

Press Release 12/4/15

For immediate release, ATTN: Community, Education, and Arts Editors

Contact: Jonathan Schroerlucke, Communications & membership Coordinator,  
608-263-3320, [jonathan@wysomusic.org](mailto:jonathan@wysomusic.org)

Note to Editors: additional high-resolution photos available from Jonathan Schroerlucke



# Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras Celebrates 50 Years

The Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras (WYSO) is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this season. WYSO kicked off this momentous occasion with a retrospective exhibit at the Dane County Regional airport. The celebration will continue all season long. The climax of the season will be when WYSO welcomes back alumni for their celebration weekend which will include their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert at Overture Hall on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This concert is generously sponsored by Jerome Frautschi and Pleasant Rowland.

The alumni weekend will be an extraordinary opportunity for returning alumni, staff, family and friends to reconnect and participate in a variety of activities. The weekend will include several events for alumni including an opportunity for alumni to play their instruments and participate in a reading session in Mills Hall. There they will have the opportunity to play under the direction of WYSO Music Director James Smith and former WYSO Youth Orchestra Conductors James Lattimer and Tom Buchhauser.

The collage concert will feature the following performing ensembles: Youth Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, Sinfonietta, Brass Choir, Percussion Ensemble, and a chamber ensemble. Each orchestra along with the Percussion Ensemble will perform a world premiere work that was commissioned especially for them. Composers of these commissions include Ben Whalund, Olivia Zeuske, Reynard Burns, Donald Fraser, and WYSO alumni Andrew Kinney. Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Vicki Jenks will perform *Credo* by Ben Whalund. Mark Leiser, conductor of Sinfonietta, will lead his young string orchestra in *Sonata for Sinfonietta* by Olivia Zeuske, Haydn's *La Chasse*, and Duke Ellington's *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*. The Brass Choir, under the direction of Brett Keating will then take the stage. Following the Brass Choir, Concert Orchestra, under the baton of Christine Mata-Eckel, will perform *Biciclette* by Reynard Burns, and Del Borgo's *Romany Dances*. One of WYSO's chamber ensembles will perform next. Michelle Kaebisch, conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, will lead her ensemble as they perform *In Time* by Donald Fraser and *Throne Room Scene* from *Star Wars* by John Williams. Youth Orchestra, led by music director James Smith, will give the penultimate performance of the evening by performing *A Radiant Spirit* by Andrew Kinney and the *Finale: Allegretto* from *Symphony No. 9* by Shostakovich. Following these performances the evening will feature a grand finale with a performance by all nearly 400 members of WYSO, including the WYSO Music Makers Honors Ensembles as they perform Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*.

Following the concert, all audience members are invited to attend a post-concert reception in the lobby of Overture Center. This reception will be sponsored by the current WYSO Parent Leader Committee.

WYSO will end its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with a Free Family Concert at Goodman Community Center. There Philharmonia Orchestra will perform this outreach concert to members of the community. This concert will be free and open to the public.