

PYO

Spring 2016

NOTES

Pocono Youth Orchestra

Established 1987

## DATES AT A GLANCE

### March 6, 2016

Bus Trip

New York Youth Symphony at  
Carnegie Hall Concert, 2:00 p.m.

Featuring Pianist Steven Lin

### Saturday, June 4, 2016

Dress Rehearsals and Performance

PJSO, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (report at  
11:45 a.m.)

PYO, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. (report at 1:15  
p.m.)

Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m.

ESU Cohen Center

### Sunday, June 5, 2016

Performance

Spring Concert, 3:00 p.m.

ESU Cohen Center

PJSO (report at 2 p.m.)

PYO (report at 2:30 p.m.)

### June 6, 2016

Auditions for the 2016-2017 season

### June 26, 2016, 3 P.M.

#### Benefit Concert

East Stroudsburg Presbyterian  
Church

55 Smith Street, E. Stroudsburg  
(Near ESU campus)

<http://www.pocono-youth-orchestra.org>

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



## President's Message

The PYO's longevity is a testament to the many volunteers and donors who contribute time and money to help our students make beautiful music. Recently, we have been fortunate to be able to award scholarship money to students because of generous donors excited by our program who want to reward the achievements of our musicians. There are two donors who preferred to avoid the limelight but whom I must acknowledge.

The first is Lynn Zhang and her family. The Zhangs fund the PYO Excellency Award, a scholarship for students with high academic credentials who donate significant time to community service. The Zhang family just created a second scholarship which we expect to award for the first time at the Spring Concerts.

The second donor is Donald Dal Maso, founder of the L'Archet Concert Group. Don, an accomplished professional violist, initially funded what we informally called the "anonymous donor" award but which became the "Outstanding Ensemble Player Award." L'Archet has been hosting an excellent classical music concert series at the Cohen Center and has offered complimentary tickets to PYO students to hear first-rate performances. Check out the article on L'Archet in this issue for more details about what promises to be an exciting upcoming concert series.

Finally, it is my goal to keep in closer contact with our alumni. Please join us for our second bi-annual fundraising concert on June 26, 2016 at 3 p.m. at the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church near ESU.

Thanks for everyone's support! ~Jerry Geiger, President

## Introducing our PYO Soloists for the 2016 Spring Concerts



### **Luke Simons**

Luke, our principal clarinetist, has been a member of the Pocono Youth Orchestra for six years. He is a twelfth-grade honor student at Southern Lehigh High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society and SADD. Luke also plays the piano and saxophone and enjoys singing. At SLHS, Luke is a member of the SLHS Concert Band, Marching Band (Drum Major), Jazz Band, Concert Choir and Meistersingers. Luke has studied clarinet and saxophone with Anthony Simons, along with additional clarinet study with Ricardo Morales of the Philadelphia Orchestra, piano with Irmgard Pursell and voice with Megan Durham. During the past four years, he played

clarinet in the Lehigh County Band Festival. During the past five years, Luke was selected by audition to participate in 14 PMEA Music Festivals for Band, Orchestra and Choir. Most recently, he won the principal clarinet chair in both the PMEA District 10 and the Region V Band Festivals, and served as second chair clarinetist in the 2016 Pennsylvania All-State Band. For the past seven years, he has received superior ratings for his piano performances at PMTA's Achievement Award Auditions, and has performed in Honors Recitals. He has also been on stage for his high school theater productions of 42nd Street (Ensemble), Shrek: The Musical (Pinocchio), Sound of Music (Max Detweiler), The Drowsy Chaperone (Robert Martin), and, most recently, Carousel (Enoch Snow). He is most honored to have been chosen as a recipient of the 2016 Lehigh Valley Music Education Award and the AFM, Local 45 Music Scholarship. He enjoys playing in the PYO because it gives him a chance to perform with other advanced musicians. Luke will be attending the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University to major in Clarinet Performance.

Luke is featured as clarinet soloist in Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol, Op. 34. He will also be performing John Williams' Air and Simple Gifts in a chamber ensemble along with pianist, Amy Zhang.



### **Aikaterini Stylianides**

Kaiti, our concertmaster, is a graduating senior from Stroudsburg High School. Kaiti plans to attend the University of Hartford in the fall to major in Acoustical Engineering. She has been a violinist in the PJSO and PYO for the past 6 years. In addition to PYO, Kaiti also plays the violin in her school's Pit Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. She sings in Stroudsburg's Concert Choir and Chorale, and plays the flute for the Concert Band and Marching Band. To further enhance her passion for music, she has attended several summer music camps including sessions at Marywood University, Elizabethtown College, Millersville University, the Académie

internationale de musique des Graves, and the Techne Quartet Music Camp with fellow quartet members, Christie Lee, Sarah Chesko and brother, Tony. As a student advocate for promoting music, she has assisted with string workshops presented by violinist and luthier, Michael Montero, and violinist and music educator, Wendy Wilson. Kaiti is in the top ten percent of her class and holds high honors

awards for academic achievement. In her down time, she enjoys baking, reading, and learning to play different instruments.



### **Amy Zhang**

Amy, our pianist, is a graduating senior from Notre Dame High School where she is the Valedictorian of her class. Amy has studied piano for twelve years with Mrs. Kelly Scheer and would not be who she is today without Mrs. Scheer's guidance. For the past two summers, Amy has had the honor of studying under Mrs. Ingrid Clarfield at Westminster Choir College's High School Piano Camp. In addition, she has participated in the Piano Teachers' Forum of New Jersey adjudications, receiving an "Outstanding" ranking. She has played piano with the PYO for the past two seasons and is very grateful to have had the opportunity to perform with such a wonderfully talented group of musicians. In the fall, Amy will be

continuing her studies at Dartmouth College, where she will most likely major in Economics and definitely minor in Music before moving on to the Tuck School of Business. Amy hopes to study abroad sometime during her college years and eventually contribute to the global market.

Amy will be featured on piano in Frédéric Chopin's Étude Op. 10, No. 12 in C minor, known as the Revolutionary Étude. She will also be performing Fauré's Elegy with violinist, Kaiti Stylianides, and performing Williams' Air and Simple Gifts with clarinetist, Luke Simons.

## **Our PJSO Soloists for the 2016 Spring Concerts**

**Elizabeth Mathiesen**

**&**

**Sierra Holbert**



Cellist **Elizabeth Mathiesen** and Bassist **Sierra Holbert**, both students in the Stroudsburg School District, will be performing the Allegro movement from Antonio Vivaldi's Sonata in E minor. Both students are active in their school's music programs and have a wide range of interests. Elizabeth tells

us she competed in several science and youth engineering programs and plans on being a physicist. Sierra's plans include owning her own restaurant with a jazz motif so she can both cook and play bass.

## Venue for the Spring 2016 Concerts

Our Spring concerts will move back this Spring to the Cohen Center at East Stroudsburg University, which is where we performed for many years. We were unable to reserve the Stroudsburg High School Auditorium due to the graduation ceremonies on the Friday night before our concert weekend.

## Promoting the PYO in the Local Media

Members of our orchestras found time to promote the PYO on the "Gary in the Morning" Radio Show on Pocono 96.7.



## Farewell and Good Luck to our Seniors!

We have 17 seniors graduating this year. The PYO wishes them well in their future endeavors. Good luck to the following PYO seniors:

Senior	Instrument	School	Career Plans
Tristan Boehm	Violin	Pocono Mt. E HS	Elizabethtown College to major in marketing
Connor Chalfant	Percussion	Stroudsburg HS	Boston University to study astrophysics

Sarah Chesko	Cello	Stroudsburg HS	University of South Carolina to study marketing
Wendy Cooper	Clarinet	East Stroudsburg HS-S	Moravian College to major in music composition
Stephanie Fritz	Horn	Stroudsburg HS	Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University to major in music education
Maci Kendrick	Viola	Stroudsburg HS	Moravian College to major in nursing
Nell Kopytnik	Cello	Stroudsburg HS	Northeastern University to study financing and economics
Liuba Miranosava	Percussion	Stroudsburg HS	Elizabethtown College to major in public accounting with a minor in French
Charles Nutaitis	Violin	Pen Argyl HS	Lafayette College to major in Spanish
Ashley Rivera	Flute	East Stroudsburg HS-S	West Chester University to major in music education and music theory/composition
Nicole Sekol	Violin	Commonwealth Connections Academy	Bible study at New England Baptist College and studying business at Bob Jones University
Luke Simons	Clarinet	Southern Lehigh	Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University to major in music performance
Justin Stanton	Violin	Stroudsburg HS	Pennsylvania College of Technology to work toward a degree in construction management
Aikaterini Stylianides	Violin	Stroudsburg HS	University of Hartford to study acoustical engineering
Olivia Szablinska	Viola	Stroudsburg HS	Lock Haven University to dual major in early childhood education and special education
Eric Wolf	Trombone	Stroudsburg HS	Lehigh University to major in physics
Amy Zhang	Piano	Notre Dame HS	Dartmouth College to major in economics and minor in music

## The PYO Scholarships

The PYO is thankful, with the generous contributions of our donors, to be awarding four monetary awards at the Spring Concerts:

- (1) The Suzanne Anderson Memorial Scholarship;
- (2) The PYO Excellency Award;
- (3) The Outstanding Ensemble Player Award; and
- (4) A new scholarship to be announced at the concerts.

Stay tuned for the announcement of our winners!



## L'ARCHET Concert Group Series



Professional Violist, Don Dal Maso, created the L'Archet Concert Group in 2014 to promote classical music in eastern Pennsylvania. L'Archet has sponsored many wonderful classical music concerts at ESU and generously provided our students with free tickets to those events. Recent performances have included a stunning performance by Pianist Stephen Whale and a concert featuring Pocono musician David Lantz and the "Davey Lantz Trio." Davey and his sisters have been PYO musicians and their parents have been supporters.

Don has been a generous benefactor of the PYO and is on a mission to support our orchestras and classical music in the Poconos.

L'Archet is presenting the "American Classical Orchestra" in a performance of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" on September 17, 2016 at the Cohen Center. This will be a concert you will not want to miss. Further details are available at <http://larchetconcertgroup.com> where you can subscribe to Don's mailing list. Please tell your friends and support the Arts in the Poconos.

## PYO T-Shirts: Let's wear the "colors"



Show your support for the PYO by buying one of our T-Shirts. As many of you know, we sponsored a contest for best design. Our students submitted ideas and our winning design is reflected here. T-Shirt orders are being taken at rehearsals but send us an email to [music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org](mailto:music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org) if you would like to purchase a shirt. A short-sleeve T-shirt is \$10, a long-sleeve T-Shirt is \$12 and a hooded sweatshirt is \$22.

## Basket and Raffle Fundraiser

Our very dedicated volunteers have organized a 50/50 drawing and a basket raffle for our Spring Concerts. We hope to raise funds to keep tuition affordable. Don't miss out on this raffle. One of the prizes is a Disney Park-hopper pass worth \$650!



## PYO Benefit Concert

Please join us for our second benefit concert featuring alumni musicians who will perform for us to raise funds for our orchestras. A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted. The concert will take place on Sunday, June 26, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. at the following venue:

East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church  
55 Smith Street  
East Stroudsburg, PA  
*(just off the ESU Campus)*



The PYO is enrolled in the Amazon Smile program. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the PYO. If you are already shopping on Amazon, this is an easy way to support the orchestras at no additional cost to you. Money is starting to trickle in. The

PYO endorses no retailers but, if you are already shopping at Amazon, consider doing so through the PYO link. (go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and search for Pocono Youth Orchestra). It adds no cost to your order; it generates money for the orchestras, and helps us to keep tuition as low as possible.

## Staying in Touch with the PYO

To make a contribution, please visit our webpage, [www.pocono-youth-orchestra.org](http://www.pocono-youth-orchestra.org) and "friend" us on Facebook to get up to the minute news about PYO events. We update our website regularly. Our website includes past concert programs, all past newsletters, concert repertoires back to 1998, concert videos, many dozens of concert photos, forms, schedules and information on scholarship opportunities.

## Alumni Corner

We know that PYO alumni are doing wonderful things. Please keep us informed about your adventures so that we can feature you in future newsletters. When you travel abroad, have an interesting internship, receive a degree, get a new job, switch majors, go to graduate school, have a child, realize your parents were smarter than you thought... Let us know.

**POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Jerry Geiger, President  
Jennifer White, Vice-President  
Joseph A. Snyder, Treasurer  
Karen Geiger, Secretary

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Marie Snyder  
Georgios Stylianides  
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**Music Directors**

Anthony Simons  
Audrey Simons

**Pocono Youth Orchestra**

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610-965-0268

Please let us know what you think, what suggestions you have or, better still, offer your assistance.

No offer of assistance is too small.

We always need volunteers even if that means helping set up our stage prior to the concert, assisting in selling flowers or donating a case of water now and then for sale during intermission.

We publicize our board meeting times on our webpage and we welcome your participation.