

PYO  
Winter 2016

NOTES  
Pocono Youth Orchestra  
Established 1987–28th Season

## DATES AT A GLANCE

### **December 6, 2015: Performance**

PYO Strings at Stroudsmoor

### **December 15, 2015: Performance**

PJSO Christmas String-Along  
Performance at Pocono Community  
Theater, East Stroudsburg

### **January 23, 2016: Performance**

Dress Rehearsals  
PJSO, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
PYO, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Winter Concert--7:30 p.m.  
Stroudsburg Senior High School

### **January 24, 2016: Performance**

Warm-up and pictures, 12:30 p.m.  
PJSO: Report at 1:00 p.m.  
PYO: Report at 1:30 p.m.  
Group Pictures: 2:00 p.m.  
Winter Concert--3:00 p.m.  
Stroudsburg Senior High School

### **March 6, 2016: Bus Trip**

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

### **June 4, 2016: Performance**

Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m.

### **June 5, 2016: Performance**

Spring Concert, 3:00 p.m.

### **June 6, 2016: Auditions**

Auditions for the 2016-2017 season



## President's Message

The orchestras closed out last season with what I thought were some of their finest performances. Our roster of musicians continues to grow even though we lost 22 musically and academically gifted seniors at the end of last season. A number of those seniors have parents on the Board.

While some of our Board members no longer have children in the Orchestras and continue to donate their time, we welcome and encourage other parents to join us, especially those in the PJSO. We have just five meetings per year with most of the work involving concert preparation or securing ads for our concert programs. We truly are a "non-profit" and are looking only to cover our expenses. Expenses include paying our directors' salaries, renting orchestral music, paying for liability insurance, and paying the Stroudsburg School District for concert space. Any money we can generate in fundraising will reduce tuition costs for our students and make PYO membership more affordable.

Please consider joining us at one of our board meetings to learn more about what we do. All of our regularly scheduled meetings are on Saturday mornings, generally at the Eastern Monroe Public Library in Stroudsburg. Look on our webpage for our board meeting schedule. We look forward to seeing you at this season's concerts!

Jerry Geiger, President  
PYO Board of Directors

## Introducing Stephanie Fritz: Our PYO Soloist for the 2016 Winter Concerts



Senior French Hornist, Stephanie Fritz will be our soloist for the 2016 winter concerts. She will be performing Mozart's Concert Rondo in E-flat Major, K. 371.

Mozart's celebrated horn concertos were all written during the last ten years of his life in Vienna. At least four of them were composed for his childhood friend, the virtuoso Joseph Leitzgeb, but Mozart also wrote works for other horn players. Leitzgeb played the concerto with a valveless hand-horn, or *Waldhorn*, which was a refined descendant of the hunting horn. The right hand was placed within the bell to 'bend' the natural harmonics downwards. This hand-stopping technique enabled production of previously missing notes in the lower register.

Stephanie will be performing the Mozart concerto with the modern version of the French Horn but we would not be surprised if she was able to perform it on the *Waldhorn*. Stephanie is a multi-talented musician who, in addition to the French Horn, also plays mellophone, trumpet, and piano. She has performed with nearly every Stroudsburg School District music ensemble.

Stephanie represented her school at PMEA District, Regional, and State festivals. In her sophomore year, she earned a spot in the 2014 PMEA District 10 Band, placed in the top 6 in the District and qualified for PMEA Region V Band. In her junior year, Stephanie qualified for the 2015 PMEA District Band and Orchestra after ranking second overall in pre-auditions. At both festivals, she ranked first and was Principal horn in the Orchestra concert. She attended the Region V Band festival, as well as the Northeast Region Orchestra Festival, where she also earned Principal Horn.

Stephanie was the only horn selected to perform in the All-State Orchestra, where she ranked second overall.

In addition to performing with all of her school ensembles, Stephanie still found time to perform with the East Stroudsburg University Community Band, the Trinity Centennial Band, and the Kutztown University Orchestra and Chamber Group.

Stephanie has loved music from an early age, starting piano lessons in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. She intends to pursue a music education degree in College with hopes of acquiring a master's degree in Horn Performance and a doctorate in Conducting. Her long-term goal is to become a university professor.

We look forward to hearing her performance.

## PYO's Trip to Carnegie Hall



The PYO's annual bus trip to Carnegie Hall is scheduled for Sunday, March 6, 2016.

The New York Youth Symphony's McCrindle Concert will feature a talented Taiwanese-American pianist named Steven Lin.

Steven's talent became apparent at an early age. When he was ten years old he was accepted into the Juilliard Pre-College Division on a full scholarship. At age 13, he made his debut with the New York Philharmonic in Avery Fisher Hall. He has appeared on radio broadcasts

including NPR's From the Top and WQXR's McGraw Hill Young Artists Showcase.

Steven earned both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at The Juilliard School and is currently pursuing a Performance Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music. When not making music, Steven describes himself as an 'NBA basketball fanatic,' a source of great pride and commitment which began when he was eight years old. To learn more about Steven, scan the QR code at right to hear his conversation with Fred Child on NPR's Performance Today.



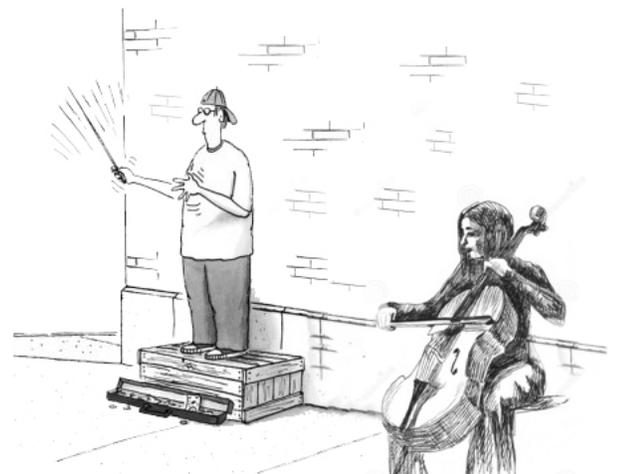
Steven says he is fortunate to have a Steinway piano in his small apartment in Philadelphia and told NPR that "I pretty much just practice all day but with a lot of breaks in between."

Tickets to the performance will be available for PYO/PJSO students early in 2016. Provided seats are available, adults are welcome as well. Email the PYO if you are interested. Audrey will be distributing ticket information to students in January. Also, check the PYO's website for the latest information.

## Our Directors

Tony and Audrey Simons are the orchestras' musical directors and are responsible for the high quality of our orchestras and its "fun factor."

In case you are new to the orchestras, **Tony Simons** is not just the Orchestras' conductor but a gifted clarinetist as well. Tony received the Artist Diploma in clarinet from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, a Master of Music degree in clarinet performance and literature with summa cum laude honors from the University of Illinois, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in music education from West Chester University. Tony's performances include appearances with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Pocono Pops Orchestra, Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra, Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra, Allentown Symphony, and the Annapolis Symphony. Tony is also on



the music faculty at Muhlenberg College, Cedar Crest College, the East Penn School District, and teaches clarinet privately.

**Audrey Simons** has a Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance from Susquehanna University. She was a teaching assistant at the Temple University Esther Boyer College of Music, where she received the Master of Music degree in music history with summa cum laude honors, and taught classes in music appreciation. Audrey performs regularly with the Allentown Symphony Orchestra and the Pennsylvania Strings Ensemble and is a founding member of the Classical Attitude String Quartet and the Chestnut Hill Chamber Players. She has taught music history at the Montgomery County Community College and String Techniques and Cello Pedagogy classes at Moravian College. She is also the PYO's "EMT." When strings break, instruments fail, and crises develop, often three minutes prior to the concerts, it is Audrey who fixes them. The show must go on!

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

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**Musical Directors**

Anthony Simons  
Audrey Simons

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**Alumni Corner**

We welcome contributions from our alumni about their post-PYO lives. Here are two contributions since our last newsletter.



**Kyle Mahaney** (violin) is a recent graduate of DeSales University and is now working in NYC as a video editor. He spent the last 3 years working on a feature length documentary called "Out of Sight", which

explores the stigmas surrounding mental illness in adolescents. Information on Kyle's documentary is available at <http://outofsightdocumentary.com/>



**Rachel Salmon**

(Oboe/English Horn) played with the PYO from 2009 to 2011. Rachel received a B.S. in Physics from the University of Scranton in May 2015. During her college years, Rachel played in the concert band and jazz band at the University of Scranton and in the wind ensemble

and orchestra at Marywood University. Rachel is now attending Michigan State University where she is working on her Ph.D. in Astrophysics.