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Phoenix Youth Symphony

Winter 2016-2017

Grace Notes

President's Message

Gail Eagleburger, President



And a Happy New Year to all! And what a full new year it will be.

Already we have finished a third of our 2016-2016 concert season. The Youth Symphony's Annual Fall Concert was great as was the All Ensemble Fall Concert.

The first weekend in January, PYS held its annual Young Musicians Competition. A lot of work but a showcase for what we are about—helping young musicians achieve. If you have never helped with the competition you have missed out on meeting the “rising stars” of our state and enjoying the teamwork of PYS. For those who helped with the competition thank you for giving of yourselves. To Sandy Rutledge and her crew a very big thank you for a job well done.

Next, the most rewarding service we do for the music enrichment of young minds –Music Memory. Our String Orchestra, performing in the lobby of the North Phoenix Baptist Church, will be welcoming over 6,000 elementary school age students to experience a concert by our Youth Symphony. This audience of students will then enjoy a concert about the music they have been studying in school.

The Competition Winners Luncheon will be on February 14, 2017 at the Paradise Valley Country Club. Come and see what talent and practice can do for young musicians. The food is great, the social hour even better and the music so very special.

Our Teacher Appreciation Concert is for one purpose, to say “thank you” for all those musicians who teach our students at school and also as private teachers and then lend them to us for honing their skills into beautiful full ensemble musicians. PYS is happy to express our thanks at this concert on February 26, 2017 at McClintock High School Auditorium in Tempe.

The Side by Side Concert with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra is one of the most attended of our concerts, this year the date is March 26, 2017. Bring your friends; have lunch before or dinner afterwards and make a day of it. Where else can you listen to an orchestra made of professional musicians and talented young musicians playing side-by-side and hear two of the top winners of the Young Musicians Competition play solos with the Phoenix Symphony. All for Free!

Our Chamber Winds and Percussion Ensembles will be performing on Sunday, April 23rd at the King of Glory Lutheran Church in Tempe. This is always a great concert enjoyed by all.

Last is the Final Concert where all the ensembles can “show their stuff” to friends and family. This is the last time some of our students will play together before “moving on” so do not miss it. Sunday, April 30, 2017 at the Orpheum Theatre, Phoenix is the date and the time is 3:00 pm.

Please join me at the concerts in support of our fine musicians!

I must mention the loss of two of our long time members. Dr. Eugene Lombardi one of our first conductors and long time mentor of PYS. Our condolences to his wife Sue and his family.

Our condolences also to John Faris' wife, Dana and to his family upon his passing on December 24th. John was a Life Member of PYS and Grace Notes editor at one time. This lifelong music educator in the West Valley and community volunteer will be missed.

Gail Eagleburger



ORCHESTRAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Cindy Mohler, Orchestra Manager



Throughout December and January the PYS ensembles have had sectionals and seating auditions. Thank you to our valley professional musicians for sharing their talents and expertise with our students. Thank you Central High School for allowing us to use additional rooms for sectionals, and a big thank you to Arizona School for the Arts for allowing us to use their facilities for sectionals as well.

The Youth Symphony is preparing for Music Memory. These two concerts for elementary school children will be held on **Tuesday, January 31st, at North Phoenix Baptist Church**. This year's theme is "Nature and Music, How Composers Explored and Painted Their Surroundings with Music." The orchestra will be performing excerpts from Mendelssohn's - *Hebrides Overture*, Beethoven's - *Symphony No. 6*, Respighi's - *Gli Uccelli*, and Holst's - *The Planets Suite*.

The Youth Symphony is also preparing for the annual Side-by-Side Concert with The Phoenix Symphony conducted by Matthew Kasper. They will perform Wagner's- *Overture to Die Meistersinger*; and Elgar's Variations on an original theme, *Enigma*, with The Phoenix Symphony. The concert will also feature the winners of the annual PYS Young Musicians' Competition, accompanied by The Phoenix Symphony. The Grand Prize Winner, violinist Belle Wang, will perform the third movement of Korngold's *Violin Concerto in D Major*. The Otranto Prize Winner, violinist Bobae Johnson, will perform Tchaikovsky's first movement of his *Concerto in D Major for Violin and Orchestra*. This concert will be held on **Sunday, March 26th, at 3:00 p.m., at Phoenix Symphony Hall**. Tickets are free and are available at rehearsals, and will also be available at Symphony Hall on the day of the concert. Tickets are also available on the PYS website: www.phoenixyouthsymphony.org

The Teacher Appreciation Concert will be held on **Sunday, February 26th at 3:00 p.m. at McClintock**

High School in Tempe. This is a special concert that is open to the public and honors the instrumental music teachers of our PYS musicians. The concert features Chamber Winds, Symphonette Orchestra, Symphonic Winds, String Orchestra, and the PYS Percussion Ensemble. Tickets are \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Students (3-18) and seniors (over 62). Families can purchase prepaid family pack tickets for up to 8 people, for \$35. Tickets will be available at rehearsals on February 15th and 22nd, and can also be purchased at the door. We hope you will join us for these upcoming concerts.

Audition applications are now being accepted for the 2017-2018 Season. The application deadline for new students, and current students wishing to audition for a new ensemble, and String Orchestra Members is April 5th. Spring auditions will be held May 13th & 20th, at MCC. Contact Sandra Rutledge with any audition questions (602) 882-0401 or sandy.pys@cox.net.

The PYS Percussion Ensemble is looking for a marimba to use, or purchase, for a reasonable cost. Please let Cindy Mohler, Orchestra Manager, or Ian Grzyb, Percussion Director, know if you have a lead on a marimba.

IN MEMORIUM



Dr. Eugene Lombardi, long time mentor and advisor of PYS, passed away on Oct. 17 at age 93. Violinist, teacher and professor of music, Dr. Lombardi was Concertmaster of Phoenix Symphony for 19 years and Conductor of ASU Symphony for 32 years.

More significantly--to PYS--he conducted The Symphonette Orchestra and The Youth Symphony in the early years of PYS and later was always available to advise PYS in many areas including conductor searches, competition repertoire and Music Memory content. The recipient of many honors and awards during his lifetime, Dr. Lombardi was recognized as PYS Advisor Emeritus in 2013.

A humble, dedicated man, Eugene Lombardi was loved and respected by all. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Sue and family.

**2017 YMC GRAND PRIZE WINNER
BELLE WANG**



Belle Wang, a 10th grader from Mountain View High School in Mesa, Arizona, has become one of the rising young performers today. She has won first place in numerous important competitions including: Arizona Musicfest Young Musicians Competition (Division I in 2014, and Division II in 2016), American String Teachers Association State Solo Competition (Junior Division) in 2015, Phoenix Symphony Guild Concerto Competition (Junior Division) in 2015, Vivaldi Concerto Competition (AZ) in 2015, Philadelphia International Music Festival Solo Competition (Junior Division) in 2015, and Chandler Symphony Orchestra 2016 Youth Competition in which Belle had her first solo debut with Chandler Orchestra on March 20, 2016; shortly thereafter, she won second and her piano trio won first in the American Protégé Piano & String Competition; as a result, Belle gave a solo and ensemble showcase at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall in New York City in May, 2016.

Most recently, she won the Grand Prize for Phoenix Youth Symphony's Young Musicians Competition as well as the Scholarship Competition for summer music camps. She will debut with Phoenix Symphony Orchestra in March of 2017. Belle has participated in the Philadelphia International Music Festival, Casalmaggiore International Music Festival (Italy), and InterHarmony International Music Festival (Italy). She has been featured in the master classes of Rachel Barton Pine, Frank Huang, Gudny Gudmundsdottir, and Weigang Li and Yiwen Jiang from the Shanghai Quartet.

Currently, she serves as one of the principal violinists for the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra and concertmaster for her school orchestra.

Previously, she was the concertmaster for the Phoenix Youth Symphony's Symphonette Orchestra. Academically, Belle is a member of the National Honor Society since 2012. She enjoys reading, dancing, singing, acting, and she is also actively involved in her community through charitable performances.

**2017 YMC CLOTILDE OTRANTO WINNER
BOBAE JOHNSON**



Bobae Johnson, a senior at Desert Vista High School and this year's Clotilde Otranto Prize Winner, has been a member of the Phoenix Youth Symphony since seventh grade and has served as its concertmaster and principal violin since eighth grade. She studies with Dr. Jonathan Swartz at Arizona State University. A previous Grand Prize and Upper Strings Winner of the Young Musicians Competition, Bobae has soloed with multiple orchestras and ensembles in the past, including the Phoenix Symphony, Moscow Ballet, MusicaNova Orchestra, and Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra. Guided by her teacher, Bobae has won several competitions, including the American String Teachers Association State Solo Competition, the Dorothy Vanek Concerto Competition, and Arizona Solo and Ensemble. She has served as concertmaster of the Arizona All-State, North Central Regional, and Desert Vista Chamber orchestras. With scholarships from the Phoenix Youth Symphony, she has been lucky to attend Madeline Island Chamber Music and Le Festival International du Domaine Forget over the past few summers. Through organizations like Arizona Musicfest, Bobae has had the opportunity to work with renowned artists such as Midori, Rachel Barton Pine, Frank Huang, the Dover Quartet, and the Emerson String Quartet. She is president of Melodic Minors, a student-run musical outreach organization.

For the past few years, Bobae has worked as a volunteer teacher at Harmony Project, where she is able to teach violin to underprivileged students in Phoenix. As a violinist, Bobae aspires to one day play like her violin idol, Christian Tetzlaff. Outside of her musical life, Bobae has served as president of her school's National Honor Society and Peer Tutoring Organization. She is valedictorian of her class and a National AP Scholar.

She has received numerous academic awards: most recently, she was recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English for her writing and by the Desert Vista Council for her outstanding academic achievement. In her free time, she enjoys listening to Franck Sonata on repeat and watching Sherlock and The Lord of the Rings movies. Next year, Bobae will be continuing her education at Harvard.

57th ANNUAL PHOENIX YOUTH SYMPHONY YOUNG MUSICIANS COMPETITION RESULTS

Sandy Rutledge



The 57th Annual Phoenix Youth Symphony's Young Musicians Competition and Scholarship Auditions was a great success.

2017 Young Musicians Scholarship Auditions Results (in ranking order)

2017 Young Musicians Concerto Competition Winners

Grand Prize Winner: Belle Wang
Clotilde Otranto Winner: Bobae Johnson

Junior Upper Strings – Jonathan Okseniuk - Violin
Junior Lower Strings – Leo Kubota - Cello
Junior Woodwinds – Darryl Leung – A Sax
Junior Brass – Gracie Potter - Trombone
Junior Piano – Jessica Zhang - Piano

Bobae Johnson – Violin
Belle Wang – Violin
Samuel Xu – Piano
Joshua Jensen – Piano
Robert Bui – Cello
Angela Kan – Piano
Sophia Zhang – Violin
Barrett Yueh – Piano
Sean-Wyn Ng – Cello
Supriya Weiss – Flute
Rina Kubota – Violin
Josiah Duhlstine – Cello
Emma Potter - Horn

Senior Upper Strings

1st – Bobae Johnson - Violin
2nd – Belle Wang - Violin
3rd – Rina Kubota - Violin
4th – Sophia Zhang - Violin

Senior Lower Strings

1st – Robert Bui - Cello
2nd Sean-Wyn Ng - Cello
3rd Josiah Duhlstine - Cello

Senior Woodwinds

1st – Alexander Mayer - Oboe
2nd – Supriya Weiss - Flute
3rd – John Burton – Clarinet

Senior Brass

Emma Potter - Horn

Senior Piano

1st - Joshua Milton Jensen
2nd – Angela Kan
3rd – Samuel Xu
4th – Barrett Yueh

*I would like to acknowledge the following
people and the areas they oversaw:*

April Walker, Volunteers
Sara Eagleburger, Adjudicators
Judy Peel and Dorothy Sawyer, Food for Volunteers &
Adjudicators
Jane Evans, Coffee and Snacks
Jane Linkswiler, Tabulation
Maria Madonado and Dian Huff, Scholarships/Tabulation

*We also would like to thank the numerous volunteers
who were recruited to help in various capacities on
both Saturday and Sunday.*

Special acknowledgements:
Mesa Community College Performing Arts Center
AZ Piano Company
Gary Gracey Piano Tuning

*Congratulations to all contestants and everyone who
made the competition weekend possible!*

PERCUSSION NEEDS



For the past several years, the Music Staff at Central High School have been gracious in allowing PYS percussion students to use the school marimba. This arrangement has worked well except that we cannot take the school equipment with us for concerts and other outings. Because of this, PYS is seeking to acquire a marimba of its own. If you have or know of someone who has a “gently used” one they would like to donate to PYS, or if you would like to donate toward the purchase of one, please contact Cindy Mohler, the Orchestral Manager.

HOLIDAY PRELUDE



Back on December 2, PYS helped to sponsor the annual Holiday Prelude. The Prelude was a wonderful success. “Thank you” to all who attended and helped to make it a “fun” afternoon.

YOUNG MUSICIAN COMPETITION WINNERS LUNCHEON



WHEN: Tuesday, February 14
WHERE: Paradise Valley Country Club

11am – Hospitality
12pm – Lunch
1pm – Performance By the top Competition Winners.

Each year, PYS hosts a luncheon so the membership of our group and special guests can hear the winners of the Young Musicians Competition play their pieces. This is a great opportunity to hear the wonderful, individual talent present within this group of young musicians. (Tickets: \$65)

For more information or to make reservations (due by February 7)

please contact Janet Cotton (480) 991-3724

AUDITIONS 2017-2018



Audition dates are set for 2017-2018 season,
These auditions are
**for students wishing to move
to a different ensemble.**

Auditions will be held at Mesa Community College
on the following dates:

May 13th, 2017

May 20th, 2017

YS - Upper Strings

YS - Brass/Winds/

SYM - Upper & Lower Strings Lower Strings

SYM & SW - Brass/Woodwinds

SO - All Strings

Percussion – All

The audition fee this year is \$30.

The registration deadline is April 5th.
After that, a late fee will be charged.

NOTE: If you wish to remain in your current ensemble, only **Youth Symphony, Symphonette and Symphonic Winds** students may apply for a renewal audition,

Online applications are available
on your Ensemble Login Page.

TEACHER APPRECIATION CONCERT



The annual Teacher Appreciation Concert will be presented on February 26. The location is McClintock High School in Tempe and the time is 3:00. This concert is open to the public and is to honor the instrumental music teachers of our musicians.

Tickets will be available at rehearsals in February and will also be available at the door.

To ensure that all of our music teachers are invited, please give us the names, emails, and addresses of your current school and private instrumental teachers. We will send them a personal invitation. The teacher invitation is good for 2 free tickets at the door.

Side By Side



Phoenix Youth Symphony

and the winners of the 57th annual

The Phoenix Symphony

Young Musician's Competition

Sunday, March 26, 2017
at 3:00 pm

Phoenix Symphony Hall

Conducted by Matthew Kasper

Richard Wagner Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D major, Op.35, mvt. 1

Erich Wolfgang Korngold Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35, mvt. 3

Edward Elgar Variations on an original theme, Enigma

Clotilde Otranto Prize Winner



Bobae Johnson, Violin

Grand Prize Winner



Belle Wang, Violin

2016-2017 SCHEDULE



February 14 Competition Winner's Luncheon

February 26 Teacher Appreciation Concert, 3pm
- McClintock HS

March 15 Side-by-Side rehearsal, 7-9:30pm
- Symphony Hall

March 15 Spring Break

March 25 Side-by-Side rehearsal, 10-12:30
- Symphony Hall

March 26 Side-by-Side Concert, 3pm
- Symphony Hall

April 23 Chamber Winds Concert, 2pm
- King of Glory Lutheran Church

April 30 Season Finale, 3pm - Orpheum Theater

May 13/20 Auditions for the PYS 2017/2018 Season





Phoenix Youth Symphony

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