Williams and Camille Saint-Saëns' *La muse et le poète*. Her favorite memory will be the Youth Symphony's performance at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene this season.

She wishes to extend her thanks to her parents for their many sacrifices and never-failing support. Victoria wishes to thank Beth Goldstein for her encouragement and Cindy Hutton for her enthusiastic leadership. Victoria

hopes to attend Biola University where she will study art.

CHARLIE SHEARER*Symphony, Viola*

A Grants Pass High School senior, Charlie is member of the Youth Symphony viola section. His parents are MaLinda and Glyn Prulhiere, and Scot Shearer. Charlie studies privately with Cynthia Cournoyer and his school music teacher is Laura Bolden. In addition to the Youth Symphony, he has been a member of the Grants Pass High School Chamber Orchestra. A multi-instrumentalist, Charlie plays violin and guitar in addition to the viola.

When asked what works he found most challenging, Charlie noted, [Piotr I. Tchaikovsky's] "*1812 Overture* is challenging." His favorite work to date has been *Le chasseur maudit* by César Franck. He shared, "It was fast-paced and packed a lot of variety." A favorite YSSO memory will be the side-by-side performances with the musicians of the Rogue Valley Symphony this season. He quipped that he will never forget the moment when Dr. Hutton's baton bounced off a music stand and almost hit him. He suggests that future YSSO musicians buy a nerf baton for Dr. Hutton!

Charlie shared that he counts Cynthia Cournoyer and Brittany Scott-Unger as mentors who have provided inspiration, motivation and encouragement. Charlie wishes to thank Brittany Scott-Unger for being his "driving force," Cynthia Cournoyer for "being a wonderful teacher," Laura Bolden for introducing him to combined orchestra, and his mother for "getting me into music by asking me what I would like to play" and for her unfailing support.

After graduation, Charlie's plans include designing video games and glass blowing. He will attend Rogue Community College and then a four-year university.

**WILLIAM SPENCER***Symphony, Trombone*

A Youth Symphony trombone player, William is a senior at South Medford High School (SMHS). His parents are Jay and Brenda Spencer. William has been a member of the YSSO for two years. In addition to the YSSO, he also has been a member of the SMHS Marching Band, Pep Band, Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble, as well as the Rogue Community College Jazz Band. His school music teachers have included Dr. Marty Sharer and Yoko Kan. William studies privately with Dr. Mark Jacobs.

When asked about a favorite YSSO memory, William noted he enjoyed "playing alongside such talented musicians [and participating in] the stunning performances we put together." Another more chilling memory was "performing with the Youth Symphony Brass Ensemble in a very cold mill." William selected Aaron Copland's *Rodeo* as the work he found most challenging. His advice to future YSSO musicians: "Practice a lot. And don't be late to rehearsal!"

William extends his appreciation to Cindy Hutton for "two fantastic years in the best musical group in which I have participated."

His many honors and accolades include a 4.0 GPA, Honor Roll, Torch Honor Society and his selection as Most Outstanding Band Member at SMHS's 2010 Band Camp. His post-high school plans include attending an Ivy League college where he will major in journalism.

JASMINE TERRY-SHINDELMAN*Symphony, Violin*

Jasmine, an Ashland High School (AHS) senior, is Co-Concertmaster of Youth Symphony. Her parents are David Shindelman and Linda Terry. Jasmine has been a member of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) since age seven. In addition to violin, Jasmine also plays oboe and guitar. She has studied violin privately with Virginia Wickham, Peggy Grueling and Faina Podolnaya, her current teacher, has coached with Kathleen Strahm, and she has studied oboe privately with Kenton Gould. Her school music teachers have included Jenifer Carstensen and Jon Soderberg-Chase. In addition to the YSSO, Jasmine has played in Siskiyou Violins, the AHS Symphonic band, AHS Pep Band and AHS Pit Orchestra. She is a member of the Rogue Valley Symphony as well.

Jasmine shared that "[the YSSO] has always been a huge part of my life and I've enjoyed every minute of it - except for the three years I had to sit next to Rex [Bufalino]...just kidding... kinda."

Her many and varied accomplishments include her selection as a winner of the 2010 YSSO Concerto Competition and subsequent performances of Felix Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* this season, participation in the National Security Language Initiative for Youth summer exchange program in New Delhi, India, and the Sea Education Association program in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Additionally, she has been involved in a number of school activities including the Alpine Ski Team, National Honor Society, Key Club, Mu Alpha Theta and Model United Nations.

She wishes to thank many people for their encouragement, support and love: Faina Podolnaya, Cindy Hutton, Stephen Bacon, Bill and Sarah Epstein, Anna Dunlap, Sharon Wilson, her sister Maya, and her parents and family members. Jasmine will attend Bowdoin College in Maine in the fall where she will study astronomy or geology. She also will play in the college orchestra and string ensembles.

