

Winter Concerts

Saturday, January 7, 2012 Sunday, January 8, 2012

#### 2011-2012 SEASON

Christmas Tree Lighting at Stroudsmoor, December 4, 2011 String-Along at Grace Park Retirement Community, December 13, 2011

## Winter Concerts, January 7 & 8, 2012

Carnegie Hall Trip to New York Youth Symphony Concert, March 11, 2012

Spring Concerts, June 2 & 3, 2012

2012-2013 Season Auditions, June 4, 2012

#### **AUDITIONS NOTICE**

Auditions for new members for both the PYO and the PJSO will be held on Monday, June 4, 2012, at Stroudsburg Area Junior High School. Openings are anticipated in the PYO for high school musicians playing violin, viola, cello, string bass, flute, oboe, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, and tuba. All students through present high school juniors are eligible to apply. In the PJSO, performing opportunities exist for all accomplished young string instrumentalists in elementary and middle school. Minimum requirements are at least two years of private instruction and strong music reading ability.

Auditions, which last about ten minutes, will be scheduled by appointment. Students will be asked to perform a prepared solo piece of their choice, and to sight read appropriate music for their instrument.

Both orchestras rehearse weekly throughout the school year on Monday evenings. They perform two formal concerts each year as well as a Christmas "String-Along," and other performance opportunities. Each year orchestra members also attend a New York Youth Symphony concert at Carnegie Hall.

To schedule an audition or for more information, please call Anthony or Audrey Simons at (610) 965-0268 or visit our website at www.pocono-youth-orchestra.org.

PYO logo design: © T.H. Lawrence

Program typesetting: MCMAHON +DESIGN

# POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Anthony Simons, Music Director Audrey Simons, Strings Assistant

Saturday, January 7, 2012 7:30 p.m. Sunday, January 8, 2012 3:00 p.m.

CECILIA S. COHEN RECITAL HALL EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY

# THE DIRECTORS

Anthony Simons, music director, maintains a career as an orchestral performer, chamber music musician, solo recitalist and music educator. Mr. Simons has been a member of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, the Pocono Pops Orchestra and the Chaminade Wind Quintet. In addition, he has served as the principal clarinetist of the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra and the Haff Chamber Music Series, and has performed with the Alexandria (VA) Symphony, Annapolis (MD) Symphony Orchestra, the Champaign-Urbana (IL) Symphony, Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra, Allentown Symphony, and Pottstown Symphony, as well as numerous theatre and opera orchestras. He received the Artist Diploma in clarinet from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, the Master of Music degree in clarinet performance and literature from the University of Illinois, and a music education degree from West Chester University. Mr. Simons is presently on the music faculty at Muhlenberg College, and the East Penn School District, and teaches a private studio of young clarinetists. In 2005, he was selected for inclusion in the 9th Edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Audrey Simons, assistant music director, is an active cellist and instructor. Mrs. Simons is a cellist in the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, and is a founding member of the Classical Attitude String Quartet and the Chestnut Hill Chamber Players. She received the Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance from Susquehanna University. She was subsequently awarded a teaching assistantship 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. In 1996, while teaching music history at Montgomery County Community College, she received the Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. In 2002, she was selected for inclusion in the 23rd Edition of Who's Who of American Women. Currently, Mrs. Simons is a cello instructor on the music faculty and teaches a Cello Techniques class for music education majors at Moravian College.

# **PROGRAM**

## **Pocono Junior String Orchestra**

Declarations Jeffrey S. Bishop

Shepherd's Dance

from Amahl and the Night Visitors Gian Carlo Menotti

arr. LLoyd Conley

Fantasia on a 17th Century Tune arr. Richard A. Stephan

Iditarod Soon Hee Newbold

INTERMISSION

#### **Pocono Youth Orchestra**

Liberty Fanfare John Williams

Danse Bacchanale from Samson and Delila, Op. 47 Camille Saint-Saëns

Concerto Grosso in D Minor, Op.11 No. 3 Antonio Vivaldi

I. Allegro

II. Largo e spiccato

III. Allegro

Rebecca Kuc & Cindy Mathiesen, Violin I Soloists Maddison Kendrick, Emily Lantz & Kelsey Day, Violin II Soloists Kristen Weaver, Violoncello Soloist

Music From Apollo 13 James Horner

arr. John Moss

A Night on Bald Mountain Modest Mussorgsky

The music is partially funded through grants provided by the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts and the East Stroudsburg Savings Association Charitable Foundation.

# POCONO JUNIOR STRING ORCHESTRA

#### Violin

India Baker
Tristan Boheim
Augustin Cavalier
Cameron Dougherty
Luke Dougherty
Nia Esposito
Elias Fernandez
Leah Jardel
Christie Lee
Kariem Morssy
Adam Snyder
Grace Sobrinski
Lily Sobrinski
Kaiti Stylianides
Elise Tomaszewski

Alexa Vaghenas Iuliet Whidden

#### Viola

Maci Kendrick Gabrielle Weirich Melissa Salvadeo Antonios Stylianides

#### Cello

Abigail Arnold Nell Kopytnik Emma Kowzun Tereya Edwards Sienna Fernandez

# POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

#### Violin

Adam Barth Amanda Berwick Josh Charlton Amy Chryst Kelsey Day+ Maura Dougherty Natalie Gilbert William Gold Jennifer Jolivert Maddison Kendrick+ Alexandra Kozak Michael Kozak Rebecca Kuc+ Abigail Lantz Emily Lantz+ Jessie Liu Anna Maroney Cindy Mathiesen+ Sarah Osman Evalyn Palmer Nicholas Park Olivia Reed Richard Sarker Joseph Snyder Rosie Sobrinski

Eva Marie Swartout

Gabrielle Truncali

## Viola

Danielle Wyckoff+ Iris Rosario+ Emily Geiger

#### Cello

Kristen Weaver Aidan Crank+ Gabrielle Truncali Sophia Rostock Maria Biery Elizabeth Whidden

#### **Bass**

John Charlton Nicole Weaver

#### Flute

Ty Gable Anna Long

#### Oboe

Nicole Weaver

#### Clarinet

Devin Diaz+ Adam DeSchriver Luke Simons

#### Bassoon

Megan Hockman+

#### Horn

Ana Cohen Tristan Flanagan Jeremiah Boeman

#### Trumpet

Kailtyn Weiss Steven Pasciak Aidan Crank+

#### **Trombone**

Eric Wolf

#### Percussion

Max Ecke Nicholas Fleming Liuba Miranosava Joseph Visceglia

<sup>\*</sup>seating rotates

<sup>\*</sup>string seating rotates +graduating seniors

# **Our Students in PYO**

**Adam Barth** is an eleventh-grade student at Pocono Mountain East High School. He has been playing the violin in PYO for three years. He also plays tenor, alto and soprano saxophone, and the piano. His favorite subject at school is English. His favorite composers are John Williams and Hans Zimmer. He enjoys Irish and classical music, and author J.K. Rowling and the *Harry Potter* series are favorites. Adam is also a member of his school's Marching Band, Jazz Band, P4 Orchestra, and Concert Band. He is in the National Honor Society and participated in PMEA District Band. Adam's hobbies include music, movies, and hanging out with friends and family. Because his school does not have an orchestra, he finds PYO a challenge he would not otherwise have. His future plans include attending college and continuing with music as much as he can.

**Amanda Berwick** is a 15-year-old sophomore at Stroudsburg High School. She is a violinist in her first year with the Pocono Youth Orchestra. In addition to violin, she enjoys playing guitar as well. Her favorite subject is math. Amanda prefers books by Nora Roberts and her favorite book is *Montana Sky*. In her free time, she likes playing softball, listening to music and painting.

Maria Biery is a sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School. She is joining the PYO for the first time after having been a member of the PJSO for one year. She plays cello with PYO and also plays the piano and saxophone. Her favorite subject is science and her favorite composers are Vivaldi, Chopin, and Schumann. She listens to pop and country music and has enjoyed books by the authors Stephenie Meyer, Laurie Faria Stolarz, and Maggie Stiefvater. Her favorite reads were the Shiver, Twilight Saga, and Never Let Me Die. She is a member of the Pleasant Valley HS Marching Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band. She also participates with the mock trial team and FBLA. She was inducted into the National Honor Society, received superior ratings at PFMC's music festival at ESU, and named Outstanding Social Studies Student. She is in the top ten percent of her class. She enjoys orchestra because she has the opportunity to play with students from other schools, and she likes performing with the large group. In the future she plans to attend Duke University and major in Biology with a minor in music and hopes to achieve her PhD.

**Jeremiah Boeman**, known to his friends as "Jer," is a 15-year-old sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School. This is his first year in Pocono Youth Orchestra where he plays French horn, although he also plays electric bass, tuba, clarinet and mellophone. His favorite subjects are math and music theory. Jer enjoys alternative metal, classic rock and instrumental/classical music with favorite composers including Mozart, Richard Strauss, Hans Zimmer and Jeremy Soule. His favorite authors are Dan Brown and J.R.R. Tolkien and his favorite books are *The DaVinci Code* and *Lord of the Rings*. In addition to PYO, Jer is active in the Pleasant Valley High School Marching Band and Concert Band. His hobbies include computer repair, computer programming and computer gaming.

He likes being a part of PYO because he enjoys playing music with a variety of instruments, listening to music and playing music with a group of musicians. Jer is hoping for a career in Recording Engineering.

**John Charlton** is an eleventh-grade student at Easton Area High School. He was in PJSO for four years, and PYO for three years playing the string bass. John also plays the trombone. His favorite composer is Arcangelo Corelli, and he enjoys Herbie Hancock, Michael Brecker, and jazz fusion and funk. At school, he is a member of the National Honor Society, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Chamber Strings, and Pit Orchestra. He enjoys PYO because he it gives him the opportunity to play with a symphony ensemble. John is involved with Boy Scouts of America and hopes to become an Eagle Scout.

**Josh Charlton** is a freshman at Easton Area High School. He has joined the PYO this year playing violin after four years in the PJSO. He also plays the tuba/sousaphone and his favorite subject is music theory. Josh's favorite composers are Dmitri Shostakovich and Sergei Prokofiev. He belongs to the Boy Scouts and the Chamber Strings. Additional hobbies include playing the sousaphone in the Easton Area high School Marching Band. He likes to play in the PYO because we play fun and challenging music.

**Amy Chryst** is a junior home school student, who is in her third year playing violin in the PYO following five years in the PJSO. Music is her favorite subject. Tchaikovsky, J.S. Bach, Mozart, and Andrew Lloyd Webber are her favorite composers, and she enjoys listening to classical, romantic, Broadway musicals, Celtic, and movie soundtracks. She also enjoys taking voice lessons and has recently started piano as well. She even plays violin with the Worship Team at First Baptist Church of East Stroudsburg. She has won Youth in Music Excellence Awards competitions in 2008, 2009, and 2010 and has received 6 consecutive superior ratings for violin solo, two superior for violin concerto, and 4 for music theory from the National Federation of Music Clubs. Amy has several violin students and thoroughly enjoys teaching; she also takes pleasure in performing and playing for weddings. Amy's favorite authors are; Victor Hugo and Charles Dickens and has enjoyed reading Les Miserables, Great Expectations, and the book of Psalms. Amy's hobbies include: drawing, clay sculpting, making jewelry, reading, drama productions, and Irish dancing. She enjoys playing in the PYO because she likes playing with other musicians and hearing the final result. In the future, Amy would love to continue to improve her skills as a violinist and major in music at college.

**Ana Cohen** is a junior at East Stroudsburg High School South and is playing French horn in the PYO for her third year. She also plays the mellophone, the piano and the kazoo. Ana's favorite types of music include 60's rock and both *Hammersmith* and *The Planets* by Holst. She participates in marching band, concert band, pit band, concert choir, and choraliers and is manager of the swim team. Ana was selected for district and regional chorus as well as district band. Her favorite composers are John Williams, Andrew Boysen and Claude Debussy, and her favorite authors are Suzanne Collins and Tracy Kidder. Ana likes reading, eating,

sleeping and working Sudoku puzzles. Music is an indispensable part of her life, and she loves cramming her high school life full of musical activities. Her favorite subject is math and she thinks that calculus is awesome! Ana's future plans include both math and music.

**Aidan Crank** is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. This is his fourth year in PYO following five years in PJSO. He plays cello and trumpet in the orchestra and also enjoys playing the piano and ukulele. His favorite composer is Barber, and he enjoys listening to the Beatles and alternative folk music. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Scholastic Scrimmage, FBLA and Science Olympiad. Math is his favorite subject in school. His favorite authors are Isaac Asimov and Joseph Conrad and his favorite books are *Foundation Trilogy, Anthem* and *Heart of Darkness*. His hobbies include solving math problems and playing chess. Aidan enjoys the challenging music in orchestra. Future plans are to attend a four-year college to pursue a bachelor degree and eventually go on to grad school to obtain a doctorate.

**Kelsey Day** is a senior at Stroudsburg High School playing violin in the PYO for the fourth year following three years in the PJSO. She also plays cello and viola while listing Vivaldi as her favorite composer and alternative as her favorite music. Kelsey's favorite subject at school is math. Her favorite author is John Green and her favorite book is *Looking for Alaska*. Kelsey plays in the Chamber Orchestra and Pit Orchestra at school. She likes to play in the PYO because she learns new challenging music in a variety of styles. She will be attending the University of Tampa to study music.

**Adam DeSchriver** is an eighth grader at the Stroudsburg Junior High School. He returns for his second year with the PYO playing the clarinet. He was a member of the PJSO for two years prior playing bass. He also plays the bass clarinet, piano, electric bass, and vocals. His favorite subject is French and his favorite composers are Brahms, Beethoven, Chopin, Listz, Bernstein, and Eric Whitacre. His favorite music includes Brahms' clarinet sonatas, Eric Whitacre's Sleep and Lux Aurumque, Beethoven's Symphony nos. 3, 5, 7, and 9, and Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story. His favorite authors are Voltaire and Harper Lee and he enjoyed reading Candide and To Kill a Mockingbird. He performs with the SHS show choir and marching band. He is a part of the Academic Challenge and played soccer for SJHS team. Adam is on the high honor roll and participated with 2011 District HS band and the 2011 District Intermediate songfest. Last summer he was awarded a scholarship and attended the Vivace Music Institute at Marywood University. His hobbies include cooking, reading, singing, and anything related to music. He enjoys the orchestra because it is a way to express himself. In the future he plans to perform clarinet professionally in an orchestra.

**Devin Diaz** is a senior at Stroudsburg High School, plays the clarinet in orchestra and is in his third year with the PYO. He also plays the alto saxophone and the piano. Devin's favorite subject is music theory. Classical, jazz, and rock are among his favorite music types and Aaron Copland, Mozart, and Brahms are among his favorite composers. His favorite books are *The World in Six Songs* and *This is Your Brain on Music*, and his favorite author is Daniel J. Levitin. Devin is involved the Stroudsburg

Marching Band and the Stroudsburg Chorale and enjoys composing, art, and singing as hobbies. He enjoys the PYO because, "It provides challenges that regular school music programs don't necessarily provide." Future plans include majoring in music performance or music education.

**Maura Dougherty** is a ninth-grade student at Easton Area High School playing violin in the PYO for her first year after three years in the PYSO. Her favorite subject is French and she has won the School French Award. She also participates in the theatre group, the treble choir, the chamber strings and the Key Club. She likes pop and rock music and lists Tchaikovsky as her favorite composer. Her hobbies include singing and reading. Maura's favorite author is Melissa De La Cruz and she lists *Blue Bloods, West Side Story, Keturah* and *Lord Death* as her favorite books. Maura enjoys playing in the PYO with others and playing challenging music. She hopes to go to Princeton University after high school.

**Maxwell Ecke** is a junior at Stroudsburg High School playing percussion in the PYO for the second year. He also plays bass and sings. Max lists jazz, fusion and experimental music as his favorites and John Williams as his favorite composer. His favorite subject is English and he likes authors J.R.R. Tolkien, H.P. Lovecraft and Edgar Allan Poe listing *The Hobbit* as his favorite book. Max is class president and has won the Presidential Fitness Award. His activities include marching band, chess team, jazz band, percussion ensemble, show choir, newspaper staff and student government. Cars and camping are his hobbies. Max likes to play in the PYO and has enjoyed playing in various ensembles for years. He plans to progress through years of higher education likely studying political science.

**Tristan Flanagan** is a ninth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is his second year playing French horn with the PYO. He also plays trumpet, piano, and mellophone. John Williams and Alfred Reed are his favorite composers and the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling are among his favorite books. Tristan participates in marching band, concert band and jazz band. He likes to arrange music, make films and fly model planes. He enjoys PYO because it enhances his musical experience and his ability to play the French horn. Tristan plans to go into film making, flight school or musical composition.

**Nick Fleming** is a 14-year-old ninth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is his first year playing percussion instruments in the Pocono Youth Orchestra. He is very active in the Stroudsburg music program and his favorite subjects are Band and Orchestra. Nick's favorite composer is Brian Balmages and his favorite music is rock and alternative. He enjoys books by Anthony Horowitz and Alex Dryden with his favorites being the *Alex Rider Series* and *Red to Black*. In addition to his musical interests, Nick is active in People to People and has been nominated and selected for a People to People Student Ambassador trip to Europe. His hobbies include building and disassembling things, playing drums and snowboarding. He enjoys participating in PYO because he enjoys playing music in general and always has fun in band and music classes. Nick hopes for a career as a Music Teacher/Instructor, and Architectural Engineer or a Crime Scene Investigator.

**Ty Gable** is a 17-year-old junior at East Stroudsburg High School South.

This is Ty's second year in the Pocono Youth Orchestra playing flute and piccolo. His favorite subjects are Music Theory and World Cultures. His favorite composers are Carl Reinecke, Paul Hindemith, Sergei Prokofiev, Igor Stravinsky and Jacques Ibert. Ty enjoys listening to orchestral and flute solo repertoire. His favorite authors are Ray Bradbury, John Steinbeck and Dean Koontz and his favorite books are Fahrenheit 451, Of Mice and Men and I know Why the Caged Bird Sings. He also enjoys reading Flute Talk Magazine. In addition to PYO, Ty is involved in Wyoming Seminary's Performing Arts Institute, ESU Orchestra, Pocono Flute Society and East Stroudsburg High School Pit Orchestra and Marching Band. He has received two Certificates of Excellence from Wyoming Seminary's PAI and a Youth in Music Excellence Award and was the winner of the High School Young Artist Competition sponsored by the Pocono Flute Society. His hobbies include tennis, practicing flute, spending time with family and friends, and reading. Ty enjoys PYO because it provides him with the opportunity to share his musical talents with the community and to play with great musicians. Ty aspires to be an orchestral flutist, and later to teach at a college/conservatory level.

**Emily Geiger** is a freshman at the Stroudsburg Junior High School and has been a member of the PJSO since fourth grade and is happy to be performing with the PYO this year playing the viola. She also plays the cello and the violin and her favorite subject in school is science. At school she participates in orchestra, student council, SADD, FBLA, Building Buddies, and the varsity tennis team. She has received superior ratings in PFMC's Junior Music Festival at ESU, participated in the Pocono Arts Council sponsored Music in Excellence competition, and performed the past four years with the PMEA Intermediate District 10 Orchestra festival. This past summer she attended a three-week summer camp at the Performing Arts Institute of Wyoming Seminary in Kingston. She loved the experience and made some new international friends. Her favorite composers are Vivaldi and Hindemith and her hobbies include playing tennis, reading, hanging out with friends, and shopping. She loves animals and the beach. She plans to attend college, travel, and buy a new car for her parents.

**Natalie Gilbert** is a junior at the Stroudsburg High School. She returns with her violin to the PYO for her third year and had performed with the PJSO for three years prior. Her other instrument is her voice and she enjoys singing, performing, and acting. Her favorite subject is English and her favorite composers are Vivaldi and Bach. She enjoys listening to classical rock and reading the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Black Sheep Theater Productions. She participated in the 2011 District Chorus festival. Her hobbies include running (not track), sketching, and writing. She enjoys the orchestra because music takes her mind off of things and gives her time to disappear into another world for a while. In the future she wants to become a world-renowned author of fiction or English teacher.

**William Gold** is a 17-year-old junior at Pocono Mountain West High School. William is a violinist in his second year with Pocono Youth Orchestra, following four years in the Pocono Junior String Orchestra. In addition to violin, he also plays trumpet. His favorite subject is History and he enjoys listening to classical music, especially that by John

Williams. William's favorite author is Ray Bradbury and his favorite book is *Fahrenheit 451*. He is active in many organizations including BSA Venture, Chess and Speech Debate. William has been inducted into the National Honor Society and has received the Best Novice Award and First Place in Debate. His hobbies include playing video games, hanging out with friends and playing basketball. He enjoys playing his violin in PYO. After high school, William plans to attend college.

**Megan Hockman** is a senior at Pocono Mountain East High School and is playing bassoon for the third year with the PYO. She also plays the tenor saxophone and the mellophone. She plays in the PME Jazz Band. Megan likes Indie and Acoustic/Classical music and lists Beethoven as her favorite composer. Her favorite book is *Alice in Wonderland* and her favorite author is W.B. Yeats. Megan likes to play with the PYO because she gets to play music that she does not play with the concert band. Her favorite subject is science and she hopes to attend Scranton University to study biochemistry/Cell and Molecular Biology eventually earning a PhD in Genetics.

**Jennifer Jolivert** attends Stroudsburg High School and is in tenth grade, where she is in the top 10 percent of her class and a member of the Key Club. This is her first year playing the violin with the PYO. In addition to the violin, she plays the viola and guitar. Her favorite school subjects are math and language arts, and one of her favorite books includes Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*. She especially favors the music of Baroque masters Bach, Vivaldi and Corelli and also enjoys listening to rock music. She believes that playing in an orchestra requires and enhances good team building skills. In the future she plans a career as a neuropsychiatrist.

**Maddison Kendrick** is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. She plays violin for the PYO and has been a member first with the PJSO for one year and continued to perform with the PYO for the past four years. Her favorite subject is French and she enjoys listening to pop and classical musical. Her favorite composers are John Williams and Alexandre Desplat. Her favorite author is J.K. Rowling and she enjoyed reading *Harry Potter* and *Something Borrowed*. She is a member of the SHS show choir, chorus, and orchestra. She has performed in the SHS musicals and is a member/treasurer of the National Honor Society. In her spare time she dances, practices the violin, and likes to travel. She enjoys being a part of the orchestra because it is an opportunity to perform with students from other schools. After she graduates she plans to attend college to major in arts management.

**Alexandra Kozak** is a sophomore honor student at Stroudsburg High School playing violin for the first time in the PYO following 3 years in the PJSO. She likes hip-hop and pop music listing Bach as her favorite classical composer. Her favorite subject is English and she lists Stephenie Meyer as her favorite author with the *Twilight* series among her favorite books. Alexa belongs to Medical Explorers and likes scuba diving, playing field hockey and other outdoor activities. She hopes to become a nurse practitioner or veterinarian. Alexa enjoys playing in the PYO because it advances her skills and she makes new friends.

**Michael Kozak** is a junior honor student at Stroudsburg High School and is playing violin in the PYO for the first time following three years in the

PJSO. He also plays the guitar and piano and likes many types of music including classical, 80's and rock 'n roll. He lists Mozart and Brahms as his favorite composers. Michael's favorite author is Christopher Paolini and his favorite books are the *Inheritance Cycle* and the *Twilight Saga*. He participates in Medical Explorers and football and enjoys weight lifting, playing the guitar, reading, swimming and skiing. He enjoys playing an instrument in the PYO with a group of bright and intelligent individuals.

**Rebecca Kuc** is an 18-year-old senior at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts, where she is an instrumental music major. This is Becky's fifth year as a violinist in Pocono Youth Orchestra, following four years in the Pocono Junior String Orchestra. In addition to violin, Becky is learning to play piano. Her favorite subjects are Math and Music Theory. Her favorite composers are Beethoven and Vivaldi and she enjoys listening to any music besides rap, though her favorite is pop. Her favorite author is Sarah Dessen and her favorite book is My Sister's Keeper. Becky is an avid horseback rider and is active with Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association, US Dressage Federation and US Equestrian Federation within which she has won numerous Champion Titles, as well as her ESDCTA Bronze and Silver Medals. She is recently back from a trip to San Diego where she was awarded her national USDF Bronze Medal along with a Reserve Champion Award. Becky has also received the USEF High School Equestrian Athlete Varsity Recognition all four years of High School. Becky's hobbies include horseback riding, playing violin, playing volleyball and performing in a Quartet. She enjoys being a part of PYO because it has given her the opportunities to meet more people who share her interests as well as to grow as a musician by providing challenging music in a full orchestra setting. Treasurer of LVPA's Chapter of the National Honor Society, Becky already has her plans set for after graduation. She will be attending Wilkes University with a major in mathematics and a double minor in statistics and music. She also plans to continue horseback riding, both as a competitor and an instructor.

**Abigail Lantz** is a ninth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. She is playing violin for the first time in the PYO following 4 years in the PJSO. Abby also plays flute and piano and likes theater and literature. She lists Hans Zimmer and James Horner as her favorite composers and alternative as her favorite music. She has been named junior composition prize winner for the past 2 years and has received superior ratings every year for her violin, piano, vocal, and piano duet performances in PFMC's Junior Music Festival. She is also a 2010 Youth in Music Excellence winner in vocal performance and also in composition. Abby's favorite books are *Shattered Glass, Kiss Me Kill Me* and the *Harry Potter* series with J.K. Rowling as her favorite author. She participates in Show Choir and FBLA and lists piano and dance as her hobbies. Her future plans include becoming a marine biologist and a singer/song writer.

**Emily Lantz** is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. This is her fourth year with the PYO performing on the violin. She was a member of the PJSO for five years. She also plays the piano and flute. Her favorite subject is sculpture and she enjoys music by Hans Zimmer, Nicholas Hooper, and The Script. Her favorite author is J.K. Rowling and she has enjoyed reading the *Harry Potter* series and *The Time Traveler's Wife*. She is a member of the National Honor Society, SHS show choir, and jazz band. In her

free time she enjoys reading, playing the piano, and singing. After graduation she plans to attend college and major in arts management.

**Jessie Liu** is a tenth-grade student at Stroudsburg High School. She plays the violin in her first year with PYO. She also plays the piano and cello, and math is her favorite subject. Jessie likes composers such as Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Mozart, and many more. She enjoys classical, romantic, and pop/modern music. Favorite authors include Sarah Dessen, James Patterson, P.C. Cast, and Melissa Marr. *The House of Night series* and *Vampire Academy* are among her favorite books. She is a member of the SHS Chamber Orchestra and SHS Pit Orchestra. She is a high honor roll student, and an ABRSM grade seven pianist. Her hobbies include playing instruments, reading, and composing. Jessie finds she is very comfortable playing with the orchestra and loves learning and experiencing as many things as possible. Jessie is exploring different options for her future such as Juilliard's pre-college program for her last years in high school. She also has a strong interest in math and science.

**Anna Long** is a junior at East Stroudsburg High School South playing flute and piccolo for her fourth year in PYO. She also plays the guitar and ukulele and lists Mendelssohn, Mussorgsky and Stravinsky as her favorite composers. She belongs to the Pocono Flute Choir, the Streamwatchers for Brodhead Watershed Association, softball, tennis, scholastic scrimmage, reading Olympics and science Olympiad. Anna lists Garth Nix, J.K. Rowling, Diane Setterfield and Scott Westerfeld as her favorite authors. Her favorite subject is AP biology and she enjoys theater and reading. Anna enjoys PYO because she likes meeting the different people and playing different types of music. She hopes to attend Johns Hopkins University as a neuroscience major.

**Anna Maroney** is an eleventh-grade student at Stroudsburg High School. She has been a violinist with PJSO for three years, and PYO for three years. Anna also studies piano and voice, and at school her favorite subjects are English and ancient history. Her favorite composer is John Williams, and she enjoys listening to rock, pop, jazz, classic, and country music. Favorite books include *The Host, House of Night* series, *Twilight Saga*, and the *Fallen* series. She enjoys reading and writing songs and stories. Anna likes playing challenging music in PYO, and strives to be better than she was the day before. She wants to major in Music Education and hopefully become a preschool, kindergarten, or elementary music teacher.

**Cynthia Mathiesen** is eighteen years old and in her senior year at Stroudsburg High School. She has spent two years in the Pocono Junior String Orchestra and five years in the Pocono Youth Orchestra. Her primary instrument is violin, and she plays a little cello. Her favorite subject in school is American history. Her favorite composers are Bach, Mozart, Shostakovich, and Beethoven. Her favorite music includes classical, classic rock, metal, and sacred music. She enjoys the works of Dante, Flaubert, and Shakespeare. Her favorite books are *Dante's Inferno*, the *Bible*, and *Madame Bovary*. Cynthia is also a member of the Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley, PMEA District X Chorus 2011, PMEA District X Chorus 2012, PMEA Region V Chorus 2011, PMEA District X Orchestra 2012, SHS Chamber Orchestra, SHS Chorale, National Honor Society, Honor roll, as well as SHS's productions of *Kiss Me Kate, The* 

# Contributions 2011-2012

Special Grants ESSA

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Allegro (\$25-\$49) Nancy and Spencer Reed

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This list includes all contributions received as of December 7, 2011

Please join us for refreshments in the Madelon Powers Gallery immediately following today's concert Wizard of Oz, and the Black Sheep Theater Company Production of Ragtime. She enjoys running, biking, hiking, and canoeing in her spare time. Cynthia values the orchestra because she "enjoys learning how to play and work with others to make music." Her future plans and ambitions include attending either Ithaca College or Carnegie-Mellon University to major in violin performance to eventually become a professional violinist in a symphony orchestra and to become a music teacher someday.

**Liuba Miranasava** is an eighth grader at the Stroudsburg Junior High School. She is performing with the PYO percussion for the first time. Her favorite subject is English and she listens to alternative rock music. Her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Philip Pullman. She has enjoyed reading the *Harry Potter* series and the *Sally Lockhart* series. At school she participates in the marching band and the concert band. Outside of school she enjoys music, cooking, and reading. Joining the PYO has provided an opportunity to experience a different atmosphere and meet new people. In the future she plans to do something in the medical field.

**Sarah Osman**, a freshman at the Stroudsburg Junior High School, is playing violin with the PYO this year. She had also been a member of the PJSO for two years. In addition to the violin, she also plays the piano. Her favorite subject is math and her favorite composer is Muzio Clementi. She listens to indie rock, classical, and pop music. Her favorite author is Marya Hornbacher and she enjoyed reading her books entitled *Madness, Wasted*, and *Waiting*. At school where she has made high honor roll, she is a member of the FBLA and chamber orchestra. She holds the office of freshmen class secretary and is a student ambassador. Her hobbies include playing music, and she enjoys the orchestra because it is relaxing and challenging at the same time.

**Evalyn Palmer** is a tenth-grade student at Warren County Technical School. She played the violin for one year in PJSO and is now in her first year with PYO. She also plays the violin, and her favorite subject in school is theater arts. Evalyn's favorite author is Rick Riordan and she especially likes the *Percy Jackson* series. She was the school spelling bee champion two times, and participated in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee two times. Evalyn enjoys reading and writing and finds orchestra to be a lot of fun where she can meet new people and play challenging music. Her future plans include attending a music and theatre college.

**Nicolas Park** is a 14-year-old ninth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is his first year playing violin with the Pocono Youth Orchestra, following three years in the Pocono Junior String Orchestra. In addition to violin, Nicholas also plays piano and guitar. His favorite subject is math. His favorite composer is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and he prefers to listen to Rock and Roll. His favorite authors are James Patterson and Rick Riordan and his favorite books are *The Kane Chronicles* and the *Percy Jackson* series. Nicholas' favorite hobby is games. He enjoys PYO since he finds it fun to be challenged. His future plan is to become some sort of Federal Agent.

**Steven Pasciak** is a freshman at the Stroudsburg Junior High School. He is returning for his second year with the PYO playing trumpet. He also plays cornet and French horn. His favorite subjects are science and histo-

ry, and his favorite composer is Maynard Ferguson. He listens to jazz and rock and has enjoyed books from authors Gary Paulson and Eoin Colfer. His favorite book is *Artemis Fowl*. He is a member of the Stroudsburg HS golf team and the Stroudsburg JHS jazz band. He participated in the PMEA Intermediate District 10 Band festival and had the honor of performing taps during the 9-11 memorial service at the school. His hobbies include golf, riding dirt bike, snowboarding, and Tae Kwon Do. He enjoys the orchestra because he likes to learn new music and music styles. He finds the performing in the orchestra demands perfection which makes him a better musician. In the future he plans to attend flight school and pursue a career as a pilot.

**Olivia Reed** is a 14-year-old ninth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her first year playing violin with the Pocono Youth Orchestra, following three years in the Pocono Junior String Orchestra. In addition to violin, Olivia also plays cello and percussion Her favorite subject is French. Her favorite composers are Ferdinando Carulli and Mozart and her favorite type of music is pop. She enjoys books by Ellen Hopkins, Simone Elkeles, Nicholas Sparks and Jennifer Echols. Some of her favorite books are the *How to Ruin* series, the *Perfect Chemistry* series and *Forget You*. She is active in S.A.D.D., Building Buddies and her school Orchestra. Olivia is a two-time Youth in Music Excellence Award Winner. Her hobbies include baking, cooking and reading. She enjoys PYO since playing music, both hard and easy, is fun and intriguing. She plans to attend Culinary School for college.

**Iris Kristina Rosario** is a senior at Stroudsburg High School playing viola for her second year in the PYO following 3 years in the PJSO. She lists her favorite composer as Bach, her favorite music as Bachata, her favorite author as Nicholas Sparks and her favorite subject as math. She belongs to the National Honors Society and the Key Club and has been honored as with the Writer's Achievement Award while being in the top 10% of her class. Iris enjoys the PYO because she loves being able to express herself through music and doing so with people who have common interests. She hopes to be accepted into the Macaulay Honors Program for Hunter College in Manhattan to major in nursing and minor in Spanish while continuing music.

**Sophia Rostock** is a ninth-grade student at Stroudsburg High School where her favorite subject is language arts. She played the cello for three years in PJSO and is now in her first year with PYO. Her favorite composers are Gabriel Faure, John Williams, and Samuel Barber. She enjoys listening to pop and rap. Sarah Dessen, Ellen Hopkins, and Suzanne Collins are among her favorite authors. Her favorite books include the *Hunger Games* trilogy and *Someone Like You*. Sophia is a member of SJHS Orchestra, FBLA, SADD, SHS Varsity Tennis, and she plays cello for the Sounds of Strings Quartet. She has received three consecutive superior ratings at the festival sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs, and received the award for Junior Instrumental Honors at the Annual Pocono Arts Council Youth in Music competition in March 2011. Her hobbies include reading and hanging out with friends. She enjoys the challenge of playing difficult music in orchestra and in the future plans to graduate from high school and college.

Richard Sarker is a 14-year-old ninth grader at Dallas High School. This

is his first year as a violinist in the Pocono Youth Orchestra, following one year in the Pocono Junior String Orchestra. His favorite subjects are science and English. His favorite composers are Antonio Vivaldi and Fritz Seitz. He enjoys listening to classical, alternative, Indie and pop music. His favorite books are *Push* by Sapphire and *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. In addition to PYO, Richard is active in YOUniversal Suzuki Strings and ValLEy Suzuki Strings. He has received the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Music Teacher's Association Achievement Award. His favorite hobby is playing violin. Richard enjoys PYO because it helps set goals and improve confidence when performing. His future plans include continuing to play violin and becoming a doctor.

**Luke Simons** is in his second year with the PYO playing clarinet. He is an eighth grade Principal's List Honor student and member of the National Junior Honor Society at Southern Lehigh Middle School where his favorite subject is math. Luke also plays the piano and saxophone and enjoys singing. Mozart is one of his favorite composers, and Rick Riordan is his favorite author. He has thoroughly enjoyed reading the *Percy Jackson* series. His hobbies include reading, playing musical instruments, golf and baseball. Luke is a member of the Southern Lehigh Little League. For the past four years, he has received superior ratings for his piano performances at PMTA's Achievement Award Auditions. He has also played clarinet in the PMEA Elementary Band and Orchestra Festival. At school, he participated in the Young Writers Program and composed a 10,000-word novel. He enjoys playing in the PYO because it gives him a chance to perform with other advanced musicians.

**Joseph L. Snyder** is a ninth grade student at Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School. He played the violin for two years in PJSO and is now in his first year with PYO. He is a high honors student with social studies and literature as his favorite subjects. His favorite composer is Henryk Wieniawski, and he enjoys listening to hip hop, rap, and classical. John Grish is his favorite author and the *Harry Potter* series are favorite books. Joseph attended the Philadelphia International Music festival in the summer of 2011. He received two consecutive superior ratings at the festival sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs in 2010 and 2011. He also plays the violin for the Sound of Strings Quartet. Joseph is a black belt member of the Tang Soo Do Association. He also likes to DJ and mix music, karate, listening to music, and playing Words with Friends. Joseph enjoys orchestra because he likes playing music with people. His future plans include becoming a lawyer and a pilot.

**Rosie Sobrinski** is in Grade 10 at Stroudsburg High School. This is her second year in PYO following 5 years in PJSO. In addition to the violin, she plays piano, viola, bass, and ukulele. Her favorite subject in school is concert choir. She sings with SHS Chorale and plays in the SHS Chamber Orchestra. She also enjoys reading, playing foosball, and learning karate and kick-boxing. Favorite composers are Vivaldi and Bach; she also likes Maroon 5, ABBA, Justin Timberlake, and 'N Sync. Favorite books include the *Inheritance Cycle* and the *Harry Potter* series. She enjoys PYO because it presents challenging music that's fun to learn and play.

**Eva Marie Swartout** is a 15-year-old sophomore at Stroudsburg High School. This is her first year playing violin in the Pocono Youth Orchestra, following three years in the Pocono Junior String Orchestra. In addition to

violin, Eva Marie also piano. Her favorite subject is science. Her favorite composer is Beethoven and she enjoys listening to alternative music. Some of her favorite books include the *Twilight Saga* and the *Dirty Little Secrets Saga*. She is an avid horseback rider and an active member of Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association. She is also an Honor Roll and High Honor Roll student. Her hobbies include horseback riding, soccer and cross country. She enjoys PYO because she loves listening to music and seeing how it all comes together. Her future plans include attending college, hopefully on a sports scholarship, and pursuing music.

**Gabrielle Truncali** is an eleventh-grade student at Notre Dame High School where her favorite subject is history. She was a member of PJSO for two years, and PYO for three years playing the cello and violin. She also studies voice. Her favorite composers are Eric Whitacre, George Gershwin, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Tchaikovsky. She enjoys listening to Broadway musicals, classical music, and film scores. Her favorite author is Diana Gabaldon, and John Shors. Her favorite books include *The Outlander Series, Beneath a Marble Sky,* and *The Last Boleyn*. Gabrielle has received excellence awards in American History, Chorus, and traveled with People to People Student Ambassadors to China in 2009. She likes reading, writing, singing, playing instruments, running, and biking. She enjoys PYO because "Mr. and Mrs. Simons always select amazing music that brings out the best of our musical abilities." Gabrielle plans to become a world traveler, learn more languages, live in another country, and study nutrition or health administration.

**Joseph Visceglia** is a freshman at the Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is his second year in the percussion section of the PYO. His favorite subject is science and his favorite composer is Brian Balmages. He listens to all types of music and enjoyed reading books from his favorite authors including Suzanne Collins and Eoin Colfer. At school he is a member of the marching band, FBLA, student council, and Science Olympiad where he has won medals from the competitions. His hobbies include baseball and card games. He enjoys the PYO for the challenging music and to have fun with his friends. In the future he hopes to become the next Brad Pitt.

Kristen Weaver is a 10th grade honor roll student at Stroudsburg High School. She is playing cello in the PYO for the third year following 3 years in the PJSO. She also plays piano and flute. At school, she plays in the Stroudsburg High School Chamber Orchestra. Kristi's favorite subject is English. She likes pop/rock music and lists Vivaldi and Haydn as her favorite composers. Her favorite books are Gregor the Overlander series by Suzanne Collins, Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan, Pendragon series by D.J. MacHale, Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling and House of Night series by P.C. and Kristin Cast. She has attained black belt in karate and received a superior rating three years in a row at the National Federation of Music Clubs' Junior Music Festivals. She was chosen to play in the PMEA Intermediate District 10 Orchestra Festival. Her hobbies include karate, reading and skiing. She enjoys orchestra because she enjoys the new, challenging music and likes to spend time with her friends. One of her ambitions is to become a veterinarian or something that involves helping or raising animals.

Nikki Weaver is an 11th grade honor roll student at Stroudsburg High

School playing bass and oboe in the PYO. This is her fourth year in PYO following three years in PJSO. She also plays piano and organ and participates in the Stroudsburg High School Chamber Orchestra and Marching Band. Her favorite subject is Calculus. Her favorite composers are Mozart and Beethoven, and she likes both classical and pop/rock. Her favorite books are *Abundance of Katherines* by John Green and the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling. She has won numerous awards in dance competitions and has attained 3rd degree brown belt in karate. She lists scrapbooking and photography as her hobbies. Nikki enjoys orchestra because she enjoys challenging and expressing herself through music. Her future plans include becoming a professional musician and a photographer.

**Kaitlyn Weiss** is an eleventh-grade student at Pocono Mountain West High School. She has played the trumpet in PYO for three years. Her favorite subject is history, and she enjoys listening to Jazz. Douglas Adams and A. Lee Martinez are among her favorite authors. Favorite books include *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *The Automatic Detective*. Kaitlyn is a COTA CATS member, a girl scout, and a member of the National Honor Society. Her hobbies include reading, playing jazz, and Marching Band. She enjoys the challenge of playing music in PYO that she otherwise would not play in school. Her future plans are to attend either the University of Central Florida or Boston University for music and education.

**Elizabeth Whidden** is a ninth-grade student at Stroudsburg Junior High School where her favorite subjects are science and math. She played the cello in PJSO for three years and is now in her first year with PYO. Her favorite composer is Vivaldi and she enjoys all kinds of music. Author J.K. Rowling and the *Harry Potter* series are favorites. Elizabeth also attends the Notara School of Dance and Acting, and is a member of the Stroudsburg High School cross country team. For six consecutive years, she has received superior ratings at the festival sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs for piano and cello performances. She was recognized for becoming a company member for the Notara School of Dance and Acting, and has been invited three times to compete in a regional math competition. Her hobbies include reading, dancing, running, and cooking. Elizabeth likes the challenge of the music in PYO and the opportunity to get to know new people. She plans to go to college and medical school and become a doctor.

**Eric Wolf** is an eighth-grade student at Stroudsburg Junior High School where his favorite subject is science. This is his first year in PYO playing the baritone horn. His favorite composers are Mozart and Bach. Clive Cussler, Larry Gonick, Mary Shelly, and J.K. Rowling are among his favorite authors. *The Hobbit, Frankenstein,* and *A Brief History of Time* are his favorite books. Eric is a member of Science Olympiad, Jazz Band, and Academic Challenge. He was a high honor roll student throughout middle school, the sixth-grade spelling bee winner, and a medalist at the Science Olympiad. His hobbies include reading, playing the baritone horn, and coin collecting. When asked why he enjoys orchestra his response was; "producing music along with others to create a whole greater than the sum of its parts is a rewarding experience". Eric hopes to become a physicist in order to study atomic and subatomic phenomena that benefit mankind.

**Danielle Wyckoff** is a senior at the Stroudsburg High School and is returning for her fourth year with the PYO playing viola. She was a member of the PJSO for two years prior. In addition to the viola she studies piano and vocals. Her favorite subject is English and her favorite composers are Vivaldi and Shostakovich. She listens to the Beatles and Adele and enjoyed reading the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling and also books by Jane Austin and Christopher Moore. She is a member of Interact, National Ski Patrol, Student Council, and played Varsity Tennis. She is in the top ten percent of her class and has been inducted into the National Honor Society. In her free time she enjoys skiing and enjoys PYO because she can spend time with her friends and be exposed to more difficult, beautiful music. After graduation she plans to attend college to major in music education and vocal studies.

# And in PJSO

**Abigail Arnold** is an 8th grader at East Hills Middle School in Bethlehem. She enjoys playing the cello in the PJSO for her second season because it gives her a chance to play with other musicians at her skill level and age. Abby also plays piano and her favorite composers are Schumann, Beethoven and Mozart. Her music of choice is classical piano music, broadway music and pop. Books by Rick Riordan, the *Percy Jackson* series and *Nancy Drew* are her reading favorites. She also enjoys science and is a member of the East Hills Middle School Theater program and looks forward to her lead role as Annie in her school's musical production this spring. Abby is hoping to be a marine biologist or a composer actively involved in music theater.

**India Baker** is playing violin for the third year in PJSO. She is a 7th grader at Swiftwater Intermediate School and on the Distinguished Honor Roll. Her favorite subject is social studies and she enjoys broadway and classical music. She likes the music of Barbra Streisand and Vivaldi. Her favorite author is Shel Silverstein, and the books *Falling Up, Where the Sidewalk Ends*, and *Forever* are favorite reads. She is a Junior Company Member of the Notara School of Dancing and also participates in Odyssey of the Mind and the Math Counts Competition. She enjoys orchestra because she loves to play the violin. In the future she wants to become a veterinarian and is planning to raise money for charity to support abused and neglected animals.

**Tristan Boheim** has been in PJSO for 3 years playing violin. He is in the 8th grade at Pocono Mountain East Junior High School and participates in Math Counts. He also plays the alto saxophone. His favorite subject is World Geography and he enjoys listening to dubstep, rap, and celtic music. His favorite composers are Bach and Tchaikovsky. He likes the *Harry Potter* series and the *Ranger's Apprentice* series by John Flanagan. He enjoys orchestra because it provides an opportunity to play with others his age and meet new friends. He wants to attend college and major in engineering.

**Augustin Cavalier** has been a violinist in the PJSO for 5 years. He is a 9th grade homeschooler whose favorite subjects are geometry and writing computer programs. Augustin's favorite composers are Bach and Mozart and he enjoys listening to any Christian music. His interests include volunteering at Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, being a mem-

ber in his church youth group and reading. His favorite book series include *The Door Within Trilogy* and the *Harry Potter* series. Augustin enjoys being a PJSO member because "It's fun to hear other people play exactly what you are playing and it's exciting to be part of something large." College is in Augustin's plans for the future.

**Cameron Dougherty** is in 9th grade at Scranton Preparatory School, and his favorite subject is science. This is his second year playing violin with PJSO, and he is also in the school orchestra and competes in the PFMC Junior Music Festival. His favorite performing group is the Rolling Stones, and he enjoys alternative rock and comedy. His favorite author is Rick Riordan, and he enjoys reading sci-fi and fantasy. He would like to get a job as a chef someday.

**Luke Dougherty** is a sixth grader at Stroudsburg Middle School. His favorite subjects are math and science. Luke has been playing violin for 6 years. This is his second year playing for PJSO and the Stroudsburg Middle School Orchestra. His favorite performing group is Escala. Luke likes rock and roll best but listens to a variety of music at home. He's read the entire *Percy Jackson* series by Rick Riordan and is very interested in Mythology. He swims for the YMCA and is a Sentinel in the Boys Brigade. Luke achieved superior ratings in the NFMC Junior Music Festivals and is the happiest when he's collecting seashells on the beach. Luke thinks he would like to be in law enforcement one day.

**Tereya Edwards** has been in PJSO for three years playing cello. She is in 8th grade at Stroudsburg Junior High School on the Distinguished Honor Roll. Her favorite subject is Spanish and she placed 3rd in cross country. She enjoys classical, contemporary Christian, pop, hip-hop, and soul, and her favorite composer is Mozart. She enjoys reading the *Candy Apple* series. In PJSO, she enjoys being part of a group of other passionate musicians. Her future plans are to follow Jesus and to be an elementary school teacher and a dancer.

**Nia Esposito** is in 5th grade at The Learning Place home school, and her favorite subjects are history, art, and reading. This is Nia's third year playing violin in the PJSO. Her favorite composers are Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Mozart, Bizet, Beethoven and Bohm, and she enjoys listening to jazz, classical, hip-hop and pop music. Her favorite authors are C.S. Lewis and Lemony Snicket, and she enjoyed reading *Narnia, Hollywood Mystery in Action*, and *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Her hobbies include golfing and swimming. She enjoys orchestra because she has "learned to play songs from my favorite composers and I made musician friends." She would like to become an actress.

**Elias Fernandez** has been in PJSO 3 years playing violin. He is a 5th grader at Barrett Elementary Center. His favorite subject is science and he participates in Odyssey of the Mind. He enjoys pop music and his favorite composer is Bach. He plays soccer, enjoys biking, running, football, basketball, and baseball. He is proud to be a Jehovah's Witness. He enjoys playing different types of music in orchestra and wants to continue for years to come.

**Sienna Fernandez** is a 7th grader at Swiftwater Intermediate School. She plays the cello in her first season with PJSO. She also plays the clarinet and piano, and represented her school in Bandfest. Her favorite subject is math. She enjoys pop and country music and her favorite compos-

er is Bach. She loves to read and her favorite authors and books are Elizabeth Wein (*The Sunbird*), Kate DiCamillo (*Because of Winn-Dixie*), and Suzanne Collins (*The Hunger Games*). She is proud to be a Jehovah's Witness. She wants to continue to have fun and learn in orchestra.

**Leah Jardel** has been playing violin for 2 years in PJSO. She is a 5th grader at East Stroudsburg Elementary School, and received Student of the Year award. Her favorite subjects are math and gym. She enjoys listening to anything that makes her dance and her favorite composer is Bach. Her favorite authors are Jeff Kinney and Margaret Haddix and the *Missing* series and *Dork Diaries* are favorites books. She plays field hockey, is on the Buck Hill Swim team, and dances with McElligot School of Irish Dance. In PJSO, she likes to meet new people, learn new music, and have fun. She would like to be a teacher and go to college with a scholarship.

**Maci Kendrick** has been playing viola for 3 years in PJSO. She also plays cello. She is in the 8th grade at Stroudsburg Junior High School where she has achieved High Honor roll status and participates in show choir, and cross country. Her favorite subjects are English, History, and French. She likes listening to pop, alternative, and rock, and her favorite composers are Beethoven and Bach. She likes running, writing, and reading the works of Cassandra Clare, J.K. Rowling, Becca Fitzpatrick, and Alyson Noel. She enjoys PJSO to learn new pieces and improve her skills. She has the ambition to work for a publishing company or at The Strand Bookstore in New York City.

**Nell Kopytnik** is playing cello for a second year in PJSO. She also plays piano and is in Chamber Orchestra. She is in the 8th grade at Stroudsburg Junior High School and her favorite subject is French. She enjoys classical and pop music, and her favorite composers are Mozart, Chopin, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, and Rocherolle. She enjoys traveling, camping, and reading. Her favorite authors are Tatiana de Rosnay, James Frey, and Cassandra Clare and the books *The Hunger Games, Never Let Me Go, Submarine*, and *Sarah's Key* are favorites. She enjoys PJSO to expand her knowledge of music and share it with the people around her. Her future ambitions include studying Architecture.

**Emma Kowzun** is a second-year cellist in the PJSO. Her other musical interests include playing the piano and handbells and listening to classical music. Emma's favorite composers are Bach and Mozart. She is a 6th grader at Faith Christian School and enjoys science. Emma enjoys reading *Treasure Island, Sherlock Holmes* and the *Percy Jackson* series. Her favorite authors are Rick Riordan and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. She has achieved an award in music and science and made it on the B honor roll. Emma also enjoys arts and crafts, swimming and traveling. The PJSO is a fun experience for her and she likes playing instruments with others. Emma plans on majoring in marine biology and music in college.

**Christie Lee** is playing violin in the PJSO for the first year. She also plays piano. She is a 6th grader at Stroudsburg Middle School and her favorite subjects are art and orchestra. She has received Art Award and President Award. Her favorite composer is Beethoven and she especially likes his Moonlight Sonata. She likes painting, playing music and reading. Her favorite books are the *Warriors* series by Erin Hunter. Her future ambitions are to play in Chamber Orchestra and be an artist.

**Kariem Morssy** has been playing violin in PJSO for 3 years. He is in 9th grade at Stroudsburg Junior High School and his favorite subject is English. He enjoys rock, pop, and some rap music. His favorite composers are Tchaikovsky and George Gershwin. He enjoys cross country, soccer, and reading. His favorite authors are Rick Riordan, Kelly Armstrong, and Heather Brewer and favorite books include *The Lost Hero, The Reckoning*, and *The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod*. He enjoys the thrill of playing and the sense of accomplishment in PJSO. In the future he wishes to become a world-renowned author

**Melissa Jade Salvadeo** is a new viola instrumentalist in the PJSO. She is in the 6th grade at Stroudsburg Middle School, her favorite subjects being orchestra, math, gym, reading and science. Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Bach, Suzuki and Holst make up Melissa's list of favorite composers. She enjoys books of mythology and biographies along with books by her favorite author Rick Riordan. Drawing is also a favorite activity of hers. Melissa has won awards in reading and math and achieved the Presidential Fitness Award. Getting to Juilliard and playing the viola for the rest of her life is how Melissa describes her future.

**Adam Snyder** is playing violin in the PJSO for the second year. He is in the 6th grade at Commonwealth Connections Academy where he is on the Distinguished Honor Roll. Adam's favorite subject is science and his favorite composer is Bach. Adam's hobbies include violin, skiing, and reading. His favorite author is Rick Riordan, and he especially enjoys reading the *Percy Jackson* series. He also likes Greek Mythology. Adam also spends time playing with his dog, Marley. In the future, Adam aspires to be an Architectural Designer.

**Grace Sobrinski** is in Grade 7 at Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her 4th year in PJSO. She plays the violin, piano, cello, and ukulele. Her favorite subject this year is Social Studies. She plays in the SJHS Chamber Orchestra, runs cross-country, and is learning karate and kick-boxing. She loves playing music, reading, and foosball. Favorite composers include Vivaldi and Bach; she also enjoys music by Maroon 5, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, and Justine Timberlake. Her favorite books are the *Harry Potter* series, *Guardians of Ga'Hoole*, and *Eragon*. She enjoys PSJO because it gives her a chance to play harder music that challenges her.

**Lily Sobrinski** is in Grade 8 at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her 4th year in PJSO. In addition to the violin, she plays piano, harp, and ukulele. Her favorite subject has always been Language Arts, and she loves reading and writing. She recently received an award for her poetry at the DeSales Poetry Festival. Favorite authors include Cassandra Clare, J.K. Rowling, and Christopher Paolini; current favorite books include *The Clockwork Angel, City of Glass*, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. She enjoys music by Bach, as well as Taylor Swift, Kelly Clarkson, Lady Gaga, and Maroon 5. She plays in the SJHS Chamber Orchestra, runs in cross-country, and is learning karate. She is also into photography and playing foosball. She enjoys PJSO because she likes the challenge, and she loves playing her violin.

**Antonios Stylianides** plays the viola in his first season with the PJSO. He also plays the piano and his favorite composer is Beethoven. Tony enjoys reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* along with fishing and soccer. He is a mem-

ber of the Boy Scouts of America and has won awards and honors from them including Arrow of Light and the Heavy Shoulder awards. Tony has made it onto the High Honor Roll at Stroudsburg Middle School. He thinks orchestra is really fun and would like "to play in a full orchestra and earn his Eagle Scout Award on the same day."

**Aikaterini (Kaiti) Stylianides** is in 8th grade at Stroudsburg Junior High School. She plays the violin in the PJSO for her second year and also plays the flute and piano. Kaiti is a member of the Show Choir, Marching Band and Chamber Orchestra. Her favorite composers are Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms but she likes listening to pop music as well. Books by J.K. Rowling, Christopher Paolini, Rachel Caine and Richelle Mead are Kaiti's favorites reads. Along with the hobbies of kayaking and soccer, Kaiti has made it on the High Honor Roll and won an award at the District Oratorical Festival. PJSO has given Kaiti the opportunity to be challenged to higher levels playing the violin, an instrument which she loves.

**Elise Tomaszewski** has been a violinist in the PJSO for two years. She is a 7th grade homeschooler. Her favorite subject is art history and she enjoys the *Dear America* series along with books by her favorite author, Lois Lenski. Elise volunteers at Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm and loves reading and doing bead work with her sister. She loves the challenging music of the orchestra and really likes playing it with others. Elise would like to be an art teacher when she grows up. Her favorite music is pop and her favorite composer is Bach. She has achieved superior ratings for her violin performances at the PFMC junior festival.

**Alexa Vaghenas** is playing violin in the PJSO for the second year. She is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School and lists social studies and French as her favorite subjects. Alexa's hobbies include reading, performing, eating, studying languages and doing puzzles. Her favorite authors are Sarah Dessen, Cassandra Clare and Meg Cabot. She performs in the Show Choir, the Drama Club and Chamber Orchestra and also belongs to the Journalism Club. She is a Student Ambassador and has the female lead in the school musical. Alexa just loves playing the violin as it suits her in every way. She enjoys playing in the orchestra because it incorporates playing in a group. Her future plans include traveling the world!

**Gabrielle Weirich** is a new viola musician of the PJSO. Gabbie is a 7th grader at Stroudsburg Middle School and her favorite subject is math. The book series she enjoys reading is the *Mortal Instruments* and books by J.K. Rowling, Stephenie Meyer and Christopher Pike. Gabbie has made it onto the high honor roll and achieved the Presidential Fitness award. She joined the PJSO because she enjoys music and would like to continue playing in college.

**Juliet Whidden** is a 5th grader at Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year playing the violin with the PJSO. Juliet also plays the piano, attends Notara School of Dance, is a member of Girls on the Run and has achieved three superior ratings in PFMC's piano festival. Her favorite composers are G.F. Handel, Beethoven and Mozart, and she enjoys listening to Taylor Swift. Juliet's hobbies include running and reading the *Harry Potter* series. A teacher or veterinarian are Juliet's future plans for herself.



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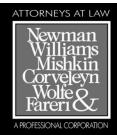
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