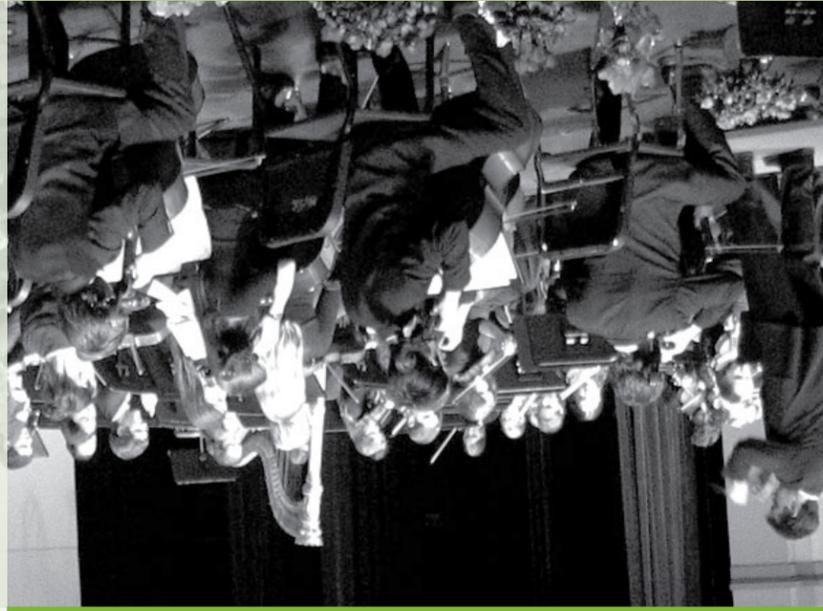


# Overture

Newsletter of the Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra

a premier musical organization for young musicians on the North Shore, Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire



Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra  
P.O. Box 195 • Topsheld • MA 01983  
www.nysorchestra.org

The mission of the Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra is to create the opportunity for young musicians to join a musical community that provides a nurturing and challenging learning environment, promotes excellence and serves audiences through performance and outreach.



*"This thing called art is fragile and needs all the attention we can give it.*

*What you have grown here is nothing short of remarkable."*

— Jonathan McPhee, conductor of Symphony by the Sea

*Thank you for making NYSO possible for kids north of Boston!*

## Watching NYSO Grow! A message from Executive Director Trudy Larson



The Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra is now seventeen years old, having earned the reputation as a premier musical organization for young musicians on the North Shore, Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. This has happened because of **YOU**, all the special people that make up the organization—staff, parents, and students and those of you beyond our membership who support us, attend our concerts and cheer us on.

This past year marks two firsts for NYSO. The NYSO Chorale began second semester under the direction of Dr. Sandra Doneski, professor at Gordon College and well-known choral director. Prelude String Ensemble had so much growth that we divided it into two ensembles Prelude A (Advanced) and Prelude B (Beginning), thus allowing us to train many beginning string players in the skills of ensemble playing.

As I think about the vision we have for NYSO, several highlights come to mind:

- Despite its impressive growth,

NYSO is an organization that makes every effort to care for the individual child.

- "Youth Serving Through Music," our outreach concert program, now in its tenth season, continues to train young musicians in the skills of small ensemble rehearsal and performance and allows us to reach out in the community to play high-quality performances for many who would not otherwise be able to attend a concert. Our small groups perform at senior centers, senior center residences, rehabilitation centers and in the Lawrence string program where several students mentor.

- We have an exceptional and dedicated staff of musicians that are committed to the growth of our students as people as well as instrumentalists. I am grateful for the constant vision and direction of our music director, Gerald Dolan, who has served NYSO as music director for 13 years, bringing expertise and stature to NYSO.

- Our Composer in Residence, Robert J. Bradshaw, continues to bring his excitement and skill in the composing process to our Intermezzo and Prelude String ensembles as they create their own compositions.

- Our work with the children of Lawrence continues to grow. Not only

do several NYSO members mentor the group classes, but also many of the Lawrence students who have grown through the program in the last nine years are now mentoring younger violin students – with great results. The Lawrence Youth Ensemble, which I direct, is one of the highlights of my work with NYSO. This Ensemble consists of the more advanced students in this program, performing at our spring concerts and continuing to show steady growth. The Lawrence program, under the direction of Marcia Lier, is opening many doors of opportunity to these children.

I continue to share the wonderful privilege of working with over 275 wonderful young musicians and sharing the gift of music with them. For our graduates (see the article in this issue) it is the end of their time with us, and for others it is just the beginning. From many reports, we know the NYSO has made and continues to make an important difference in many young lives, and that is what NYSO is all about! •



## Meet NYSO's New Staff:

Dr. SANDRA DONESKI began directing the newly formed NYSO Chorale in January 2008. Sandy is Assistant Professor of Music at Gordon College, where she teaches courses in music education methods, supervises student teachers and conducts the Gordon

College Children's Choir (which she founded in 2000 to give children in the community an opportunity to grow as musicians, and for music education majors an opportunity to develop as teachers and conductors).

Sandra has had the pleasure of teach-

ing music to students in Kindergarten through graduate school and conducting choral ensembles of varying ages and voicings. She has also served on the faculty of the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, where she was Associate Conductor of the Children's

... continued on page 2

## Musical Staff

Gerald Dolan *Music Director and Wind Ensemble Conductor*

Dr. Walter Pavasaris *Senior Orchestra Conductor*

Walter O'Keefe *Intermezzo Conductor*

Dr. Sandra Doneski *Chorale Conductor*

Lisa Varno *Assistant Chorale Conductor*

Abigail Haynes, Sarah Skinner *Prelude Strings Conductors*

Heather Kent *Flute Choir Conductor*

Holly Osgood *Senior Flute Choir Conductor*

Nalani Fujiwara *Clarinet Choir Conductor*

Trudy Larson *Strings Director*

## Administrative Staff

Trudy Larson *Executive Director*

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Gale Batsimm, Gayle Nieburger

*Office Assistants*

Gayle Nieburger, Colleen Werner

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Choir Program. Under her guidance, NEC implemented choral programs for early elementary and middle school students that focused on vocal pedagogy and building musicianship.

She is a graduate of Gordon College and received her Master's and Ph.D. in Music Education from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. Her research interests include the development of children's and adolescents' singing skills, music classroom pedagogy, the acquisition of aural understanding and its relationship to music literacy, and curriculum development and assessment in music education. •

**ABIGAIL HAYNES** became Conductor for Prelude A in the fall of 2007 after helping out with Prelude sectionals the previous year. Outside of NYISO, Abby teaches a studio of 27 students, teaches preschool music at Ascension Preschool in Ipswich, and plays chamber music at Gordon College. She also sings at church and with Lyricora, a semi-professional choir of Gordon College alumni.

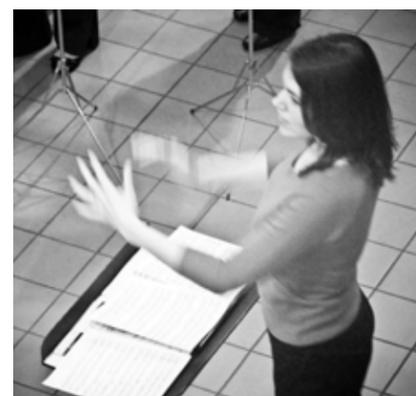
Abby graduated from Gordon College in 2003 with a degree in vocal performance. She completed a year-long Suzuki teacher training in violin at the Hartt School and has taught at the Portsmouth Christian Academy. She has been playing violin since she was five years old.

She has enjoyed the parent involvement, her students' personalities and talents, and seeing the rewards of their hard work in Prelude. "I'd like to see the group take on new and more challenging music and to keep rising to new levels of musicality in their playing," she said. •

**HOLLY OSGOOD** is completing her first year conducting NYISO Senior Flute Choir. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Gordon College and a Masters in Education from Lesley University. For the past four years, Holly has taught K-3 elementary general music in the Marblehead Public Schools and led the Children's Choir at First Baptist Church in Hampton Falls, NH. She teaches private flute lessons and workshops in music and other arts at summer programs. In addition to flute,

she sings and has played saxophone in jazz and pep bands.

"My goals for my students are for them to leave my 'classroom' knowing that they are musicians and creative beings and having something about music that they love and will enjoy throughout their lives. In order to achieve these goals, it is my job to create a safe environment for learning, communicate clear expectations, continually develop the quality and effectiveness of my instruction, be a learner with my students as well as their teacher, and teach and make music with passion and enthusiasm." •



**SARAH PERRON** recently joined NYISO as office manager. After graduating in 2005 with a BA in Music from Gordon College, she had worked in different administrative and customer service positions.

"I had been looking for quite a while for an organization that was more in line with my interests and areas of study than the companies I had worked for since graduating, and for a job in which I could help make a difference in the lives of others," she stated. "When I discovered NYISO, I felt right away that it was that kind of organization."

While growing up, Sarah sang in choirs, musicals, recitals, district and state festivals and tours. She currently performs with a community choir.

Sarah is pleased with her new position. "I am excited to know that what I do helps to facilitate a high-quality musical experience for young people and hope that it means as much to them as such experiences meant to me at that age," she commented. •

... continued on page 5

## Never Too Old to Dream



Laura Cody, Elizabeth Scoble and Meghan O'Keefe with Asta Spaderna

## NYISO Alumni—Where Are They Now?

Kate deRonde attends the University of Connecticut at Storrs as a sophomore. She is majoring in Environmental Sciences with a minor in Music. She plays violin with the Chamber Music Orchestra and the University Symphony Orchestra. She is studying with Dr. Theodore Arm. This summer Kate will be working at an environmental science internship.

Jessamin Birdsall is a sophomore at Harvard University, studying sociology. She has played flute in several chamber groups and recently participated in a friend's recital, performing duets. She has also ventured into voice and is a member of the Radcliffe Chorale Society. Last summer Jessamin completed an internship in India. This coming summer she will be working at a New York City nonprofit.

Julie Savage won the concerto competition at Wake Forest University in North Carolina on February 28, playing tenor saxophone (Julie had played clarinet in NYISO beginning in fifth grade then switched to bass clarinet.) A group of 25-30 students from the university competed for five spots. Julie is enrolled in the Calloway School of Business and Accountancy at Wake Forest University and will graduate in May 2009. She minors in music and is a member of the

A group of NYISO musicians performed a special outreach concert in Swampscott to fulfill the wish of an octogenarian. The April 6 concert for Mrs. Asta Spaderna was a collaboration with the Jewish Rehabilitation Center (JRC) and Second Wind Dreams, an international nonprofit organization. Second Wind Dreams encourages senior citizens to age with dignity and to dream because "the lack of dreams and goals can have physical and mental consequences." Since it was her dream to attend a classical concert, the students played a concert in her honor at the Rehabilitation Center with music of Beethoven (her

Wake Forest Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and saxophone quartet.

Alex Limpaecher will be graduating this spring from Princeton University. He has a job lined up at Microsoft in Seattle beginning in September. This summer he'll travel to Europe and take a cruise to Alaska with his parents. He also plans to conduct some research that he hasn't had time for during the school year. Alex continues to take violin lessons and to play duets weekly with a friend.

Tom Garron is a junior at George Washington University in D.C., studying Asian and international studies. He is a theater minor, appearing in three or four plays a year. He is involved with 14th Grade Productions, a student-run theatre group at the college. He also performs in two different instrumental groups on campus; he plays French Horn with the G.W. Pep Band. As a member of the pep band, Tom gets to travel all over the country. Every summer since high school, Tom has worked at the Kennedy School of Govt. at Harvard University as part of the Executive Training Program for national security. Tom spent last semester in Beijing learning Chinese language, culture and politics, as part of his college program. •

favorite), Mozart, Bach and Schubert. "It was wonderful," Asta said. "I will think of it as long as I live." She was presented with a corsage and a NYISO program book. It was also a very special event for the enthusiastic residents and for the NYISO students.

This marked one of many spring performances as part of NYISO's "Youth Serving Through Music" program. The JRC activities coordinator echoed the sentiments of many of the facilities we visit when she said, "The more kids come in here, the happier (the residents) are." •



## Meet NYISO's New Staff:

... continued from page 2

In January, **SARAH SKINNER** became the new Prelude B conductor. In addition to her position with NYISO, Sarah also teaches private violin and piano lessons, gives group violin lessons in a public school program, and performs with four different area symphony orchestras.

She has been working especially on rhythm and dynamics with her Prelude students. "I enjoy getting to know the kids and being a part of the tremendous progress they are making," she said. "It's a wonderful group of strings players and every one of the students is a delight to work with."

Home-schooled from kindergarten through grade 12, Sarah was able to devote extra time to music. During late high school, she played in many music competitions and other events on both violin and piano. She graduated from Gordon College. •

*NYISO — an exciting opportunity for young musicians . . .*

## Thank You to Our Donors

The Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra sincerely thanks the following corporations, foundations, trusts and banks for their outstanding support of its programs and events. Through their generosity, NYSO is able to provide young musicians with a superior musical education and wonderful performance opportunities.

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*Donations are always welcome.*

Make checks payable to NYSO and send to  
 P.O. Box 195, Topsfield, MA 01983.

## Trudy Larson Endowment Fund

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to supply funds in perpetuity for the ongoing support of the Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra. The Essex County Community Foundation administers the fund and all gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Donations to the Endowment Fund may be sent to NYSO, P.O. Box 195, Topsfield, MA 01983



## Graduating Seniors

It's time for our graduating seniors to move on to new adventures. We'll miss them, and wish them the best in the coming years. We hope to hear from them, and see them at our concerts.

The seniors shared some of the important things they learned in NYSO, and a few of their favorite memories. We know you will enjoy reading them!

Kristina Bond, bass clarinet, has been a member of Senior Orchestra for three years, Wind Ensemble for two years and Clarinet Choir for one year. She will attend Queens University of Charlotte in the fall. "NYSO taught me that music isn't just notes and rhythms to be played. Music is about listening to the instrumentalists around you and blending correctly to create a musical piece of art." She will fondly remember Mr. Dolan's "Dolanisms" as an essential part of her musical career.



Tomas Bowling, violin, has been a member of NYSO for ten years, playing with Prelude String Ensemble, Intermezzo Orchestra, and Senior Orchestra. He plans to attend Wells College in the fall. Among his favorite NYSO memories are: "debates with Mrs. Larson on whether or not practice is overrated; Dr. Pavasaris' singing those really high parts from Dvorak's New World Symphony; being in Prelude and trying to play really well whenever Mr. Dolan came in to watch and getting to know so many different people (too many to mention)."

Deidre Coughlin, french horn, joined NYSO one year ago and has played in the Wind Ensemble and Senior Orchestra. Her plans for the future are still unfolding.

Ema David, violin, has performed with NYSO for six years. She has played in Senior Orchestra. She hopes to travel after graduation. She is still deciding on colleges, but is considering Merrimack College. The most important thing

she learned with NYSO is to "come prepared and on time."

Katey Farel, cello, has played with NYSO for four years in Senior Orchestra and in small ensembles: a Bass/cello Trio, the Trout Quintet, and other string quartets. She plans to attend Northeastern University in the fall. "I learned to develop as a musician in chamber groups. My section got along really well, and I had a good time playing with them."

Nick Lee, violin, has been a member of Senior Orchestra for two years. His future plans are still developing. His favorite memories from NYSO were the performances. The most important thing he learned was "to practice and perform as a section."

Emily Murphy, clarinet, has been a member of the Wind Ensemble and the Clarinet Choir during her year with NYSO. She will be attending Brown University in the fall. The most important lesson she learned was "gaining confidence and learning how to perfect my individual part in Bali."

Audrey Rowen, flute, has participated in all levels of Flute Choir, Wind Ensemble and Orchestra over the past eight years. Her college plans are still

unfolding. "I learned how to play out to be heard and to have confidence in my playing. I love being in a smaller group rather than the regular concert band because I can really hear myself. And I'll never forget Heather's funny ways of teaching techniques to be a better performer."

Jonathan Ubnoske, trumpet, has performed with Intermezzo, Senior and Wind during the past five years. He is deciding between Duke, BC, Bowdoin or Bates Colleges for the fall. "I learned the importance of playing confidently, even if I was the only one playing. I really enjoyed our first concert. I felt like I was truly playing in a professional orchestra."

Evan Wallace, clarinet, has been a member of NYSO for the past four years, playing in Intermezzo, Wind Ensemble, Senior and Clarinet Choir. He will attend Brown University. "I learned that the power comes directly from the hard work and the emotion of the people who create it." He will always remember "when I went to a concert with an empty clarinet case. Luckily Mr. Dolan had a spare, but there wasn't enough time to even play a note before I went on stage. I then found out that it was being fixed and one of the notes didn't even work."

