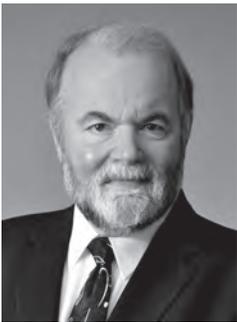




# WISCONSIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS NOTES

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017



Our 52nd season has begun with hundreds of excited young musicians ready to rehearse and perform. Each year gets more exhilarating, with new students, new music, new ensembles and new staff all adding to the atmosphere.

I have been part of the WYSO family for 25 seasons. It has been a wonderful experience working with hundreds of young musicians and their families. I finish my tenure with WYSO at the conclusion of this season.

WYSO has grown from just one orchestra to five orchestras, percussion, brass, harp, advanced string ensembles, and a wonderful chamber music program. WYSO's newest group is Music Makers, acquired in July of this year. Founded by Bonnie Greene and now directed by Paran Amirinazari, you can learn more about the WYSO Music Makers program in this newsletter.

## Sinfonietta Conductor Mark Leiser Retiring After 25 Seasons

Since the beginning in 1966, our orchestras and ensembles have toured the state performing for

schools, community events and music conventions. In the late '80s, we began touring internationally to Japan, Canada, nine European countries, and Argentina. In 2018, we're touring to Peru.

I feel honored and blessed to have been a part of this fantastic organization. Now, sit back and enjoy the 2017-2018 season.

Mark Leiser  
WYSO Sinfonietta Conductor



*"It has been a wonderful experience working with hundreds of young musicians and their families. I finish my tenure with WYSO at the conclusion of this season."*

## A Note From The Executive Director



Dear Members of the WYSO Family,

I hope you enjoy the features of our newly redesigned NOTES newsletter. I am so pleased that we will be able to devote more space to the amazing stories that speak to the impact of the WYSO experience.

We've expanded the reach of NOTES to include current members and their families, music teachers, alums and their families, and of course all who support WYSO through their gifts of time and treasure.

I'd love to have your feedback. Please send your comments to me at [bridget@wysomusic.org](mailto:bridget@wysomusic.org).

Thank you for supporting WYSO and the amazing young musicians we serve. We couldn't sustain this superb organization without you.

Sincerely,

Bridget Fraser  
Executive Director

## Heal the Nations Right Here In Madison

**The WYSO Percussion Ensemble** is proudly partnering with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison to present "*Heal The Nations*," a WYSO Percussion Extravaganza, on March 24, 2018 at 1:30 pm at Mills Concert Hall. WYSO fans can expect a high-energy performance from the Percussion Ensemble, whose guest performers constitute a cultural kaleidoscope.

"Our guest collaborators at the Percussion Extravaganza are world-class," Percussion Ensemble Director Vicki Jenks said. "Liam Teague, the world's greatest steel pan virtuoso, will perform Paganini's *Moto Perpetuo* alongside pianist Angela Nohl Batterman. A special arrangement of Teague's *Panoramic* was also written expressly for WYSO for this occasion."

Additional collaborators include *Drum Power*; flamenco dancer Tania Tandia; UW Chinese Dancers; UW World Percussion Ensemble; WYSO Brass Choirs; WYSO Music Makers; and the Zhong Yi Kung Fu Association.

With titles such as *Sleepless*, *Firedance*, and *Through the Fire and Flames*, each programmed piece evokes a lively cadence. Performers will take a moment to reflect with the audience, however, with built-in meditative moments such as the *Six Healing Sounds*, an ancient movement and breathing technique.

"The overarching theme of '*Heal The Nations*' seems timely in our fraught world," Jenks said. "Music can help connect cultures and break down boundaries."



## Honors Brass Quintet Offers Advanced Playing Opportunities

WYSO membership isn't necessarily limited to playing in an orchestra. We also offer several ensemble programs, including our newly formed Honors Brass Quintet.

Coached by WYSO Brass Choirs Director Tom Curry, membership in the Honors Brass Quintet offers unparalleled opportunities for advanced high school brass students to play chamber music at the highest level. Members also work with the finest teachers and chamber music coaches in the Midwest.

Current Honors Brass Quintet musicians include Grace O'Connell and Ryan Treves on trumpet; Rebecca Mills on horn; Rose Cantrell on trombone; and Noah Laabs on tuba. The group made its debut concert appearance on November 18 at the Evelyn Steenbock Fall Concerts with a performance of Ewald's Quintet No. 1 For Brass, Op. 5.

"It is only fitting to mark the occasion with a seminal work for brass and one which celebrates chamber music to its fullest degree," Curry said.

Participants were selected by competitive audition in August and are also members of the WYSO Youth Orchestra for the full 2017-2018 season.

## Meet WYSO's Newest Program, WYSO Music Makers

**WYSO Music Makers**, previously Madison Music Makers, was acquired by WYSO on July 1, 2017. Currently directed by accomplished violinist Paran Amirinazari, WYSO Music Makers provides music lessons and performance experiences to underserved Madison-area children ranging in age from five years old to high school students. The program also offers private and group lessons to its 70 students in violin, guitar, piano, and drumming.

"We are proud of each student's progress, their positive attitudes, the kindness they bring to class and show each other, and their openness to this year's changes," Amirinazari said. "We are so proud they have chosen music as part of their voice."

Several teenagers who have participated in the program for years have "graduated" to become "Teen Teachers" for Music Makers. On any given Saturday during rehearsals, Teen Teachers are assisting Amirinazari and Membership Coordinator Juliana Mesa Jaramillo with day-to-day tasks. Music Makers has also welcomed WYSO members who applied to volunteer as mentors for the younger students. The WYSO mentors participate during group class playing while serving as positive musical role models.



Bonnie Greene, who founded Madison Music Makers in 2007, is still with the program as a violin and piano instructor.

"Bonnie has spent countless hours with our team ensuring we learn as much as possible during this transition year," Amirinazari said. "She is an irreplaceable mentor and close friend of the WYSO Music Makers program."

WYSO Music Makers hosted its first concert on Saturday, November 19 at Music Hall in Madison. Guests are always welcome to stop in on Saturday mornings during rehearsals at Memorial United Church of Christ in Fitchburg, WI.

The WYSO Music Makers program is gathering significant funding momentum, with generous support from the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation, and additional support from CUNA Mutual Foundation, Associated Bank Foundation, and Forest Foundation. If you are interested in joining our family, please contact Bridget Fraser at (608) 263-3320, ext. 1.

## Chamber Music Program Hits A High Note

Participation in the WYSO Chamber Music Program has reached its highest level yet, with over 100 members currently studying chamber repertoire and techniques.

Led by Chamber Music Program Director Karl Lavine, WYSO's Chamber Music Program is designed for members who want to learn more about chamber music and perform in a small group setting. Members can request their own group members or be assigned to a group with other members who register for the program.

After a group is formed, a coach is assigned. All chamber coaches are professional musicians, music

teachers or University of Wisconsin-Madison music students who assist their assigned group with exploring musical repertoire outside of the orchestral setting,

The Chamber Music Program is generously sponsored by  
Martha and Charles Casey  
Stephen Morton  
Cyrena and Lee Pondrom  
Ann Lindsey and Chuck Snowdon  
Nick and Judith Topitzes

becoming more proficient on their instruments, and learning teamwork in a small group.

Lavine also leads the popular Chamber Music Camp in the summer.

This five-day camp is designed for musicians ages 11 - 18 who are interested in developing their performance and preparation skills with peers.



Each day includes two chamber coaching sessions, a master class and/or instrument class, a large ensemble rehearsal, and an outdoor recreational activity. The camp concludes with a student performance.

The Chamber Music Program is strongly encouraged for all WYSO members. For more information on the program and the Chamber Music Camp, please call our office at (608) 263-3320.

### What is The Art of Note?

The Art of Note is WYSO's signature annual fundraising event, featuring a live and silent auction, music from various WYSO performing groups, fine food, and drinks.

Spreading the message through its locally hand-painted violins placed throughout the Madison area, this gala raises money for the core

### WYSO's Annual Signature Fundraising Event, Saturday, March 17

programming at WYSO. With over 75 silent auction items categorized by experience or item-type and a live auction, this event supports the musicians and families it serves.

The 2018 event will include performances by four WYSO groups: WYSO Music Makers and their teen musical mentors; an advanced string ensemble; the Honors Brass Quintet; and the Percussion Ensemble. Attendees will also be serenaded by several WYSO chamber ensembles.

### Do you have sponsorship opportunities?

Yes! Each sponsorship level includes various promotional benefits. Current sponsorship levels are:

- Presenting \$10,000
- Gold \$5,000
- Silver \$3,000
- Bronze \$2,000

Thank you to our current Art of Note sponsors, including Wallman Investment Counsel; US Bank and US Bank Foundation; Doubletree of Madison; Boardman and Clark; Julie and CK Chang; Tetrad; and EnRich Financial Partners.

For reservations, sponsorship opportunities, and more information on the Art of Note, please contact our office at (608) 263-3320.



An "Art of Note" attendee previews a hand-painted violin up for auction.

**Save the Date for  
The Art of Note Gala**  
 Monona Terrace  
 March 17, 2018  
 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
 Tickets: \$125 per person, or  
 \$1,100 for a table  
 of 10.

## WYSO Endowed Chair Campaign Leaves Lasting Impact

As we enter our 52nd season, we remain committed to sustaining the high level of music education and enrichment you've come to expect from WYSO. Gifting an Endowed Chair will leave a lasting impact on the future of the WYSO program.

Whether the Endowed Chair gift bears your name, your family name, that of a friend or relative, or a group that has a special connection to the orchestra, the chair becomes a permanent mark of recognition. Each Endowed Chair is titled according to the wishes of the donor, and is so noted in all WYSO printed programs.

### Youth Orchestra Chair Endowment Levels:

- A Single Section Chair: \$10,000
- The Principal Chair of a Section: \$12,000
- Concertmaster Chair: \$15,000
- The WYSO Conductor Chair: \$75,000

### WYSO is deeply grateful to the following supporters who have given lead gifts in the Endowed Chair program:

- The Susan Hoeft Vandewalle Concertmaster Chair
- The Inhorn Family Principal Viola Chair
- The Graham Fuguitt Principal Bass Chair
- The Nancy Ellis Wolf String Bass Section Chair  
Given in her memory by the Richard W. Wolf Family
- The John and Vicki Jenks Principal Percussion Chair
- The Andrew George (1983-1985) Percussion Section Chair
- The Marc and Marcia Fink Oboe Section Chair
- The Bruce Matthews Principal Horn Chair
- The Charlie Williams Horn Section Chair
- The Neal Williams Bassoon Section Chair

All Endowed Chair gifts will be placed with the WYSO Foundation, a companion 501 (c)(3) organization established in 1999 for the purpose of accepting and managing gifts and bequests for the benefit of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras.

For more information, please call Bridget Fraser at (608) 263-3320, ext.1.

## Marvin Rabin Legacy Society: Enriching Lives For Over 50 Years

When Dr. Marvin Rabin founded WYSO in 1966, he envisioned a youth orchestra program positioned to leave lasting impacts on its members.

You can help sustain Dr. Rabin's vision today by becoming a member of the Marvin Rabin Legacy Society. The Rabin Legacy Society recognizes individuals and families who have placed the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras Foundation in their estate plans. WYSO invites you to become a member and help preserve orchestral training and performance opportunities for the talented youth of our region.

Teresa Hall and her family are longtime supporters of WYSO. Between them, the Halls have been WYSO members, WYSO parents, volunteers, Parent Leadership Committee members, donors, a tour chaperone, a Board member, an Art of Note committee member, and members of the Rabin Legacy Society. The Halls felt it was important to do everything possible to make the WYSO experience available to future young musicians and their families when they became Rabin Legacy Society members.



"If our Rabin Legacy Society gift can help WYSO continue doing what they do for young people, we feel it's essential to continue putting this positivity out in the world," Teresa said. "It is imperative to keep WYSO going, because it not only creates musical amazing musical experiences. It also helps kids see that they have limitless possibilities through the lesson they learn about themselves."

WYSO is grateful for all planned gifts, whatever the size. All we ask is that you notify our office when you have included WYSO in your plans. Sample language would be as follows:

"I give the sum of [X] Thousand Dollars (\$[X],000.00) to the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, a nonprofit, 501(c)(c) organization having its principal offices at 455 North Park Street, Room 1625 Humanities Building, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, or its successor in interest, for its general purposes."

For more information on the Rabin Legacy Society, please contact Executive Director Bridget Fraser at (608) 263-3320 ext. 1.

### MARVIN RABIN SOCIETY MEMBERS

We are grateful to the following Rabin Legacy Society members for their generous support:

- James Baldwin
- Diane Ballweg +
- Christopher and Christine Barden +
- David and Cheryl Bartlett +
- William and Pat Blankenburg +
- Thomas and Shaila Bolger +
- Anne Bolz +
- Alexis Buchanan
- Thomas E. Buchhauser +
- Charles and Martha Casey
- Randall L. and Marilyn Dimond +
- Donald and Bridget Fraser +
- Glenn and Martha Fuguitt +

- Graham and Margaret Fuguitt +
- Michael George +
- Theodore and Mary Jean Goeres +
- Bonnie Greene
- James and Teresa Hall
- Terry Haller +
- Stanley and Shirley Inhorn +
- Stanley and Nancy Johnson +
- Gary Johnson +
- Shaila Kiley Bolger
- Mary M. Lin
- Marleen Lippert
- Bruce Matthews
- Patricia Mullins
- Vicki Peterson Jenks
- Betty Pigott
- Lee and Cyrena Pondrom +
- Marvin Rabin +

- Ellen Reid-Cornwall
- Timothy Reilley +
- Christine Rew Barden
- Judy Schwaemle
- JoAnn Six +
- James Smith
- Jurate Stewart +
- Jacob Stockinger +
- Nicholas and Judith Topitzes
- Jon and Susan Udell +
- John and Andrée Valley +
- Susan Hoeft Vandewalle +
- John Walker +
- Paul and Coe Williams +
- Richard W. Wolf +
- Richard and Katie Yde +

+ Denotes charter member

Goal 100%  
Contributed  
Income Budget

**Every single dollar gifted to WYSO directly supports music education for the youth in our region.** Whether it's \$100,000 and over or \$50 and under, your gifts are critical to the success of our program.

There are numerous ways to leave a lasting impact on WYSO. Consider donating to one of the following programs today.

- Scholarships
- Chamber Program
- Instruments and repair
- Percussion Ensemble
- Harp Ensemble
- Brass Ensemble - Honors Brass Quintet
- In-state and international tours
- Musical Notes
- James R. Smith Fund for guest artists
- Seat Sponsorship
- WYSO Music Makers Program
- Parent Leader Fundraiser - *An Evening With the Kissers*

For more information, contact Bridget Fraser at (608) 263-3320, ext. 1.

WYSO Scholarship Committee,  
I am so grateful to have received a generous scholarship for my WYSO endeavors. It is such a big help to my family and I, and I will make sure to use this gift wisely and enjoy my last year with WYSO. Again, I am thankful for your gift!  
Sincerely,  
Eden Foster

Donate to WYSO online at [www.wysomusic.org](http://www.wysomusic.org) 4



## Alumni Update With Kelly Savage

I have such fond memories of walking into the Humanities Building when I was in middle school, and hearing the symphonic music coming out of Mills Hall from the already practicing Youth Orchestra. I loved being immersed in the sound and was so excited to be there with other like-minded, enthusiastic peers.

WYSO had a big impact on my musical development, and helped lead me into a career in music. I played violin in WYSO, and occasionally piano when there was a part for me, even though piano was my main instrument. Playing in a group setting is rare for young pianists, and I think WYSO helped foster the love of chamber music that I have today. Playing piano concertos under the excellent conductors Thomas Buchhauser and James Smith boosted my musical confidence in high school, and helped me consider being a music major at the UW.

The high expectations that WYSO conductors expected of all of us really stuck with me, as well as their level of musical expertise. This is something I still work on every day in my own playing, and that I hope to instill in my college students. Traveling to Taiwan and Japan with the Youth Orchestra was also eye opening for me—at that time I had never left the country, and this was a spectacular first way to see the world!

I moved to San Francisco from New York City in 2014 and joined the faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. I teach a variety of college classes there: music theory, musicianship, keyboard harmony, score reading, and baroque keyboard literature. That same year I also started the Stanford Community Chorus, and have been conducting the group ever since. In New York, I was a freelance harpsichordist, and had the privilege of playing many concerts with opera, chamber and orchestral groups. I still work with two of my chamber music groups in New York—SIREN Baroque and Opera Feroce. SIREN baroque is a baroque chamber group that focuses on baroque women composers. Our latest project explores virtuosic music by 17th century Italian nuns. Opera Feroce is a small opera company that does innovative staged productions of baroque music. Another ongoing project is Partifi, a popular online part-making tool for musicians that I co-created with my husband, and fellow Madisonian, Sharad Goel.



*"WYSO had a big impact on my musical development, and helped lead me into a career in music."*



**The Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra 1967-68** Do you recognize anyone? Your continued support of WYSO ensures we'll be able to take orchestra photos like this for many years to come. Please donate online at [www.wysomusic.org](http://www.wysomusic.org).



### Thank You To The UW Mead Witter School of Music

WYSO extends its sincere gratitude to the Mead Witter School of Music at UW for its continued support and dedication to our program. The Mead Witter School of Music graciously donates rehearsal and performance space to WYSO for many seasons. You can learn more about the UW music program at [www.music.wisc.edu](http://www.music.wisc.edu).



**Paran Amirinazari**  
WYSO Music Makers  
Program Director



**Juliana Mesa Jaramillo**  
WYSO Music Makers  
Membership Coordinator



**Eric Murtaugh**  
Communications  
Manager



**Yanzel Rivera**  
Program Assistant



**Randal Swiggum**  
Interim Music Director &  
Youth Orchestra Conductor



### Let's Talk: Music Teacher Forum Promotes Open Dialogue

WYSO conductors and staff members met with local music teachers on October 7, 2017 for our first annual Music Teachers Forum. Our goal with the forum was to engage teachers in open-ended discussion about the WYSO season, and develop strategies to improve our communications. When Marvin Rabin founded WYSO in 1966, he leaned heavily on local music teachers to help sustain the program. As WYSO celebrates its 52nd season, music teachers are still at the core of our foundation.

"I enjoyed meeting teachers who I haven't met, and reconnecting with those I already know," one forum attendee said. "It's a nice opportunity to touch base with the WYSO organization to see that we're all on the same journey."

"Our goal is to give teachers a voice, and let them know we are listening and appreciate them," WYSO Executive Director Bridget Fraser said.

If you missed our forum in October, you'll have another opportunity to join us next fall. Contact Joe Bernstein, Director of Operations and Education, at (608) 263-3320 for more details.

### Taste Of WYSO: A Culinary Trip Around The World

There are potlucks, and then there is the Taste of WYSO. Each year, WYSO members and their families partake in what amounts to a culinary trip around the world. The 2017 version of Taste of WYSO featured three rooms full of delectable foods ready for sampling from around the world. WYSO members dined on chickpea curry from India, potato salad from Germany, chicken peanut stew from Africa, cashew coconut rice from Thailand, and so much more.

Taste of WYSO also serves as a kickoff to the annual Musical Notes fundraising campaign, where each WYSO member is asked to raise \$150.

Thank you to all the families who participated,

and a huge thanks to the Parent Leader Committee for ensuring everyone was well fed and in the right spot at the right time. There was one common complaint, though: "There's not enough room on my plate to try everything!"

