

PYO

Winter 2015

NOTES

Pocono Youth Orchestra  
Established 1987 - 27th Season

## DATES AT A GLANCE

### December 16, 2014

Christmas String-Along for PJSO  
Hillcrest Retirement Community

### January 17, 2015

Dress Rehearsals and Performance  
PJSO, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
PYO, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m.

### January 18, 2015

Performance  
Warm-up and pictures, 1:00 p.m.  
Winter Concert, 3:00 p.m.

### March 8, 2015

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

### May 30, 2015

Dress Rehearsals and Performance  
PJSO, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
PYO, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m.

### May 31, 2015

Performance  
Spring Concert, 3:00 p.m.

### June 1, 2015

Auditions for the 2015-2016 season



## President's Message

We are excited to announce that the PYO has a new home this year. Our concerts will now be held at the Stroudsburg Senior High School. The High School's beautiful new auditorium includes a state of the art sound system, increased parking, and plenty of seating. In recent years, our audience has outgrown East Stroudsburg University's Fine Arts Center. Although our venue will be new, we owe ESU a debt of gratitude for supporting music in our community for so many years. The University offered its recital hall at no charge to us. Its faculty has been on our Board of Directors. Its staff printed our programs, created our soloist banners and managed our finances. Thank you, ESU, and your generous faculty, for your long-standing support!

We also look forward to a long and productive relationship with the Stroudsburg School District's music faculty. As many of you know, our Monday night rehearsals have been at the Stroudsburg Jr. High School for many years. The Stroudsburg School District has supported our orchestras and its string program has been a feeder organization for the strings sections of our orchestras. We thank Stroudsburg and all of the School Districts in the region for training and inspiring the talented young musicians we are proud to have in our orchestras.

**Jerry Geiger, President**

## Introducing Abigail Lantz: Our PYO Soloist for the 2015 Winter Concerts

The PYO is proud to announce that the PYO will be performing an original composition by PYO violinist/pianist, Abby Lantz, entitled “The Emergence.” Abby is a senior at the Stroudsburg High School with plans on majoring in Music Composition.

Abby expressed an interest in music at an early age. She began playing piano and singing at age 3, playing violin at age 4, and added flute to her repertoire in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She performed with and accompanied the SJHS and SHS show choir and the High School Musical. She was musical director and accompanist for Shawnee Playhouse this season. Abby has participated in the PFMC Festival for 12 years receiving multiple gold cups in piano, violin, voice, flute and composition. She just received her 12-year certificate and fourth gold cup for piano, constituting 12 years of superiors. Abby has performed in Youth in Music Excellence Awards for piano, voice, and composition, having won twice for composition and once for voice. She entered the Junior Composer’s Contest for 4 years and won first place in the State for 2 years, and won first place in the region, which included 6 states. Abby has studied violin with Chris Souza and is now studying piano with Scott Besser. In addition to voice and instrumental activities, Abby has been studying dance since she was four, and attends the West End Academy of Dance. Abby has been a member of PJSO/PYO since 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Abby hopes to major in Music Composition at the Berklee College of Music where she attended a summer songwriting workshop during the summer of 2014.



## PYO’s Trip to Carnegie Hall

The PYO is sponsoring a bus trip to hear the New York Youth Symphony perform at Carnegie Hall on Sunday, March 8, 2015. The violin soloist is Elena Urioste. You do not want to miss this.

Elena made her debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra at age 13. She was raised in Philadelphia. She decided at age 2 that she wanted to play the violin after seeing an episode of Sesame Street featuring Itzhak Perlman. Elena has appeared with the London and New York Philharmonics, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Boston Pops, and the Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and National Symphony Orchestras. She was the winner of Switzerland’s Sion International Violin Competition and appeared on NBC’s Today Show, Telemundo, Performance Today, From the Top, and the Emmy award-winning documentary “Breaking the Sound Barrier.” She plays an Alessandro Gagliano violin crafted in Naples in 1706.



Learn more about Elena and her marvelous talent by scanning this QR Code:

Better still, sign up for the bus trip and see her in person. Tickets for PYO/PJSO students, including bus fare, are just \$10. Adults are welcome as well, provided seats are available.



## Preview of the Winter Concerts

The PJSO will feature violinist, Nia Esposito, on Billy & St. Anne Tip the Canoe.

The PYO will feature the East Stroudsburg High School South Choraliers, under the direction of David Lantz. His group will perform Thomas Morley's "A Suite of Three Madrigals," arranged by Bud Caputo.

David's daughter, Abby, will perform on piano in her original composition: "The Emergence" with the PYO and the ESHS-S Choraliers.



"Tony. They'll be expecting a dagio. Go with the allegro."

## What happened to my tickets?



Veteran PYO/PJSO fans may wonder why the orchestras are not selling tickets in advance of the concerts. The answer is that, with our new venue, we have more than enough seats to accommodate our existing fans. The orchestras have been performing for many years in ESU's Cecilia Cohen Fine Arts Center, which has a capacity of 300 seats. During the past several years, our concerts were sold out.

To guarantee a seat, an advance ticket was necessary. We will now be performing at the Stroudsburg High School Auditorium, with a seating capacity of 753 seats, more than double our previous venue.

## Announcing the "PYO Excellency Award"

PYO Aunt, Lynn Zhang, announced that her family was so impressed with our orchestras and the talent and dedication of its students, that her family will be establishing the "PYO Excellency Award." The \$500 award will be given annually to a senior PYO student at the spring concerts. To be eligible, a scholarship applicant must meet the following criteria:

- (a) A GPA of 3.85 or above;
- (b) A PYO member for at least one year with consistent attendance at orchestra practices;
- (c) Demonstration of leadership, honesty and respect; and
- (d) Performed at least 100 hours of community service since the freshman year of high school.

A scholarship committee of the Board of Directors will select the recipient. Watch the website for the release of the application and the announcement of a deadline for submission. Our music directors and our Board thank the Zhang family for providing this generous opportunity to our students!

## Amazon Smile



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.

## We ask for your support!

Running a high quality program requires significant financial resources. Our costs include Directors' salaries, music purchases, the printing of programs and a partial subsidy of our annual field trip to Carnegie Hall. Student tuition is much lower than that of similar orchestras. Therefore, we depend upon generous donations from parents, friends, alumni and the community to support our young musicians. Your contributions are invited and are always greatly appreciated. Here are some ways you can help our orchestras:

- **Money Donation:** “Orchestra Supporter Form” is available for download on our website. No donation is too small and every donation is appreciated. Our “Andante” contribution level starts at just \$5. All donations are acknowledged in our concert programs.
- **Time Donation:**
  - Hall monitor volunteers
  - Service on Board: we meet just 5x per year at the Eastern Monroe Public Library and you will not find a nicer group of people to serve with. (Unlike our orchestras, board members are not required to audition).
  - Concert assistance: stage hands, door, flower table, reception.
- **Weis Tapes:**
  - If you shop at Weis, please save your receipts and drop them off with the hall monitor on rehearsal nights. Weis graciously donates 1% of all receipts to the orchestras. Last year, the PYO received approximately \$600 from Weis under this program. We understand that Weis discontinued this program with new organizations but we still qualify.
- **Amazon Smile**
  - 0.5% of eligible purchases are paid to the PYO.
- **Gifts in Kind**
  - Donation of food and drink items for the concert receptions
  - Flower donations

## 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 16 past concert programs, all past newsletters, concert repertoires back to 1998, concert videos, many dozens of concert photos, forms, schedules and scholarship opportunities.



Board member, Dr. Georgios Stylianides, is our webmaster and is responsible for the wealth of information on our site. Georgios manages our website from Qatar, where he is on the faculty at Qatar University. He lives just eight time zones away

from Stroudsburg. While we are sleeping, Dr. Stylianides is updating the PYO's website to keep us all informed. Thanks Georgios!

### **Thank You to our ESU Friends**

We may no longer be performing at ESU but its faculty and staff have supported the PYO and played an important role in its success. We thank the following ESU faculty in no special order (actually, in random order--they have all been great. It would be impossible to rank them). Thank you to:



**Dr. Deborah Prince:** Veteran PYO treasurer who has balanced the books, collected tuition, submitted grant applications, served on the Board since 1996, and donated her time and money to the organization, often privately and without acknowledgment. Thank you, Debbie! In September 2000, Dr. Prince received ESU's highest faculty honor: the "Distinguished Professor Award" for her excellence in the teaching of mathematics and her service to the ESU community since 1982.



**Luis Vidal:** Multimedia Specialist at ESU. Designed and printed our soloist banners, printed our concert programs and served on our Board. Those beautiful soloist banners that our senior soloists have loved and will likely show their grandchildren, are Luis's creations. Luis' daughter, Ella, was a violinist with the PYO for four years



**Dr. James Maroney:** ESU Associate Professor of Music: Jim recorded our concerts, served on our board, and is the father of PYO musicians, Anna and Molly Maroney. Molly is featured in this newsletter's "Alumni Corner." Jim's wife, Marina, is a former PYO Board President. Last Spring, Dr. Maroney, a tenor, performed at a PYO concert to raise funds for scholarships. He performed over 30 operatic roles and his "A Cappella Ensemble" was selected to perform at the White House in December 2013.



**Dr. Betsy Buzzelli-Clarke:** ESU Associate Professor of Music, served on our board and acted as liaison with ESU during our many years performing at ESU's Cecilia S. Cohen Fine Arts Center. Dr. Buzzelli-Clarke has performed in numerous faculty recitals and is the founder and director of the ESU University/Community Orchestra. Her daughter, Michelle was a flutist with the PYO for three years. Betsy maintains a private studio of piano, violin, and viola students.



**Dr. Jennifer White:** ESU Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences. Dr. White is currently Vice-President of the Board and is the mother of two PYO/PJSO musicians. She won the Darbaker Prize for her research using microscopic techniques in biological research. When she is not winning awards in biological research, Dr. White is contributing her time to the success of the PYO as Vice-President of the Board. Thanks Jennifer for helping us!

## ESU Post-Script by Jerry Geiger, President

Many supporters of our orchestras are not affiliated with ESU. It is not my intention to ignore their contributions. We value their role in supporting the PYO. Their contributions will be recognized in future newsletters and are no less important than the acknowledgments listed in this newsletter.

### POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2014-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### Pocono Youth Orchestra

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610-965-0268

## Alumni Corner



Molly Maroney, PYO Class of 2010, graduated from Mansfield University this past May with a degree in Music Education and recently joined the Peace Corps.

Molly will be leaving in February 2015 to live and work in Tanzania, Africa.

Molly's assignment will be to teach Agriculture and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

Her mom, former PYO Board President, Marina Maroney, reports that she will be with a host family for the first three months. She will be learning Swahili and the local culture. Later, she will be living in a village with no electricity, no internet, no video games, no "nothin."

Good luck, Molly on this exciting adventure! We are proud of you!