



## Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra

### Weekly Communications

#### Special points of interest:

- *Brassy Cowboy Music*
- *Report from Concerto*  
*Winner Faith Peeler*
- *Your Brain on Jazz*

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CYSO would like to thank the members of the String Chamber group and the Silver Pipers for representing the CYSO this season. The groups represented CYSO in events such as Arts Alive, CYSO Book Fair at Barnes & Noble, AA County Arts Council Christmas Party, and The Friends of the Annapolis Symphony Reception to name a few. The groups performed to very receptive audiences and played wonderful music. Special thanks go out to Gail Vehlslage and Ben Newsom for their tireless dedication to these groups and the organization.

The CYSO Symphony welcome the US Air Force Blue Steel this weekend at Chesapeake High School, 4798 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122, please come out and enjoy the high energy rock and roll and help the Symphony and the members

of Blue Steel pay tribute to our U. S. Military. Free Concert.

Audition scheduling for all current and potential CYSO musicians is now open. The auditions will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-9pm by appointment at the Bates Middle School, 701 Chase Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401. Contact Linda Foss at [execdir@cysomusic.org](mailto:execdir@cysomusic.org) to schedule an audition. A flyer for the audition is located on page 3. Please pass this along to your friends

The End of this season is just a few weeks away and all the CYSO Ensembles are preparing for their final concert of the season. The Concerts will be held at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts and will feature the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in The CYSO Concerto Competi-

**"MY IDEA IS THAT THERE IS MUSIC IN THE AIR, MUSIC ALL AROUND US; THE WORLD IS FULL OF IT, AND YOU SIMPLY TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU REQUIRE. "**

**EDGAR ELGAR**

tion. The 2 o'clock concert will feature Diane Yang and the Concert Orchestra in Scene de Ballet by Charles de Beriot along with the Preparatory Orchestra and the Jr. Flute Ensemble. The 7pm Concert will feature Kimberly Bill and the Symphony Orchestra in Concerto in G for Violin and Orchestra by Wolfgang A. Mozart along with the Sr. Flute Ensemble, Wind Ensemble and String Orchestra. Spread the word to friends, family, potential new CYSO members and lets fill the auditorium for this wonderful musical experience!

#### Around Town: Washington Symphonic Brass Performs Cowboy Music

Tuesday, May 4, the Washington Symphonic Brass celebrates the music of the American West by performing music from the film "Dances with Wolves," Aaron Copland's "Rodeo," Grand Canyon Suite, John Williams "The Cowboys" and more. The

performance will take place at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis. The band is comprised of some of the finest professional musicians in the Washington/Baltimore area. The members are in constant demand for orchestral, solo, and chamber music per-

formances. The ensemble specializes in pieces written for a large brass ensemble (four trumpets, four horns, four trombones, euphonium, tuba, timpani, and percussion instruments). Tickets for the concert may be purchased by clicking [here](#).

## Featured Member: CYSO 2009-10 Concerto Winner, Faith Peeler, Reports on Experience

After winning the CYSO concerto competition back in January of this year, I was thrilled, as anyone can imagine. However, I never dreamed that my week performing with the MSO (Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra) would have been so amazing and life-changing. I enjoyed every minute playing with the MSO from rehearsals to performances. I found that playing music you love with professional musicians who equally share your passion can change your perspective in many ways. Because of this new perspective, I am finding that the way I perform and also practice has changed. Additionally, my confidence has grown and I have been given a new sense of vision for my music. I

would love to give a special thanks to everyone at the MSO for a wonderful experience and also to everyone at CYSO. Your support and encouragement have meant more than I can say!

On an ending note, to all young musicians out there: When you get discouraged by what someone tells you about your music, press on. Learn from the critiques given to you and ask for them as appropriate, but do not dwell on them. By dwelling on the negative, perspective can and will be skewed. Focus on the good. Learn from the bad. Make the bad good and the good better, until it is the best .



Faith Peeler performing at MSO last Thursday

## Weekly Insight: This is Your Brain on Jazz

A pair of Johns Hopkins and government scientists have discovered that when jazz musicians improvise, their brains turn off areas linked to self-censoring and inhibition, and turn on those that let self-expression flow.

In a report published Feb. 27 in *Public Library of Science (PLoS) ONE*, the scientists from the University's School of Medicine and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders describe their curiosity about the possible neurological underpinnings of the almost trance-like state jazz artists enter during spontaneous improvisation.

"When jazz musicians improvise, they often play with eyes closed in a distinctive, personal style that transcends traditional rules of melody and rhythm," says [Charles J. Limb, M.D.](#), assistant professor in the [Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery](#) at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a trained jazz saxophonist himself. "It's a remarkable frame of mind," he adds, "during which, all of a sudden, the musician is generating music that has never been heard, thought, practiced or played before. What comes out is completely spontaneous."

Though many recent studies have focused on understanding what parts of a person's brain are active when listening to music, Limb says few have delved into brain activity while music is being spontaneously composed.

For the study, they recruited six trained jazz pianists, three from the Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Institute, a music conservatory where Limb holds a joint faculty appointment. Each musician first took part in four different exercises designed to separate out the brain activity involved in playing simple memorized piano pieces and activity while improvising their music. While lying in a Functional MRI machine with a special keyboard propped on their laps, the pianists all began by playing the C-major scale with a metronome.

In the second exercise, the pianists were asked to improvise in time with the metronome. They were asked to use quarter notes on the C-major scale, but could play any of these notes that they wanted.

Next, the musicians were asked to play an original blues melody that they all memorized in advance, while a recorded jazz quartet that complemented the tune played in the background. In the last exercise, the musicians were told to improvise their own tunes with the same recorded jazz quartet.

Limb and Braun then analyzed the brain scans. The scientists saw strikingly similar patterns, regardless of whether the musicians were doing simple improvisation on the C-major scale or playing more complex tunes with the jazz quartet.

The scientists found that a region of the brain known as the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, showed a slowdown in activity during improvisation. This area has been linked to planned actions and self-censoring, such as carefully deciding what words you might say at a job interview. Shutting down this area could lead to lowered inhibitions, Limb suggests.

For more information click [here](#).

**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

If you play an instrument

CYSO needs you!



Strings



Percussion

The CYSO provides young musicians with comprehensive musical and orchestral training for elementary through college-age students. Under the leadership of professional conductors, the CYSO's stimulating musical environment develops excellent performers through weekly rehearsals, outstanding coaching, sectionals, workshops, competitions, and optional national and international tours. Since its inception, the CYSO has grown to include diverse ensembles for a variety of instruments. Thousands of young people have participated in the CYSO's exciting programs, and many alumni have successful careers as musicians, while others have cultivated a life-long love of music! We invite you to learn more about the CYSO and how our members grow through music.

Winds

**"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it." ~H.E. Luccock**



Brass

- Preparatory Orchestra
- Wind Ensemble
- Jr. Flutes
- String Orchestra
- Chamber Groups
- Concert Orchestra
- Sr. Flutes
- Symphony Orchestra

**AUDITIONS**

**COME JOIN US & BE PART OF THE TEAM!**

Regardless of where you are in your musical study you can benefit from playing in an ensemble. CYSO can benefit from you. Auditions are by appointment only.

**JUNE 3, 8, 9, & 10 from 5-9 p.m.**  
**At Bates Middle School**

Contact *Linda Foss, Executive Director* at  
443-758-3157 or e-mail at  
[Execdir@cysomusic.org](mailto:Execdir@cysomusic.org)



## 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

Marian Eisinger – [teisinger@comcast.net](mailto:teisinger@comcast.net)

Stephani Nicastrì [stephnick@comcast.net](mailto:stephnick@comcast.net)

**Senior Flute Ensemble** Gail Vehslage, Conductor

Denise Wagner - [wagner.dee@verizon.net](mailto:wagner.dee@verizon.net)

Patti Irwin [pattii02@yahoo.com](mailto:pattii02@yahoo.com)

**Wind Ensemble** Sandra Balderson, Conductor

Bridgitte Bailey [baileysix@atlanticbb.net](mailto:baileysix@atlanticbb.net)

Leah O'Brien [leahobrien@mac.com](mailto:leahobrien@mac.com)

**Preparatory Strings** William Schacter, Conductor

Karen Essig - [karenessig@gmail.com](mailto:karenessig@gmail.com)

Kelly Doetsch [kdoetsch@comcast.net](mailto:kdoetsch@comcast.net)

**Strings Orchestra** Rob Stojakovich, Conductor

Shaun Mathis - [mathis\\_lscj@yahoo.com](mailto:mathis_lscj@yahoo.com)

**Concert Orchestra** Vladimir Lande, Conductor

Linda Newsom – [qltdwcare@comcast.net](mailto:qltdwcare@comcast.net)

Diana Feist - [Diana.feist@navy.mil](mailto:Diana.feist@navy.mil)

**Symphony Orchestra** Julien Benichou, Conductor

Becky Firth (manager) - [rebeccafirthphd@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccafirthphd@gmail.com)

Gigi Morrison (asst. manager) - [gamorri@verizon.net](mailto:gamorri@verizon.net)

CYSO **Hotline:** 443-758-3157

Executive Director Linda Foss —

[Execdir@cysomusic.org](mailto:Execdir@cysomusic.org)

Music Director Julien Benichou

Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc.

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Arnold, MD 21012 [www.cysomusic.org](http://www.cysomusic.org)

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](http://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](mailto:penny.mohr@verizon.net) or Assistant Editors: Anna Tayman [altayman@aol.com](mailto:altayman@aol.com) Sarah Elert [lilly-pad1012@gmail.com](mailto:lilly-pad1012@gmail.com) Deadline: Sunday every week.

## Funding



The Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. We also are grateful for grant funding from Anne Arundel Arts Council and Target [www.target.com/marketingresources](http://www.target.com/marketingresources) and private contributions from our many generous individual sponsors.

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](mailto:penny.mohr@verizon.net)

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