

# 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

# QUARTER NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH SYMPHONY OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Volume 24 • Number 2 • Winter/Spring 2014

## Membership News

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

As the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) organization's 2013-2014 Concert Season draws to a close, the board, staff and musicians wish to take this opportunity to thank the individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies providing financial assistance to the YSSO organization. The YSSO appreciates each and every gift. This support helps the YSSO provide enriching experiences for young people and present inspiring performances of classical music for the citizens of the Rogue Valley.

Music brings together people of all ages and bridges the past and present. Music participation teaches people to listen and develops teamwork skills. The YSSO's accomplished musicians demonstrate the value of music in learning and achievement, and the importance of music programs in our lives and communities. Participation in a music ensemble nurtures habits of mind and develops creative work-force skills such as confidence, motivation and discipline. The YSSO organization increases access to cultural offerings and augments programs in schools. The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon is dedicated to artistic quality, professional management, thoughtful governance and responsible stewardship of resources. The YSSO organization is proud of its community service and high-quality cultural arts programs, and its role in helping to sustain livable communities.

As you respond to a pledge letter or renewal and consider your gift to the YSSO, please know that every contribution has an impact on the organization. Contributions from individuals help pay for music, rehearsal facilities, concert venues and operations, and help underwrite tuition waiver and lesson assistance for YSSO musicians. When you receive a letter from the YSSO, please renew your membership or offer a gift to honor a friend, colleague or a family member. Checks should be made payable to the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and sent to the YSSO, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501. The YSSO is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and your gift may be tax-deductible. Please consult your professional tax advisor.

The YSSO organization looks forward to offering music opportunities for young people and building new audiences for classical music this year and into the future. Thank you for investing in the remarkable Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and for joining the musicians at the performances this season.

Sharon Wilson  
Executive Director

*Hearts, Hands, Minds, Music*

## Governing Board

### Officers

Dale Hardt  
President

Sarah Epstein  
Vice President

Paul O. Finwall  
Vice President

Marilyn Versteeg  
Secretary

Frank Phillips  
Treasurer

### Directors

Anita Caster  
Lana Haynes  
Denise Poisson  
Ilana Rubinfeld  
Lynn Sjolund  
Amy Watson

### Staff

Dr. Cynthia Hutton  
Conductor &  
Music Director

Faina Podolnaya  
Associate Conductor

Sharon Wilson  
Executive Director

Natalie Johnson  
Orchestra Manager

Shea Pasche  
Orchestra Assistant

Patty Klein  
Executive Assistant

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

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

## Spring 2014 Concert Series

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon 2013-2014 Concert Season concludes with a 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, May 16 at the Performing Arts Center in Grants Pass, a 7:30 p.m. performance at SOU's Music Recital Hall in Ashland, on Saturday, May 17 and a 3:00 p.m. performance in the Craterian Theater at the Collier Center in Medford on Sunday, May 18. The Spring Concert Series performances will showcase overtures, arias and excerpts from operas. The performances will showcase a musical collaboration with Brava! Opera Theater and James M. Collier Young Artist Program.

Under the direction of Music Director & Conductor Cynthia Hutton, the Youth Symphony will play the overture to Gioachino Rossini's opera *La scala di seta* (The Silken Ladder), the aria *Chacun le sait* from *The Daughter of the Regiment* by Gaetano Donizetti, *Largo al factotum* from Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville*, excerpts from *Carmen Suites 1 & 2* by Georges Bizet and the duet *Pronto io son* from Donizetti's opera *Don Pasquale*. The Youth Symphony will be joined by rising opera stars Lindsay Ohse, soprano, and José Rubio, baritone, performing arias and a duet.

The Youth Orchestra, also under the leadership of Dr. Hutton, will play a *Tannhäuser Suite* by Richard Wagner (arr. Isaac), the *Bacchanale* from the opera *Samson and Delilah* by Camille Saint-Saëns (arr. Isaac) and the overture to Gioachino Rossini's opera *William Tell* (arr. Lehmeier). The performances also will include Youth Strings, led by Associate Conductor Faina Podolnaya, performing works by Schubert and Gluck.

Tickets for the Spring Concert Series performances are available at Paddington Station in Ashland, Larry's Music in Medford and Oregon Books in Grants Pass. Tickets for the May 18 performance in Medford also are available through the Craterian Theater box office (541-779-3000).

More than 165 accomplished and aspiring public school, private school, home school and college musicians from Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland, Jacksonville, Talent, Phoenix,

Williams, Klamath Falls and the surrounding region were selected to participate in the YSSO this season.

James M. Collier is the 2013-2014 Concert Season Partner. The Spring Concert Series Partners are Beverly Fuller and Frank Phillips. The Carpenter Foundation, City of Ashland, Collins Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation and the Sharkey Family Charitable Foundation provided funding for the season. In addition, this project is funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. YSSO initiatives and



operations are supported by annual gifts from individuals, business contributions, Concert Series program advertising, Concert Series Partners and funding from foundations.

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 high-level training and performance experiences for young musicians under the leadership of professional conductors and music coaches and fosters a lifelong appreciation of classical music and the arts.

For more information about the concerts or the organization, contact the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501, 541-858-8859, info@yssso.org or visit: www.yssso.org.



PHOTOS BY CARI BAKER



## Spring 2014 Concert Series at a Glance

Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center, Grants Pass

Saturday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.  
SOU Music Recital Hall, Ashland

Sunday, May 18, 3:00 p.m.  
Craterian Theater at the Collier Center, Medford

## Concert Ticket Information

\$10.00 (general) &  
\$5.00 (students with ID)

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

## YSSO Family Ticket Policy

Each current YSSO family may receive two (2) complimentary tickets to the May 16 concert in Grants Pass and for the May 18 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.

## 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 requirements and protocol, music, music folders and other information.*

## Important News

### Brava! Opera Theater & Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon Partnership

This season includes collaboration between the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and Brava! Opera Theater. YSSO and Brava! Opera Theater staff met last spring to develop a partnership which would bring together the outstanding YSSO musicians with young rising stars in the world of opera. The cooperative venture culminates in the Spring Concert Series performances featuring Lindsay Ohse, soprano, and José Rubio, baritone, performing arias and a duet with the Youth Symphony.

Created in 2010 by Artistic Director Willene Gunn and General Director Lorrie Hall with benefactor James M. Collier, Brava! Opera Theater and James M. Collier Young Artist Program is southern Oregon's newest opera company. Professional singer, actress, stage director and educator, Ms. Gunn served as Director of the Opera Program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music from 1975 to 2005 and served as Artistic Director of Rogue Opera from 2006-2009. Ms. Hall, singer, non-profit arts consultant and grant writer, was the Executive Director of Rogue Opera from 2004-2009.



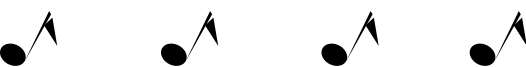
### 2014 Concerto Competition

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon's annual Concerto Competition was held on Monday evening, January 27, 2014, at Southern Oregon University's Music Recital Hall in Ashland. Advanced-level Youth Symphony musicians competed for an opportunity to play with the Youth Symphony as a soloist next season.

Participants this year included Chloe Brown (Ashland High School), Kailie DeBolt (Grants Pass High School), Kendra DeBolt (Grants Pass High School), Ryan Hoe (Ashland High School), Sarah Klein (North Medford High School/Home School), Anne Soyeon Kim (Ashland High School), Drew Morgan (Home School) and Jerry Su (South Medford High School). The musicians performed excerpts from works by Bruch,

Laurie Anne Hunter, Juilliard School graduate and former New York City Opera Conductor, serves as Brava! Opera Theater's conductor, pianist and vocal coach.

Brava! Opera Theater and James M. Collier Young Artist Program offers singer training and scene development culminating in an Opera in the Afternoon Concert each November. The workshop helps emerging singers develop musical and theatrical tools and techniques. The company's National Vocal Competition, held in San Francisco in October, recognizes and encourages promising young operatic talent. Cash prizes are awarded and the first place winner presents a recital in southern Oregon in the spring. The company also stages a Chamber Opera each year in early March at Camelot Theater. The production features nationally-recognized professional opera singers and a small orchestra. This year's production was Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, featuring soprano Lindsay Ohse in the leading role of the Governess.



Lalo, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and others.

Violinist Sarah Klein was selected as the winner this year. She will be the featured soloist with the Youth Symphony during the 2014-2015 Concert Season. Sarah will play two movements from Piotr I. Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*.

The judges for the 2014 Concerto Competition were Kristin Kessler and Mahjinka Stebbins.



### Annual Meeting Friends of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Sunday, May 18, 2014, 2:00 p.m.  
Second Floor – Craterian Theater

Pre-concert reception, donor recognition  
& brief business meeting.

All members in good standing of the Friends of the YSSO are encouraged to attend.

## In Gratitude & Appreciation

On behalf of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization I wish 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 Anita Caster, Sarah Epstein, JoDee Hollopetter, Patty Klein, Denise Poisson, Traci Walker and Paul Finwall for recruiting and managing volunteers this season. A very special note of appreciation goes to Sarah Epstein, who has coordinated rehearsal refreshment volunteers and post-concert receptions for many years. Thank you to all of the parents who provided refreshments for rehearsals and volunteered their time to assist with rehearsals and concerts.

**Musicians, Families, Organizations:** To the musicians, thank you for your commitment to your YSSO colleagues, the music 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 worked with the musicians this year, to Anne Kim for her work as Youth Strings accompanist, and to Cynthia Hutton and Faina Podolnaya for their guidance. The YSSO offers its thanks and appreciation to school music teachers and private instructors for their work and for advocating the importance of music education. Thank you to the staff of Brava! Opera Theater – Willene Gunn, Lorrie Hall and Laurie Anne Hunter – for working with the YSSO on music and guest artists for the Spring Concert Series.

**Concert Logistics:** The YSSO could not present its concerts without the help of numerous concert logistics volunteers and YSSO orchestra manager Natalie Miller and orchestra assistant Shea Pasche.

**Governing Board:** I would like to thank governing board president Dale Hardt for her outstanding leadership, as well as directors Sarah Epstein, Paul Finwall, Marilyn Versteeg, Frank Phillips, Anita Caster, Amy Watson, Lynn Sjolund, Ilana Rubinfeld, Denise Poisson and Lana Haynes for their work, support and governance throughout the year. I would also like to offer a special note of thanks on behalf of the board and staff to Kathy Olsen for sharing her expertise with the board and leading the discussion at the board retreat this year.

**Operations:** My thanks and appreciation to David Ruppe and Angel McDonald for their work on YSSO publications, Barb Barasa for her assistance with web site management, Ingrid Edstrom for her help with bookkeeping, and the office of Richard Brewster, CPA for preparing the annual reports. To Mark Eliot Jacobs, thank you for providing illuminating program notes again this season. Thank you to photographer Cari Baker for documenting each of the performances. My thanks to Patty Klein for

her assistance with administrative projects as well.

**Businesses:** Thank you to Paddington Station in Ashland, Larry's Music in Medford and Oregon Books in Grants Pass for selling concert tickets this season. The YSSO would also like to thank the businesses that provided items for a silent auction at the Grizzly Peak Winery event and for advertising in the concert series programs. The YSSO extends its appreciation to Concert Series Partners including the Ashland Surgery Center, Siskiyou Eye Center, Penny Austin & Alan Bergstrom, Harfst and Associates, Inc., the Jed & Celia Meese Foundation, Ron & Kate Moore, and Beverly Fuller & Frank Phillips.

**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, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation, Sharkey Family Charitable Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The YSSO wishes to offer heartfelt thanks to Mr. James Collier for his extraordinary financial support for the 2013-2014 Concert Season.

**Facilities & Venues:** The YSSO would also like to thank the Medford School District and superintendent Phil Long, Dalin Armstrong in the Medford School District Facilities Office, Ron Buckles, Don Denney and the staff at North Medford High School, Ashland School District, Steve Daggett at the Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center, Stephen McCandless, Eric Strahl, Colette Tidball, Kimberley Moore, Maureen Esser and the staff and volunteers at the Craterian Theater, DeWan Sutton and Terry Carlson at the Parkway Christian Center, David Humphrey, Thomas Knapp and the student assistants at Southern Oregon University's Performing Arts Department, staff of the Historic First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and the staff at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Ashland for their help. Thank you to Mary Jane Morrison and Ruth Pepple at the Rogue Valley Manor for coordinating YSSO concerts at the Rogue Valley Manor.

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 sustaining high-level music programs, producing inspiring and accessible concerts, for helping to transform lives and communities.

*Sharon Wilson, Executive Director*

## James M. Collier 2013-14 Concert Season Partner



The governing board, staff, musicians, family members and audiences wish to thank James M. Collier for his investment in

the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon organization and for his support of the 2013-2014 Concert Season.

Jim Collier has provided support to arts organizations and to programs benefitting young people for many years. An interest in opera sparked an exploration of the performing arts and classical music and an inheritance allowed him to embark on a journey as an arts patron and philanthropist. Mr. Collier's generosity has extended to groups from Des Moines, Iowa and Bakersfield, California to leading presenting organizations in the Rogue Valley. He has donated three concert grand pianos and four upright pianos to various organizations, including the Rogue Valley Manor, garnering him the title "The Piano Man."

As a former educator, Jim has a special interest in fostering the development of arts programs and a personal mission to help sustain high-quality opportunities for young people. The YSSO is honored to be a beneficiary of his extraordinary generosity.





## SENIOR PROFILES



### ALEX DAVIS *Symphony, Cello*

Alex began playing cello when he was nine years old. A senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS), his parents are Charles and Cheryl Davis. He joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in 2013. As a member of Youth Symphony, he enjoyed hearing the violin cadenzas played by the two Concerto Competition winners. Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* was his favorite work this season.

Alex's school music teachers are Laura Boldon and Krista DeBolt. Mrs. Boldon is more than just a teacher, Alex says, she takes time to care about her students. She realizes music teachers are instrumental in developing children. She is a music teacher who selects music that everyone in the orchestra can enjoy instead of works for only the principals. The GPHS Orchestra and Symphony, and the Rogue Community College Choir are groups in which Alex participates. Alex has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and he has appeared in musicals and plays at GPHS.

He advises future YSSO musicians "to take pride in the ability to excel in an ensemble not just as a soloist" He went on to say, "[musicians] who don't have a private instructor, [shouldn't] let it bring them down." Alex plans to major in elementary education and minor in media and cinema communications at George Fox University.

### ANNA EPSTEIN *Symphony, Violin*

Ashland High School (AHS) senior Anna Epstein joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) in 2005. This season she is Associate Concertmaster of the Youth Symphony. Last year she was one of the winners of the 2013 Concerto Competition and was the featured soloist in the Fall 2013 Concert Series performances. In addition to the YSSO, Anna has played in the Rogue Valley Symphony and in Siskiyou Violins. Her school music teachers have included Gerry Paré and Jon Soderberg-Chase. Her private teacher is Faina Podolnaya. Anna's parents are William and Sarah Epstein.

Anna wishes to express her thanks to Cindy for "sharing so much of her time and energy with us," to Faina "for teaching me how to play," and to "my parents for their support." Anna plans to attend college after graduation from AHS.



### BECKY FULLER-PHILLIPS *Symphony, Trumpet*

Principal trumpet of the Youth Symphony, Becky joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in the seventh grade. She shared that she enjoys playing trumpet because "trumpet players usually get to play loud," however, she also noted that she appreciates how difficult and challenging the instrument is to play. The years Becky had braces created extra obstacles for her as a horn player. She shared, "It seemed like I had to relearn my technique when I got them on, while I wore them and again when they came off." She studies trumpet with Bruce Dresser whom she credits with helping her grow as a musician. Her school music teachers are Michael Wing and Chris Pearson. A senior at St. Mary's School, Becky plays in the school Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra and sings in the Choir. She has also played in Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) ensembles. Becky's parents are Beverly Fuller and Frank Phillips.

Becky is grateful for Cindy Hutton's dedication and for motivating the musicians. A work that Becky found especially challenging was *Symphony No. 1* by Gustav Mahler. A favorite YSSO memory was playing at an OMEA state conference in Eugene. Becky will be attending the University of Washington where she will major in visual communications/graphic design and minor in music.

### MATTHEW GRAY *Symphony, Horn*

Matt, a senior at South Medford High School (SMHS), joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon when he was in the ninth grade. Cindy Hutton is his private horn teacher. Matthew found reaching higher octaves and playing faster to be challenging as a horn player. His school music teacher is Mrs. Kan. In addition to the YSSO, Matthew has played in the Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) All-State Band and the Western International Band Clinic. His parents are Jim Gray and Timotea Gray whom he thanks for their support.

Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 1* was Matt's favorite and the most challenging work to play. He found he had to stay focused and listen to all of the instruments in the symphony. Matt enjoys playing with his horn section colleagues and having opportunities to talk with other YSSO musicians. Each performance holds special memories for Matthew.

Matt plans to attend Rogue Community College and then transfer to Oregon State University to pursue a degree in engineering.



## Esther Aviana Platt & Gabriel Young Selected for the 2014 National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America

The Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon congratulates Gabriel Young, Youth Symphony Principal Oboe, and Youth Symphony Concertmaster Esther Aviana Platt on their selection for the 2014 National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA). Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute brings together 120 young musicians from across the country to form the NYO-USA. This year the orchestra will be led by David Robertson, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. The guest soloist will be violinist Gil Shaham.

The members of NYO-USA will spend two weeks on the campus of Purchase College, SUNY. The residency includes sectional and orchestral rehearsals, workshops designed to complement tour repertoire, and social/recreational activities, capped by a performance in the concert hall. The orchestra's coast-to-coast U.S. tour will begin with a performance at the Performing Arts Center in Purchase, NY, followed by the orchestra's Carnegie Hall debut in New York City, a performance that will be heard by music lovers worldwide via the "Carnegie Hall Live" broadcast and digital series, created in partnership with WQXR and American Public Media.

Concert repertoire will include Leonard Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, Benjamin Britten's *Violin Concerto, Op. 15*, a new work commissioned by Carnegie Hall by composer Samuel Carl Adams and Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* (orch. Ravel). For more information, visit: <http://www.carnegiehall.org/Education/National-Youth-Orchestra-of-the-United-States-of-America/>

## Spring Concert Series Guest Artists



### Lindsay Ohse, soprano

Described as "sparkling" by *Opera News*, soprano Lindsay Ohse has performed many leading roles including Celeste in Portland Opera's west coast premiere of *Galileo Galilei* by Phillip Glass, Marie in Wichita Grand Opera's *La Fille du Regiment*, Barbarina

in Portland Opera's production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Constance in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* at Des Moines Metro Opera, the Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* at both the Santa Fe Opera and Sarasota Opera, Viclinda in Verdi's rarely performed *I Lombardi* and the role of Ann Putnam in *The Crucible*, also at Sarasota Opera. In February 2014 she sang the role of the Governess in the Brava! Opera Theater production of *Turn of the Screw*, by Benjamin Britten.

She recently completed a residency with Portland Opera, where she performed the role of Armida in G. F. Händel's opera *Rinaldo*. Other recent engagements include Donna Anna in W. A. Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Opera Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Ms. Ohse won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Oregon District Auditions in 2012 and placed second in the Brava! Opera Theater and James M. Collier Young Artist Program 2012 Vocal Competition.

### Music Coaches, Adjudicators, Guest Musicians, Conductors

The YSSO organization would like to thank the following musicians and music teachers for serving as audition and concerto competition adjudicators, music coaches, accompanists and guest artists this season:

Pat Berlet, Judy Bjorlie, Dale Bradley, Susan Brown, Lori Calhoun, Scott Cole, Kimberly Fitch, Beth Goldstein, Kenton Gould, Gwen Hutchings, Mark Jacobs, Ryan Johnson, Kristin Kessler, Anne Soyeon Kim, Phebe Kimball, Julie Matthews, Bruce McKern, Scott Miller, Lindsey Ohse, José Rubio, Thomas Stauffer, Mahjinka Stebbins and Sarah Kreger Traff.

### José Rubio, baritone



Baritone José Rubio is equally comfortable in the concert hall and on the operatic stage. Mr. Rubio recently made his recital debut at Carnegie Hall. *Opera Insider* proclaimed "... [the] recital was nothing short of stellar."

He has sung the roles of Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* with Tacoma Opera, Bob and Ben in *The Old Maid and the Thief and The Telephone* with Brava! Opera Theater, and Le Mari in Vespertine Opera's U.S. premiere of Benjamin Britten's adaptation of *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* by Francis Poulenc. Mr. Rubio returned to Portland Opera for the west coast premiere of *Galileo Galilei* by Philip Glass. His New York City operatic debut in Encompass Opera's world premiere production of *Angel of the Amazon* by Evan Mack garnered critical acclaim. Mr. Rubio performed the title role of Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in 2011 with the Music Academy of the West. The *Los Angeles Times* heralded him as a "... Figaro with an impressively booming baritone." While in Santa Barbara, he was selected by legendary mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne to perform for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

He completed a two-year engagement as a Studio Artist with Portland Opera. His main stage performances with Portland Opera included the roles of Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Sam in *Trouble in Tahiti*, Mercurio in *La Calisto*, Fiorello in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Marullo in *Rigoletto*, Barone Douphol in *La Traviata* and Tancredi in *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*. Other roles have included Marcello in *La Bohème*, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Dr. Rappaccini in *La Hija de Rappaccini*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute* and Masetto in *Don Giovanni*.

Upcoming engagements include his return to Cincinnati Opera where he will reprise multiple roles in *Galileo Galilei* by Phillip Glass. He will also be heard as Figaro in Tacoma Opera's production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

Mr. Rubio received an artist diploma and master's degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington. In 2008, Mr. Rubio won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Oregon District Auditions.




**KAILIE DeBOLT** *Symphony, Viola*

Daughter of Bryan and Krista DeBolt, **Kailie** is a senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS). She started playing viola in the fourth grade and joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon as a freshman. This year she is co-principal of the Youth Symphony viola section. Kailie has studied privately with Pat Berlet and Nevin Van Manen. Her school music teachers have included Laura Boldon, Krista DeBolt, Travis Modison and Jason Garcia. Ensembles in which Kailie has participated include the GPHS Chamber Orchestra and GPHS Symphony. Kailie credits her mother for helping her with everything and keeping her going.

Kailie selected as her favorite Youth Symphony works Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral* for its beauty and José Pablo Moncayo's *Huapango*. Kailie advises future YSSO musicians to "Enjoy yourself and the wonderful music you will have the opportunity to play." She has appreciated playing challenging pieces in a large symphony with great friends. The 2012 Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert will be one of her favorite YSSO memories.

Kailie is a member of National Honor Society. She has participated in the Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) All-State Orchestra and National Association of Music Educators All Northwest Orchestra. Kailie placed third (viola) in the OMEA District Solo and Ensemble Festival. She plans a double major in music performance

(viola) and fine arts in college.

**KENDRA DeBOLT** *Symphony, Violin*

Kendra, a Grants Pass High School (GPHS) senior, has been a member of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon since her freshman year. Currently she is principal of the Youth Symphony's second violin section. She values the impact the YSSO has had on her musicianship. Kendra also plays in the GPHS Chamber Orchestra and Symphony. Kendra wishes to thank her private teacher Pat Berlet for her advice and pushing her to excel. She has studied with Nevin Van Monen, Kathy Gallagher, Krista DeBolt and her current school music teacher, Laura Boldon. Kendra's parents are Bryan and Krista DeBolt. Kendra has been inspired by her mother and cites her as the reason she first began to study the violin.

As a YSSO musician, she found *Le chasseur maudit*, by César-Auguste Frank, to be the most challenging work to play. Her favorite YSSO memory is the 2012 Youth Symphony & Youth Symphony Alumni Concert. When asked about advice for future YSSO musicians, Kendra said simply, "Practice." Kendra is a member of the National Honor Society. College plans include attending Washington State University where she will major in music education and pursue certification as a music therapist.


**GABRIEL YOUNG** *Symphony, Oboe*

Son of David and Linda Young, Gabriel is a senior at Ashland High School (AHS). A multi-instrumentalist, he plays oboe, saxophone(s) and clarinet. He shared that he received a toy saxophone for his birthday and started learning to play it at age two, and was given an oboe by his cousin in the fifth grade. He has studied oboe with Kenton Gould and Melissa Peña. His private saxophone teachers have included Dennis Freese, Jan Christensen, Daryl Fjeldheim and Rhett Bender. School music teachers include Jenifer Carstensen and Jon Soderberg-Chase. He learned about the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon from his sister Abby and joined in 2006. In addition to the YSSO, Gabriel has played in the AHS Symphonic Band, AHS Pep Band, Young Family Trio, 2012 World Youth Wind Symphony-Interlochen Summer Arts Camp and the Shabbat Shirah Ensemble. His many honors include selection for the National Youth Orchestra of the United States (2013 and 2014), All-State and All-Northwest ensembles, and winning the Oregon State Solo Competition four times. He is an AP Scholar and a National Merit Commended Student.

Favorite works performed as a YSSO musician include Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 1 in D Major*, Antonin Dvořák's *Symphony No. 9*, Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral* and the overture to John Williams' score for *The Cowboys*. The work he found most challenging was Sergei Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto*. His advice for upcoming YSSO musicians is, "Practice lots and don't give up. Keep classical music alive and well."

He offers his thanks to his family for their support, to his teachers and conductors for helping him to be the best he could be, to his peers for playing with him and helping him grow as a musician, and to the community for supporting him and attending performances. Gabriel plans a double major in oboe performance and statistics at a university.


**ARIEL LINGO** *Symphony, Violin*

A senior at Grants Pass High School (GPHS), Ariel has enjoyed playing "amazing music" as a member of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon. Her favorite work was Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5 in C minor, op.67*. The daughter of Jake and Rachel Morgan Lingo, she offers her thanks to her parents for their support at each audition and presence at every performance.

Ariel has studied violin privately with Krista DeBolt for four years. She was inspired to play after seeing a presentation by Mrs. DeBolt in the fourth grade in which students were invited to join the strings program. Ariel plays in the GPHS Chamber Orchestra and Symphony, directed by Laura Boldon. Ariel is grateful for the knowledge and expertise of the teachers with whom she has worked.

Her advice to YSSO musicians of the future is to "never let anybody tell you that you can't do it, because you can. Also, practice your music!" After high school Ariel plans to attend a community college for two years then transfer to the University of Oregon to pursue a degree in elementary education.


**SAM ADCOCK** *Symphony, Oboe*

An Ashland High School (AHS) senior and the son of Joe Adcock, Sam joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon at age 10. He was encouraged to do so by his private oboe teacher Kenton Gould, his private teacher of nine years. Sam also studies trumpet with Bruce Dresser. His school music teachers are Jon Soderberg-Chase and Jenifer Carstensen. Sam thanks all of his music teachers who have helped him over the years, for encouraging his interest in music and for teaching him to be a better player. In addition to the YSSO, Sam plays with the AHS Symphonic Band.

As a YSSO musician, Sam enjoyed performing the *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1* by Edward Grieg and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5 in C minor, op. 67*. Sam considers both to be challenging, iconic works.

Sam's advice to future YSSO musicians is to "Learn to enjoy the rehearsals; playing in a large ensemble can be a very enjoyable experience." He plans to attend college after graduation from AHS.


**KENAN CELEBI** *Symphony, Bass*

The son of Ayhan and Shannon Celebi, Kenan is a senior at Ashland High School (AHS). Kenan offers his thanks to his family for encouraging him academically and musically as he pursues his aspirations. He studies privately with David Miller who has been an integral part of his development as a musician. He plays in the AHS Chamber Orchestra. His school music teacher is Gerry Paré, his teacher and mentor since the fifth grade.

Kenan joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in 2008 because of the persistence of Ashland Middle School teacher, Dwayne Johnson. His favorite memory is being on stage for the first time in a professional setting and playing the *New World Symphony, Finale* by Antonin Dvořák (arr. Leidig). "Practice - it pays off" is Kenan's advice for future YSSO musicians.

Kenan's honors include his selection for the Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) All-State Orchestra, his involvement in the Turkish Music Association, his service as vice president of the AHS Chapter of the National Honor Society, treasurer of the AHS Math Honor Society, team captain of the AHS Brain Bowl Junior Varsity Team, his selection as a Distinguished AP Scholar, and his work as founder and president of Open Minds for Islam at AHS. Kenan plans to attend Portland State University's Honors Program and pursue a Ph.D. in genetic engineering.


**IAN McQUOID** *Symphony, Flute*

An Ashland High School (AHS) senior, Ian is the son of Kim McQuoid and Mark Pollard. Ian began playing the flute at the age of eight. He has studied with Daryl Fjeldheim for six years and with his current private teacher, Tessa Brinkman, for three years. Jenifer Carstensen and Jon Soderberg-Chase are his school music teachers. In addition to his involvement in the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, Ian performs with the AHS Band. He found *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* by John Adams, played by the Youth Symphony on the Fall 2012 Concert Series, to be an exceptionally challenging work to play.

Ian plans to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in either medicine or engineering.





**DEVIN BERNSTEIN** *Symphony, Horn*

A member of the Youth Symphony horn section, Devin plays trumpet and French horn. Not always able to practice at home, she has enjoyed the challenge of learning to play both instruments. Devin considers Cynthia Hutton to be a personal, educational and music mentor and she is grateful for her support. Devin has studied privately with her for two years. She is a senior at Eagle Point High School. Jeremy Durst is her school music teacher. Devin's parents are Bryan and Tracy Bernstein. She is grateful her family and friends have helped her reach her musical goals.

Devin has found Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon music to be both challenging and enjoyable. Her favorite work was Piotr Tchaikovsky's *Fourth Symphony* because of the hard work required to learn and play it. Her advice to future YSSO musicians is "Remember why you're here. It may get tough and you may think that giving up is a choice you need to make, but it's not. You're here because you love music. Don't let that feeling go." Devin is the president for her local theatre troupe and is on the honor roll. She plans to pursue a degree in nursing at Southern Oregon University.



**ADDE MOORE** *Symphony, Violin*

A senior at South Medford High School (SMHS), Adde joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon at age 13 after learning about it from friends and her mother. Her parents are Ron and Kate Moore. About the violin Adde says, "I was simply curious. I always loved music and my mom got me into piano. I then decided to join my elementary school orchestra and fell in love with the violin." Patience and intonation have challenged Adde while learning to play the instrument. To future YSSO musicians Adde says, "Have fun! You are so blessed to be a part of this organization."

Adde's private music teacher Faina Podolnaya inspires her as a musician because of her honesty, expertise, and her willingness to challenge her students. Her school music teachers have included Richard Meyer, Lynn Gervais and Zoryn Thompson, her current teacher. In addition to the YSSO, Adde is a member of Siskiyou Violins.

Adde thanks Jesus for blessing her with opportunities and talent, her parents for their willingness to support her love of music and for constantly encouraging her to be better, and Faina for pushing her harder than anyone. Adde will be pursuing a degree in music therapy at Seattle Pacific University.



**HALLI ROUSSELL** *Symphony, Flute*

The daughter of Ed and Lynn Roussel, Halli joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in the eighth grade at the recommendation of band director, Randy Magallanes. She is a senior at North Medford High School (NMHS). Halli thanks her parents for encouraging her to join and for supporting her throughout the experience. The inspiration behind every hour of practice, performance and measure of music she masters is her private flute teacher, Debra Harris. Halli credits Ms. Harris with showing her how beautiful a flute can sound. Halli wishes to acknowledge her school music teacher, Steve Kessler, for recognizing and encouraging her musical potential. She shared, "[Mr. Kessler] made me love music the very first day I met him in sixth grade band." In addition to the YSSO, Halli is a member of the NMHS Marching Band, Wind Ensemble and Pep Band.

When asked what she most enjoyed about playing in the YSSO Halli remarked, "YSSO is fun because it's challenging. My musical abilities have expanded since joining the organization and it has been inspiring to play with other advanced-level young musicians." Her favorite work was the *Cello Concerto* by Édouard Lalo. She shared that the work was also one of the first multi-movement pieces she had played. She observed that it seemed daunting at first and was hard to practice but was rewarding to finally learn her part.

Halli is a valedictorian of her senior class, historian of the National Torch Honor Society, president of French Club, the Kiwanis Club's February Student-of-the-Month and is on the NMHS academic honor roll. She participated in the Western International Band Clinic and the 2014 Oregon Music Teachers Association Solo and Ensemble Competition. Halli will play in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival *Into the Woods* orchestra this summer. Halli plans to pursue a degree in neuroscience in college.



## SENIOR PROFILES

### ZICHENG LONG (JASON)

#### *Symphony, Violin*

Jason, a senior at Ashland High School (AHS), joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in 2009. He began playing violin at the age of 10 studying with Jing Guan. Gerry Paré is his AHS Chamber Orchestra music teacher. His parents are Fuyou Long and Yun Zhu. Jason acknowledges and thanks his parents, his teachers, classmates and others who have created the atmosphere that has helped to shape him.

Jason has found something good in every YSSO rehearsal and performance, enjoying Cynthia Hutton's humor along the way. He found the music to be fun and challenging. His advice to future YSSO musicians is, "Good luck, have fun, trust your own judgment until it's proved wrong and make sure that you are on the way to getting to where you want to be."

Jason received honorable mention in the 2012 Oregon Invitational Math Tournament, Algebra II level. He plans to study engineering in college.



### MASON PRATT

#### *Symphony, Violin*

A Grants Pass High School (GPHS) senior, Mason is the son of Rob and Marcia Pratt. Mason's private violin teacher is Krista DeBolt. His school music teacher is Laura Boldon. Mason is a member of the GPHS Symphony and Chamber Orchestra. Other school music teachers have included Lana Haynes and Sarah Klein. Mason joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon in 2013 after learning about it from YSSO musicians and Mrs. DeBolt. He has enjoyed the high-quality music and found Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* to be the most challenging. His advice to future YSSO musicians is, "The more you put into it, the more you get out of it." He continued, "Playing music takes dedication, hard work and a love for music. I admire musicians willing to work hard to improve their skills."

Mason wishes to express his gratitude to his parents for encouraging him to do his best. There are also many teachers who have made a huge difference in his life and he is thankful for their influence. His college plans include pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering.



### CHRISTIAN VOELKEL

#### *Symphony, Violin*

A senior at North Medford High School (NMHS), Christian's parents are Jim and Leslie Voelkel. Christian wishes to thank his mom for encouraging and supporting him through years of lessons, practice and performances. His private teachers have included Heidi Strahm, Scott Cole and Faina Podolnaya. Christian's school music teachers have included Mark Barnard, Michael Wing and Lynn Gervais, his current teacher. In addition to the YSSO, Christian plays in the NMHS Chamber Orchestra and in Siskiyou Violins. Honors include NMHS Honor Society, the gold awards presented to Siskiyou Violins at Carnegie Hall and achieving Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.

Itzak Perlman inspires Christian but it was his brother's violin lessons that influenced Christian's choice of instrument. Heidi Strahm encouraged him to audition for the YSSO (Youth Strings) in the third grade. As a member of the Youth Symphony, Christian enjoys hearing how the hard work in rehearsals culminates in outstanding performances. He advises future musicians to practice and stay with it. Christian thanks Heidi Strahm, Faina Podolnaya and Cynthia Hutton for giving him opportunities to enjoy playing violin in a variety of venues and settings. Christian plans to pursue a degree in engineering in college.



### AARON WATERS

#### *Symphony, Bass*

Aaron was encouraged to join the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon (YSSO) by music teacher Lynn Gervais in his senior year at North Medford High School (NMHS). "Mrs. Gervais had more confidence in me than I did, especially when it came to joining the YSSO. She believed I had talent and arranged an audition with Dr. Hutton," said Aaron. He is sincerely thankful for her encouragement. Aaron thanks his parents, Joseph and Shannon Waters, and his brother for their support. "They have always enjoyed seeing me perform," he says. He has played bass since the sixth grade. He studies with Whitney Moulten.

Aaron gives a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Hutton for giving him an "incredible opportunity to play bass" and for instilling confidence in his musical skills. Aaron noted, "This has been quite the experience for me." Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* is a work Aaron had wanted to play and he enjoyed both the challenge and fun he had playing the symphony. His advice to future YSSO musicians is to enjoy playing and belonging to something positive, and above all to practice, practice, practice. Aaron will remember the friendships he made.

Aaron's community service activities have included starting a children's choir at his church. He plans on attending college, where he will major in education and minor in music.

