

Press Release 6/23/17

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

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



WYSO Incorporates Madison Music Makers into Music Education Program

Recently, the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras unanimously voted to acquire the Madison Music Makers program, founded by Bonnie Greene in 2008, making it a program of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras. This historic decision was the culmination of two years of research and due diligence to lay the groundwork for this action. This will insure that the mission of Madison Music Makers, to provide access to music education and performance opportunities for underserved children will be properly supported well into the future. Says Greane, "I'm absolutely thrilled that the WYSO organization is willing to adopt the Music Makers program, which has been so meaningful for so many children. This is another instance of how much support is in place in the Madison area community for children whose opportunities are so limited. This move will better insure the long-term health of Music Makers."

The members of the WYSO Music Makers program will have the opportunity to take private lessons on violin, guitar, piano and drums at a free or reduced cost. Group lessons will be held each week. There will be no audition required to be a part of WYSO Music Makers.



WYSO has hired Paran Amirinazari to act as the Program Director of WYSO Music Makers. Says Amirinazari, "Over the years it has been a joy getting to know both Music Makers and WYSO students and families. I'm honored to be able to work closely with Bonnie Greene and WYSO to continue the vision of quality music education for all. I'm constantly inspired by the amount of support the city of Madison has for the arts and I look forward to becoming closer and more engaged in the community at large." Paran is a WYSO chamber music coach and has led the Music Makers Honors Ensembles for the past few years. Her many musical accomplishments and her familiarity with both WYSO and the Music Makers programs make her uniquely qualified to build a successful program that will benefit many children in our community. She is a professional violinist with the Madison Symphony Orchestra, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and the Willy Street Chamber Players. She will receive her DMA in Violin Performance from UW Madison in the fall and is looking forward to carrying out the WYSO Music Makers mission and being a part of the WYSO team.

The acquisition of Madison Music Makers will not only help to serve the mission of WYSO by *enriching lives by providing transformational musical experiences and opportunities*, but also provide access to a quality music education, the opportunity to improve confidence, focus and discipline to achieve better academic results, and performance opportunities that will make members proud of themselves and improve their self-esteem. Over the last 52 years, WYSO has continued to evolve and grow - both in the size of its membership and the scope of its programs. Without a doubt, under the WYSO umbrella, WYSO Music Makers will continue to evolve and grow as well.

With the addition of WYSO Music Makers, WYSO will be able to expand the outreach of its music education program to a wonderfully diverse group of children who will come to know the joy of music.

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