



Spotlight

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra

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MYSO Celebrates 60th Anniversary Season

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) is proud to commence the 2015-16 season; the organization’s 60th year of offering life-changing music programs to the area’s most talented young people!

In 1956, a number of visionary leaders within the Junior League, the Milwaukee Art Center and the Rotary Club of Greater Milwaukee wisely determined that Milwaukee needed to develop arts opportunities for the community’s young people. With support from all three institutions,



Music for Youth Rehearsal during the 1963-64 Season.

the Children’s Arts Program was created—an orchestra of 30 eager young musicians. From that group, Music For Youth (MFY) was eventually born, incorporating in 1960. MFY became a charter member of Milwaukee’s United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF) in 1969, later moving into the brand new Performing Arts Center (now the Marcus Center) as an anchor tenant. In 1988, the organization changed its name to Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO), to better describe the organization’s activities and locale.

The organization continued to thrive, including the launch of its Community Partnership Programs in 2003. Due to its successful growth, MYSO, in collaboration with First Stage, completed the purchase, renovation and relocation into the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC) in 2005 thanks to generous community-wide support during the facility’s capital campaign. MYAC, located in the center of Milwaukee’s inner city, enabled MYSO to expand reach to City of Milwaukee youth and was also intended to serve as a safe and welcoming facility for all children to engage in the arts.

Now celebrating its 60th season, MYSO will feature 25 ensembles, ranging from symphony and string orchestras, to jazz and steel pan bands and professional guest soloists, in more than 80 concerts. MYSO’s artist-in-residence, Frank Almond, will also be teaching and coaching the musicians for a second year. With 1,000 young musicians, from as many as 215 schools, 60 communities and 14 counties throughout southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, MYSO has become one of the largest and most successful youth orchestra programs in the nation. The organization also impacts 5,000 children annually through its extensive Community Concert Series and more than 18,000 collective audience members each year.



Artist-in-residence, Frank Almond, works with a Progressions musician in a 2015 masterclass.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone season with you!

2015-16 Performance Schedule

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Celestial Sounds

7:00 PM; Schwan Concert Hall, Wisconsin Lutheran College. MYSO kicks off its 2015-16 season with a performance by the acclaimed Chamber Orchestra.

Sunday, October 25, 2015

MYSO's 2015 Playathon, presented by Olshan Outreach at Bayshore Town Center

FREE!

10:15 AM - 5:45 PM; Bayshore Town Center. Following an intensive five-week period of student fundraising, the 1,000 members of MYSO who make up three full orchestras, seven string orchestras, a wind ensemble, two flute choirs, numerous jazz combos and two steel drum bands, will perform during this FREE event.

Sunday, November 15, 2015

Founders Concert

3:00 PM; Helen Bader Concert Hall, Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts. This annual performance showcases the organization's internationally acclaimed flagship orchestra, the Senior Symphony and will feature guest soloist, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra principal hornist, Matthew Annin.



Saturday, January 23, 2016

Jazz Heritage Festival

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM; Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC). Jazz combo performances by the musicians in the Jazz Studies program as well as clinics led by professional jazz musicians.

Sunday, January 24, 2016

A Force of Nature

2:00 PM; Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Featuring the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble.

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Progressions Winter Wonders

FREE!

5:30 PM; MYAC. The students of the Progressions program will perform.

Saturday, January 30, 2016

Rhythmic Revolution

3:00 PM; MYAC. Performance features select Jazz combos, including the Latin jazz combo Rhumba, plus the Calypso and Soca steel bands.

Saturday, February 13, 2016

Symphonic Spectacular

6:00 PM; Shattuck Music Center Auditorium. Featuring the Prelude Orchestra, combined String Orchestras Central and North and Philharmonia.

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Celebration of Strings

2:00 PM; Shattuck Music Center Auditorium. The combined String Orchestras West and South and Sinfonia are featured.

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Fire and Fanfare

7:00 PM; Helen Bader Concert Hall, Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts. Showcasing its flagship orchestra, the Senior Symphony, the concert will also feature Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Acting Principal double

bassist and MYSO alumnus Andrew Raciti as featured soloist.

Concert highlights also include the orchestra performing Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*.



Friday, February 19, 2016

Flute Fanfare

7:00 PM; Youth Arts Hall, MYAC. This concert will feature MYSO's two flute choirs, Flute Chorale and Chamber Flute Ensemble.

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Inspired Spring

7:00 PM; Schwan Concert Hall, Wisconsin Lutheran College. This concert will feature the highly acclaimed Chamber Orchestra.

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Davidson Chamber Recitals

1:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM; MYAC. Presenting various performances from the extensive Davidson Chamber Ensemble Program.

Friday, April 22, 2016

Honor Recital

7:00 PM; location TBA. This recital features solo performances by the finalists from the 2016 Senior Symphony

Concerto Competition, plus chamber ensembles comprised of MYSO's advanced musicians.



Sunday, April 24, 2016**A Flute Festival**

7:00 pm; Schwan Concert Hall, Wisconsin Lutheran College. The two flute choirs are highlighted in the ensembles' final appearance of the season.

**Saturday, May 7, 2016****Rhythm and Blues**

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM; MYAC. Performance features all Jazz Combos, including the elite Bronzeville Jazz Ensemble, plus Calypso and Soca steel bands.

Sunday, May 8, 2016**Fanfare and Finale**

6:00 PM; Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. The Brass Choir, Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and Senior Symphony are showcased in the ensembles' final performance of the season.

Saturday, May 14, 2016**String Serenade**

1:00 PM; Shattuck Music Center Auditorium. The all-string ensembles Prelude Orchestra, String Orchestras South/West and String Orchestras North/Central will be featured.

Saturday, May 14, 2016**Metamorphosis**

7:00 PM; Shattuck Music Center Auditorium. The Sinfonia Philharmonic and Wind Ensemble will be featured.

Sunday, May 15, 2016**Symphonic Celebration**

6:00 PM; Shattuck Music Center Auditorium. This performance will feature the Percussion Ensemble, Philharmonia and Chamber Orchestra.

Wednesday, May 25, 2016**Progressions May Melodies**

FREE!
5:30 PM; MYAC. The *Progressions* program presents its final performance of the 2015-16 season.

Concert Venue Locations

Bayshore Town Center: 5800 N. Bayshore Dr., Glendale

Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts: 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee

Milwaukee Youth Arts Center: 325 W. Walnut St., Milwaukee

Shattuck Music Center Auditorium: Carroll University, 218 N. East Ave., Waukesha

Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts: 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee

Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts: 123 E. State St., Milwaukee

Wisconsin Lutheran College: 8815 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee

**Volunteer during the 2015-16 Season!**

We are grateful to the many dedicated volunteers who supply critical support to the organization. Each year, more than 300 community volunteers help ensure that MYSO continues to serve the community's young people through our life changing programs.

Volunteers are needed for projects such as:

- Concert assistance (ticket sales, ushering, etc.)
- Photography
- Data entry and other clerical assistance
- Assistance at a variety of auditions
- Equipment assistance
- And many other projects.

If you are interested in volunteering for MYSO, we encourage you to contact our office at 414-267-2950 or general@myso.org, or sign-up through the online volunteer form found on the "Get Involved" page at www.myso.org.

Member Spotlight

“My favorite parts of MYSO are the different opportunities they give you to improve and challenge your skills and talents.” MYSO musician **Jazmin Xiong** began playing violin just two years ago in *Progressions* and graduated out of the program in the spring of 2015. Due to her enthusiasm and dedication, Jazmin’s musical talent continued to improve and her confidence grew. As Jazmin explained, “I’ve learned to become more social with people through MYSO. I used to be scared of new faces and now I find that I’m unable to stop myself from complimenting whomever I see!”

Her hard work, commitment and musical excellence did not go unnoticed. At the final *Progressions* spring concert in May, it was announced that Jazmin was selected to receive the Tony Lucas Award! Tony Lucas has been a dedicated volunteer with the *Progressions* program for 12 years. In honor of Mr. Lucas’s level of commitment, the Tony Lucas Scholarship Award is presented to one special second year *Progressions* students each spring. As part of the award, Jazmin will receive a full scholarship for MYSO membership, private lessons and an instrument this season.



Tony Lucas with Jazmin Xiong

Jazmin just entered sixth grade at Golda Meir School and has successfully auditioned into String Orchestra on her violin for the 2015-16 season. She is looking forward to playing new music and meeting all of the orchestra members this season. Jazmin leaves us with this advice: “Don’t be afraid to take on new tasks and risks!”

Alumna Spotlight

Alumna **Christine Liu** felt that she was the most engaged and excited when she was at MYSO. Christine played violin in Philharmonia and Senior Symphony from 1993-1998. After receiving her undergraduate degree in violin performance, she switched to viola for her Doctorate of Musical Arts. While continuing to teach and perform, she transitioned into arts administration and served as the Personnel Manager and Librarian for the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, followed by General Manager at Present Music in Milwaukee. She recently moved to Portland, Oregon where she is currently the Individual Giving Officer at the Oregon Symphony. Christine still uses skills she learned in MYSO on a daily basis, including teamwork, individual strength, collaboration, patience, encouragement and problem solving.



Alumna Christine Liu

Besides getting stuck in the elevator with a friend during rehearsal for an hour before the fire department rescued them, Christine’s favorite MYSO memory was the international tour to Spain and Italy in 1997. The nearly three-week tour featured an incredible program, including Barber’s Violin Concerto and drew audiences that were filled with people enthusiastic about classical music.

MYSO expanded Christine’s opportunity to interact with people from outside of where she lived. “Where else could you make music with people from various ethnic, economic and religious backgrounds from all over southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois?” Christine has successfully developed her professional career involving her passion and dedication to music. “I feel fortunate that music will always be a part of my life.”

Are you a MYSO/MFY Alumni? For alumni news and special offers, “like” the *Alumni of Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra/MYSO and Music for Youth/MFY* Facebook page and send your information to katie@myso.org.

Get to know MYSO's Head Chaperones!

Kent and Marna Tess-Mattner

checked their passports as they boarded the plane in Chicago and made sure everyone in their group was accounted for: all 93 students, 17 chaperones and eight staff members! This summer, Kent and Marna accompanied the Senior Symphony as the head chaperones on their performance and educational tour to Vienna and Budapest. In fact, over the past 20 years, they have chaperoned **eight** music ensemble tours, including six international trips and six with MYSO!

Kent and Marna are long-time friends of MYSO. In addition to chaperoning, their daughter Amy is an alumna trombone player, and they have been involved as board members, volunteers and supporters of MYSO.

We interviewed Kent and Marna to find out more about their favorite tour experiences and why they remain so committed to touring.

What tours have you chaperoned?

1. 1996: UW-Milwaukee Youth Wind Ensemble – Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden (13 days)
2. 1997: MYSO – Spain and Italy (19 days)
3. 1999: Wauwatosa East High School Band – San Antonio (4 days)
4. 1999: MYSO – Montreal and Quebec (5 days)
5. 2006: MYSO – Chicago (2 days)
6. 2009: MYSO – Vancouver (8 days)
7. 2012: MYSO – Prague and Vienna (12 days)
8. 2015: MYSO – Vienna and Budapest (11 days)

What are some of your favorite concert highlights from the tours?

There are too many great concert memories to pick just one!

- Most recently, in Budapest's Béla Bartók Hall, having the sellout crowd start clapping rhythmically to request encores.
- In Prague's Dvořák Hall, seeing and hearing the orchestra perform so magnificently that Ms. Deutsch, Mr. Simmons and many of the students had tears in their eyes as they performed – they knew they were "on" and had reached an exceptional level as an ensemble.
- In Italy, watching the performance in the courtyard of the Pitti Palace to a great crowd...until the rain started falling.

What are some of your best memories from the tours?

Again, there are so many...

- Danube River boat cruise in Vienna.
- Sightseeing: cathedrals, castles, Tuscan towns, great art, Olympic venues, and much more.
- Fabulous local food and countless great dining experiences.
- Clever and insightful commentary among the students.

What is the biggest challenge of chaperoning?

Trying to achieve balance between imposing enough discipline to keep all students safe and allowing them to enjoy the tour. That, and lack of sleep.

Where are your favorite places to travel?

- We will probably never tire of New York and Hawaii.
- We would love to return to Italy



Kent and Marna, on July 4, 2015, during MYSO's recent tour, at the Esterhazy Palace in Austria.

and the British Isles and hope to visit France someday.

- In addition to MYSO trips, we have had wonderful trips to the Scandinavian countries, Vietnam and Hong Kong, and many great U.S. cities.

Any additional stories you wish to share?

Kent collects music-themed ties on all trips, and we try to buy watercolors from street artists in every city.

Why do you continue to chaperone and what does it mean to you?

We know these tours can literally be life-changing for students, and even for those for whom a tour does not reach that level, they are great experiences. We enjoy watching it all through the students' eyes and helping to make it possible.

MYSO is extremely grateful to Kent and Marna for sharing their time and talents with the organization and for helping make these once-in-a-lifetime experiences available to hundreds of young people in our community!



MILWAUKEE YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
325 W. Walnut Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Connect with MYSO on Facebook and
Twitter, too!



www.myso.org



Order tickets for the 2015-16 Season!

To purchase tickets for our 60th anniversary season, contact the
MYSO office at 414-267-2950 or general@myso.org. For more
details, scan the QR code with your smart phone at right or visit
www.myso.org.



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