

February 19, 2015

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### **Rabin Youth Arts Award Honors Youth Arts Supporters**

The Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras (WYSO) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the 2015 Rabin Youth Arts Award recipient. James and Geri Grine will receive the award in the category of Artistic Achievement. The award will be presented at Arts Day on March 11, 2015 at the Central Branch of the Madison Public Library. Deserving individuals and organizations from across the state were nominated for their support of youth arts across all disciplines.

Jim and Geri Grine have been fervent supporters of the Arts in Oshkosh and Wisconsin. Through their careers as musicians, conductors, teachers, and arts administrators the Grines have promoted and expanded performing arts opportunities for youth in Oshkosh and the state of Wisconsin.



Geri Grine has been a long-time orchestra director and music teacher at both Oshkosh high schools. She has been the conductor and Musical Director of the Oshkosh Youth Symphony Orchestra for 28 years. Geri created the Oshkosh Youth Symphony's Philharmonia Orchestra in 2008. She has sponsored several hands on artist residencies for local high school students as a board member for Project SOAR. Geri also founded the Suzuki program at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. From 1996 to 2006, Geri built a Suzuki string program in her native Hawaii. This would be become the first string program on the island of Maui.

Since 2008, Jim Grine has served as the Volunteer Executive Director of the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra. He has been instrumental in raising funds to support the symphony's Art and Music Synergy Programs which has led to several collaborations between local arts organizations. Under Jim, the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra devotes one third of its annual income to supporting the Oshkosh Youth Symphony Orchestra. Jim was also instrumental in the creation of the Water City Chamber Orchestra which performs an annual concert for third graders in the Oshkosh School District.



The Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, located in Madison, WI, presents the Rabin Youth Arts Awards in honor of their founding conductor, Dr. Marvin Rabin, as a means to honor those who follow in his footsteps. The awards are a forum for promoting quality youth arts programs and honoring those who work diligently to provide arts opportunities for children throughout Wisconsin. They also serve as a means to elevate awareness in our community about the importance of arts education for all children.

Now celebrating its 49th season, WYSO membership has included more than 5,000 young musicians from more than 100 communities in southern Wisconsin. WYSO, currently under the artistic direction of James Smith, includes three full orchestras, a string orchestra, a chamber music program, a percussion ensemble, a harp ensemble and a brass choir program. For more information, visit [wyso.music.wisc.edu](http://wyso.music.wisc.edu).

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