

PYO

Spring 2014

NOTES

Pocono Youth Orchestra

Established 1987--26th Season

DATES AT A GLANCE

May 3, 2014@ 10 a.m.

Anderson Scholarship auditions
Eastern Monroe Public Library
1002 North 9th Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

May 3, 2014@ 11 a.m.

Board Meeting,
Eastern Monroe Public Library
1002 North 9th Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

May 19, 2014: Rehearsals at ESU

PJSO, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
PYO, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Cecilia S. Cohen Recital Hall, ESU

May 26: No Rehearsals

Memorial Day

May 31: Dress Rehearsals

PJSO--12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
PYO--1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

May 31 & June 1, 2014

Spring Concerts 7:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.
Cecilia S. Cohen Recital Hall,
East Stroudsburg University

June 2, 2014

Auditions for the 2014-2015 season

June 29, 2014

Suzanne Anderson Scholarship
Benefit Concert @ 3 p.m.
E. Stroudsburg Presbyterian
Church
55 Smith Street, E. Stroudsburg,
PA 18301



President's Message

The PYO is proud to be awarding two scholarships this year to deserving PYO musicians. The first is a \$500 scholarship funded by the Estate of Suzanne Anderson. The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving senior to further the student's future musical education. Students can use the money for lessons, future music courses, or for instruments. It is not intended for future music majors only.

The second scholarship is funded by an anonymous donor, a professional musician. The donor was so impressed with the musicianship of our students that he awarded a scholarship at last year's concert and is continuing to fund an annual scholarship moving forward. We are proud that the quality of our performances prompted this generosity. Winners of both of the scholarships will be announced at our Spring concerts.

To ensure that scholarship money is available for future PYO musicians, we are planning a benefit recital on June 29. Our directors, clarinetist Tony Simons & cellist Audrey Simons, have promised to perform. We also plan on inviting professional musicians with a connection to the PYO. Please watch the website, the Pocono Record, and our Facebook site for more details as they become available. We think you will enjoy the concert.

Jerry Geiger, President

INTRODUCING OUR STUDENT SOLOIST FOR THE 2014 SPRING CONCERTS



Cellist Kristen Weaver To Be Featured

The PYO is pleased to feature graduating senior, Kristen Weaver, on Cello at its Spring concerts. Kristen will be performing Cello Concerto No. 1 in A Minor by Camille Saint-Saëns.

Kristen is a senior at Stroudsburg High School and is a long-time veteran of the PYO. She has played cello in the PYO for five years and in the PJSO for three years.

Kristen was selected by audition to represent Stroudsburg as a cellist in the PMEA District 10 Orchestra for the past three years and in Regional Orchestra this year. The National Federation of Music Clubs awarded Kristen a “Superior” rating in cello performance for each of the past six years at its annual festival held at ESU.

Kristen is an active member in her high school’s music department. She is first chair flute/piccolo in Concert Band, flute section leader in Marching Band, principal cellist in Orchestra, and principal cellist in Chamber Orchestra. She also performs in the High School’s Concert Choir and Percussion Ensemble. She was a member of the pit orchestra for Stroudsburg High School’s production of *Anything Goes* and *Hairspray* and played in Notre Dame High School’s production of *Sugar*.

When she is not performing and can spare a moment from her busy musical schedule, Kristen loves skiing and snowboarding. We believe she qualifies as the PYO’s “most dangerous” cellist (we are afraid to tell her otherwise). Kristen has her Black Belt in *The Kiryoku System of Self Defense*, a blend of three martial arts: Shotokan Karate, Tang Soo Do, and Aikido. Clearly, Kristen is able to take care of herself and we wish her every success in college. Her future plans include a major in animal science and a minor in music with cello performance.

PYO TACKLES RICHARD WAGNER

Director, Tony Simons, planned on performing Wagner’s *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Winter concerts. Tony cut the Wagner performance, claiming constant snow storms permitted only 57 minutes of rehearsal before the concert. Rumors fly that parents are concerned about the “*Meistersinger’s*” reputation. Apparently, an uncut version of *Meistersinger*, performed in London in 1968, lasted a total of 5 hours and 15 minutes. Tony promises he will only perform the overture.



CHRISTINA LENWAY: THE PYO INTERVIEW



Last June, Monroe County singer/songwriter, Christina Lenway, contacted the PYO after attending one of the 25th Anniversary Spring performances. Christina told us that she was on a break from teaching and was considering a career in music. She was in the middle of recording “Wildflower,” her first album. She asked if the PYO would consider performing “Be More Awesome,” one of the songs from her new album. Our Directors quickly agreed and Christina spent the rest of the year writing orchestral accompaniment. Christina will perform at the Spring Concerts at ESU. Here is what the PYO learned about Christina during a recent interview.

At what age did you first become interested in a musical career?

I knew when I was 12 that I wanted to be a musician. While I had been playing the piano on and off since I was six years old, it was when I was 12 that I began to sing more pronounced and purposefully. But I was merely average and so did not pursue it as a career, despite how much I had wanted to.

I listened to your performances on YouTube and your CD. I noticed that in many of your performances, you were accompanied by a single instrument. Have you ever performed before with a Symphony Orchestra?

I have not sung with an orchestra before, but I have performed with bands and ensembles in the past. The music on the CDs was kept simple, as it was more cost effective. However, I do enjoy the richer and fuller sounds that can only be obtained through many and varied instruments.

Tell us about "Be more Awesome," the composition you will perform with the PYO. What does the title mean? Is there a special inspiration for writing this piece?

The funny thing about this song is that it arose from a simple conversation that I had with a friend about her New Year’s Resolution. When questioned she answered that she was already awesome, so this year she would be more awesome. As a runner, my iPod is arranged with playlists to keep my body and mind occupied, and I even have classical music on it. It was during one of my daily runs that the idea hit me...that we can choose to be more of who we are...more true to our own nature, or change to fit the image of what we are *supposed* to be. When we choose to live more authentically, we change the world with our courage and with our hearts.

Do you still get nervous before performing for a large audience?

Yes. I don’t know if that will ever go away...the anxiety of wanting it to be flawless. I do try to remind myself that it isn’t about being perfect. It is about delivering my best performance. There is a difference, subtle, but it is there. And equally as important, I try to remember that this isn’t supposed to be stressful; it’s supposed to be fun.

Do you have any advice for PYO students who are interested in a career in music?

American architect Frank Lloyd Wright said, “You have to go wholeheartedly into anything in order to achieve anything worth having.” This would be my advice. Do it. Go all in. Leave nothing behind. Give it everything you’ve got. And then if you fail, you can have no regrets.

Where can we learn more about your music?

I have a website that details the songs I have written, and explains when and where I will be performing. I have a few dates lined up for the summer already. (See <http://bit.ly/1nSXkBF>). I have produced an all original album, "Wildflower." It can be previewed and purchased through iTunes and Amazon, and purchased locally at Morghan Rake Coffee Roasters on 209 in Gilbert.

PYO FACEBOOK PAGE HIGHLIGHTS

In case you have not been following our Facebook feed, the PYO announces our musicians' successes, both off stage and on. We certainly have a talented group of students in our orchestras and are happy to advertise their successes. Honors keep pouring in but so far we featured the following students:

- **Eric Wolf, Aikaterini Stylianides, and Nell Kopytnik**, for winning the Monroe County Bar Association "Law Day" essay contest;
- **Eric Papa**, for winning the Suzanne Anderson University Scholarship award from the Music Study Club of the Stroudsburgs;
 - **Emily Geiger, Sophia Rostock, Elizabeth Whidden, and Eric Wolf** for winning awards at the Future Business Leaders of America Conference in Hershey;
 - **Eric Papa**, featured in the Pocono Record for participating in the PMEA All-State Band at the PA Music Educators' Conference in Hershey.
 - **Jennifer Jolivert and Rosemary Sobrinski** for their awards from the Pocono Mountain Exchange Club;
 - PJSO musicians were recently featured on Channel 13's "Talk of the Town with Kim and Marie." **Brooke Givens, Christie Lee, Missy Salvedo, and Tony Stylianides** were interviewed.

If we missed one of you, email us at music@pocono-youth-orchestra.org. Our data collection method is not scientific. Typically, it involves one or two board members fortuitously noticing an article in the Pocono Record and recognizing the student as a member of the PYO/PJSO. (We told you it was not scientific). Therefore, we rely on you to tell us of your noteworthy accomplishments. Please do not be shy. We love receiving the stories and will happily post your name on Facebook and in future issues of this newsletter.

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Audrey Simons

Pocono Youth Orchestra

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610-965-0268

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Sienna Mae Heath**, PYO cellist from 2002 to 2007, and participant in the 25th Season concerts, for her marriage to Jason Martin on September 14, 2013.