

# Spotlight

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra

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## Senior Symphony to Embark on International Tour

This summer (June 28-July 8) 100 of Wisconsin's finest young musicians from MYSO's Senior Symphony and Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra will embark on an international tour to Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. The orchestra will present an array of performances in two of the world's finest concert halls, Vienna's Musikverein and Budapest's Béla Bartók Hall. Frank Almond, concertmaster of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and MYSO's 2014-15 Artist-in-Residence will be the featured soloist on tour, performing *Havanaise* in E major, Opus 83, by Camille Saint-Saëns.



Above: MYSO musicians performing during the 2012 international tour.

The tour, which includes, educational and cultural sight-seeing, allows students to develop the highest level of artistic excellence in MYSO programs. These students not only see development in musical skill, but also wide-ranging personal skills such as teamwork, discipline, focus, etc. Many of these students would not otherwise have an opportunity to travel internationally, further enhancing the associated benefits of tour participation.

***"The tour to Europe is simply one of the greatest once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that a musician can receive."***  
~2012 Tour Participant

The Senior Symphony, under the baton of Margery Deutsch, Music Director, and Shelby Keith Dixon, Associate Conductor, has long been recognized as one of the nation's top youth music ensembles, hailed for artistic excellence both nationally and

internationally through regular performance tours. Over many decades of touring, Senior Symphony has performed in countries such as Italy, Spain, China, Austria, Czech Republic, among others.

Left: Senior Symphony performing at Dvořák Hall in the Rudolfinum in Prague, Czech Republic in 2012.



## 2014 Collaborative Spirit Award



Left to Right: Jennifer Mattes, MYSO Board Chair, David and Margarete Harvey, recipients of the award and Linda Edelstein, MYSO Executive Director

We were delighted to present the 2014 Collaborative Spirit Award to David and Margarete Harvey. This award is conferred upon an individual, foundation, nonprofit, corporation or community leader who has demonstrated vision backed by action that illustrates extraordinary leadership, service and commitment to create impactful collaborative partnerships with MYSO. From the beginning, the Harvey's vision and action is represented not only in their board service, but also in driving strategic focus and direction to MYSO, its international touring and the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC). They have provided significant resources to develop MYAC and to launch the Community Partnership Programs. David and Margaret's generous and ongoing support impacts the lives of hundreds of MYSO students.

### Inauguration Performance

Under the direction of Carter Simmons, MYSO's Artistic Director, members of our Chamber Orchestra were honored to perform at Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's 2015 Inauguration Ceremony at the Wisconsin state capitol in Madison on January 5, 2015.



### UPAF Ride for the Arts

The 2015 United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF) Ride for the Arts is Sunday, May 31, 2015. We are very grateful for the many riders and volunteers who help support UPAF and MYSO each year. Will you join us in this effort?

#### Ride or Volunteer with Team MYSO!

The team deadline is April 29.

**Team:** Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra

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## Alumna Spotlight

MYSO alumna **Margaret Daun** was a violinist in MYSO throughout the 1990s. Now an attorney, Margaret reflected on her involvement in music and MYSO.

"Unquestionably, I would be a much different person than I am today had I never picked up a fiddle. Playing an instrument was enriching beyond the development of rhythm and pitch and general music appreciation - it improved the way I think, led to a love of all the arts, and ultimately, gave me a depth of experience and exposure that has been a huge boon to me throughout my career." After earning her law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Margaret worked as an attorney in New York, Chicago and abroad before returning back to Milwaukee where she currently runs her own transactional practice and does corporate counsel work for the City of Milwaukee.



Above: 1995 Alumna Margaret Daun

Although Margaret didn't pursue music professionally, she continues to play today for ceremonies, celebrations and for her personal enjoyment. While in MYSO, one of her favorite memories was "playing in Carnegie Hall and not being able to hold back tears of joy as [they] played the last few bars of Stravinsky's Firebird Suite." All of her fond memories and experiences from MYSO have not been forgotten. "In particular, the sophisticated orchestral music I played with MYSO under Ms. Deutsch's baton was foundational to the development of my taste and ability to appreciate all manner of the fine arts."



## Member Spotlight

Julian Rhee, 14, is the youngest member of the Senior Symphony and the winner of the 2015 MYSO Senior Symphony Concerto Competition. He was one of only three American violinists to advance to the semi-finals of the prestigious 2015 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players. Julian was also recently awarded first place in the Madison Symphony Bolz Young Artist Competition, which was televised on Wisconsin Public Television. As a winner of the 2015 Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Auditions, he will appear as a featured

soloist in the Stars of Tomorrow Concert with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Also, Julian was recently named winner of the 2015 Concord Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Other recent accomplishments include: senior and intermediate division winner of the 2015 Society of American Musicians; winner of the 2015 Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra Young Artist Concerto Competition, for which he will appear as a soloist at the Concerts on the Square on June 24; winner of the State and Midwest divisions, advancing to Nationals, at the 2015 MTNA competition; winner of the 2014 Menomonee Falls Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition; winner of the Junior String Division and Overall Junior Division of the 2014 Midwest Young Artist Walgreens National Concerto Competition; winner of the 2013 and 2011 Madison Symphony Orchestra Fall Youth Concerto Competitions, in which he was the guest soloist with the Madison Symphony in both 2013 and 2011; winner of both Junior and Senior Divisions of the Sejong Music Competition at ages 12 and 13, respectively; Merit Scholarship



Above: Senior Symphony and Chamber Orchestra musician Julian Rhee

recipient to the Music Institute of Chicago; the youngest semi-finalist of the 2013 Stradivarius International Violin Competition; Fellowship recipient of Montecito International Music Festival; winner of the 2011 MYSO Philharmonia (at age 10) and 2010 Sinfonia (at age 9) Concerto Competitions; and a winner of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Bach Double Violin Competition at ages 7 and 8.

In addition to violin study, Julian has been studying the piano with Stefanie Jacob since the age of 7. He loves to read, play basketball, and watch sports with his dad. Julian is currently studying privately with Ms. Hye-Sun Lee at the Music Institute of Chicago.



Above: Julian Rhee with John DeMain, Music Director of the Madison Symphony Orchestra

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**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 [michellehoffman@myso.org](mailto:michellehoffman@myso.org).

## Shelby Keith Dixon Celebrates 30 Years with MYSO

The 2014-15 season marks Mr. Shelby Keith Dixon's 30th anniversary with MYSO. Mr. Dixon has been a MYSO conductor since 1984 and Senior Symphony Associate Conductor since 1988.

In addition to his dedicated work with MYSO, Mr. Dixon has been involved extensively in music education throughout the area. He is the retired Director of Orchestras and Chairman of Fine Arts at Homestead High School in Mequon, Wisconsin. Prior to his tenure with the Mequon-Thiensville School District in 1975, he served as Choral Director at Deerfield, Illinois High School. For six years, he was Assistant Professor of Music at Alverno College in Milwaukee, where he taught the History and Literature of Music and was Musical Director of Theatre Alverno.

Mr. Dixon has extensive background in brasses, keyboard and strings. He has served as Music Director of Milwaukee Players at the Pabst Theatre, conductor with the Sullivan

Chamber Ensemble Orchestra, Musical Assistant with Milwaukee's Music Under the Stars, Assistant Conductor of the Northwestern University Chapel Choir and Interim Music Director of the Elgin (IL) Youth Symphony Orchestras.

He holds both the Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees in the History and Literature of Music from Northwestern University, where he was a conducting student of the late John Phillip Paynter. He has taught on the music education faculty of Concordia University-Wisconsin, supervises student teachers in music education, and has served on the board of directors for the Milwaukee Civic Music Association and Gathering on the Green.

Mr. Dixon: "I began with Music For Youth (MFY) in September, 1984, as co-conductor of MFY IV (now "String Orchestra"). With the 1988-89 season, I was appointed Associate Conductor of MFY I (now "Senior

Symphony"), which remains my current position. In my years with MFY/MYSO I've been surrounded by great human beings and, especially, perennially by the finest of Wisconsin's young orchestral musicians, performing some of the greatest orchestral masterpieces of Western Music. What's not to like? As well as in Milwaukee, MYSO has afforded me opportunities conducting in Scotland, Carnegie Hall, Spain, Italy, Montreal, the National Youth Orchestra Festival in Sarasota, China, Vancouver, BC, Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. My heartfelt thanks to MYSO--and especially to my good friends and colleagues, Margery Deutsch and Carter Simmons--for the first 30 years!"



Above: Mr. Shelby Keith Dixon conducts Senior Symphony

## Denice Haney Celebrates 20 Years with MYSO



Above: Dr. Denice Haney

Dr. Denice Haney has been a conductor at MYSO for 20 years. She is currently the music director of String Orchestra West where she is a dedicated and committed instructor. Dr. Haney shares a few thoughts on this milestone: "It's difficult to believe that I've been with MYSO for more than 20 years! The time I spend with the String Orchestra students seems to go by so quickly because our rehearsals are energetic and enjoyable. Observing the incredible growth of each player as they advance through the MYSO program warms my heart, and the opportunity to collaborate with such outstanding professionals has truly been a gift throughout the years." Dr. Haney came to Wisconsin in 1994 from Colorado, where she was an Assistant Professor of Music and Orchestra Director at Western State College. Prior to that, she served as Conductor of the Phoenix Symphony Guild Junior Strings Orchestra and was Director of Orchestras for the Madison School District in Phoenix, AZ.

She holds a performance degree in viola from Chapman University in Orange, CA, with teacher certification, as well as Master's and Doctoral degrees from Arizona State University. Presently she teaches in the Elmbrook School District, has a small studio of private students, performs in various concert settings and enjoys spending time with her son.

## Our deepest thanks to our 2014 supporters

*We are tremendously grateful for these important gifts which allow our organization to serve an ever-increasing number of young people. Our success in changing lives through music depends heavily on the exceptional generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations and state, county and city government.*

*This list recognizes gifts of \$100 or more that were received in the **2014 calendar year**. We encourage you to call MYSO Development & Marketing Director Emily Lukasek, at 414-267-2952, with questions or corrections—or to learn how to make a much-appreciated gift to MYSO.*

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Above: Progressions student performs at 2015 Winter Concert.

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[www.myso.org](http://www.myso.org)

## Upcoming MYSO Concerts!

### Friday, April 24, 2015

**Honor Recital** - 7:00 PM: St. John's on the Lake, featuring solo performances by the honorable mentions and runner-up from MYSO's 2015 Senior Symphony Concerto Competition, plus several chamber ensembles comprised of advanced players.

### Sunday, April 26, 2015

**A Flute Festival** - 3:00 PM: Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, featuring the Chamber Flute Ensemble and Flute Chorale.

### Sunday, May 3, 2015

**Fanfare and Finale** - 6:00 PM: Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, featuring Brass Choir, Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and Senior Symphony.

### Saturday, May 9, 2015

**Rhythm and Blues** - 1:00 PM-5:00 PM: MYAC, featuring all Jazz Combos, including the Bronzeville Jazz Ensemble, plus Calypso and Soca steel bands.

### Sunday, May 10, 2015

**Metamorphosis** - 7:00 PM: Harris Theater, Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, featuring Wind Ensemble and Sinfonia Philharmonic.

### Saturday, May 16, 2015

**Symphonic Celebration** - 7:00 PM: Shattuck Music Center Auditorium, featuring Percussion Ensemble, Philharmonia and Chamber Orchestra.

### Sunday, May 17, 2015

**Sensational Strings** - 5:00 PM: Bader Concert Hall, UWM's Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, featuring String Orchestras South and West and String Orchestras North and Central along with the Prelude Orchestra.

### Wednesday, May 27, 2015

**Progressions May Melodies, FREE!** 5:30 PM: MYAC. *Progressions* presents its final performance of the 2014-15 season.

### Saturday, June 27, 2015

**Bon Voyage!** - 2:00 PM: Harris Theater, Sharon Lynne Wilson Center. MYSO's Senior Symphony, which will embark on an international performance and cultural tour of Vienna and Budapest, will perform a preview of their international program.

*To purchase tickets, use your smart phone to scan the QR code at the right or call the MYSO office at 414-267-2950.*

