

PYO

Winter 2017

NOTES

Pocono Youth Orchestra

Established 1987-29th Season

## DATES AT A GLANCE

### **December 13, 2016: Performance**

PJSO Christmas String-Along  
Performance at Grace Park  
Retirement Community, Stroudsburg

### **January 21, 2017: Performance**

Dress Rehearsals  
PJSO, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (report at  
9:45 a.m.)  
PYO, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (report  
at 11:15 a.m.)  
Winter Concert--7:30 p.m.  
ESU Cecilia Cohen Center

### **January 22, 2017: Performance**

Warm-up and pictures, 1:00 p.m.  
PJSO: Report at 2:00 p.m.  
PYO: Report at 2:30 p.m.  
Winter Concert--3:00 p.m.  
ESU Cecilia Cohen Center

### **March 5, 2017: Bus Trip**

New York Youth Symphony at  
Carnegie Hall Concert, 2:00 p.m.  
11:00 a.m. Departure from  
Stroudsburg Junior H.S.

### **June 3, 2017: Performance**

Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m.  
ESU Cecilia Cohen Center

### **June 4, 2017: Performance**

Spring Concert, 3:00 p.m.  
ESU Cecilia Cohen Center

### **June 5, 2017: Auditions**

Auditions for the 2017-2018 season



## President's Message

I am pleased to share good news with our supporters.

First, our orchestras have been the beneficiary this year of some welcome contributions from donors, including the ESSA Foundation and a Project Stream Grant from the PA Council on the Arts.

Second, we continue to receive generous donations from individuals who support our mission. Our "tuition" cost is substantially lower than other youth orchestras in our region but only because of the support of local community members, family members and organizations supporting the arts. Please review our donor list in our concert programs and tell our donors how much you appreciate their support of our organization. Every donation and ad is important to us. Even the smallest donation helps purchase music and reduces costs for students who might not otherwise be able to afford playing with us.

Third, I would like to thank the PYO board members for all of their hard work behind the scenes that support the organization. In addition to donating their money, they are really working hard to generate funds to support us.

Finally, we continue to hear from alumni who miss performing with us and who tell us consistently how worthwhile their experience with the PYO has been. This newsletter is dedicated to them. If you are an alumnus reading this newsletter, please contact us and keep us informed about your adventures.

**Jerry Geiger, President**  
PYO Board of Directors

## PYO's Trip to Carnegie Hall



The PYO's annual bus trip to Carnegie Hall is scheduled for Sunday, March 5, 2017 to hear the New York Youth Symphony's McCrindle Concert.

Internationally-acclaimed pianist Orli Shaham will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, sharing the program with a First Music premiere by composer Ethan Braun and Sibelius' masterful Symphony No. 2.

Orli Shaham has performed with nearly all of the major symphony orchestras in North America, from Boston to Los Angeles and everywhere in between, as well as some of the most important orchestras in Europe, Asia and Australia including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and many more.

Ms. Shaham has taught music literature at Columbia University, and contributed articles to Piano Today, Symphony and Playbill magazines and NPR's Deceptive Cadence blog, and was artist in residence on National Public Radio's Performance Today.

We look forward to our annual Carnegie Hall trip and we expect that everyone will enjoy this concert. Because of the very high number of requests for tickets for this concert it is necessary that we receive your reservations as soon as possible. Reservations and payment are due no later than February 27. We are running 2 motor coaches and have 100 tickets available for this trip. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and families and friends are welcome to join us. Please fill out the reservation and release forms, which will be posted on our website after January 7, 2017. Return the completed forms and payment to Mr. and Mrs. Simons by February 27. If you have any questions, please call the Directors at (610) 965-0268.

## PYO in the Community



Members of the PYO performed at a TedX talk on October 8, 2016 hosted by the Eastern Monroe Public Library in Stroudsburg.

The event explored how to improve education through music, movement, technology, and service learning.

The event's first speaker was local jazz legend, Bob Dorough, who treated the audience to a performance of his iconic "School House Rock" and explained how he

came to write the song.

We are sure everyone remembers: "Conjunction Junction, what's your function?" Bob performed it for us. Bob also enjoyed the talents of our string quartet and spent time with our musicians after his presentation. Bob is 93 years old and shows no signs of slowing down.



The string quartet was comprised of PYO musicians: Christie Lee (violin), Katie Rubino (violin), Tony Stylianides (viola), and Emma Kowzun (cello). Alumnus Kaiti Stylianides, who is studying at the University of Hartford, filled in on violin for a portion of the program.

## Christmas Performance

The PJSO performed on December 13, 2016 for residents at the Grace Park Retirement Community on West Main Street in Stroudsburg. The residents were happy to see us again and our string players' performance put everyone in the Christmas mood.



## Alumni Reports

This year we have had a number of reports from Alumni which we would like to share with you. We are proud of our alumni and we are sure you would like to hear about their latest adventures. Of course, we miss them but we are not surprised to hear of their post-PYO successes. If you are an alumnus reading this report, please send us your stories for inclusion in future newsletters.

### Alumnus Maura Dougherty, Violin, Class of 2015



PYO Alumnus Maura Dougherty reports that she is currently a sophomore at Franklin & Marshall College majoring in chemistry and minoring in economics. She was a violinist in PJSO for three years and in PYO for four years. She performs at F&M with a string quartet, depicted at left (Maura is second from the left).

Audrey Simons tells us that Maura drove for 7 years from Easton to Stroudsburg to attend rehearsals. That is dedication!

Maura reports that playing the violin was such an integral part of her life that she finds it impossible to picture herself not going to rehearsals or frantically practicing a particularly difficult run or passage. She tells us that the Pocono Youth Orchestra gave her a sense of independence and confidence in her playing that has made her both a stronger player and a more confident student. It also gave her a chance to tackle a challenging repertoire and meet people outside of her school, which helped her immensely in college.

Even though music is not her major, Maura remains involved in music in college. She is part of a full symphony orchestra, a chamber orchestra, and a quartet. She is also on the executive board for her school's music honors fraternity. She tells us that the playing skills and experience she gained in PJSO and PYO encouraged her to continue playing. Music has become one of her best outlets for creativity and stress in college. It has also linked her to a community of musicians who, like her, find music to be an integral part of their lives. Even two years after leaving the PYO, she tells us she is grateful to the PYO, the Simons and the opportunities the PYO has given her.

## Emily Geiger, Viola, Class of 2015



Emily Geiger is a sophomore in the pre-med program at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Emily lives in a dormitory next to the World Bank and just one block from the White House.

In addition to spending her weekends in a medical course at the George Washington University Hospital, with exposure to the excitement of a big-city trauma center, Emily is a research assistant in a lab that studies the link between visual perception and brain function.

In her “spare time,” Emily has been very active in GW's Relay for Life program, a charitable organization that raises funds for cancer research.

This year, Emily is the Relay for Life's Vice-President of Operations and Production and is responsible for planning and organizing the GWU Relay for Life event scheduled for March 31, 2017.

## Molly Maroney, Clarinet, Class of 2006



Molly Maroney was recently featured in a Pocono Record article on her Peace Corps adventures in Tanzania. We featured her in an earlier newsletter when she began her adventures with the Peace Corps by learning Swahili.

After earning her bachelor's degree in music education from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania in 2014, Molly embarked on new territory one year later to serve as an Agriculture Volunteer in Tanzania.

Molly has her own blog describing her experiences which you should read: <https://anotherstoryfromdowninthevalley.wordpress.com/>

## Stephanie Fritz, French Horn, Class of 2016

## Luke Simons, Clarinet, Class of 2016

Stephanie Fritz and Luke Simons, are both music students at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, the fine arts conservatory within Rutgers University.

Although most of you may know this already, Luke is Tony and Audrey's son and he's a first rate clarinetist. At one of his last performances with the PYO, Luke performed a wonderful piece with cellist Audrey Simons (his mom), with violinist, Chris Souza, and with pianist, Amy Zhang, entitled Air & Simple Gifts. The video is on our Facebook page and I encourage you to check it out in the video section. It's a really great performance.

Stephanie Fritz was our Principal French Horn player.

Stephanie is majoring in music education, qualified for admission into the Honors College at Rutgers, plays horn in several instrumental ensembles, and



was recently awarded an internship with the New York Philharmonic.

Luke is majoring in clarinet performance, was placed through audition into the top rotation of clarinetists at Mason Gross as a freshman, where he performs in the top instrumental ensemble, the Wind Ensemble, as well as the Sinfonia Orchestra.

Luke was also selected to perform as a soloist in clarinet master classes presented by professional clarinetists Mark Nuccio and Jonathan Cohler. These are two students to keep an eye on!

### **Maci Kendrick, Viola, Class of 2015**



Maci Kendrick is studying nursing at Moravian College in Bethlehem and, according to those who know her, she will make a wonderful nurse.

Maci was recently seen on local TV in a promotional video celebrating Moravian's 275-year history.

Maci, second from left, has been making her mark on campus. She was chosen for a position on the Moravian Activities Council and is the proud recipient of a leadership award.

### **Joe Snyder, Violin, Class of 2015**



Joe Snyder is now in his sophomore year at Drexel University in Philadelphia and is a violinist with the University's Orchestra.

Joe reported to us that he recently had the privilege of participating in a master class with Philly POPS Concertmaster and world-renowned soloist, Michael Ludwig. The class featured the Barber Violin Concerto, which is the piece Joe played for his PYO senior solo.

Although unconfirmed at this point, there are rumors circulating on Facebook that Joe was recently spotted with Stroudsburg native and former Saturday Night Live music director, G.E. Smith. At this point, we are unable to confirm the extent of their collaboration.

## Nick Fleming, Percussion, Class of 2015

Nick Fleming is now in his sophomore year at Penn State University and is a member of the prestigious Blue Band. Nick is in the photo on the right at the 7 o'clock position. He sent us this report:

“It has been 2 years since I graduated from Stroudsburg High School and left PYO behind, yet I still see PYO as a strong component on my resume as I’m attending career fairs and applying for internships. As a sophomore at Penn State (main campus), I’ve kept involved with music as much as I can. Last year, I played in a small pit orchestra for a theatrical production on campus, as well as in the volleyball pep band. This spring, I finally realized a long-time dream of mine to be a part of the Penn State Blue Band. You can check out the Penn State Blue Band Official facebook page and spot me holding the second-largest bass drum.



More academically speaking, I plan on declaring my major of Engineering Science Honors within the next couple of months. Stroudsburg had done a fantastic job of preparing me for college. Penn State’s programs are challenging yet interesting, and I’m excited for the road I’m driving myself down. I don’t know if the next PYO concert has alumni already involved, but I’d like to convey my interest in coming back and participating as an alum.”

## Fundraisers

On December 5, 2016, the PYO had a fundraiser at Stroudsburg’s “Five Guys.” We ate burgers and fries without guilt that day for the sake of the financial health of the orchestras and are looking for a reprise of this event as soon as possible!



## PYO Tote Bags



The PYO is selling Tote Bags for just \$10 each as a fundraising item. PYO Oboist Kate Briegel was kind enough to model a tote for us.

Email us or speak to one of our friendly volunteers in the lobby at rehearsals to get your bag.

We will also have them available for sale at the concerts. Each bag holds PYO music folder, water bottle, and more.



## Violinist Kurt Nikkanen Performs on 400-year-old Violin



Don Dal Maso, of the L'Archet Concert Group, treated our musicians to free tickets to hear violin virtuoso KURT NIKKANEN perform a recital at East Stroudsburg University on November 12, 2016.

Nikkanen was accompanied by his wife, pianist Maria Asteriadou and performed on a 400-year-old violin.

Kikkanen, raised in Connecticut, is Concertmaster of the New York City Ballet Orchestra. He made his Carnegie Hall debut at age 12 and two years later performed the Paganini Concerto No.1 with the New York Philharmonic at the invitation of Zubin Mehta.

The sweet sounds of his violin filled the Cohen Center. Thank you Don for your generosity in allowing our musicians to attend without charge and for providing such a wonderful opportunity to the community!

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