

POCONO
YOUTH
ORCHESTRA

Winter Concerts

Saturday, January 21, 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017

2016-2017 SEASON

String-Along at Grace Park Retirement Community,
December 13, 2016

Winter Concerts, January 21 & 22, 2017

Carnegie Hall Trip to New York Youth Symphony Concert,
March 5, 2017

Spring Concerts, June 3 & 4, 2017

2017-2018 Season Auditions, June 5, 2017

AUDITIONS NOTICE

Auditions for new members for both the PYO and the PJSO will be held on Monday, June 5, 2017, 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, tuba 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.

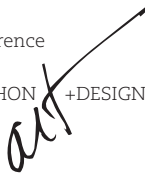
Auditions, which last about ten minutes, will be scheduled by appointment. Students will be asked to perform a prepared solo piece of their choice, and to sight read appropriate music for their instrument.

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 21, 2017
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 22, 2017
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 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 at Moravian College and Muhlenberg College and teaches a Cello Techniques class for music education majors at Moravian College.

PROGRAM

Pocono Junior String Orchestra

Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No.8

I. Allegro

II. Adagio

III. Allegro

Arcangelo Corelli

arr. Todd Parrish

Mary Did You Know?

arr. Douglas Wagner

Stone and Steel

Richard Meyer

Carrickfergus

Traditional Irish Folk Song

arr. Patrick Roszell

Dance of the Tumblers from the Opera

Snow Maiden

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

arr. Todd Parrish

PJSO and PYO Combined Strings

INTERMISSION

Pocono Youth Orchestra

Nabucco Overture

Giuseppe Verdi

Wave

Antonio Carlos Jobim

arr. Mike Lewis

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

I. Allegro

PYO Strings

007: Through the Years

arr. Stephen Bulla

James Bond Theme – Goldfinger –

Nobody Does it Better – Skyfall – Live and Let Die

Nutcracker Suite No. 1

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

I. Miniature Overture

II. Characteristic Dances

a. March

b. Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

c. Russian Dance “Trepak”

d. Arabian Dance

e. Chinese Dance

f. Dance of the Reed Pipes

III. Waltz of the Flowers

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
Daria Bernatowicz
Karina Bernatowicz
Vasilia Briegel
Sanai Castle
Marcellina Cavalier
Jay Chen
Olivia DeRosa
Dylan DiLauro
Emilia Halas
Mena Horvath
Amy Kadonoff
Solei Lasanta
Grace Anne Lenahan
Megan McLain
Naiya Mody
Libby Nordmark

Olivia O'Grady
Amelia Ossman
Aaron Piancone
Ellie Pinchback
Isabel Rivera
Kristian Roberts
Terease Tomaszewski
Gabriella Vasquez
Claire Xie
Emma Zauck

Cello

Cate Ferguson
Elisabeth Kondisko
Elizabeth Lee
Dana Persaud
Rweza Rugabandana

Bass

Abigail Guzman

Viola

Madison Anderson
Paras Briegel
Molly Christy
Jack O'Brien

POCONO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Violin

India Baker+
Luke Dougherty
Nia Esposito
Elias Fernandez
Leah Jardel
Christie Lee
Rebekah Livermore
Hannah Persaud
Victoria Robles
Katherine Rubino
Elise Tomaszewski+
Juliet Whidden
Aaron Wong

Viola

Chelsea Cirillo
Taelor Garcia
Kara Lawlor
Cameron Rothstein
Melissa Salvadeo
Antonios Stylianides

Cello

Sienna Fernandez+
Elizabeth Mathiesen
Niamh McCabe
Gabriella Mohring+
Ryan Pinchback
Gwenn Strasser
Sarah Strohschein+
Joseph Tonnies
Anthony Wong+

Bass

Meredith Constable
Sierra Holbert
Johnny Valinote+

Flute

Barbara McMahon, Guest
Shannon Lawlor
Abigail Ortega

Oboe

Dean Nyberg
Kate Briegel
(& English Horn)

Clarinet

Marissa Farrell+
Luke Simons, Guest

Horn

Kayla Almenas+
Jazlynn Wohlers

Trumpet

Pierce O'Dowd
Jackie Dudley

Trombone

Antonio Garza+
Eric Wolf, Guest

Tuba

Joshua Cloward+

Piano

Anthony Nostro

Our Students in PJSO

Madison Anderson is in the seventh grade at Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her second year with the PJSO performing on viola. She also plays cello. Her favorite subject is science, and she enjoys listening to compositions by Vivaldi as well as fun, upbeat songs on the radio. Her favorite composers are Bach, Vivaldi, and Ludovico Einaudi, and her favorite authors are Grace Lin and Chris Colfer. She has enjoyed reading *Land of Stories* and *Series of 5*. She has achieved high honor roll and participates in the school orchestra. She enjoys the orchestra for its beautiful music and the pure enjoyment of playing her instrument. In the future, she plans to major in marine biology or zoology and minor in music.

Aylin Avci is a sixth grader at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her second year performing violin with the PJSO. In addition to the violin, she also plays clarinet and piano. Her favorite subject is science, and her favorite composer is John Williams. She listens to pop and classical styles of music. Rick Riordan is her favorite author, and she has read *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series book one, *The Lightning Thief*. In school, she is involved in chamber orchestra and summer league field hockey. She has achieved high honor roll and adores drawing, swimming, and biking. She enjoys the orchestra because she loves playing her violin. In the future, she plans to become a journalist.

Mellanie Avci is a seventh grader at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her second year performing with the group on violin. She also plays piano. Her favorite subjects in school are science and math. She enjoys listening to pop and classical styles of music as well as Christmas tunes. Her favorite composers are John Williams, Lindsey Stirling, and Gustavo Dudamel. Her favorite authors are Veronica Roth and Kathy Reichs, and she has enjoyed reading the *Divergent* series and *Virals*. She has achieved honor roll and participates in chamber orchestra and the Stroudsburg field hockey team. Her hobbies include drawing, swimming, and traveling. She appreciates the PJSO as she enjoys the challenge and the beauty of the music. In the future, she plans to study hard and become a doctor.

Daria Bernatowicz is a fifth grader at the Pleasant Valley Intermediate School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on violin. She also plays piano. Her favorite subject is math, and her favorite composer is Vivaldi. She enjoys classical music and reading books by Rachel Renee Russell. Her favorite book is the *Dork Diaries*. She is a member of the ski club and also attends Polish school. She has achieved distinguished honor roll and enjoys dancing, skiing, snowboarding, crafting, singing, and playing her violin and piano as well as spending time with dogs. She enjoys the orchestra because she has the opportunity to perform with other string players and she has the best conductor and teacher. In the future, she plans on dancing, singing, performing on violin, and pursuing photography.

Karina Bernatowicz is in the sixth grade at the Pleasant Valley Intermediate School. This is her second year with the PJSO performing on violin. She also plays piano and violin. Her favorite composers are Vivaldi and Bach, and she enjoys listening to classical and country music. J.K. Rowling and Kierra Cass are two of her favorite authors, and she has enjoyed reading *Black Beauty*, the *Harry Potter* series, *The Selection* series, and the *Canterwood Crest* series. At school, she is involved

in several organizations including PVI band, John Paul II Polish School, and ski club. She enjoys the orchestra because she likes performing in a group. In the future, she plans to be a horseback rider, a violinist, a photographer, and an interior designer.

This is **Vasilia Briegel's** fourth year playing violin in PJSO. As a ninth grader in Stroudsburg Junior High School, she is a member of the chorus, FBLA, Mock Trial, student council, junior high show choir and varsity tennis. She also enjoys playing piano, 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 productions of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *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.

Paraskevi Briegel is a 7th grade student at Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her third year participating in PJSO. In addition to playing viola, she enjoys playing piano, theatre, tennis and basketball. As a 5th grader, she was cast as Amaryliss 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, chamber orchestra, jazz band and the 7th grade basketball team. 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.

Sanai Castle is in the sixth grade at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on violin. Her favorite subject in school is science. She listens to pop and hip-hop styles of music. Her favorite composer is Bob Lipton, and her favorite authors are Jennifer Donnelly and Soman Chainani. She has enjoyed reading *The School for Good and Evil* series and books by Jennifer Donnelly including *Deep Blue*. She participates in Isshinryu Karate and has received trophies and medals for her achievements. In addition, she achieved high honor roll. Her hobbies include reading, karate, and playing violin. She enjoys the orchestra because she finds some pieces more challenging than others, but in the end she learns how to play new notes. In the future, she plans to open a music store for all types of instruments and provide lessons.

Marcellina Cavalier is a fifth grade home-schooled student. This is her second 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 books about saints and the *Rush Revere* books by Rush Limbaugh. She enjoys classical music, particularly Vivaldi's Four Seasons. She likes being in PJSO because it is a great experience to play music in a group. She likes animals and nature and maybe wants to be a biologist.

Jay Chen is a seventh-grade student at Pocono Mountain East Junior High School. This is his first year playing violin in the PJSO. He thoroughly enjoys performing with a group and taking private violin lessons from master violinist, Christopher Souza.

Molly Magann Christy is in the seventh grade at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her third year with the PJSO performing on viola. She also plays piano and bass. Her favorite subject is reading, and she listens to almost all types of music except for her brother's rap and hip-hop. Her favorite authors are Ransom Riggs and Ridley Pearson, and she has enjoyed reading *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* trilogy series and *Unhooked*. Her favorite composers are Bach, Ludovico Einaudi, and Brian Crain. She is also a member of the Stroudsburg jazz band and the Junior String Philharmonic. She has achieved high honor roll in school and enjoys snowboarding, skiing, and music. She enjoys the orchestra for its beautiful and challenging music as well as the opportunity to play music outside of school. In the future, she plans to enjoy life and continue to make music a part of it.

Olivia DeRosa is in the eighth grade at Stroudsburg Junior High School where her favorite subject is art, and she has achieved high honor roll. She is playing violin for the fourth year with the PJSO. Her hobbies include art, music, hiking, photography, Netflix and attending concerts. Olivia's favorite composers include Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, in addition to Lennon and McCartney, Falling in Reverse, T.O.P., and Sleeping With Sirens; she likes all types of music. Olivia is also a volunteer for the Monroe County Democrats. She enjoys orchestra because it helps her to express herself. She would like to attend Art School, travel and live in New York City.

Dylan DiLauro has been a violinist with the PJSO for three years. He is an eighth grader at Monsignor McHugh School, and his favorite subject is math. Dylan's favorite author is Pittacus Lore, and his favorite book is *I Am Number Four*. He enjoys listening to classical music and Fritz Seitz is his preferred composer. Dylan made the High Honor Roll. Orchestra allows him to share his love of music and play instruments with others. His video game hobby has inspired him to set his sights on becoming a video game tester, designer and youtuber in the future.

Cate Ferguson is an eighth grader in the Stroudsburg Junior High School. She has been a member of the PJSO for two years performing on cello. She also plays ukulele. Her favorite subject is science, and her favorite composers are Dvorak and Bach. She listens to alternative, classical, rock, and Broadway music. Her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling and Rick Yancey. She enjoyed reading the *Harry Potter* series and *The Fifth Wave* series of novels. She is involved with the Building Buddies, Chamber orchestra, Shawnee Playhouse, and AWSOM volunteer. She has received superior ratings for her cello performances at the PFMC festivals sponsored by the Music Study Club of the Stroudsburgs and enjoys reading, cross country, art, and theater. She enjoys the orchestra as it gives her opportunity to create music surrounded by friends. In the future, she plans to study biomedicine.

Abigail Guzman is a sixth grader at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on double bass. She also plays French horn. Her favorite subject in school is social studies, and she describes her musical tastes as eclectic. Chopin and Debussy are her favorite composers, and Maggie Stiefvater is her favorite author. She has read and enjoyed books with titles such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Raven Boys*, and *The Matched Trilogy*. She is a member of K & K Dancin Dreamzzz and enjoys sewing, reading, and dancing. She has received the Girl Scout in the Heart PA Bronze Award. She enjoys the PJSO as she likes the pieces she is performing and the friends she has in the orchestra. In the future, she aspires to be a dancer or play in a professional orchestra.

Emilia Halas attends Stroudsburg Middle School and is in the seventh grade. This is her first year playing violin with the PJSO. She likes social studies and listening to pop music. Emilia also plays the piano, and her favorite composer is John Williams. The Harry Potter series are among her favorite books to read. Emilia is a member of the Girl Scouts, Chamber Orchestra, Holy Cross Greek Dancers and plays field hockey. Emilia says, "I love playing my violin and connecting with the music; I find it very relaxing." She aspires to be first chair violin in her school orchestra and have a career in music.

Mena Horvath is a sixth grader at Notre Dame Elementary School. This is her first year performing with the PJSO on violin. Her favorite subject is math, and her favorite composers are Mozart and Bach. She enjoyed reading *Dark Diaries* and takes part in competitive swimming through the YMCA swim team. In addition, she is a member of the Notre Dame girls' volleyball team and Glee Club. She received the Principal's Award and enjoys the orchestra because she likes playing with a talented group of musicians. In the future, she plans on attending college.

Amy Kadonoff is a seventh grader through homeschool. This is her fourth year with the PJSO performing on violin. She also plays piano. Her favorite subject is science, and her favorite composers are Mozart and Tchaikovsky. She listens to many kinds of music and enjoyed reading books by C.S. Lewis and James Dashner including *Maze Runner* and *The Narnia Chronicles*. She is an honorary member of the New Sussex Symphony and enjoys Irish dance, reading, and running. She enjoys the orchestra because she enjoys playing with a group. In the future, she plans to be a computer engineer or a teacher.

Elisabeth Kondisko is an eighth grader at the Wind Gap Middle School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on cello. Her favorite subject in school is writing, and her favorite composer is J.S. Bach. She enjoys listening to music by Pentatonix and has read the *Harry Potter* series. She is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. Her hobbies include writing, reading, soccer, and orchestra/music. She enjoys the orchestra because she likes to meet new people and takes pride in the concert performances as it comes together in the end. In the future, she aspires to be a teacher.

Solei Lasanta is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her third year performing violin with the PJSO. She also plays some cello through self-teaching. Her favorite subject is orchestra, and her favorite composers are Bach and Vivaldi. She listens to hip hop, pop, and rap styles of music. She prefers music to reading. She has achieved high honor roll at school, and in her spare time plays

the violin and cello. She enjoys the orchestra as she has a passion for music and enjoys new songs. In the future, she plans to be a nurse practitioner.

Elizabeth Lee attends Stroudsburg Middle School as an 11-year-old sixth-grader and is in her second year in PJSO. She plays cello, but also plays clarinet and piano. She enjoys reading Richard Brookhiser books, her favorite being *James Madison*. Lin-Manuel Miranda and Antonio Vivaldi are her favorite composers. She enjoys musicals such as *Hamilton*, *Wicked*, *Les Miserables*, and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. She keeps busy as a cheerleader, playing music, singing, and painting, all while being a High Honors student. She enjoys orchestra because she likes playing music with her friends and enjoys learning new music. In the future, she wants to attend a good music school and produce her own musical.

Grace Lenahan began playing violin in 2012 under Augusto Diemecke. She has performed in several concerts with her older siblings as well as playing solos in her church. Grace also plays the piano and enjoys reading books. She is an avid lover of history.

Megan McLain, 11, is in the sixth grade at Swiftwater Intermediate School. She has been in PJSO for three years and plays the violin. Her favorite subject is math, and favorite composers are Mozart and Beethoven, however, her favorite types of music are country/bluegrass. She enjoys the *Harry Potter* book series, and J.K. Rowling is her favorite author. She is also involved in PMEYBA and was recently awarded the "Student of the Marking Period." Megan enjoys basketball, field hockey, and softball. She likes PJSO because "you get to play in a group." Her ambitions are to become a teacher, and in her spare time and retirement, she plans to teach violin.

Naiya Mody is a fourth grader at Notre Dame Elementary School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on violin. She also plays piano. Her favorite subject in school is math, and she is a member of the *Girls on the Run*. Her favorite composers are Beethoven and J.S. Bach. She listens to pop and instrumental styles of music. Her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling and Beverly Cleary and she has enjoyed the *Harry Potter* series. Her hobbies include sewing, tennis, and running. She enjoys the orchestra because she likes to listen to the music that the group performs together. In the future, she plans to excel in piano and violin.

Elizabeth (Libby) Nordmark is in her second year playing violin in PJSO. She's in the eighth grade at Stroudsburg Junior High School and enjoys reading *James Dashner*, *S.E. Hinton*, and *Shel Silverstein* books, plus studying math. *The Maze Runner* series, *The Outsiders*, *Where The Sidewalk Ends* are just a few of her favorite books. Franz Schubert, Maurice Ravel, Lin-Manuel Miranda are among her favorite composers, and her favorite music includes imperial classics, and *Hamilton: An American Musical*. She keeps busy with show choir, cross country, writing, reading, and singing. "I enjoy orchestra because I always interpret the music I'm playing differently," she writes. Libby hopes to improve upon her violin skills and spread her love for orchestra to others.

Jack O'Brien is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is his fourth year with the PJSO performing on viola. His favorite subject is math, and his favorite composer is J.S. Bach. He enjoys listening to pop style of music and

has read Suzanne Collins' novel, *The Hunger Games*. He plays soccer and enjoys the orchestra because it allows him to express himself through music. In the future, he plans to be an accountant.

Olivia O'Grady is an eighth grader at Dingman Delaware Middle School. She has been a member of the PJSO for four years performing on violin. She also plays ukulele and enjoys listening to pop style music. Her favorite subject in school is science, and she has read books by authors J.K. Rowling, Suzanne Collins, and Veronica Roth. Some of her favorite stories are *The Book Thief*, *Harry Potter*, *Divergent*, and *The Hunger Games*. At school, she is a peer tutor and mentor, plays on the field hockey team, and is a member of the choir, FBLA, newspaper, and orchestra. She has achieved high honor roll for the past three years and has been honored by the Marywood Orchestra and the radio station at WSUS. Her hobbies include playing ukulele, reading, drawing, and playing field hockey and softball. She enjoys the orchestra because it is much more challenging, and she has the opportunity to meet new people. In the future, she plans to go to school for art or music.

Amelia Ossman is a high honor eighth-grade student at Stroudsburg Junior High School. She is in her second year with PJSO and her third 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 Sisterhood series*. Amelia participates in Chorus, Orchestra, and Chamber Orchestra, and participates in Junior High Show Choir in school. She is also a member of Student Council, Student Ambassador and Building Buddies. Outside of school, she is active in track and volleyball. Some hobbies she adores 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 seventh grader at Stroudsburg Middle School playing cello in the PJSO for her third year. She also plays the clarinet and alto saxophone. 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.

Aaron Piancone is a fifth grader through homeschool. This is his first year performing with the PJSO on violin. He also plays keyboard, and his favorite subject is math. He listens to classical music, and his favorite composers are J.S. Bach and John Williams. Jules Verne and Dr. Seuss are his favorite authors, and he has enjoyed the stories of *20,000 Leagues under the Sea* and *Winston Breen and the*

Puzzler's Mansion. He is a member of the AWANA Club and has received the AWANA Excellence Award. His hobbies include Legos and reading. He enjoys the orchestra because it gives him the opportunity to challenge himself, and the music sounds beautiful when the orchestra plays together. In the future, he plans to work for Disney and play violin professionally.

Ellie Pinchback is a seventh grader at Stroudsburg Middle School. She has been in the PJSO for the past three years performing on violin. In addition, she plays the flute, piano, and double bass. She enjoys reading novels by J.K. Rowling including *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Her favorite subject in school is language arts.

Isabel Rivera is a seventh grader at Stroudsburg Middle School and has been playing violin in the PJSO for four 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 science, and the *Hunger Games* series, by Suzanne Collins, are among her favorite books. 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 stem cell researcher and travel the world.

Kristian Roberts-Peterson, 12, is in the seventh grade at Faith Christian School and is in her second year in PJSO playing violin. She is on "A" honor roll and enjoys English, reading Madeleine L'Engle and Veronica Roth's *Divergent* series. Kristian also likes *Tuck Everlasting*. She spends her spare time baking, cooking, taking pictures & selfies, and playing with her nephew. She loves the way the PJSO sounds together and aspires to be an actress.

Rweza Rugabandana is an eighth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School. He 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 four 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.

Terease Tomaszewski has been a violinist in the PJSO for 5 years. She is enrolled as a ninth grader in Kolbe Academy Homeschool. She enjoys literature and history, and Terease's favorite authors are C.S. Lewis and Regina Doman. The *Narnia* series are among her favorite books to read. The music she most enjoys to play is composed by Vivaldi and Hans Zimmer. She prefers to listen to pop, techno, and Shawn Mendes melts her heart. Terease participates in fencing, Quiet Valley Living

Historical Farm and studies flat and pointe ballet at Cartesion Dance Academy. Her affinity for orchestra comes from hearing all the different instruments harmonize together and learning the new music. Terease plans on becoming a speech therapist.

Gabriella Vasquez Nicholson is in the sixth grade at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her second year with the PJSO performing on violin. Her favorite subject is science. She enjoys listening to classical and pop music. Her favorite composers are Mozart and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling, Chris Colfer, and Holly Black, and she has enjoyed reading the *Harry Potter* series, *The Land of Stories*, and *All We Have is Now*. She has achieved high honor roll and participates in cheerleading, field hockey, track, and snowboarding. She enjoys the orchestra for its fun and challenging music. In the future, she plans on continuing to play violin in orchestra and become a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Claire Xie is a fifth grader at Stroudsburg Middle School playing violin for the third year in the PJSO. She also plays piano and just started to learn clarinet. Her favorite school subjects are math, science and social studies. Claire's favorite composer is Mozart. Her favorite music includes Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Her hobbies include minecraft games, rollerskating and swimming. Claire finds orchestra to be challenging and rewarding. She likes to read books by Rick Riordan. Her favorite TV shows are Magic shows and Brain Games. She wishes to become a professional violin player.

Emma Zauck is a seventh grader at the Stroudsburg Middle School. This is her first year with the PJSO performing on violin. Her favorite subject is social studies, and she listens to pop and country styles of music. Eva Gray is her favorite author, and she enjoyed reading *Tomorrow Girls*. Several groups in which she participates include field hockey at the Pocono Dome, volleyball, karate, *Girls on the Run*, and ESU field hockey club. She has achieved high honor roll K-7. Her hobbies are art, trampoline, and make-up creations. She enjoys the PJSO as she likes that pop songs can be played in melodies on the strings. In the future, she aspires to receive a scholarship to play field hockey and attend college.

And in PYO

Kayla Almenas is a senior at Stroudsburg High School and has played the French horn in the PYO for the past two years. Her favorite subjects are biology and physics, and Kayla enjoys the composers Tchaikovsky and Alan Menken. Marching band, Science Olympiad, Big Brother Big Sister and National Society of High School Scholars are some of the other organizations in which Kayla is involved. Her enjoyment of orchestra comes from the stress relief the playing of the French horn gives her. Kayla plans on majoring in neuroscience and later getting a medical degree.

India Baker is a 17-year-old senior at Pocono Mountain East High School and has been studying the violin for more than eight years. She has been a member of PJSO for four years and PYO throughout her four high school years. Her favorite

composer is Antonio Vivaldi, and she enjoys a wide variety of music, including rap, electronic, pop, classical, and musical theater. She enjoys writing and has earned the first place award for a column from the Pennsylvania's Women's Press Association, and an honorable mention from a National Federation of Press Women contest. India is a member of National Honor Society, Mensa Honor Society, and National Spanish Honor Society. She enjoys reading J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, and dancing for Notara Dance Theatre. Other organizations in which she is involved include Pocono Cinema & Cultural Center, Mensa Newsletter, and Odyssey of the Mind. She enjoys orchestra because, "music is the universal language," she writes. What are her future ambitions? She plans to attend college and major in neuroscience.

Kate Briegel is in the eighth grade at J.T. Lambert Intermediate School. This is her second year with the PYO where she is playing oboe and currently, English horn. She also plays flute, piccolo and recently, saxophone for jazz band in school. Kate's favorite composer is George Frederic Handel, and her favorite subject is history. She participates in Media Design and Good Morning JTL at school with a select number of students. She is the treasurer for the National Junior Honor Society. 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, biking the trails and hunting. In the future, Kate plans to become a lawyer.

Chelsea Cirillo is a sophomore at Notre Dame High School. This is her second year performing on the viola in the PYO. She was previously a member of the PJSO for two years. Her favorite subject is Literature, and her favorite composers are Andrew Lloyd Webber and P.I. Tchaikovsky. She enjoys listening to music from the theater productions on Broadway and reading novels by John Steinbeck. She is active with the Fusia Dance center and Shawnee Playhouse productions as well as her youth group. Her hobbies and activities include theater, singing, dancing, mock trial team, Spelling Bee, and Odyssey of the Mind Club. Honors have been awarded through the Knights of Columbus scholarship, and she holds an office in the Student Council. She enjoys the orchestra as it provides opportunities to discover new music and composers while performing with others who share the same interest. In the future, she plans to enter politics or continue writing as well as travel the world.

Josh Cloward is a senior at East Stroudsburg High School South. He is playing the tuba in the PYO for the third year. He has been selected to participate in numerous festivals at the PMEA District and Regional levels. 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 Dmitri Shostakovich, and his favorite composition is his 5th Symphony. He hopes to attend Oberlin Conservatory of Music majoring in Music Education and Music Performance. Then after getting a job as a teacher, he plans to get a degree in Music Therapy and work at a hospital or other care center.

Meredith Constable is a junior at Stroudsburg High School. She has been a member of the PYO for three years and was previously in the PJSO for two years. She performs on double bass but also plays piano and enjoys picking up the violin and cello. Her favorite subject is language arts and her favorite authors are J.K.

Rowling, Harper Lee, C.S. Lewis, and Jane Austen. She has read and enjoyed the *Harry Potter* series, *Sherlock Holmes*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and many more. She is involved in many organizations including Key Club, Student Government, Stroudsburg Pit Orchestra, Environmental Club, Thirst Project Committee, German Club, SHS float committee, and mini-thon event fundraising committee. She has received the Community Service Award, participated in the ESU Leadership Seminar, and has received ribbons at the Bucks County Horse Park. Her hobbies include horseback riding, playing bass and piano, volunteering, reading, and traveling. She enjoys the PYO because she likes performing with a full orchestra with challenging music. In the future, she plans to attend college.

Luke Dougherty is a junior at Scranton Prep. He is a high honor roll student, plays defense for the lacrosse team, and has recently joined the wrestling team. Luke has been playing the violin for 12 years; was a member of the PJSO for five years and is now in his third year with the PYO. He has achieved superior ratings in the PFMC festivals sponsored by the Music Study Club of the Stroudsburgs and has been chosen to perform in PMEA District Concerts. His favorite subject this year is mathematics. He enjoys listening to rap, as well as the classical works of Bach and Tchaikovsky. Luke's favorite author is currently K.J. Parker, and *The Engineer Trilogy* 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.

Jackie Dudley is a freshman at Pocono Mountain East High School. This is her first year with the PYO. Her primary instrument is the trumpet, but she also plays the alto saxophone, drums, keyboard, and cornet. Her favorite subject is band, and she enjoys music from the composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and listening to hard rock. Her favorite authors are Suzanne Collins, Rick Riordan, and David Levithan, and she has read and enjoyed *Everyday*, *Boy Meets Boy*, *Mocking Jay*, and *Allegiant*. She is a member of the softball team, PJAS, and National Junior Honor Society, and has received awards including first chair stage band at Marywood University and Best Eighth Grader in marching band. Her hobbies include playing her instruments and improving her abilities. She enjoys the orchestra because she likes playing different/challenging music and performing with friends and talented musicians. Her future plans include auditioning for the district band and competition jazz band as well perform in a college marching band.

Nia Esposito is a homeschooled tenth grader who played violin for six years in the PJSO, and is now in her second year with the PYO. Among her favorite composers are Vivaldi, Liszt, Bach, James Newton Howard, and Hans Zimmer. She enjoys classical, Rock and Roll, and contemporary Christian music and epic movie scores. Nia's other musical affiliations include: the Young People's Philharmonic of Lehigh Valley, 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 also uses her musical talent to bring entertainment and joy to

others and performs at daycare centers, schools, nursing homes, club events, soup kitchens and fundraisers. Along with music, Nia loves to read, write, sing, watch “Dr. Who”, “Once Upon A Time”, and “Timeless”, and hang out with her mom and close friends. Nia is planning to pursue a career in the areas of writing, psychology, and sociology.

Marissa Farrell is a senior at East Stroudsburg High School South playing clarinet in the PYO for her first year. She also plays the tenor saxophone. Her favorite school subject is music, and she appreciates a variety of musical styles, in particular, the music of composers, Frank Ticheli and John Mackey. At school, Marissa participates in Concert Band, Marching Band, and Jazz Band. She is also honored to have been selected to participate in the PMEA District Band and Region Band Festivals. In addition to music, she enjoys swimming and reading Stephen King’s novel, *The Stand*. This is Marissa’s first time playing with strings and has found it to be a good experience. She hopes to continue her musical involvement in some way for her whole life.

Elias Fernandez is a tenth grader at Pocono Mountain East High School playing violin with the PYO for the second year 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 as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. He enjoys orchestra because he gets to meet new people and learn and play more challenging music.

Sienna Fernandez is a senior at Pocono Mountain East High School. This is her fourth 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.

Taelor Garcia, age 15, is a 10th grade first year viola player in the PYO. He also plays the violin and likes science. He likes fast-paced music, incantations, and the composers he enjoys are Soon Hee Newbold, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Mason Bates. Taelor finds the books by authors Peter D’amato and Natch Greyes preferable. His favorite books are *The Savage Garden* and *Cultivating Carnivorous Plants*. Taelor has been involved with the International Carnivorous Plant Society and the San Diego Carnivorous Plant Society along with the San Diego Honors Orchestra. His hobbies include growing carnivorous plants, orchids and succulents and watercolor painting. Taelor enjoys the “being part of something so powerful especially when a piece comes together” aspect of the PYO. His future ambitions are to go to school for botany/environmental technology, travel the world in search of new plants, help get rid of pollution and create biodegradable products. Being part of a professional orchestra and one day being able to play “The Impossible Duet” is also high on Taelor’s list of things to accomplish.

Antonio Garza is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. This is his first year performing on trombone. Tony also plays French horn and trumpet. His favorite subject is physics. His favorite composer is Pyotr Tchaikovsky, and he appreciates any music with a brass instrument included. His favorite author is Orson Scott Card, and he thoroughly enjoyed reading *Ender's Game*, *Speaker for the Dead* and *Xenocide*. He is involved in several activities in school including Science Olympiad. His hobbies include Circuitry. He enjoys having the opportunity to play his trombone regularly in an orchestral setting. In the future, he plans to attend college and pursue an electrical engineering degree with a focus in circuitry.

Sierra Holbert is a freshman at the Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her first year with the PYO. She was a previous member of the PJSO for two years. She performs on the double bass. In addition to the bass, she plays piano. Her favorite subject is tech ed, and she enjoys playing basketball and running. Jazz is her favorite style of music to listen to. She enjoys the orchestra because it allows her to express herself through the music. In the future, she plans on being successful, independent, and happy.

Violinist **Leah Jardel** is in her first year with PYO and a six-year PJSO member. She is a tenth-grade student at East Stroudsburg High School South. Her favorite composers are Handel and Vivaldi. Leah enjoys French and Honors Seminar in school. She has received multiple gold cups in violin solo performance from the NPMC Junior Music Festival. She also is involved in competitive Irish dance, track and DECA. Leah enjoys participating in PYO "because you get to meet new people and play different types of music to challenge you as a player." Her future plans include attending either The University of Pennsylvania or Boston College and going into a career in marketing and communications.

Kara Lawlor is in eleventh grade at the Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Performing Arts and plays viola. This is her third year with the PYO following two years in the PJSO. Her favorite subjects are science and math. 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 and jewelry making. Her future plans include performing professionally in an orchestra, attending college, and having a career in science or math.

Shannon Lawlor is a freshman at Pocono Mountain East High School. This is her first year with the PYO performing on flute. Her favorite subjects are science and language arts, and her favorite composers are Mozart, Bach, Gershwin, and Vivaldi. She listens to all types of music and is involved with the PME Marching Band, school musical, and Reading Olympics. She has achieved honor roll at school and enjoys reading, marching band, and biking. She enjoys the orchestra because she likes to learn new musical styles and likes a challenge. In the future, she plans to attend college in NY or the New England area to pursue a career in law, ecology, or teaching.

Christie Lee is in her third year as a violinist with the PYO following three years in the PJSO. She attends Stroudsburg High School as an eleventh grader. Her favorite subjects are art and orchestra. Classical music and anything from "Hamilton" are her preferred music of choice. Vivaldi, Mozart and Lin-Manuel Miranda are her

favorite composers. *The Book Thief* and *Harry Potter* series are among her favorite books. Christie participates in the SHS Chamber Orchestra, SHS Pit, Key Club, Science Olympiad and NHS. She's received the Director's Award, Art Award and Library Art Award. Her pastimes include drawing, punning and playing the violin. Christie enjoys orchestra because of playing music with other people and considers it the "best source of puns." She would like to eventually learn how to play the harp and find a career in art or biology or possibly both.

Rebekah Livermore is a freshman at Nazareth High School. This is her first year playing violin with the PYO. She was previously a member of the PJSO for three years. In addition to the violin, she plays mellophone, piano, and percussion. Her favorite subject in school is math. She enjoyed reading *See Me* by Nicholas Sparks. In school, she is a member of the marching band, indoor percussion, swim team, and cross country. She has achieved high honor roll and enjoys swimming and running. In the future, she plans on becoming a robotics and rehabilitation engineer.

Elizabeth Mathiesen is a freshman at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her first year with the PYO performing on cello. She was previously in PJSO for three years. She also plays piano. Her favorite composers are Vivaldi, Chopin, Satie, and Brahms. She enjoys listening to classical music and reading books by Richard Dawkins, Carl Sagan, and Dan Brown. Some of her favorite books are *Cosmos*, *The Da Vinci Code*, and *Enter Title Here*. She is involved in a number of organizations including the Young People's Philharmonic, JHS Chamber Orchestra, teen advisory board member for the Eastern Monroe Public Library, Scholastic Scrimmage, and Reading Olympics (library team). She received the PJSO Leadership Award and achieved high honor roll. Her hobbies include reading, drawing, practicing her cello, crafting, learning language, and playing video games. She enjoys the orchestra because she finds it fun, challenging, and a way to better herself. In the future, she plans to study to be a neurologist or pursue a language-based career such as a translator or interpreter.

Niamh Lisa McCabe is a freshman at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her first year with the PYO and was previously a member in the PJSO for three years. She performs on cello but also plays guitar and vocals. Her favorite subject is history, and she enjoys listening to rock music. Her favorite composers are Vivaldi and Bach. Her favorite authors are J.K. Rowling, Rick Riordan, John Green, and Jodi Picoult, and she has enjoyed reading *The Pact*, the *Harry Potter* series, and *An Abundance of Katherines*. Her hobbies include singing, writing, and composing. She enjoys the orchestra as the creation of music is the expression of emotion in its purest form. In the future, she plans to become an author, a professor of Math, and possibly a professional singer.

Gabriella Mohring is a 17 year-old senior at Stroudsburg High School, playing cello in her third year with PYO. She also plays piano and flute, and enjoys listening to pop music. Physics, German 5, and AP Environmental Science are her favorite academic subjects. In school, Gabriella is Science Olympiad President, SADD President, FBLA Regional Secretary, and German Club Secretary. She is also a member of Girls Varsity Tennis team, National Honor Society, Student Government, Scholastic Scrimmage, Environmental Club, Ski Club, and History

Club. Gabriella has won multiple Science Olympiad regional and state competition medals, including gold, since she began competing at age 11. She volunteers weekly at Pocono Medical Center, and a local community soup kitchen. Gabriella is also a fully trained and state certified EMT, and a member of the Pocono Medical Center Aspiring Physicians program. PYO is an amazing opportunity to continue her passion for cello outside of school. Gabriella plans to attend college, medical school, and to pursue a career in medicine as an Anesthesiologist.

Anthony Nostro is a freshman at Notre Dame Jr/Sr High School. This is his first year performing on piano with the PYO. His favorite subjects are Geometry and Latin. He enjoys listening to classical music and classic rock. His favorite composers are Rachmaninoff, Chopin, and Liszt. His favorite author is Bill O'Reilly and he enjoys reading historical non-fiction. He is involved in several activities in school including Odyssey of the Mind and the golf team. He has participated in several music festivals and received awards. His hobbies include golf, playing piano, camping, hiking, and playing video games. He enjoys the orchestra because he likes performing with a large group of musicians. In the future, he plans to attend college and major in engineering.

Dean Nyberg is a freshman at Pocono Mountain East High School. This is his first year in the PYO performing on oboe. He also plays the alto saxophone, and in school his favorite subject is band. He enjoys listening to music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and orchestral covers. Rick Riordan is his favorite author and he has read the *Percy Jackson* series and the *Heroes of Olympus* series. He is a member and President of the National Junior Honor Society and has received the Physics Excellence Award in PJAS. His hobbies include practicing the oboe and saxophone as well as drawing. He enjoys the orchestra because he finds it fun and exciting to perform with other excellent musicians. He is excited to learn and grow within the PYO. In the future, he plans to continue performing with the PYO and will pursue music in college.

Pierce O'Dowd is a junior at Stroudsburg High School playing trumpet in the PYO for his fourth year. His favorite subject is science. Pierce participates in his school's Jazz Band as lead trumpet, Marching Band, White Concert Band as first chair trumpet, Pit Orchestra, Science Olympiad, Scholastic Scrimmage, and Boy Scouts. He enjoys skiing, hiking, camping and simply being outdoors. 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 attend a 4-year university and obtain a degree in some form of science or engineering.

Abigail Ortega is a freshman at Pocono Mountain East High School. This is her first year with the PYO performing on Flute. She also plays piano and mallets. Her favorite subjects in school are music and history. She listens and enjoys alternative music and music from the composers Murray Gold, John Williams, and Hans Zimmer. She enjoyed reading *Bridge to Terabithia*. She was a member of the Marywood Junior Wind Ensemble and received the Instrument Switcher Award. Her hobbies include drawing and she enjoys the orchestra because she likes to challenge herself in music, gain experience, and have good memories of being in her first orchestra.

Hannah Persaud is a ninth grader at Stroudsburg Junior High School playing violin in the PYO for her first year following three years in the PJSO. 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.

Ryan Pinchback is a freshman at the Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is his first year on the cello with the PYO and has performed previously with the PJSO for two years. In addition he plays guitar and piano. His favorite subject is math and his favorite composers are Liszt and Bach. He listens to the Red Hot Chile Peppers and has read J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*. His hobbies include camping, music, and movies. He enjoys the orchestra because it expands his music knowledge. In the future, he plans to go to a nice college.

Victoria Robles, 14, is a ninth-grade student at Stroudsburg Junior High School. This is her first year in PYO after three years in PJSO playing violin. Tchaikovsky, Edward Grieg, Handel, and Antonio Vivaldi are her favorite composers and she is beginning to study piano. Her favorite subject is literature and she enjoys reading books written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Walt Whitman, and Jodi Picoult. Some of her favorites are *Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald*, *Me Before You*, *Every Last Word*, and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. She enjoys spending her time listening to and playing music, reading, and writing. Victoria is a member of PYO because she believes playing violin in orchestra gives her an indescribable feeling that she can't find anywhere else. She aspires to get into a good music school and spend the rest of her life performing and teaching music in college.

Cameron Rothstein is a freshman at Warren Hills Regional High School. This is his first year with the PYO and was previously a member of the PJSO for three years. He performs on viola but also play several other instruments including violin, piano, guitar, and bass guitar. His favorite subject is language arts, and he enjoys listening to alternative and classic rock styles of music. His favorite composer is Beethoven. He has read and enjoyed *The Graveyard Book*, and his favorite author is Neil Gaiman. He is a member of the colophony orchestra and the wrestling and lacrosse team. He was a member of the lacrosse all-star team. He enjoys learning and composing music in his free time. He enjoys the orchestra as he likes to perform with others. In the future, he plans to attend college and become a music teacher.

Katie Rubino is a sophomore at the Stroudsburg High School. This is her second year with the PYO performing on violin. In addition to the violin, she plays viola, piano, guitar, and clarinet. Her favorite subject is language arts, and her favorite composers are Vivaldi and Bach. She enjoys all types of music. She has achieved high honor roll at school and enjoys running, writing, and singing. She enjoys the

orchestra because it allows opportunity to be exposed to different instruments. In the future, she plans on becoming a professional songwriter.

Missy Salvadeo played the viola in the PJSO for 3 years and has currently been a member of the PYO for the past 3 years. She is an 11th grader at Stroudsburg High School. She also plays the alto sax, percussion and sings in the chorus. Music and math are Missy's favorite subjects. Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov are her composers of choice. She listens to classical and indie music along with Sufjan Stevens, Arcade Fire and James Blake. Other organizations in which Missy participates are Chamber Orchestra, Community Orchestra, Marching Band, National Honors Society, District 10 Orchestra (Jan. 2016) , Youth Group, Altar Serving, Track and Field and has many other accomplishments including first chair violist in her class, being in the top 10% of her class and receiving the Exceptional Mentoring Orchestra Award. Orchestra gives Missy a challenge and expands her variety and love for music. She plans on majoring in music education, minoring in performance and going back for a PhD in music education.

Gwenn Strasser is an honors ninth-grade student at Scranton Preparatory School. She spent seventh and eighth grade in the PJSO, and this is her first year performing with the PYO playing the cello. She has played the cello for five years. Gwenn also plays piano, and took lessons with the late Eleanor Bender. During the course of these lessons, she performed at music festivals and received Superior for three years in a row. At Scranton Prep, she participates in the newspaper, as an editor. She also is involved in the chorus, chamber singers, orchestra, Prep Players, yearbook, and Performance Club. Outside of Prep, she takes self-defense and is actively involved in church activities, and was recently a recipient of the Bishop's Youth Award. During the summer, she has performed in the Shawnee Playhouse's shows. Her favorite composer is Vivaldi, and she especially enjoys the Four Seasons. Gwenn's favorite artists are Troye Sivan, Twenty One Pilots, and anything Broadway. She enjoyed reading *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, the *Harry Potter* series, and *The Lord of the Rings*. She enjoys orchestra because it allows her to connect with friends and make new ones who enjoy making beautiful music just as much as she does. Gwenn plans to attend college and obtain a degree in journalism or English and go to flight school to become a pilot afterwards.

Sarah Strohschein is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. She has been a member of the PYO for three years performing on the cello. Her favorite subject is German, and her favorite composer is Tchaikovsky. She has read and enjoyed novels by Nichlolas Sparks, author of *The Guardian* and by Khaled Hosseini, author of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. She is a volunteer at Pocono Medical Center and enjoys hiking, skiing, reading, and spending time with her cats. She enjoys the orchestra because she sees improvement in her abilities with the challenging music. In the future, she plans to attend college and study pre-vet sciences and apply to veterinary school.

Antonios Stylianides is a high honor eleventh grader at Stroudsburg High School currently playing viola for the third year 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 and Dvorak are among his favorite

composers. Tony lists Marie Lu as his favorite author and the *Legend* series and *Prodigy* 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. In school, he participates in Science Olympiad, Scholastic Scrimmage, Chamber Orchestra, Pit Orchestra, Marching Band, and Jazz Band. He enjoys skiing, playing his instruments, studying Math & Science, and learning and performing card tricks. He enjoys orchestra because it is fun and challenging. In the future, Tony would like to attend college, pursuing a PhD, and play in an orchestra.

Elise Tomaszewski is a 17-year old senior who is homeschooled whose favorite subjects are science and writing. She is in her third year in PYO after four years in PJSO, playing violin. She enjoys the music of John Williams and Antonio Vivaldi, plus alternative and pop music. Her favorite books and authors include works by William Shakespeare and Mark Twain, Calvin and Hobbes comic strips, Elizabeth George Speare's *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, and J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. She is a volunteer at Quiet Valley and enjoys exercising and cooking. Why does she enjoy PYO? "I enjoy listening to the instruments around joining together to make a beautiful piece of music," she writes. Elise has received honorable mention for scholastic arts & writing, and is planning to attend DeSales University as a nursing major.

Joseph Tonnies is a junior at Stroudsburg High School. This is his first year performing on cello. Joseph also plays the didgeridoo. His favorite subject is Science. He enjoys listening to classical music and also classic rock and alternative music. Favorite classical composers include Bach, Handel and Chopin. His favorite authors are John Flanagan and his *Ranger's Apprentice* series and Christopher Paolini and his *Eragon* cycle. He is involved in several extracurricular activities including SHS Chamber Orchestra, Pit Orchestra, Pocono Community Orchestra and Boy Scouts. Joseph has also achieved the ranking of Life Scout. He enjoys the orchestra because "It is just overall fun to do." In the future, he hopes to play in a professional orchestra.

John Valinote is a Senior at Stroudsburg High School, and this is his third year in the PYO playing concert bass, he also plays the electric bass. His favorite genre to play is jazz, from artists like Count Basie to Snarky Puppy. John is in a plethora of activities like, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Choir, Show Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Boy Scouts and has his own alternative band named "Less Fuchsia". He's striving to go to University of Pittsburgh to study structural engineering and to further explore what the musical world has to offer him. He would like to thank his family for always supporting him in everything he does and loving him unconditionally, and also to Morgan for always being there for him.

Juliet Whidden is a sophomore at Stroudsburg High School. This is her second year with the PYO playing violin. She was previously a member of the PJSO for four years. In addition to violin she plays piano and enjoys listening to Lana Del Rey, Lorde, and Troye Sivan. Her favorite composer is Tchaikovsky, and her favorite author is J.K. Rowling of the *Harry Potter* series. In school, she is a member of the Key Club, Peer Tutoring, Varsity Cross Country, and Track and Field. She is in the top ten percent of her class and has received the math department award. Her hobbies include running and reading, and she enjoys the orchestra because it gives her opportunities to play new music and meet new friends. In the future, she plans to attend college and study Math.

Jazlynn Wohlers is a freshman at Pocono Mountain East High School. This is her first year in the PYO performing on French horn. She also plays trumpet and has an interest in piano. She enjoys listening to Broadway musicals. She is a member of the high school marching and jazz bands and participated in the Marywood Junior Wind Band Celebration. Her hobbies include art, and she enjoys the orchestra because it gives her an opportunity to perform with the strings plus she has three of her best friends in the orchestra. In the future, she plans to live happily.

Aaron Wong is a freshman at Stroudsburg Junior High School. He was a member of the PJSO for one year before advancing to the PYO this year performing on violin. He also plays piano and percussion. His favorite subject is social studies, and his favorite composers are Dvorak and Debussy. He enjoys listening to Romantic and Impressionistic styles of music. Kurt Vonnegut and George Orwell are two authors he enjoys and has read *Lord of the Flies* and *Slaughterhouse 5*. He is involved with the school's marching band, chamber orchestra, Scholastic Scrimmage, and Chess Club and has achieved honor roll. His hobbies include reading, watching movies, and playing video games, and he enjoys the orchestra as it allows him to perform music that he enjoys. In the future, he plans to have a career in Law or Architecture.

Anthony Wong is a senior at Stroudsburg High School. This is his fourth year with the PYO and was previously a member of the PJSO for one year performing on cello. He also plays guitar, percussion, and piano, and tuba. His favorite subject is math (calculus) and he enjoys listening to classical, baroque, jazz, and rock styles of music. Debussy, Vivaldi, and Chopin are his favorite composers. He read and enjoyed *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. He is active in various school organizations including FBLA, Scholastic Scrimmage, National Honor Society, and Chess Club. He was chosen to participate in the PMEA District 10 Chorus and the Monroe/Pike County Chorus. In his spare time, he enjoys music composition, cooking, and watching cartoons. He enjoys the orchestra because he finds it challenging and it encourages him to improve his musical skills and increases his understanding and appreciation of the music. In the future, he plans to pursue a career in pharmacology/biochemistry and music theory and composition/orchestration.

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



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PYO Boosters

Meredith and the bass section:

You are the best!

Love, The Constable Family

Karina and Daria Bernatowicz:

Keep making music. It makes us so happy and proud.

Love you both, Mama and Tata!

Sierra Holbert:

Best of luck, Sierra, in your first PYO concert! We are proud of you!

XO, Mom and Dad

Chelsea:

Roses are red

Violets are blue

Good luck, Chelsea

Woo Hoo Hoo

Love, Cassie and Jack

Isabel Rivera:

We are so very proud of you! Keep playing, keep working, and keep succeeding. We believe in you!

Love, NaNa and PopPop

Isabel Rivera:

We are very proud of you!

Love, Mom and Dad

Elise and Terease:

Great job girls! We are so proud of you!!

Love, The Tomaszewski Bunch

Naiya:

We are very proud of you, Naiya!

We love you!

Love, Dad, Mom, Meera, and Ta

Grace Lenahan:

We thank the Lord for you and pray that God will continue to use the talent He has given you in your violin to bring much glory to Him. We love you!

Love, Mom, Dad, and Caleb

Gwenn:

We are so proud of you, your enthusiasm, your accomplishments, and your zest! We love you madly!

Love, Mom and Daddy

Aaron Piancone:

Watching and listening to you play the violin brings us great joy. We are so proud of you, and we love you!

Love, Mommy and Daddy

Aaron Piancone:

You are so talented and we are so proud of you! We love you!

Love, Pop and Grammy

Aaron Piancone:

I am very proud of you and love listening to your music. Poppy would be very proud, too.

Love, Grammy

Dear PYO and PJSO:

Thank you for sharing such beautiful music with us.

We appreciate your hard work and talents.

Sincerely, Mrs. Heller

Anthony Nostro:

It has been amazing to watch you progress with your piano skills. As a young man performing with an orchestra, you impress us. We are very proud to be your parents.

Love, Mom and Dad

Madison Anderson:

We are all so proud of you! We love listening to your music every day.

Keep up the amazing work! Love you!

Love, Mom, Dad, and Emma

Elisabeth Kondisko:

So proud of you, Elisabeth!

Congratulations, your hard work is paying off.

Love, Mom and Dad

PYO Boosters

Emma Zauck:

You make me so happy and proud. I hope you will continue to enjoy playing the violin as much as I have enjoyed listening to you. Love you!
Love, Grandma Zauck

Emma Zauck:

Words of love and wisdom to always carry in your heart. So very proud of you!
Love, Grandmom and Grandpa Renner

Emma Zauck:

*Reach high for the stars
Lie hidden in your soul
Dream deep...
For every dream precedes the goal.
Proud of you!*
Love, Mom

Jackie Dudley:

Congratulations on your first orchestra concert! We're very proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad, and Olivia

Abby:

We are so proud of you! Keep soaring!
Love, Papa and Momma

Kayla Almenas:

Congratulations on your senior year! I am so proud of you. Continue to challenge yourself and reach for the stars!
Love you more, Mom

The Briegel Grandchildren:

We are very proud of our talented musicians, Vasilia, Kate, and Paraskevi Briegel!
Love, Grandma and Grandpa

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Spring 2014	Joseph Snyder, violin
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Spring 2015	Nick Fleming, percussion Liuba Miranosava, percussion Joseph Visceglia, percussion
Winter 2016	Aikaterini Stylianides, violin
Spring 2016	Luke Simons, clarinet

Suzanne E. Anderson Memorial Scholarship

2014	Eric Papa, clarinet
2015	Sophia Rostock, cello
2016	Stephanie Fritz, horn

Pocono Youth Orchestra Excellency Award

2015	Elizabeth Whidden, cello
2016	Liuba Miranosava, percussion

PJSO Leadership Award

2016	Elizabeth Mathiesen
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**The PYO acknowledges the support of L'ARCHET CONCERT GROUP, Donald Dal Maso, Manager, in sponsoring our "Outstanding Ensemble Player" Award.
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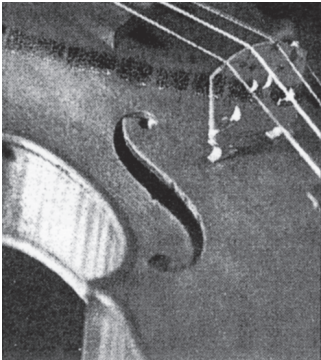
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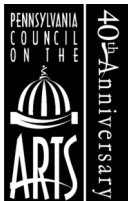


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Acknowledgements



We are grateful to **East Stroudsburg University** for use of the hall and facilities for our performances and **Jennifer White** and **Betsy Buzzelli-Clarke** for serving as liaisons with the East Stroudsburg University. We also wish to thank the district and music teachers at the **Earl F. Groner Junior High School** for sharing the band room with us every Monday evening for rehearsals.

We want to thank the **Pocono Arts Council** for all their endeavors on our behalf.

A warm thank you to all parents and friends who volunteered their time to help prepare for this concert. In particular, we thank:

Anonymous for providing emergency First Aid String Kit.

Jean Boehm, Tricia Briegel, Robert and Jeanine Cirillo, Danielle Cloward, Michelle and Joe DiLauro, Karen Geiger, Donna Kowzun, Despina Lawlor, Kerry Livermore, Marie Snyder, Caroline Strasser and Karen Stylianides for their fund-raising efforts and tote bags.

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Violinist **Nia Esposito** for fingerings and sectionals with PJSO violinists.

Donna Kowzun and **Karen Stylianides** for their assistance with hospitality.

Karen Geiger for collecting Mr. Z's receipts and organizing the hall monitors.

Jerry Geiger for the creation of our PYO Newsletters.

J.R. Judd Violins and **Michael Montero Violins** for supplying the PYO and PJSO orchestra folders.

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Jennifer White for her assistance with the flowers, programs and banners.

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<http://www.pocono-youth-orchestra.org>.

The **PYO Board of Directors, Jerry Geiger**, president, for their ongoing support and assistance throughout the year.

PYO is a member of NFMC/PFMC and is sponsored by the Music Study Club of the Stroudsburgs.

Partial funding for the 29th season of the Pocono Youth Orchestra and the Pocono Junior String Orchestra is provided by the grants from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts, the East Stroudsburg Savings Association Bank & Trust Charitable Foundation, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

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