



Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra

Weekly Communications

Special points of interest:

- *Humor and Classical Music*
- *Report on USNA Side-by-Side Concert*
- *Audition Hints*

Are you a high school senior? We would like to include you in our recognition of seniors at the Finale Concert. Please send an email to Mrs. Foss with the information requested below:

Name

High school

CYSO Ensemble

College or after High School intention

Major

Don't miss the Chesapeake Flute Consort performance on Sunday, April 18, 2:00 PM at St. Jane de Chantal Church, Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. The consort, under the direction of Ms. Gail Vehslage, will perform the Manuel - Alleluia, Darius

Mackie - Intrinsic Forest, Debussy - Petite Suite, and two South American Dances by Christopher Caliendo. This is a not-to-be-missed program for all flute choir enthusiasts. The concert is free and open to the public.

Audition scheduling for the 2010-2011 season will begin on April 15th. To schedule an audition contact Linda Foss at execdir@cysomusic.org or call 443-758-3157. We are looking for musicians who play string, wind, brass, and percussion and have a love for learning and making music. Current CYSO students please encourage your friends who play to come and audition for next season. They are welcome to come and be our

guest for a rehearsal this season. Just let your ensemble manager know that they will attend. Ask Mrs. Foss or your Ensemble Manager if you would like a flyer to distribute to your friends. For those of you auditioning for next year, check out the advice on how to prepare for an audition on Page 2.

Finally, congratulations to **Angelina Nou and Katherine Smolen** (violin, Concert Orchestra), who received a 1 rating in the county ensemble festival playing the first movement (Vivace) of the Bach Double Concerto (Level 5).

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Around Town: Review of the USNA Side-by-Side Concert

The Naval Academy Side-by-Side concert was held at Annapolis High School on Friday March 26. Notably, CYSO students represented a large proportion of the guest performers and included: Jenna Rice piccolo; Raine Wagner – flute; Elena Murphy – clarinet; Tyler Wilkinson – saxophone; Ryan Pugh – tuba; and former CYSO members Maggie Dozier and Michael Harper.

The concert opened with the award winning Annapolis NJROTC presenting the colors, followed by the Star Spangled Banner.

The concert was titled Mediterranean Music. It included 6 pieces - Overture to *La Gazza Ladra*, *Il Bersagliere*, Concerto for Trumpet featuring Michael Harper on trumpet, *They Hung Their Harps in the Willows*, *Vesuvius*, and An-

chors Aweigh, with an encore of *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Michael Harper's tone was clear and consistent on this very difficult trumpet piece. Jenna Rice played a terrific piccolo solo in *Stars and Stripes Forever*. CYSO should find an occasion to showcase her talent in an encore of this piece. It was great fun!

Noteworthy: Humor and Classical Music

With April Fool's Day just behind us good-humored horseplay seems prevalent in cultures everywhere, even — according to *Morning Edition* commentator [Miles Hoffman](#) — within the hallowed halls of classical music.

"People think classical music is supposed to be taken terribly, terribly seriously, but in fact there has been quite a lot of funny classical music over the years. Musical jokes that make you smile, or laugh out loud," Hoffman says.

[Mozart](#) was well-known as a practical joker, and so it's no surprise that he wrote an entire multi-movement piece titled, simply, *A Musical Joke*.

"It's not necessarily boffo funny," Hoffman says. "It's very clever funny, because how subtly he makes fun of bad composition."

[Joseph Haydn](#), too, was known for his sense of humor. Like the "Farewell" Symphony he wrote, where one by one the musicians walk out at the end. His String Quartet No. 30, from 1781, is nicknamed "The Joke," and it's easy to tell why. At the very end of the quartet, just when you expect the music to end, it suddenly starts up again; then abrupt silence, another few bars,

then more silence — leaving the listener wondering if it will ever finally stop. It's almost a musical equivalent of tickling.

Composers, Hoffman says, aren't opposed to poking fun at each other. [Camille Saint-Saens](#), for instance, took [Jacques Offenbach](#)'s famously frenzied "cancan" dance and plopped the melody, note for note, into his own piece, *Carnival of the Animals*. Except that he applied it to the section describing tortoises, and the music gets slowed down to the speed of oozing molasses.

Grand opera is certainly fertile ground for spoofs. "So much of the humor in opera is actually unintentional, let's face it," Hoffman says. "People dying of con-



Chamber Orchestra violists Joseph Hall, Jr. and Ben Newsom.

sumption and singing at the top of their lungs is pretty funny right there."

Countless operatic spoofs have cropped up over the years, but Hoffman's favorite comes from the irreverent Spike Jones — and his parody of the violent opera *I Pagliacci* featuring guest stars Homer and Jethro. He calls it "Pal-Yat-Chee."

"I think it's brilliant," Hoffman says. "In order to be funny in music, you have to be good. You have to know your craft."

Weekly Insight: Audition Hints—by Penny Mohr

As auditions for the 2010-2011 CYSO year are around the corner, I thought I would share some hints that I picked up at a Master Class taught by Pamela Frank, violinist on the faculty of the Peabody Institute and the Curtis Institute.

- The first rule is DO NOT HOLD BACK. Play with energy and emotion. The people you audition for want to know that you enjoy your music and can help the audience enjoy their music. Play the most dolce or the most fortissimo that a piece requires.
- Think about why judges might have picked a particular excerpt. Is it rhythmically challenging? Does it have particularly exposed spots for intonation? Are there large changes in dynamics? Play to showcase your mastery of those elements.
- Think about what you want to say or express with the music you perform. Think of an image or one idea that you would like the music to convey.
- Take time in between pieces to breathe a lot (at least 10 breaths).
- Remember mistakes happen, the sooner you can get them out of the way the more you can relax and play. You will be forgiven if you are going for your biggest and most musical sound. Do not judge or be critical of yourself in an audition, that is the judges' role, not yours. You are just there to play.

Most importantly, enjoy yourself!

Upcoming Events Changes may occur in the schedule and updates will be listed in this newsletter and posted to the website.

April 8, 15, 22, 29	Rehearsals for all ensembles	Bates Middle School
May 6, 13, 20	Rehearsals for all ensembles	Bates Middle School
May 1 7:00 PM	A Tribute to the Military—CYSO Symphony and the USAF Blue Steel Band	Chesapeake High School
May 22 2:00 PM	CYSO Finale Concert—Concert Orchestra, Preparatory Orchestra and Junior Flute Ensemble with 3rd place winner of CYSO Concerto Competition	Maryland Hall
May 22 7:00 PM	CYSO Finale Concert—Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra and Senior Flute Ensemble with 2nd place winner of CYSO Concerto Competition	Maryland Hall
June 3, 8, 9, 10 5:00—9:00 PM	CYSO Auditions By appointment—call 443-758-3157	Bates Middle School Band Area



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2010 CYSO Gala Concert Photo Courtesy of Bob and Crys Keiser Crystal Photo Memories

Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra

Contact Information:

Please contact ensemble managers to report all absences as far in advance as possible. Our attendance policy is posted on our website.

Ensemble Managers

Junior Flute Ensemble Gail Vehslage, Conductor

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Our office, located at The Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, is staffed from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm Tuesday and 10-4:30/ 5-9 Thursdays, September thru May. The room number is 103A, located across the hall and a couple of doors down from the Hard Bean Café.

CYSO follows Anne Arundel County Public Schools closures. In case of inclement weather check www.schoolsout.com or contact the Executive Director at the CYSO hotline (above).

Please send any ideas for articles, photos, or information about member accomplishments to put in this newsletter to: Newsletter Editor Penny Mohr penny.mohr@verizon.net or Assistant Editors: Anna Tayman altayman@aol.com Sarah Elert lilly-pad1012@gmail.com Deadline: Sunday every week.

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We would like this to be a member-driven newsletter. We are seeking members who would like to volunteer to help find and write articles, especially from the Wind Ensemble, Senior Flute Choir, or Symphony Orchestra. Contact

penny.mohr@verizon.net

or see Anna Tayman or Sarah Elert during breaks for the Concert Orchestra.