

# PYO

Spring 2013

# NOTES

Pocono Youth Orchestra

Established 1987-25th Season



## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION CONCERTS

The Orchestras will conclude their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season with concerts at East Stroudsburg University on Saturday, June 1, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at 3 p.m. We invite our alumni to join us and add their skills to the performances. As we go to press with this newsletter, we have commitments from more than a dozen former musicians. If you are an alumnus and would like to join us, you still have time to sign up. Email us at [music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org](mailto:music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org) for more information and to participate in helping us celebrate our first quarter century.

Pocono Youth Orchestra

Est. 1987, 25<sup>th</sup> Season

P.O. Box 1101

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

[www.pocono-youth-orchestra.org](http://www.pocono-youth-orchestra.org)

[music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org](mailto:music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org)



Photo: Dr. Georgios Stylianides

## President's Message

The winter concerts, which opened our 25<sup>th</sup> season, were a rousing success. I still hear comments from parents and the community that the orchestras never sounded better. Our plan is to conclude our Silver Anniversary year with the finest performances ever but our winter concerts now raise the bar. Did we peak too early?

Our Directors, Tony & Audrey Simons, say "no." Here are a few highlights of what is in store for June.

Ronald DeGrandis, a composer from the Lehigh Valley, has written two pieces for the Orchestras to perform in commemoration of the PYO's Silver anniversary. The Composer will practice with our students and we expect him to attend at least one of the concerts.

The PJSO is working on a piece composed by Richard Meyer called “**Curse of the Rosin Eating Zombies from Outer Space.**” Of course, no zombie performance is complete without at least a few blood-curdling screams. I was proud to learn my son Tim earned a spot as one of the soloist screamers. His grandparents will not be impressed given the money spent on double bass lessons, but I understand this is a resume builder. Is there College scholarship money for screamers? It is a fun piece, though, and I am sure you will enjoy it.

Our PYO soloist for the Spring Concert is Amy Chryst. Amy will be playing Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64. I had the chance to see Amy perform at the Sherman Theater recently for a “Partners in the Arts” Music competition. She is very talented and I am sure you will enjoy her performance.

Thank you to our PYO Board members for donating their time to the organization, helping us fundraise, sell flowers at concerts, take tickets, attend Board meetings and do all of the other tasks that are thankless but which are necessary to keep the PYO running. Board members are not paid. They devote their time to the organization because they believe in our mission. We welcome those interested in a seat on the Board to attend one of our meetings. We post meeting dates on our website. No special skills are required other than an interest in the PYO.

Special thanks to Desplina Lawlor and Dr. Georgios Stylianides for acting as our unofficial photographers during the winter concerts. In fact, we featured Georgios’ artistic photograph of Tony Simons on the cover page of this edition of the newsletter.

Of course, the PYO could not function without our directors, Tony & Audrey Simons. As always, we thank them for inspiring our children.

**Jerry Geiger, President**

## Spotlight on Composer Ron DeGrandis



Our orchestras will perform two works that Lehigh Valley composer Ron DeGrandis specially wrote for the PYO’s 25<sup>th</sup> season: *Thunderbolt* for the PJSO and *Silver Celebration* for the PYO.

Ron is an avid composer. He has written commemorative marches for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Northampton County, for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Crayola Crayon Company, and for several PMEA District 10 Festivals.

Ron was a music teacher for the Easton School District for 31 years. He resides in Bethlehem with his wife Janet, who was also an instrumental music teacher in the Easton Area School District. They both retired in 2011. Ron gives private lessons, enjoys guest conducting and continues to compose for schools in the Lehigh Valley. He was recently named assistant conductor of the Lehigh Valley Pops Orchestra and plays viola with the Allentown Symphony.



### Spotlight on PYO Soloist Amy Chryst

The PYO will feature violinist **Amy Chryst** in the First Movement of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64, widely regarded as one of the most popular violin concertos of all time.

Amy is a senior home school student in her fourth year of playing violin with the PYO following five years in the PJSO. She has been taking violin lessons for more than ten years and studies violin with Christopher Souza. Amy enjoys singing and now rounds out her studies with piano lessons. Amy is involved with the National Music Federation of Music Clubs, where she earned six consecutive superior ratings for solo violin, two superior for concerto, and four for theory. Amy won the Pocono Arts Council's "Youth in Music Excellence" Awards competitions in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, and just received the senior instrumental and senior vocal awards for 2013. Amy will major in violin performance in college.

### Pocono Youth Orchestra June 2013 Graduates

The PYO wishes its graduating seniors every success in their future careers:

- **Adam Barth**, Violin (Pocono Mountain East High School) (4 years)
- **John Charlton**, Bass (Easton High School) (8 years)
- **Amy Chryst**, Violin (Homeschool) (9 years)
- **Ana Cohen**, Horn (East Stroudsburg High School South) (4 years)
- **Ty Gable**, Flute (East Stroudsburg High School South) (4 years)
- **Natalie Gilbert**, Violin (Stroudsburg High School) (7 years)
- **William Gold**, Violin (Pocono Mountain West High School) (7 years)
- **Michael Kozak**, Violin (Stroudsburg High School) (5 years)
- **Anna Long**, Flute (E. Stroudsburg High School South) (5 years)
- **Anna Maroney**, Violin (Stroudsburg High School) (7 years)
- **Barbara Martinez**, Trumpet (E. Stroudsburg High School South) (1 year)
- **Gabrielle Truncali**, Cello (Notre Dame High School) (6 years)
- **Nikki Weaver**, Oboe/Bass (Stroudsburg High School) (8 years)
- **Kaitlyn Weiss**, Trumpet (Pocono Mountain West High School) (4 years)

### Did You Know?

♪ PYO commemorative shirts and concert CDs will be available for order at the June Concerts. Plenty of flowers for your talented musicians will be available for immediate purchase as well.

♪ The PYO Board will host a special reception outside the Cecilia S. Cohen Recital Hall for returning alumni on Saturday, June 1 at 6:45 p.m. before our opening concert. Please join us, Alumni.

♪ Individual photos of student musicians and group shots of the orchestra with alumni will be taken and will be available to order.

**POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
2012-2013 BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

Jerry Geiger, President  
Jennifer White, Vice-  
President  
Deborah Prince, Treasurer  
Karen Geiger, Secretary

**Directors**

Jean Boheim  
Forrest Cavalier  
Betsy Buzzelli-Clarke  
James Maroney  
Marina Maroney  
Randy Porte  
Nancy Reed  
Diane Rostock  
Marie Snyder  
Luis Vidal

**Musical Directors**

Anthony Simons  
Audrey Simons

The PYO relies on modest tuition fees paid by its members, grants, and concert donations. Your contributions can help deserving students who might not otherwise be able to perform with us. Because of budget problems, many Pocono school districts are considering cuts in their extracurricular programs, including their music programs. Few regional schools even have a string program. The PYO is one of the few opportunities for students in our area to play in an orchestra. No donation is too small. If you would like to help support the PYO, please send donations to:

Pocono Youth Orchestra  
P.O. Box 1101  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
[music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org](mailto:music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org)

**ALUMNI NEWS**

We love to hear about awards and recognitions our alumni received or unusual adventures, even if they are not music-related. Are you the parent of a second-generation PYO/PJSO musician? Let us know. Send your news to [music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org](mailto:music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org) and we will be sure to post your news in future newsletters.

**JOIN THE PYO'S ONLINE COMMUNITY**

Connect with the PYO on Facebook for the latest PYO tidbits and fun facts about the friends, musicians and fans of the PYO and PJSO. Post news for your friends.

**IN MEMORIAM**

On January 16, 2013, three days before our PYO Winter Concert weekend, we lost a dear friend and fellow music enthusiast. Suzanne Anderson served on the PYO Board of Directors for 25 years. Sue dedicated her life to creating and developing musical opportunities for the youth of Monroe County. For more than 50 years, she was a loyal and valuable member of the Music Study Club of the Stroudsburgs and was the founder of the Junior Music Festival of Monroe County held annually in March at East Stroudsburg University. Her sense of humor and quick wit were always present. Her warmth and concern for others was always evident. So many lives have been enriched as a result of Sue's passion and persistence in promoting what she loved and believed in ~ the power of music.