

Begun in 1991, NYSO has grown into the premier youth orchestra on the North Shore and Merrimack Valley, under the direction of founder and executive director, Trudy Larson and Music Director Gerald Dolan.

1991 – Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra began as a small string ensemble at Spofford Pond School in Boxford. The original string group expanded to include a few winds and brass by the end of its second year.

1993 to 1995 – the orchestra grew and further expanded its instrumentation. NYSO moved to Topsfield and began performing three annual concerts. In May of 1995, NYSO incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation. The following summer, Mr. Gerald Dolan was appointed Director of Music and Conductor of NYSO.

1995-97– NYSO added Intermezzo Orchestra. The orchestra continued to grow in quality and in numbers to over 60 members; enrichment days were initiated, bringing in wonderful musicians as guest conductors. Prelude String Ensemble, a beginning string group, was added.

1998-99 – NYSO commissioned Robert Bradshaw, a composer from Gloucester, to compose a new piece of music to be premiered by the three NYSO orchestras at their two spring concerts.

1999-2000 – Senior Orchestra performed the Haydn trumpet concerto with well-known trumpet soloist Randy O’Keefe. NYSO began its first annual Chamber Music Project for the Senior Orchestra, resulting in several outreach concerts to benefit seniors and students.

2000-2001 – NYSO added two levels of flute choirs. Guest conductor Susan Davenny Wyner worked with Senior Orchestra and conducted one selection at the December concert. Senior Orchestra made its first tour in April, traveling to Maine. NYSO students began mentoring young violinists in a Lawrence string program.

2001-2002 – premiere of a work by Robert Bradshaw entitled “Gloucester Suite,” accompanied by a multimedia presentation of important events in Gloucester history; Senior Orchestra performed its first symphony, Beethoven’s Symphony No 1 in C major. Flute choir was added.

2002-2003 – the Senior Orchestra performed the Haydn Horn Concerto No. 1 with soloist Robin Milinazzo and also benefited from having Jonathan MacPhee, conductor of the Boston Ballet Orchestra, as a guest conductor for Enrichment Day. Robert Bradshaw was appointed NYSO’s composer-in residence.

2003-2004 – NYSO inaugurated its first student concerto competition for members of the Senior orchestra and continued to grow to over 200 students from 34 North Shore and Merrimack Valley communities. Clarinet Choir and additional flute choirs were added to NYSO.

2004-2005 – Senior Orchestra performed “Peter and the Wolf” with Das Puppenspiel Puppet Troupe in a concert that drew an audience of 700. Growth continued to include 220 students from 37 communities.

2005-2006 – Senior Orchestra performed the Mozart Linz Symphony in honor of Mozart’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Intermezzo Orchestra students composed their own pieces with Robert Bradshaw, NYSO Composer in Residence; the advanced Wind Ensemble was announced for 2006; and the flute and clarinets held their third annual wind concert in Hamilton.

2006-2007 – Senior Orchestra inaugurated the Wind Ensemble with Mr. Dolan conducting and also welcomed Dr. Walter Pavasaris as Senior Orchestra Conductor. Senior Orchestra played with Symphony by the Sea in a side-by-side event; NYSO announced the NYSO Chorale to begin in September under the direction of Sandra Doneski. Senior Orchestra held its second concerto competition.

NYSO now offers three orchestral ensembles, a wind ensemble, a NYSO Chorale, three flute choirs and a clarinet choir, as well as the Lawrence Youth String Ensemble. In addition, small honors ensembles are formed to challenge the more advanced players and to allow students to perform outreach concerts for underserved groups.