

POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Winter Concerts

Saturday, January 23, 2016

Sunday, January 24, 2016

2015-2016 SEASON

String-Along at Pocono Community Theater, December 15, 2015

Winter Concerts, January 23 & 24, 2016

Carnegie Hall Trip to New York Youth Symphony Concert,
March 6, 2016

Spring Concerts, June 4 & 5, 2016

2016-2017 Season Auditions, June 6, 2016

AUDITIONS NOTICE

Auditions for new members for both the PYO and the PJSO will be held on Monday, June 6, 2016, at Stroudsburg Area Junior High School. Openings are anticipated in the PYO for high school musicians playing violin, viola, cello, string bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. 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.

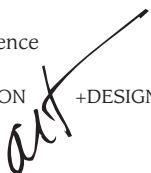
Auditions, which last about ten minutes, will be scheduled by appointment. Students will be asked to perform a prepared solo piece of their choice, and to sight read appropriate music for their instrument.

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 or follow us on facebook.

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POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

ANTHONY SIMONS, *MUSIC DIRECTOR*

AUDREY SIMONS, *ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016

3:00 P.M.

AUDITORIUM

STROUDSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

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 Chestnut Hill Chamber Players, based in the Lehigh Valley. She also performs with the Pennsylvania String Ensemble. 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

- Royal Fireworks Overture
George Frederic Handel
arr. Todd Parrish
- Strings Cut Loose
Brian Balmages
- Fugue from L'estro Armonico
Antonio Vivaldi & Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. Bob Lipton
- Acrobats
Richard Meyer
- Down at the Farm
featuring "Rakes of Mallow" & "Red Wing"
Traditional Fiddle Tunes
arr. James K. Taylor

INTERMISSION

Pocono Youth Orchestra

- The Montagues and the Capulets
from *Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2*
Sergei Prokofiev
- Russian Christmas Music
Alfred Reed
orch. trans. by Clark McAlister
- Concert Rondo, K. 371
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Stephanie Fritz, Horn Soloist**
- A Salute to the Big Bands
April in Paris – I'm Getting Sentimental over You
Pennsylvania 6-5000 – Serenade in Blue – Sing, Sing, Sing
arr. Calvin Custer
- Danzon No. 2 for Orchestra
Arturo Marquez
- Russlan and Ludmilla Overture
Mikhail Glinka

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

Aylin Avci
Mellani Avci
Karina Bernatowicz
Vasilia Briegel
Marcellina Cavalier
Michelle Corcoran
Olivia DeRosa
Dylan DiLauro
Emily Dougherty
Leah Jardel
Amy Kadonoff
Solei Lasanta
Rebekah Livermore
Megan McLain
Libby Nordmark
Olivia O'Grady
Amelia Ossman

Hannah Persaud

Ellie Pinchback
Isabel Rivera
Kristian Roberts
Victoria Robles
Terease Tomaszewski
Gabriella Vasquez
Aaron Wong
Claire Xie

Cello

Cate Ferguson
Elizabeth Lee
Elizabeth Mathiesen
Niamh McCabe
Dana Persaud
Ryan Pinchback
Rweza Rugabandana
Gwenn Strasser

Viola

Madison Anderson
Paras Briegel
Molly Christy
Madelyne Gasper
Jack O'Brien
Cameron Rothstein

Bass

Sierra Holbert

POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Violin

India Baker
Tristan Boheim+
Luke Dougherty
Nia Esposito
Elias Fernandez
Emily Fleming+
Christie Lee
Sam Legg
Charles Nutaitis+
Sarah Reinhardt
Katherine Rubino
Nicole Sekol+
Adam Snyder
Justin Stanton+
Aikaterini Stylianides+
Elise Tomaszewski
Juliet Whidden
Rebecca Xi

Cello

Sarah Chesko+
Sienna Fernandez
Nell Kopytnik+
Emma Kowzun
Gabriella Mohring
Nadia Moustafa
Sarah Strohschein
Anthony Wong

Trumpet

Pierce O'Dowd
Ryan Murphy
Tomo Curran

Trombone

Eric Wolf+
Tenzin Wangdak

Bass

Nicholas Bradley
Meredith Constable
Timothy Geiger
Johnny Valinote

Tuba

Joshua Cloward

Percussion

Liuba Miranosava+
Connor Chalfant+
Richard Doll, guest
Tyler Bickford, guest

Viola

Chelsea Cirillo
Maci Kendrick+
Kara Lawlor
Melissa Salvadeo
Antonios Stylianides
Olivia Szablinska+
Samantha Tsang

Flute

Ashley Rivera+

Oboe

Kate Briegel

Clarinet

Luke Simons+
Wendy Cooper+
Sydney Fritz

Piano

Amy Zhang+

Horn

Stephanie Fritz+
Kayla Almenas

+graduating seniors

Our Soloist



Stephanie Fritz is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. This is her 5th year in PYO. She plays French horn in the orchestra and also plays mellophone, trumpet, and piano. She is involved in nearly every musical ensemble at Stroudsburg High School, including Show Choir, the Chorale, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Concert Band and the Pit Orchestra. Her favorite subject is music theory. Stephanie's favorite composers are Frank Ticheli, J. S. Bach, Gustav Holst, Danny Elfman, and the late James Horner. She enjoys listening to classical music, concert band and film score music. She has represented her school at PMEA District, Region, and State festivals. In her sophomore year, she earned a spot in the 2014 PMEA District 10 Band. After placing in the top 6 in the District, she moved on to PMEA Region V Band. She also was asked to be

a pianist in the 2014 PMEA District 10 Jazz Band. In her junior year, Stephanie qualified for the 2015 PMEA District Band and Orchestra after ranking 2nd overall in pre auditions. At both festivals, she ranked 1st and was Principal horn in the Orchestra concert. She went on to attend the Region V Band festival, as well as the Northeast Region Orchestra Festival, where she also earned Principal Horn. There, she was the only horn selected to perform in the All-State Orchestra, where she ranked 2nd overall.

Stephanie also has also enjoyed involvement in the East Stroudsburg University Community Band, the Trinity Centennial Band, and the Kutztown University Orchestra and Chamber Group. She sincerely thanks Mr. and Mrs. Simons for their understanding and support for her love of music by working with her and accommodating her schedule.

She has been taking classical piano lessons since the 1st grade and would like to thank her private teacher, Donna Molan, for her continued love and support. Without Mrs. Molan, she would not have extensive theory knowledge or the confidence to play or sing her heart out. She has taught her almost everything she knows in music, including what it's like to have a passion to teach. Stephanie's interest in pursuing Music Education stems from seeing educators like Mrs. Molan do their job and love every second of it.

Stephanie plans to pursue a Music Education degree at a college or university in the next four years. She plans to play Horn in college, and hopes to continue being an accompanist. She sees herself one day continuing on a path to pursue a master's degree in Horn Performance and a doctorate degree in Conducting in hopes of becoming a university professor.

Our Students in PJSO

Madison Anderson is in the sixth grade at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on her viola. She also plays the cello and hopes to learn the bass as well! Her favorite subject is science, and her favorite composer is Bach. She enjoys listening to country music and music for string instruments. Her favorite author is Chris Colfer, and she enjoyed reading the *The Land of Stories* series. Madison has attained high honor roll in school, and, in her spare time, she is active in skiing, dance and climbing trees! She finds performing in the orchestra helps her to relax after a stressful day at school. In the future, she aspires to be a marine biologist or a zoologist because she loves both the ocean and animals.

Aylin Avci is a fifth grader at Stroudsburg Middle School and is playing violin in the PJSO for the first time. She also plays piano and clarinet. She likes pop, classical music and Electronic Dance Music. Her favorite composers are Ludwig Van Beethoven, Trevor Jones, Gustavo Dudamel and Lindsey Stirling. Her favorite book is *The Winter Horses* by Philip Kerr. Aylin is a Junior in Girl Scouts. Her favorite subject in school is math. Her hobbies include drawing cartoons, hiking and playing tennis. She enjoys PJSO because playing her violin make her feel calm and happy and also she can learn new music. She plans to continue to play the violin and study animal science.

Mellanie Avci is a sixth grader at Stroudsburg Middle School and is playing violin in the PJSO for the first time. She also plays piano and likes pop and classical music. Her favorite composers are John Williams, Gustavo Dudamel and Lindsey Stirling. Her favorite books include Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* series and Veronica Roth's *Divergent* series. Mellanie is a Cadette in Girl Scouts. Her favorite subject in school is math. Her hobbies include drawing, art projects, hiking and biking. She enjoys PJSO because she can learn diverse and challenging music. She plans to continue to play the violin and become a doctor.

Karina Bernatowicz is eleven years old and a fifth grader at Pleasant Valley Intermediate School where she has been nominated "student of the month" and has achieved academic honors. This is her first year in PJSO performing on the violin. She started playing when she was 5 years old. Her violin teacher is Christopher Souza, and she also plays the piano with Mr. Souza and clarinet at school. Her favorite school subjects are reading and science. Her hobbies include reading, sports, designing and horseback riding. Her favorite books are the *Harry Potter* series, the *Selection* series and *Matched*. She enjoys playing in the orchestra because it is so much fun to play with other musicians. In the future, she would like to play with PYO and become an interior or fashion designer.

Paraskevi Briegel is a 6th grade student at Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her second year participating in PJSO. In addition to playing viola, she enjoys playing piano, theatre and singing. Last year she was cast as Amaryllis in the Stroudsburg High School Musical, *The Music Man*. At Shawnee Playhouse she was seen as Suzy Walker in *Miracle on 34th Street*. She has also performed in *Pinocchio*, *Miracle Worker*, *Mozart - A Musical Timeline*, *Tiny Tim's A Christmas Carol* and *Aladdin*. At the Sherman Theatre she was cast in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. In school she is a member of the orchestra, chorus, and basketball intramural program. Outside of school, she loves to play tennis and dances with the Holy Cross Greek Dance Troupe. She is excited and honored to be part of PJSO. After high school, she aspires to attend an Ivy League university.

This is **Vasilias Briegel's** third year playing violin in PJSO. As an 8th grader in Stroudsburg Junior High School, she is a member of the chorus, orchestra, TSA, student council, junior high show choir, and orchestra. She also enjoys playing piano, tennis, singing and performing. She dances with the Holy Cross Greek Dance Troupe and has been on stage at the Shawnee Playhouse. Performances include *Rapunzel*, *Pinocchio*, *Miracle Worker*, *Miracle on 34th St.*, *Mozart - a Musical Timeline*, *Tiny Tim's A Christmas Carol* and *Aladdin*. She has also performed in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* at the Sherman Theatre, and Stroudsburg High School's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. She is grateful to PJSO for giving her the opportunity to be part of such a talented and wonderful group of musicians. In the future Vasilias hopes to attend an Ivy League university.

Marcellina Cavalier is a fourth grade home-schooled student. This is her first year playing violin in the PJSO. She takes ballet at the West End Academy of Dance. She likes to read and her favorite books are *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell and the *Rush Revere* books by Rush Limbaugh. She enjoys classical music. She thinks it is fun to play music in a group. She has never been in an orchestra before. She likes nature and wants to become a botanist.

Molly Magann Han Christy is in the sixth grade at Stroudsburg Middle School and is playing viola for the second year with the PJSO. She also plays the piano and the double bass. Her favorite subject is social studies, and she enjoys skiing and snowboarding in winter, and playing soccer the rest of the year. Molly's favorite composer is John Williams. She likes both classical and pop music. Favorite authors include Chris Colfer and Ransom Riggs. Molly enjoys playing in the PJSO because it is both challenging and fun. She certainly wants music to be a part of her future.

Michelle Corcoran is a ninth grader at the Morristown Beard School. She plays the violin in the PJSO for her first year. Michelle enjoys playing classical pieces, and is fond of the composer Vivaldi. Her favorite classes are Ancient

History, and Physics. She has received a National Junior Honor Society award last year at the completion of her eighth grade year. In her free time, Michelle plays tennis and makes jewelry. She also is a part of the *Pippin* Production at her school this year. Michelle is uncertain what she wants to do in the future, but is trying to set her self up for whatever she chooses down the road.

Olivia DeRosa is in the seventh grade at Stroudsburg Middle School and is playing violin for the third year with the PJSO. Her hobbies include hiking, singing, playing violin, cooking and photography. Olivia's favorite composers include Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, in addition to Lennon and McCartney. She likes all types of music. Olivia is also on the high honor roll. PJSO helps her to keep pursuing her musical talents. She would like to attend a good college but is unsure what type of career she would like to have at this time.

Dylan N. DiLauro is a 7th grader at Monsignor McHugh and has been playing violin with the PJSO for two years. His favorite composers are Bach and Pachelbel. Dylan has received high honors at school and was named the winner of the Knights of Columbus essay contest. Favorites include: classical music, *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry, and mathematics. He is a member of Pocono CrossFit and enjoys playing video games and basketball when time allows. Dylan is focused on successfully completing this school year and continuing to refine his musical skills.

Emily Dougherty is in the eighth grade and attends Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her first year in PJSO. Emily has played the violin since fourth grade and is in her school's orchestra, which she really enjoys. She has also been playing the piano for about 2 years. Emily has always loved listening to music, but being able to play it, understand it, and read it, helps her enjoy it even more! Her favorite music genre is rock'n roll. She also likes to draw, play *Minecraft*, and watch Anime in her free time.

Catherine Ferguson is a seventh grader at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on cello. She enjoys reading and her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling and Rick Yancey. Her favorite books include the *Harry Potter* series and *The 5th Wave*. She is a member of the SMS Orchestra, SMS Chamber Orchestra, Chorus, and Shawnee Playhouse. She is honor student and her hobbies include reading, drawing, volunteering at A.W.S.O.M animal shelter, and acting and stage managing. She enjoys the challenge of playing with a group that tackles more difficult music. In the future, she plans to be a doctor or a forensic scientist.

Madelyne M. Gasper is in the seventh grade at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her third year with the PJSO performing on her viola. Her favorite subject is math, and her favorite composers are Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

She enjoys listening to classical and pop music. Her favorite authors are James Patterson and Ally Condie, and she enjoyed reading the *Confessions* series and *Matched Trilogy*. She has attained high honor roll every quarter and, in her spare time, she participates in Irish Step Dancing and snow boarding. She finds performing in the orchestra both fun and challenging as it helps her to relax after a stressful day. In the future, she aspires to attend a great college with a major in math and minor in music.

Sierra Holbert is an eighth grader at the Stroudsburg Junior High School. She has been a member of the PJSO for two years performing on the bass. She also plays piano. Her favorite subjects in school are math and social studies. Jazz and pop music are her favorite types of music to listen to. Her favorite authors are Veronica Roth and J.K. Rowling, and she enjoyed reading the *Divergent* and the *Harry Potter* series. She is a member of the SHS chamber orchestra and chorus and is on the SHS basketball team. Her hobbies include playing music, cooking, sports, dance, and basketball. She enjoys the orchestra because she loves music, playing the bass, and performing new and different music. Her future plans include owning her own restaurant that plays jazz music so she can cook and play her bass.

Violinist **Leah Jardel** is in her sixth year with PJSO and is a ninth-grade student at East Stroudsburg South High School. Her favorite composer is Handel. Leah enjoys French and media design in school, and author John Green and the *Perks of Being a Wallflower* are among her favorites. She has received multiple gold cups in violin solo performance from the NFMC Junior Music Festival. She also is involved in competitive Irish dance and DECA. Leah enjoys participating in PJSO "because you get to meet new people and play different types of challenging music." Her future plans include getting a full ride to either Liberty University or Boston College and going into a career in marketing and communications.

Amy Kadonoff is a sixth grader at Immaculate Conception School. This is her third year with the PJSO playing violin. Her favorite subject in school is history, and her favorite composers are Tchaikovsky and Mozart and Taylor Swift. She enjoys classical and rock music and reading books from the authors C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien including *The Chronicles of Narnia*. She is a member of the Little Flower Girls Club and an honorary member of the New Sussex Symphony. She enjoys the orchestra because she likes playing with a group. In the future, she would like to be an electrical or computer engineer.

Solei Lasanta is a seventh grader in the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her second year performing on her violin with the PJSO. Her favorite subjects are orchestra and reading, and her favorite composer is J.S. Bach. She enjoys listening to pop music and reading books by John Green, Suzanne Collins, and Lois Lowry. Her favorite stories include the *Hunger Games* series and *The Fault*

in Our Stars. She is a member of the Stroudsburg Middle School orchestra. Her hobbies include orchestra and playing multiplayer online computer games. She enjoys the PJSO because she has a love of the instruments and would like to learn to play a variety of them. In the future, she plans to improve her skill level of performance.

Elizabeth Lee is a fifth grader in the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year with the orchestra performing on her cello. She also plays clarinet and piano. She enjoys reading and listening to popular music as well as Broadway show tunes. Her favorite authors are Kristen Levine, Bracken & Fraser, and Patricia Reilly Giff. She participates in Girl Scouts and the Stroudsburg cheerleading team. She is an Honor student at the Middle School. Her hobbies include cheerleading, reading, watching movies, swimming, and listening to music. She enjoys being a member of the orchestra because she finds it to be fun and challenging.

Rebekah Livermore is an eighth grader at the Nazareth Area Middle School. This is her third year with the PJSO playing the violin. Her favorite subjects in school are Science and English. She enjoys reading in her spare time, especially the *Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children* series. Her extracurricular activities include rec soccer, cross country, playing percussion for the school marching band, performing in the school play and swimming for the Nazareth YMCA Blue Fins team. In her spare time, she likes to read, watch tv, make crafts, cook, bake and spend time with friends. She enjoys the orchestra because it's an opportunity for her to improve her playing while meeting people from other schools in the area. She plans to study engineering in the future.

Elizabeth Mathiesen is a high honor roll eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School performing on cello in the PJSO for the third year. She likes the classical styles of Handel and Vivaldi. She enjoys reading scientific journals online and social studies. She participates in her school's eighth and ninth grade orchestras and the Junior String Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley. She has also been presented with two superiors in the National Federation of Music Clubs. Elizabeth has been accepted into and competed in several science and youth engineering programs including Pocono Environmental Education Center's Sci-Q camp and a STEM design challenge. She likes to write, play Nintendo games, and spend time with her dog. She finds PJSO to be a great source for her to learn new repertoire. In the future, Elizabeth would like to be a physicist.

Niamh McCabe is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School playing cello in the PJSO for the third year. She likes Baroque music and lists Vivaldi as her favorite composer. She is on the cross country team and likes singing, writing and reading. Niamh's favorite authors are J.K. Rowling, F. Scott

Fitzgerald, Rick Riordan, Richelle Mead, Shakespeare and Edgar Allan Poe. Her list of favorite books includes the *Harry Potter* series, the *Vampire Academy* series, the *Bloodlines* series and *The Great Gatsby*. Niamh has won a President's Award for Academic Excellence. She loves orchestra because she loves being a part of music and hearing it all around her. Future plans include becoming a professional author.

Megan McLain is a fifth grader at the Swiftwater Intermediate School. This is her second year with the PJSO performing on violin. Her favorite subject is Math and her favorite composers are Mozart and Beethoven. She listens to country music and bluegrass. Mary Amato is her favorite author and she enjoyed reading *Guitar Notes*. Her hobbies include playing the violin, basketball, softball, and knitting. She was awarded Student of the Marking Period and Most Musical in her class. She is a member of the chess club and the PMEYBA basketball. She enjoys the orchestra because it gives her an opportunity to play with a group. In the future she plans to attend Penn State University and become a math teacher.

Elizabeth (Libby) Nordmark is a seventh grader at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year as a member of the PJSO performing on her violin. She also plays piano and guitar as well as voice performance. Her favorite subject is Language Arts. Her musical influences include JS Bach, Bob Dorough, and George Winston. She enjoys listening to Frank Sinatra and Barbara Streisand. Her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling and Harper Lee and she enjoyed reading the *Harry Potter* series and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She is a goalie on the SHS field hockey team, a member of the SMS Orchestra, and a participant with the Shawnee Playhouse. Her hobbies include acting, singing, running, and making delicious food. She enjoys the orchestra because she finds the sounds produced by the violin calming and she loves making music with other talented musicians. Her future plans include becoming a photo journalist and enjoying life along the way.

Jack O'Brien is a seventh grader at Stroudsburg Middle School playing viola for the third year in the PJSO. He likes pop music and music by Beethoven. Jack lists James Dashner as his favorite author, and *The Giver* as one of his favorite books with math as his favorite subject. His hobbies include snowboarding, soccer and orchestra. Jack likes PJSO because it is fun. When he grows up, he wants to be a lawyer.

Olivia O'Grady is a seventh grader at the Dingman-Delaware Middle School. This is her third year with the PJSO playing violin. Olivia also plays the piano. Her favorite subject in school is math, and her favorite composers include Vivaldi and Beethoven. She enjoys listening to all types of music, especially pop. Her favorite authors are Rick Riordan and Veronica Roth as she enjoyed reading

Percy Jackson series and *Divergent* series. Her extracurricular activities include drama club, chorus, soccer, and softball. Awards include receiving a black belt in music and being named “most outstanding orchestra player.” She enjoys the PJSO because she loves to play the violin and improve upon her skills. In the future, she plans to keep practicing and hopefully qualify for a PYO scholarship.

Amelia Ossman is a high honor seventh grade student at Stroudsburg Middle School. She is in her first year with PJSO and her second year playing violin. She played the cello for two years prior to switching to the violin, and lists Mozart and Beethoven as her favorite composers. She enjoys listening to pop and Broadway music. Her favorite subjects in school are math and social studies. Her favorite authors are John Green and Kiera Cass and her favorite books are *The Fault in Our Stars* and *The Night Shades* series. Amelia participates in Chorus, Orchestra, and Chamber Orchestra in school, and is on the Stroudsburg Junior High Cheerleading team. Outside of school, she is active in track, gymnastics, and theater at The Shawnee Playhouse. She would be recognized for her roles in *The Crucible*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, and in *The Miracle Worker* where her role as Helen Keller won her The NEPTA award for Best Youth Actress (age 12 and under). Some hobbies she enjoys are drawing, singing and songwriting. Pocono Junior String Orchestra is enjoyable because it lets her get lost in another world and provides her the opportunity to play more challenging pieces.

Dana Persaud is a sixth-grader at Stroudsburg Middle School playing cello in the PJSO for her second year. She also plays the clarinet, alto saxophone and guitar. Her favorite composers include John Williams and John Philip Sousa, and she enjoys a variety of music from pop to country to classical. She lists Rick Riordan and Veronica Roth as favorite authors and the *Percy Jackson* series and *Divergent* series as favorite books. She loves running, for which she has received two awards, and swim team, for which she has received Junior Olympics and States medals. In school, she participates in orchestra, chamber orchestra, band, jazz band and swim team. Dana likes to play in the orchestra because “it is fun and exciting, and when you hear everyone playing together, it sounds beautiful.” She plans to improve her skills on the cello, clarinet, and saxophone, and, ultimately, master these instruments and see if it leads to other organizations. Future plans also include being a lawyer.

Hannah Persaud is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School playing violin in the PJSO for her third year. She also plays the trumpet. Her favorite composer is Yasuharu Takanashi, and she enjoys hip hop, Irish, and soft rock music. She lists Richelle Mead and James Patterson as her favorite authors and *Vampire Academy* as her favorite book. She has received awards in running and swimming in which she made districts and hopes to make states next year. In school, she participates in orchestra, chamber orchestra, and jazz band, and also participated in the PMEA District 10 Intermediate Orchestra Festival and

belongs to the Pocono Piranhas Family YMCA swim team. She also enjoys playing music at a local park for the community with her friends! Hannah likes to play in the orchestra because she loves the violin and likes the sound everyone makes as a whole. She plans to become an archeologist or teacher and to become a better competitive swimmer.

Ellie Pinchback is a sixth grader at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her second year with the PJSO performing on her violin. She also plays the piano and flute. Her favorite subject is Science and her favorite composer is Vivaldi. She enjoys listening to electronic music. Her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling and Anne Ursu. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* was a favorite book to read. She is an honor student and her hobbies include volleyball and equestrian showjumping.

Ryan Pinchback is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is his second year with the PJSO performing on cello. His favorite subject is Social Studies, and his favorite composers are Liszt and Beethoven. He listens to progressive rock and has read and enjoyed *Catcher in the Rye* and *The Chocolate War*. His favorite authors include Stephen King and J.R.R. Tolkien. He is a member of the Boy Scouts and is an honor student. He enjoys the orchestra because he takes pleasure in performing music. In the future he aspires to be an Eagle Scout and attend an Ivy League school.

Isabel Rivera is a 6th grader at Stroudsburg Middle School and has been playing violin in the PJSO for three years. In addition to the violin, Isabel also plays cello and enjoys Irish dancing at the Gallagher School. While she loves to play classical music, especially the music of Bach, Vivaldi, and Mozart, Isabel also listens to Top 40 hits in her free time. Her favorite subject is math, and the *Hunger Games* series, by Suzanne Collins, is her favorite book. The sound of all the different string instruments blended together is one of the reasons Isabel enjoys orchestra. In the future, she hopes to become a physician's assistant and travel the world.

Kristian Roberts-Peterson is a sixth grader at Faith Christian School and is playing violin in the PJSO for the first time. Her favorite classical composers include Beethoven and Mozart, and she also enjoys listening to pop music. Her favorite subject in school is spelling, and her favorite books include Veronica Roth's *Divergent* series. Kristian is an honor roll student and participates in basketball and karate. She enjoys PJSO because she likes how the various instruments sound blended together in harmony. In the future, she plans to be a singer and actress.

Victoria Robles is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her third year with PJSO playing the violin. She also wants to one day learn to play the cello and the piano. Her favorite subject is language arts, and she

enjoys listening to classic rock, 80's and 20's music, and classical music by some of her favorite composers including John Williams and Scott Joplin. Her favorite authors are Jodi Picoult, John Green, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Her favorite books are *My Sister's Keeper*, *Looking For Alaska*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Go Ask Alice*. She is involved with the two small group orchestras and auditioned for the school chamber orchestra. She has received the Presidential Award, went to Districts, and made High Honor Roll. In her free time, she likes to read, play her violin, run, drink tea, and hang out with friends. She enjoys the orchestra because she loves the feeling of her heart pounding with joy from the beautiful music she and others can make. In the future, she would like to get into an ivy league with aspirations of becoming a professional violinist or a professor.

Cameron Rothstein is an eighth grader at Warren Hills Middle School. This is his 3rd year with the PJSO and his first year playing viola. He also plays the violin and is an honorary member of the New Sussex Symphony Orchestra. He likes all kinds of music especially compositions written by Bach and Haydn. Cameron's favorite authors are Neil Gaiman and Rick Riordan with *The Graveyard Book* and *The Percy Jackson* series as his favorite books. His hobbies include soccer and lacrosse. Cameron enjoys PJSO because it makes him feel like he is part of something greater than himself. He plans to go to college and become a Music Teacher.

Rweza Rugabandana is in the 7th grade at Stroudsburg Middle School and is most proud of receiving the Presidential Outstanding Academic Excellence Award. Rweza's favorite subject is reading, and he enjoys the works of Jordan Sonneblick and Suzanne Collins. Favorite books are *The Hunger Games* series, *Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pies*, and *Singing in the Dogstar Blues*. Rweza has been playing cello in the PJSO for three years and thinks it feels good, both literally and figuratively, to play this instrument; some musical pieces are soothing and the feel of the vibrations that exude from the strings are calming, as the music and the notes all come together in the end. He lists Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart as his favorite composers but enjoys listening to the eclectic sounds of Trap and Chill music. In his free time, Rweza enjoys playing soccer, video games, and drawing. His future endeavors include performing at Carnegie Hall, teaching cello, and becoming a professional soccer player.

Gwenn Strasser is in the eighth grade at Notre Dame Junior High School. This is her second year with the PJSO performing with her cello. She first began to learn to read and play music with Mrs. Eleanor Bender on piano and received a couple of awards in piano solo competitions. When she was in the fourth grade and went to the school fair, she heard a high school student playing the cello. Soon after, she put aside the piano lessons and opted for the rich and beautiful sound of the cello. Her first cello teacher was Cindy Mathiesen. Gwenn's goal is to be a television journalist or an attorney, or any field that will allow her endless hours of reading!

Terease Tomaszewski is a homeschooled eighth grader playing violin in the PJSO for the fourth year. She likes pop, country and classical music and lists Tchaikovsky and Bach as her favorite composers. Her favorite authors are C.S. Lewis and O. Henry with *The Narnia Series* and *Witch of Blackbird Pond* as her favorite books. Terease's favorite subject is creative writing, and her hobbies include ballet and listening to music. She participates in the Cartesion Dance Academy and Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm as well as adventure skiing. Terease likes the PJSO because she enjoys playing with the other instruments and learning new music. She wants to continue playing violin and become an allergy doctor or speech therapy pathologist.

Gabriella Vasquez-Nicholson is a high honor roll fifth grader at Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on violin. Science is her favorite subject in school, and her favorite composer is Bach. She listens to music by Pink, Paramore, and Adele. Her favorite authors are Holly Black and J.K. Rowling, and her favorite books include the *Spiderwick Chronicles* and *Harry Potter* series. She is a member of her school orchestra and chorus and participates in chess club, cheerleading, and swim team. She enjoys the orchestra because she loves the challenge of more complex music and being part of such a great group. In the future, she aspires to become an astrobiologist or a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Aaron Wong is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is his first year with the PJSO performing on violin. In addition, he plays the piano. His favorite school subject is Social Studies, and his favorite composer is Bach. He also enjoys listening to alternative rock, electro swing and Baroque music. Favorite books include George Orwell's *1984*, William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, and Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*. In addition to reading, he enjoys playing video games. Aaron is a member of his school's marching band and chess club and is an honor student. He enjoys the musical selections played in orchestra and the opportunity to perform them.

Claire Xie is a fourth grader at Stroudsburg Intermediate Elementary School playing violin for the second year in the PJSO. She also plays piano. Her favorite school subject is science, in particular, cell biology. Claire's favorite music includes Corelli's *La Folia Variations*, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Her hobbies include minecraft games, roller skating and swimming. Claire finds orchestra to be very challenging and rewarding, which brings the group to a new horizon. In the future, she aspires to become a professional violin player.

Contributions 2015-2016

Moto Perpetuo (\$250 and up)

Zhang family

Presto (\$100-\$249)

Cavalier family

Cirillo family

Merlyn and Betsy Clarke

Geiger family

Jim and Marina Maroney

Prof. Charles F. Nutaitis & Dr. Judy Obaza-Nutaitis

Rostock family

Marie and Joseph L. Snyder

Michele Stolls & David Baker

Dr. Peter Tsang family

Jennifer White & Howard Whidden

Alumni Supporter Vivace (\$50-\$99)

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John Christy and Dr. Judith Magann

Joseph and Michelle DiLauro

Sharon Schappert

Weis Markets

Andante (\$5-\$24)

Xie family

This list includes all contributions received as of December 15, 2015

*Please join us for refreshments in the
Auditorium Lobby immediately following today's concert*

And in PYO

Kayla Almenas is in eleventh grade at Stroudsburg High School where her favorite subject is physics. This is her first year playing French horn with the PYO; she also plays the mellophone. John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* and Rick Riordan's *The Lightning Thief* are among her favorite books. Kayla is a member of Science Olympiad, Key Club, SADD, and Interact Club. In the future, she plans to become a pediatric oncologist.

India Baker is a junior at Pocono Mountain East High School, and her favorite subject is A.P. Psychology. India has received a number of awards and recognition from the Scholastic and National Federation of Press Women. Her active involvement in the following organizations, makes her a leader among her peers: Publicity for Pocono Community Theater, Buck Hill Skytop Music Festival, monthly columnist for Mensa, Notara Dance Theater, HOBY Leadership Conference, National Honor Society, Mensa National Honor Society. In her free time, India enjoys being active in the psychology club and Odyssey of the Mind. Her favorite book series is *Harry Potter*, by J.K. Rowling. In addition, India played violin with the PJSO for four years and has been a part of the PYO for the past three years. Her favorite composer is Vivaldi and she also enjoys listening to other classical artists as well as rap and EDM. India is considering a career in psychiatry and neuroscience.

Tristan Boheim is a senior at Pocono Mountain East High School. Tristan plays the violin and alto saxophone and has been a member of the PJSO for three years and PYO for the past four years. The orchestra allows him to meet peers from other schools who share similar interests. He enjoys listening to indie, tropical house, hip-hop, and traditional Irish music. Some of his favorite composers include Antonio Vivaldi and John Williams. In his free time, Tristan enjoys snowboarding and skateboarding. He is also a 4-year member of the varsity tennis team and captain of this and last year's team. Over the summer, Tristan partook in the club tennis tournament at Lake Naomi Tennis Club where he won the club championship in his division. While at Pocono Mountain East High, Tristan has taken part in the concert band for 8 years and the choir for 2 years. Along with other activities after school, Tristan also participates in the Pocono Mountain East Show Choir. In his off time, Tristan enjoys a good book by one of his favorite authors George R.R. Martin. In the fall, Tristan will be going to college to pursue a degree in either marketing or economics.

Nicholas J. Bradley is a junior at Stroudsburg High School. This is his third year playing double bass with the PYO. He enjoys alternative music but also listens to all forms of music. He is a member of the high school chamber orchestra. His hobbies include video gaming, running, and, of

course, playing the bass. He enjoys the orchestra because he absolutely loves the concert days when he can see how his hard work and practice has paid off. In the future, he plans to pursue family law at Temple University.

Kate Briegel is a seventh grader at J.T. Lambert Intermediate School playing oboe for the first time in the PYO. She has also been playing flute since second grade and began playing oboe last fall. Kate's favorite composer is George Frederic Handel, and her favorite subject is history. She participates in Media Design at school with a select number of students. Recently, she was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Over the years, Kate has consistently been a high honors student. Kate also plays volleyball at school and was a member of the Pocono Piranhas Family YMCA for 4 years where she went on to districts and later, states. In her spare time, she volunteers many hours of her time at the A.W.S.O.M. animal shelter in Stroudsburg. She also enjoys camping with her family. In the future, Kate plans to become a lawyer.

Connor Chalfant is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. This is his first year as a member of the PYO performing on percussion. He also enjoys singing. Connor's favorite school subject is mathematics. Favorite composers include George Frederic Handel and George Gershwin, and he enjoys listening to Indie Rock. Favorite books include Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* and Ron Hubbard's *The Book of Scientology*. Hobbies include chess, band and singing. He appreciates the PYO since he "never had any opportunity to play in such a talented group as the Pocono Youth Orchestra." In the future, he plans to study astrophysics at Haverford College.

Sarah Chesko is in twelfth grade at Stroudsburg High School where her favorite subject is marketing. She has been playing the cello in the PYO for four years. Sarah's favorite composer is Tchaikovsky, and she enjoys all kinds of music. *The Dollanganger* series by V.C. Andrews are among her favorite books. She is a member of Saint Luke's Youth Group. Sarah finds playing with PYO "challenging and yet calming." She is attending the University of South Carolina to pursue a career in marketing with a minor in music performance.

Chelsea Cirillo is a freshman at Notre Dame High School. She enjoys literature most and has received academic honors, a Knights of Columbus scholarship, and was the winner of the school Spelling Bee. She is a member of the Shawnee Playhouse, where she can enjoy her hobbies of theatre, singing, dancing, and playing music. Favorite authors are Victor Hugo and John Steinbeck; favorite book is *Les Misérables*; favorite composer

is Andrew Lloyd Webber. Chelsea thoroughly enjoys the music of Broadway and musical theatre. Chelsea likes being a member of the orchestra because she gets to learn new types of music and spend time with kids who have similar musical interests. She has played viola for two years in PJSO and has been a part of the PYO for one year. Chelsea's future plans include studying literature, writing professionally, and becoming an author.

Josh Cloward is a junior at East Stroudsburg High School South. He is playing for PYO for the second year. He has gone to District Band since he was an 8th grader and will be attending District Orchestra this year. In his free time, he likes to play video games with his friends, learn new instruments and compose and arrange scores. Josh's favorite composer is Gustav Holst, and his favorite composition is his *Second Suite in F*. He plans to go to college for Music Education and Composition and become a music teacher in the future.

Meredith Constable is a sophomore at Stroudsburg High School and a member of Key Club, World Club, and Student Government. Her favorite subjects are biology and chemistry. She enjoys reading the works of J.K. Rowling, Harper Lee, and C.S. Lewis and favorite books include *The Harry Potter* series, *The Book Thief*, and *The Books of Pellinor*. Meredith has been playing bass with the PYO for two years following two years in PJSO and also plays the cello. She enjoys playing challenging pieces and being part of a full orchestra. Meredith listens to a variety of music, but her favorite composers include Richard Meyer and Hans Zimmer. In her free time, Meredith enjoys riding her horse and competing in shows. Her future plans are to major in the sciences at college.

Wendy Cooper is a senior at East Stroudsburg High School South. This is her first year as a member of the PYO performing on clarinet. She also enjoys singing. Her favorite school subject is music theory, and her favorite composers are Rachmaninoff, Ryan Dorin and Yoeko Kurahashi. *The Rainbow Garden* was one of her favorite books to read. Wendy is honored to have been a participant in the PMEA District 10 Band Festival. She enjoys drawing, reading and video games. She appreciates the orchestral experience in contrast to her membership in wind ensembles. In the future, she plans to attend college to study music composition.

Luke Dougherty is a sophomore at Scranton Prep. He's a high honor roll student and plays defense for the Lacrosse team. Luke has been playing the violin for 10 years; was a member of the PJSO for five years and is now in his second year with the PYO. He has achieved superior

ratings in the NFMC Junior Festivals and has been chosen to perform in PMEA Districts. His favorite subject this year is Latin, but math is running a close second. He enjoys listening to west coast Hip-Hop, as well as the classical works of Bach and Tchaikovsky. Luke's favorite author is currently K.J. Parker and *Dante* is at the top of his favorite books this year. Luke enjoys the musical challenges offered by the orchestra and feels it gives him the opportunity to get to know others with similar interests.

Nia Esposito is a homeschooled ninth grader who, after playing violin for six years in the PJSO, is now in her first year with the PYO. Among her favorite composers are Vivaldi, Liszt, Bach, Alan Menken and Hans Zimmer. She enjoys classical, country, contemporary Christian and epic movie scores. Nia's other musical affiliations include: the Junior String Philharmonic of Lehigh Valley, the East Stroudsburg University/Community Orchestra (now the Pocono Community Orchestra), the PA Lyric Opera Theater Pit Orchestra, Project One Step Community Orchestra, IN3 String Quartet, the Glorious Nonsense Trio, the Generations String Duo, and the violin section for the Shawnee Playhouse Annual Messiah performance. She has won numerous Youth in Music Excellence Awards for both solo and ensemble performances, and consistently received Superior ratings in numerous categories from the National Federation of Music Clubs. Nia rarely misses an opportunity to share her love of music with others and performs regularly at daycare centers, schools, nursing homes, club events, soup kitchens and fundraisers. A recent musical highlight was having the opportunity to play in Vanderbilt Hall at Grand Central Terminal in New York City with her family. Nia is super excited to finally be a part of the PYO family of young musicians! When not making music somewhere, Nia enjoys reading, writing, watching *Dr. Who* and *Once Upon A Time* episodes and hanging out with her mom. In the future, Nia sees music and activism as an integral part of her life.

Elias Fernandez is a ninth grader at Pocono Mountain East High School playing violin with the PYO following six years in the PJSO. He appreciates listening to pop, alternative and electronic music and lists Bach and Mozart as his favorite classical composers. Elias enjoys playing soccer, basketball and football. His favorite subject is science, and James Dashner and his *Maze Runner* series are among his favorite books. Elias is active in the Jehovah's Witnesses. He enjoys orchestra because he gets to meet new people and learn and play more challenging music.

Sienna Fernandez is a junior at Pocono Mountain East High School. This is her second year with the PYO. She was also a member of the PJSO for two years. She performs on the cello and also plays the piano and clarinet. Human Anatomy is her favorite subject in school and she is an honor student. She listens to alternative music and her favorite composer

is Bach. Her hobbies include reading *The Maze Runner* series of stories. She enjoys the orchestra because she likes having the opportunity to perform with new members each year. In the future she plans to attend college to study Radiography.

Emily Fleming is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. This is her fourth year as a member of the PYO performing on violin. She also plays flute and keyboard. Her favorite topics are Language Arts and Science and her favorite composers are Mozart and JS Bach. She enjoys all types of music. Her favorite authors are James Joyce, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Mitch Albom. *The Great Gatsby* and *Tuesdays with Morrie* were two of her favorite books to read. She is a member of Key Club, SHS Chamber Orchestra, Future Business Leaders of America, and SHS marching band. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is an honor student. She enjoys baking, gardening, and volunteering for a variety of organizations. She enjoys the orchestra as a means of relaxation at the end of the day even though the music is challenging. In the future, she plans to attend college and to continue to keep music in her life.

Stephanie Fritz is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. This is her 5th year in PYO. She plays French horn in the orchestra and also plays mellophone, trumpet, and piano. Her favorite subject is biology. Stephanie's favorite composers are Gershwin, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. She enjoys listening to classical and jazz music. Her favorite author is Suzanne Collins, and favorite books are the *Hunger Games* series. She has received Science Olympiad recognition, softball awards, piano "most improved" 2006, flashcard champion 2012, PFMC piano award 2008, Lehigh Valley Idol finalist, LVI semifinalist winner 2008. She has also participated in numerous PMEA music festivals at the district, region and state levels. She enjoys orchestra because the French horn usually has an important part to add to the orchestra. Stephanie plans to pursue a Music Education degree at a college or university in the next four years. She plans to play Horn in college, and hopes to continue being an accompanist. She sees herself one day continuing on a path to pursue a master's degree in Horn Performance and a doctorate degree in Conducting in hopes of becoming a university professor.

Sydney Fritz is a junior at Stroudsburg High School. This is her first year in PYO on the clarinet. She wishes she had joined sooner, but she cannot wait to be a part of this organization for the rest of the year and her senior year. Outside of PYO, she plays clarinet in concert band, pit orchestra, and marching band. She has also been playing the piano for almost 4 years, and she started learning the alto saxophone this past summer. Sydney is a swim team manager and is a member of NHS, Key Club, and FBLA. She is the Vice President of Stroudsburg's class of 2017,

and has been since her freshman year. Sydney has not yet made any future plans, but music is at the top of her list since it has always been a big part of her life.

Tim Geiger is a tenth grader at the Stroudsburg High School and plays the double bass. Tim played in the PJSO for two years and this is his second year in the PYO. Tim enjoys courses in school related to entrepreneurship, finance, and investing. His favorite book is *Art of the Deal* and his musical tastes are eclectic. He likes hip-hop and Mozart, occasionally produces his own YouTube videos, but believes the sweetest music he ever heard came from the exhaust pipes of a BMW e60 M5. When not working at his part-time landscaping business, Tim swims and plays Varsity Tennis. Tim enjoys the orchestra because he loves the deep, resonant tones from his bass and learning new music. Tim's career plans include business school.

Maci Kendrick is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. She was a member of the PJSO for three years and currently in her fourth year with the PYO performing on her viola. She also plays cello with the school orchestra. Her favorite subjects are Biology, Anatomy, and Language Arts. She listens to most music except for rap and country. Vivaldi, Bach, and Williams are her favorite composers. She enjoys a variety of authors including J.K. Rowling, John Green, Emily Bronte, and John Steinbeck. Some of her favorite books she has read include the *Harry Potter* series, *Wuthering Heights*, *Paper Towns*, *Looking for Alaska*, and *East of Eden*. She is the Vice President of Student Government, secretary of the National Honor Society, SHS orchestra President, SHS Chamber Orchestra social chairperson, Fundraising Executive for the SHS Mini-Thon, Leadership Council Chairperson, and Key Club member. She is an honor student who is in the top ten percent of her class and has been selected for the Rotary Leadership award. Her hobbies include reading, knitting, 'pinning' on Pinterest, and playing chess. She enjoys the orchestra for the challenge and variety of musical styles performed. After graduation she plans to attend college and pursue a degree in nursing, travel, and never stop having fun!

Nell Kopytnik is a senior at Stroudsburg High School and has been playing the cello for the past four years in the PYO. She was previously in the PJSO for two years. In addition to cello, she enjoys playing the piano. Her favorite subject in school is math, and her favorite composers are Vivaldi, Chopin, and Tchaikovsky. She listens to music in a variety of styles including pop, classic rock, alternative and soundtrack. She reads books by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Ernest Hemingway. Some of her favorites

include *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *A Farewell to Arms*. In high school, she is a member of the National Honor Society and is a peer tutor, and in her spare time likes to travel, read, and paint. Nell enjoys the orchestra because it gives her an excellent opportunity to play the cello in a full orchestra setting. In the future, she plans to major in finance and economics and become a financial engineer.

Emma Kowzun is a sophomore at Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts and is enjoying history, being a member of her church youth group and church choir. She was recently awarded a LGPA golf scholarship and likes to play golf and travel in her free time. Emma played cello with the PJSO for four years and is entering her second year with the PYO. In addition to cello, she also plays piano and is currently studying the oboe. Her favorite composers are Mozart and Beethoven, but she also enjoys listening to pop and alternative music. Emma enjoys reading and lists John Green and Markus Zudak as favorite authors, while *Second Chances* and *The Fault in Our Stars* are her favorite books. She enjoys the orchestra because she can make music with her friends! In the future, Emma would like to attend college and become a professional musician.

Kara Lawlor is in tenth grade at the Lehigh Valley Performing Arts Charter School and plays viola. This is her second year with the PYO, and she has performed with the PJSO for the past two years. Her favorite subjects are science and math, and she enjoys listening to 80's rock, Taylor Swift, and Maroon 5. Her favorite composers are Vivaldi and Bach, and her favorite authors are Cassandra Clare and Erick Kripke. She enjoyed reading the *Mortal Instruments*, the *Infernal Devices*, and *Supernatural*. Her hobbies include knitting, crocheting, and jewelry making. She enjoys the friendship and cookies at the orchestra rehearsals. Her future plans include performing professionally in an orchestra, attending college, and having a career in science or math.

Christie Lee is a tenth grader at Stroudsburg High School playing violin in the PYO for the second year following three years in PJSO. At school, she is a high honor roll student in the top ten percent of her class and has received several awards including a President's Award for Academic Excellence, Director's Music Award, High School Orchestra Award, Arts Award, and Library Arts Purchase Award. Christie plays in the SHS Chamber Orchestra and Pit Orchestra and also participates in Key Club, FBLA and Peer Tutoring. Her favorite subjects are art, orchestra, math and science (as long as it is not in the morning). She likes both classical music and music from video games and lists Bizet and Vivaldi as her favorite composers. She identifies *The Book Thief*, a novel by Australian author Markus Zusakas, as one of her favorite books. She also enjoys

drawing, painting and occasional prop making. She appreciates orchestra because she gets “to play alongside other musicians and “synchronize” with them through music.” In the future, Christie plans to major in biology and learn to play the harp!

Samantha Legg is a ninth grader at Crestwood High School in Mountaintop, PA. This is her first year with the PYO performing on violin. She also performs on percussion instruments. Her favorite subject is Algebra and her favorite composer is Tchaikovsky. She listens to and enjoys all types of music. Her favorite author is Stephanie Perkins and she most enjoyed reading *Every Last Word*. In fact, reading is her hobby. She is a member of the Key Club, Literary Magazine, Student Government, Chorus, Concert and Jazz Band, Color guard, and Book Club. She is a member of the national Honor Society. She likes being a member of the orchestra because it affords her opportunities that are different from what is offered in high school. Her future plans include going to college.

Liuba Miranosava is a senior at Stroudsburg High School playing Percussion for the 5th year in PYO. She also plays drum set. She lists Paul Mauriat and Andre Rieu as her favorite composers and likes instrumental music, classical rock, and oldies. Liuba is the founder and president of her school's World Club, President of Key Club, Treasurer of National Honor Society, Coordinator of Peer Tutoring, and a member of Student Government. She also plays snare drum in Marching Band, and is a member of Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble. Liuba is in the top 3% of her class and a recipient of the Congressional Award and the Stanley Kay Scholarship. She also volunteers at Pocono Medical Center. Her hobbies include hiking, baking, traveling, drinking tea, and hanging out with her cat. Liuba enjoys orchestra because it allows her to explore music through a collaboration of band and orchestral instruments. She plans to pursue a Master's Degree from a four-year college or university to major in Accounting or International Economics with a minor in French.

Gabriella Mohring is a 16 year-old junior at Stroudsburg High School, playing cello in her second year with PYO. She also plays piano and flute, and enjoys listening to pop music. AP Biology and AP Chemistry are her favorite academic subjects. In school, Gabriella is a member of the Varsity Girls Tennis team, Science Olympiad, Scholastic Scrimmage, National Honor Society, Student Government, FBLA, Environmental Club, Peer Tutoring, SADD Secretary, and Regional FBLA Secretary. She volunteers at Pocono Medical Center and a local community soup kitchen. Gabriella has won multiple Science Olympiad Medals, including gold, since she began competing while in the sixth grade. Skiing, paddle-boarding, and beach travel are among her favorite leisure hobbies. Gabriella is also a fully trained and state certified EMT. She enjoys orchestra because it is a

pleasant collaboration of teamwork and creativity. Gabriella plans to attend college, medical school, and to pursue a career in medicine as a Physician in a specialized field.

Nadia Moustafa is an eleventh grader at Stroudsburg High School playing cello for the second year in the PYO. Her favorite music includes the *Carmen Suites* by Georges Bizet. She lists Becca Fitzpatrick as her favorite author, and *The Fault in our Stars* as her favorite book. Nadia participates in Key Club, Model Congress, Building Buddies, Medical Explorers, Student Government, Interact, World Club, SAAD, Chamber Orchestra and serves as Junior Representative for the Orchestra. She has played in PMEA District 10 Intermediate Orchestra twice. She loves the sound of the cello and the challenge of the music in orchestra. She hopes to attend Baruch College with a career in accounting.

Charles Nutaitis is a twelfth-grade student at Pen Argyl Area High School where his favorite subject is Spanish. This is his third year in PYO playing the violin. He is a member and volunteers for the Plainfield Farmer's Fair Organization, a group that conducts an annual five-day agricultural fair in Plainfield Township, PA. At school, he is active in chorus, chamber singers, orchestra, and Gang Green (football pep club). He also participates in State Theatre Summer Acting Camp. His honors include National Junior Honor Society in 8th grade, the highest achievement in orchestra award in 8th grade, National Honor Society in 11th grade, Principal's 90% Club in 9th -11th grade, and the outstanding achievement in Spanish award in 10th and 11th grade. Charles's hobbies include board games, swimming, and biking. He enjoys orchestra because it challenges him to improve musically. It provides him with an opportunity to meet new people who are serious about music and enjoy playing music. He is looking forward to his school's music adjudication trip to Virginia Beach this coming spring. His future plans include attending Lafayette College and majoring in Spanish.

Pierce O'Dowd is a sophomore at Stroudsburg High School playing trumpet in the PYO for his third year. He enjoys music by bands such as *Led Zeppelin* and *America* and others like them and lists Howard Shore as his favorite composer. His favorite subjects are civics, government and history. Pierce participates in Jazz Band, Marching Band, Science Olympiad, Scholastic Scrimmage, and Boy Scouts. He enjoys skiing and hiking. Pierce says he enjoys orchestra because he loves playing the trumpet. He also appreciates the final results that come at the end of all the practicing and rehearsing. He hopes to go to a good college and then possibly on to Law School.

Sarah Reinhardt has been in PYO for three years and is a junior at Stroudsburg High School. She plays the violin and has been doing so for eight years. Her favorite pastimes include listening to music, reading, drawing, and watching movies. She is active in her school's orchestra, as well as its chamber orchestra. Sarah is hoping to attend Northampton Community College after she graduates and then transfer to an art school.

Ashley Rivera is a senior at East Stroudsburg High School South. This is her first year as a member of the PYO performing on flute. She also plays saxophone. Her favorite school subject is band, and her favorite composer is ESHS's own, David Lantz, III. Her favorite book includes *It's Kind of a Funny Story* by the late Ned Vizzini. Ashley is honored to be participating in the PMEA District 10 Band Festival. She appreciates the PYO as it expands her musical background. In the future, she plans to attend West Chester University to study music education.

Katie Rubino is a ninth grade violinist at the Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Performing Arts. Along with the violin, Katie plays the guitar and piano, as well as sings. Her favorite composers are Vivaldi and Mollenhauer, and she loves every genre of music. In school, Katie is an active member of Student Ambassadors, Student Council, SADD, choir, orchestra, and is the president of the Ping Pong Team. In her free time, Katie enjoys reading, writing songs, and running. Her future ambition is to become a professional singer and songwriter. Katie would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Simons for the wonderful opportunity of being in PYO!

Missy Salvadeo is a sophomore at Stroudsburg High School where she enjoys science and music. She has been awarded first chair in her school orchestra as well as receiving the 9th grade Honors Night Orchestra award. She played viola in the PJSO for three years and is in her second year of PYO. Missy also plays the violin and alto saxophone. Being a part of the orchestra is fun and offers an escape from everything else! Her favorite composers include Sam Smith, Bach, Tchaikovsky, and Sufjan Stevens. She enjoys listening to modern music and today's hits. Her favorite author is John Green, and favorite books are *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Looking for Alaska*. Missy's future plans are to attend the University of Scranton where she would like to study a science-related field.

Nicole Sekol is a senior at Commonwealth Connections Academy and has played violin for two years in the PJSO and one year in the PYO. In addition to playing violin, Nicole also plays the piano. She enjoys studying mathematics and social studies and has received honors in English and pre-calculus. Her hobbies include graphic design, genealogy, and arranging music. Her favorite composers are Isaac Watts, Fanny Crosby, Eliza Hewitt,

Horatio Spafford, and Heather Schopf, and she enjoys listening to old and new hymnal music. Her favorite author is Cary Schmidt, and she is involved in the church choir, church instrumentalists, and also tutors her peers in mathematics. Nicole enjoys the orchestra because it gives her the opportunity to get involved in the community, motivates her to improve her skills and allows for musical collaboration among her peers. Upon graduation, Nicole plans on attending college out-of-state.

Luke Simons is in his sixth year with the PYO playing clarinet. He is a twelfth-grade honor student at Southern Lehigh High School where his favorite subjects include Band and Francais Quatre. Luke also plays the piano and saxophone and enjoys singing. Billy Joel is one of his favorite composers/musicians. Luke is a member of the SLHS Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Concert Choir and Meistersingers. His hobbies include playing musical instruments, golf and baseball. Luke is a seven-year member of the Southern Lehigh Little League. For the past seven years, he has received superior ratings for his piano performances at PMTA's Achievement Award Auditions, and has performed in Honors Recitals. During the past four years, he played clarinet in the Lehigh County Band Festival and PMEA District 10 Band Festival. As a junior, Luke was also selected by audition for the PMEA Region V Band Festival and the Pennsylvania All-State Band. This winter, he looks forward to again participating in the PMEA District 10 Band Festival as well as the PMEA District 10 Orchestra Festival. He has also been on stage for his high school theater productions of *42nd Street*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *Sound of Music* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and has performed in the pit orchestra for productions of *Shrek*, *The Boys from Syracuse* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He enjoys playing in the PYO because it gives him a chance to perform with other advanced musicians. Luke will be auditioning at several major music schools in the coming months to major in clarinet performance at the college level.

Adam Snyder is a sophomore at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts in Bethlehem, PA. In addition to the music curriculum, his favorite subjects include French and History. This is his second year in the PYO after four years in the PJSO. His instrument is the violin. He is continuing with flute, at school, this year as well. He enjoys classical, acapella, and pop music with Bach and Vivaldi as his favorite composers. Adam lists Rick Riordan and Suzanne Collins as his favorite authors with *The Hunger Games* and *Percy Jackson* as his favorite books. Adam is a student ambassador at Charter Arts and enjoys reading and gaming. He says that orchestra is fun, and it gives him the opportunity to work with others. While in school, he performs in the orchestra, various chamber groups and instrumental background for the choir.

Justin Stanton is a senior at Stroudsburg High School and has been playing violin for 9 years, the past 3 years in the PYO. His favorite subject in school is math, and he likes listening to a variety of music including pop and smooth jazz. In high school, he is the senior's Class President, and he is a member of chamber orchestra and pit orchestra, student government, national honor society, leadership council, MiniThon tech committee, and the Class of 2016 prom committee. Outside of school, he is a member of his church hand bell choir, and is an Eagle Scout through Boy Scout Troop 86, where he has been actively involved since first grade. Justin enjoys playing in the PYO because of the variety of instruments a full orchestra incorporates as opposed to a string orchestra. He says that PYO has also given him an experience to play more challenging pieces to "fine tune" his skills as a violinist. His hobbies include kayaking, canoeing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, as well as designing and building. In the future, he plans on attending Pennsylvania College of Technology for a four-year bachelor's degree major in Construction Management and a minor in Mathematics.

Sarah Strohschein is an eleventh grader at Stroudsburg High School playing cello for the second year in the PYO. Her favorite music includes "*In the Hall of the Mountain King*" from Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1*. She lists Sarah Dessen as her favorite author and German (4 years) as her favorite school subject. Sarah participates in Key Club, Community Orchestra and serves as a football manager. She appreciates the challenge of the PYO music, which makes her work harder to improve. In the future, she aspires to become a veterinarian.

Aikaterini (Kaiti) Stylianides is a high honor twelfth grade student at Stroudsburg High School where her favorite subjects are Physics, Calculus and Music Theory. She played violin for two years in PJSO and four years for PYO. Kaiti also plays flute, piccolo, piano, and guitar. Her favorite composers are Haydn, Handel and Mendelssohn. She enjoys listening to Decades music, Classical, Jazz, and Classic Rock. Kaiti's favorite authors are J.K. Rowling and Douglas Adams. Her favorite books include the *Harry Potters* series and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series. She is a member of SHS Marching Band, Chorale, Chamber Orchestra, County Choir, Concert Choir, Student Government, Pit Orchestra, National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Peer Tutoring, National Society of High School Scholars, National Academy of Future Scientist and Technologists, Chess Team, FBLA, Greek Dancing, and the Prom Committee President. She is in the top ten percent of her class, and is recognized as a FBLA Regional Qualifier. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and music. She enjoys orchestra because it gives her a place to be herself and have fun in a challenging environment. Kaiti's future plans include attending a four-year university to major in acoustical engineering.

Antonios (Tony) Stylianides is a high honor tenth grader at Stroudsburg High School currently playing viola for the second time in the PYO after three years in the PJSO. He also plays violin, cello, alto/tenor saxophone, bouzouki, baglamadaki and piano. Classical music is his favorite and Bach, Beethoven and Mozart are his favorite composers. Tony lists Marie Lu and Tom Angleberger as his favorite authors and the *Legend* series and *Divergent* series as his favorite books. He has achieved the ranking of Life Scout within Boy Scout Troop 84 and served as Senior Patrol Leader for one term. He actively participates in Keystone Athletics soccer team, SHS Science Olympiad, SHS Scholastic Scrimmage, Chamber Orchestra, Marching Band, and most recently was chosen for SHS Jazz Band playing the tenor saxophone. He enjoys fishing, playing his instruments, learning Math & Science, helping others in his community, building stuff and playing games. He enjoys orchestra for many reasons: He loves to play the viola, he likes the challenge and he likes the conductors. In the future, Tony would like to play in a professional orchestra and become a Physicist or Mathematician.

Olivia Szablinska is senior at Stroudsburg High School. She has been a member for the past four years performing on her viola. Math is her favorite subject in school and she enjoys listening to music from show tunes or musicals. Her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling and John Green and she has read the *Harry Potter* series and *The Fault in our Stars*. She is a member of the SHS Concert Choir, SHS marching band, United Methodist Church Bell Choir, SHS prom committee, and SHS swim team. She received an award from Rotary. Her hobbies include reading and swimming. She enjoys the orchestra for its variety of music. After graduation, she plans to attend Lock Haven University and major in Early Elementary Education with a focus on Special Education and minor in business.

Elise Tomaszewski is a homeschooled eleventh grader playing violin in the PYO for the second year after four years in the PJSO. She likes pop and alternative music and lists Mozart and Haydn as her favorite composers. Elise lists J.R.R. Tolkien, Dr. Seuss, Louisa May Alcott and William Shakespeare as her favorite authors with *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy and *Calvin and Hobbes* as her favorite books. She says that chemistry and literature are her favorite subjects, and her hobbies include baking and exercising. Other activities include volunteering as a tour guide at the Quiet Valley Living Historical Farms and participating in Adventures Ski Club. She has won Honorable Mention for the Scholastic Writing Awards. Elise enjoys orchestra because she enjoys listening to how the other instruments harmonize together to create an amazing sound. Her future plans are to go to college and become a nurse or podiatrist.

Samantha Tsang is a 9th grader at Blair Academy where she enjoys studying biology and has received high honors. Samantha spent three years playing the viola with the PJSO, and this is her first year in the PYO. She also plays piano and enjoys tennis. Her favorite composers are Bach and Mozart, but she likes listening to pop music when not playing classical pieces. Favorite authors include Veronica Roth, J.K. Rowling, and John Green and favorite books are *Divergent*, *The Harry Potter* series, *The Fault in Our Stars*, and the *Red Queen*. She is a member of the youth group at Our Lady of Victory Church and would like to become an infectious disease physician in the future.

Johnny Valinote is an eleventh-grade student at Stroudsburg High School, and this is his second year in the PYO playing upright bass; he also plays electric bass. His favorite subject in school is history, and he especially enjoys jazz music. Johnny lists James Patterson as his favorite author and the *Witch and Wizard* as his favorite book. In high school, he is a member of Jazz Band, Marching Band, and TSA. Out of school activities include Venture Crew, Boy Scouts, and the COTA Cats Jazz Band. Johnny enjoys playing in PYO because he loves to play music, and he even has his own Rock Band! In the future, would like to attend college for structural engineering.

Tenzin Wangdak is a junior at Pocono Mountain West High School. This is his first year with the orchestra performing on trombone. His favorite subject is science and his favorite composer is Tchaikovsky. His favorite music is from the Whitewater Festival. His favorite author is Cassandra Clare and the *Mortal Instruments* series of novels. He is a member of BSA and the PMW marching band. He enjoys the orchestra for its variety and that the members all enjoy music.

Juliet Whidden is a ninth-grader at Stroudsburg Junior High playing violin in the PYO for her first year after four years in the PJSO. She loves running and dancing, and listening to music by Lana Del Rey, Lorde, and Taylor Swift. She participates in cross-country and track, and she studies ballet and pointe at Notara School of Dance and Acting. Her favorite books include the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling. Juliet likes to play in the orchestra because of the opportunities to play new music and meet new friends. She plans to go to college to study math.

Eric Wolf is a senior at Stroudsburg High School playing trombone for the fifth year in the PYO. He also plays baritone/euphonium and plays in the SHS Jazz Band and Marching Band. Eric likes music by Bach and Duke Ellington as well as alternative rock. His favorite book is *Gulliver's Travels*. At school, Eric participates in National Honor Society, Scholastic Scrimmage, Science Olympiad and FBLA. His hobbies include

numismatics, reading and mathematics. His honors include FBLA National Agribusiness Champion, 2013-2014, 2nd place in Insurance and Risk Management, 2014-2015, Scholastic Scrimmage Champion and Science Olympiad State Medalist. Eric enjoys the orchestra because it gives him the opportunity to play a different type of music and allows him to socialize with others who want the same. His future ambitions include earning a PhD in physics – his favorite subject- and becoming a nuclear or particle physicist.

Anthony Wong is a junior at Stroudsburg High School and has been in the PJSO for one year and the PYO for three years performing on cello. He also plays guitar and piano. His favorite subject is Chemistry, and his favorite composers are Debussy, Thelonius Monk, and Aerosmith. He enjoys listening to classic rock, jazz, be-bop, electro-swing, funk, and classical Baroque. He is a member of the SHS chess club, SHS marching band, Science Olympiad, and scholastic scrimmage. He was the freshman class treasurer and is the sophomore class secretary. In his spare time, he likes to write lyrics to songs, audio record and engineer, and watch cartoons. He enjoys the orchestra because an instrument can make sounds and convey emotion that words cannot do. In the future, he plans to study medicine/pharmaceuticals.

Rebecca Xi is fifteen years old and a sophomore at Blair Academy. She is playing violin in her second year in the PYO after playing for two years in the PJSO. She also plays piano, enjoys classical music as well as music from the Phantom of the Opera, and lists Beethoven and Chopin as her favorite composers. Rebecca has successfully auditioned for the NEPMTA Carnegie Hall Honors Recital and won the Edyth Jeffrey Shakespeare Essay Prize at her school. Some of her favorite books include *Jane Eyre*, *The Hobbit*, and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy; favorite authors include Charlotte Bronte and J.R.R. Tolkien. At her high school, Rebecca participates in Christian Fellowship, string orchestra, and a student-run violins group. She also paints, plays squash in the winter, and coxes for crew in the spring. Rebecca's hobbies include reading, writing, doodling, and spending time with her two cats. She enjoys orchestra because of the opportunity to play challenging music surrounded by her peers. In the future, Rebecca is thinking about doing something relating to law, education, or music

Amy Zhang is seventeen years old and a senior at Notre Dame High School of East Stroudsburg. She has played piano for eleven years under Mrs. Kelly Scheer and has participated in the Piano Teachers' Forum of New Jersey adjudications, receiving an Outstanding ranking. Her favorite school subjects are English and Calculus, with her favorite authors being Neil Gaiman, Rainbow Rowell and J.K. Rowling. Some of her favorite

books include *Fragile Things*, *The Outsiders*, and *Freakonomics*. Her favorite composers are Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, and Beethoven, but her favorite style of music is alternative rock. In School, she participates in Mock Trial, National Honor Society (vice president) and SADD. Some of her hobbies include piano, creative writing, baking, and Netflix. She appreciates the varied pieces and styles of music that the PYO performs, as well as the many different talents of all the members. In the future, Amy hopes to become the CEO of an aroma chemical company, with a minor in music or musical performance.

Outstanding Ensemble Player Award

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Winter 2014 | Eric Wolf, trombone |
| Spring 2014 | Joseph Snyder, violin |
| Winter 2015 | Maura Dougherty, violin |
| | Emily Geiger, viola |
| | Sophia Rostock, cello |
| Spring 2015 | Nick Fleming, percussion |
| | Liuba Miranosava, percussion |
| | Joseph Visceglia, percussion |

Suzanne E. Anderson Memorial Scholarship

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2014 | Eric Papa, clarinet |
| 2015 | Sophia Rostock, cello |

Pocono Youth Orchestra Excellency Award

| | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 2015 | Elizabeth Whidden, cello |
|------|--------------------------|



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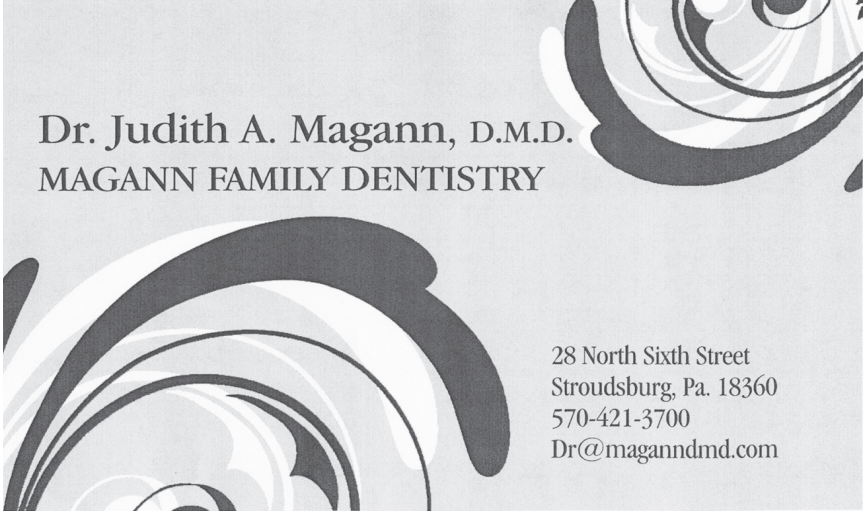
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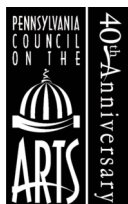
Mellanie and Aylin Avci: *We are so proud of you girls. Love you so much.*

Christie and Elizabeth: *We are so proud of you! Keep up the good work. We love you.*

Chelsea Cirillo: *Great job, Chelsea. We love you.*

Charles: *Very proud of you! Your hard work shows. Enjoy your senior year concerts.*

Cate Ferguson: *We couldn't be more proud of you!*



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