

# notes

WISCONSIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS // NEWSLETTER // MAY 2019

## CHANGING OUR WORLD FOR THE BETTER

Like most music teachers, Bonnie Greene always welcomes new performance opportunities for her students. The Madison Music Makers founder (now WYSO Music Makers) has introduced students to stages large and small in the Madison area, but has never found the right international experience to pursue. That changed in February 2019 with a trip to Peru.

"This is by far the most ambitious musical field trip I've ever organized," Bonnie said.

Planning for Peru began during the summer of 2017 after Bonnie connected with a violinist/teacher during a pedagogy session at Indiana University. The two discussed the possibility of Bonnie's students and colleagues collaborating with young musicians at the VerArte Music Festival in Arequipa, Peru. Bonnie agreed, and then started working on the logistics.

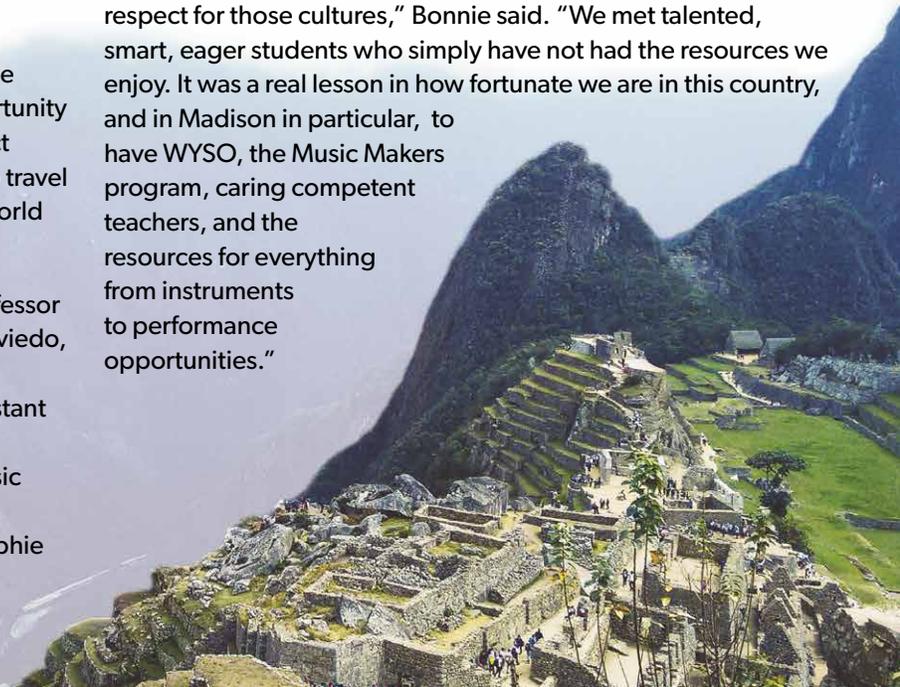
"My experience tells me that travel is life changing," Bonnie said. "I see two major categories of importance: the opportunity to expand the world view of young people, and the perfect setting for community-building amongst the students who travel together. Positive shared experiences could change our world for the better."

Bonnie ultimately recruited Rictor Noren, an associate professor of violin/viola at Boston Conservatory at Berklee; Pedro Oviedo, a UW-Madison viola and conducting student and WYSO Music Makers teacher; Olga Pomolova, a violinist and assistant concertmaster for the Madison Symphony Orchestra; and students from her studio in Madison, including WYSO Music Makers and/or WYSO students Nazira Atalla, Isabel Garay, Mariah Justice, Tomás Gonzales, Sammy Angelina, and Sophie Hadley.

Their itinerary was jam packed with music classes and performance opportunities for both students and teachers. The crew also travelled to Cusco, Peru and Machu Picchu.

While Bonnie currently serves as the interim WYSO Music Makers program director, her journey was not officially planned or supported by WYSO. However, numerous donors and supporters in the Madison area and WYSO community contributed along the way, people like Madison luthiers Ralph Rabin and David Tomaino who gifted instruments, and WYSO private violin teacher Liz Norton who donated a stack of sheet music.

"My hope is that the students who traveled with me to Peru have more of a clear sense of the various cultural differences across international boundaries and a greater respect for those cultures," Bonnie said. "We met talented, smart, eager students who simply have not had the resources we enjoy. It was a real lesson in how fortunate we are in this country, and in Madison in particular, to have WYSO, the Music Makers program, caring competent teachers, and the resources for everything from instruments to performance opportunities."





**MARY JEAN GOERES**  
(1927-2019)

WYSO would not be the organization it is today were it not for early supporters like Mary Jean Goeres. She was involved with nearly every aspect of the organization—parent, board member, committee volunteer, donor—everywhere you look throughout WYSO history, Mary Jean’s name appears.

All four of Mary Jean’s children played in WYSO. Her daughter Nancy is a charter member of the first WYSO orchestra (bassoon), and her daughters Susan (clarinet) and Lucy (flute), and son Bob (trumpet) followed. Her grandchildren Charley Wagner and Elise Wagner even played in WYSO in the ‘90s.

Mary Jean was a director emeritus on the WYSO Board of Directors, “an honorary title conferred on a WYSO board member in recognition of that individual’s many years of exceptional service and leadership as a board member.” She was also a charter member of the Marvin Rabin Legacy Society, along with her husband Ted.

Sadly, Mary Jean died on February 15, 2019. The entire WYSO family will greatly miss her.

The Goeres family requested that memorials in Mary Jean’s name may be given to the Lodi Public Library, 130 Lodi Street, Lodi, WI 53555, or to WYSO, PO Box 258039, Madison, WI, 53725.

“ Mary Jean walked into UW Music Hall one day in the summer of 1966 with her 13-year-old daughter Nancy carrying a bassoon to audition for WYSO. I met her that day and a 53-year friendship ensued.

She could not have known what WYSO was all about because only Marvin Rabin knew that. But she was looking for opportunities for her children’s musical growth.

We know now that Mary Jean found exactly what she was looking for in WYSO and everything it stood for. She became an instant supporter of WYSO from day one. This matriarch of the Goeres family became a

friend, advisor, and WYSO board member—contributing both time and money for every year of WYSO’s existence until health took its toll. She was instrumental in developing the WYSO parent leader organization that has contributed so enormously to WYSO’s success. She served multiple terms on the board, and on an endless number of committees during some of the most trying years of WYSO’s growth.

Mary Jean’s contribution to WYSO goes way beyond the above comments. She was seeking opportunities for her children’s musical growth, found it, **and wanted to make sure it was there for other families for years to**

**come.** She set the bar high for the families who followed! A tribute to her example and what WYSO stood for, a great number of WYSO families have followed her path, and have been a force for decades, long after their children were in WYSO—with massive commitments of time and money **to secure WYSO’s future for others.**

Mary Jean Goeres will forever be remembered for her upbeat personality, and for setting such an example of commitment and dedication!

Dick Wolf  
WYSO Life Trustee & Former WYSO Manager

## THE WYSO ENDOWED CHAIR INITIATIVE

The WYSO Endowed Chair Initiative continues to grow, with three new chairs to announce: the Muldowney Family Section Chair, the Eric Douglas Batterman Memorial Section Percussion Chair, and the Mei and Zhou Family Section Violin Chair. Endowing a WYSO Youth Orchestra chair is a meaningful way to establish a permanent connection to WYSO and invest in the organization’s future.

“We’re thrilled to contribute to WYSO’s bright future through the Endowed Chair Initiative. WYSO had such a rich, positive impact on our son Matt. He played alongside high-level student musicians in each orchestra. He experienced wonderful conductors, coaches, and staff which expanded his musical abilities. He had the opportunity to mentor with Music Makers and participate in the Chamber Program which enriched his WYSO experience. WYSO had a significant impact on his overall growth. Our hope is for such opportunities to remain available to young musicians for generations to come. Please join us to help WYSO thrive for the next 50 years.”

**Mona and Kevin Muldowney**  
**Muldowney Family Section Cello Chair**

**GIVING OPTIONS**

\$75,000 Youth Orchestra Conductor’s Podium	\$15,000 Youth Orchestra Concertmaster Chair	\$12,000 Youth Orchestra Section Principal Chair	\$10,000 Youth Orchestra Section Chair
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Learn more about the WYSO Endowed Chair Initiative by contacting Beth Larson at (608) 285-9257 or at [beth@wysomusic.org](mailto:beth@wysomusic.org).

# TEACHING LITERACY THROUGH MUSIC

Last summer, WYSO alumna Emily Stephenson became familiar with the Minnesota Literacy Council while teaching a literacy class to children as a Summer Reads VISTA volunteer.

"I had such a life changing experience that I chose to continue my service with the Minnesota Literacy Council," Emily said. "I am passionate about the immense impact improving literacy can have on individuals, families, and communities. I wanted to dedicate this next year of my life to helping a local nonprofit grow in their ability to change lives and give back to the community with the power of literacy."

Emily is currently a Literacy Leader sponsored by the Minnesota Literacy Council, and participates in their Minnesota Literacy Leadership Program,

an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) program.

Her host site is Hopewell Music Cooperative North, a nonprofit music school in North Minneapolis which provides affordable, high-quality music lessons and programming in a community with limited arts access. Hopewell's mission is to "inspire students to grow, discover, and express themselves through music."

"Hopewell, along with myself, believes in the incredible power music has to improve social and emotional wellbeing, teach discipline and goal setting, and inspire students to become lifelong learners," Emily said. "My project is particularly special because it explores how music, by instilling these aforementioned skills, can promote literacy skills, as well. By bringing music into the conversation surrounding literacy, it opens up our imaginations to think

of new and inspiring ways to enhance literacy curriculum across the board."

Emily currently plays French horn in the Dakota Valley Symphony, the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, and is a substitute with the Minnesota Symphonic Winds and the St. Paul Civic Symphony. She is also a member of the Twin Cities Horn Club, and is considering going back to school for a master's degree in music.

As for her WYSO days, the early Saturday morning rehearsals were worth the effort.

"One of my absolute favorite memories from WYSO is playing in the Brass Choirs before orchestra rehearsal started," Emily said. "At the time I was upset I had to be awake even earlier on a Saturday morning, but now I am so thankful for those early Saturday mornings and the music that was made with friends. I'll also never forget our 2014 tour to Argentina, especially performing Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 to wonderful audiences!"

Learn more about Emily's work with Hopewell Music at [hopewellmusic.com](http://hopewellmusic.com).



## YOUTH ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM WITH WCO

Youth Orchestra will once again perform a side by side concert with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 pm at Overture Hall in Madison. This will be WYSO's fifth side by side collaboration with WCO.

WYSO musicians will join seasoned WCO musicians on stage to perform impressive repertoire, including concerto performances by flutist Brian Liebau and violinist Benjamin Davies Hudson, both winners of the WYSO Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition.

"Although music is an art form, performing music is also very much a trade," Youth Orchestra Conductor Kyle Knox said. "Like a young electrician apprentices with a master, so must musicians

learn alongside a teacher, which happens mostly in private lessons. However, there is nothing for a young musician like being in the presence of a professional on the job."

There is no charge for this concert, and no ticket is necessary to enter. Seating is general admission. Learn more at [overture.org/events/side-by-side](http://overture.org/events/side-by-side).

"We are so grateful to Andrew Sewell and everyone at WCO for this special gift of learning," Kyle said.

**Slavonic Dances - Antonín Dvořák**

**In Ireland, Fantasy for flute, harp, and orchestra - Sir Hamilton Harty** / Brian Liebau, flute

**Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso - Camille Saint-Saëns** / Benjamin Davies Hudson, violin

**Symphony No. 4 - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

**Pictures at an Exhibition - Modest Mussorgsky**



## MAKING MUSIC EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE FOR ALL

With tuition covering less than 30% of the total cost of each student's participation in WYSO, we rely on the generosity of individuals like you to sustain the high-quality musical experiences provided to over 500 young musicians. Your support helps provide musical training to South Central Wisconsin's most talented young musicians, access to music education for underserved students in Madison, and much more. A gift of any size helps empower young musicians from all backgrounds to hone their musical skills, learn teamwork, and gain the self-confidence and discipline necessary for a successful future.

*"WYSO brings together so many young musicians of diverse backgrounds and its impact goes a lot further than just music. We are fortunate to be a part of the WYSO family and to be able to extend our humble contribution to support the organization."*

*-Xixue Mei and Jian Zhou*

Visit [wysomusic.org/give-now](http://wysomusic.org/give-now) to support WYSO's mission of enriching lives by providing transformational musical experiences and opportunities.



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MADISON, WI 53706

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## UPCOMING CONCERTS

Visit [wysomusic.org/events/concerts-recitals](http://wysomusic.org/events/concerts-recitals)  
for a full schedule.

### Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Spring Concerts

Saturday, May 4, 2019, Mills Hall  
4:00 pm Youth Orchestra

Saturday, May 18, 2019, Mills Hall  
1:00 pm Opus One & Sinfonietta

4:00 pm Harp Ensemble & Concert Orchestra  
7:00 pm Percussion Ensemble & Philharmonia Orchestra

### Brass Choirs Concert

Saturday, May 11, 2019, 2:30 pm, Mills Hall

### Side by Side Concert

Tuesday, May, 21, 2019, Overture Hall, Overture Center  
7:30 pm Youth Orchestra with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra

### WYSO Music Makers Spring Concert

Sunday, June 2, 2019, First Unitarian Society, 4:00 pm



## VIOLINIST JAMES EHNES

taught a master class with WYSO Youth Orchestra violinists Ellen Zhou, Jessica Jiang (pictured) and Anné-Sophie Brilla during downtime between his solo performances with the Madison Symphony Orchestra in February. James has been heard throughout the world, and he performs regularly at Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, Symphony Center Chicago, and many more. He has collaborated with leading artists such as Andsnes, Capucon, Lortie, Lugansky, and Yo-Yo Ma. Special thanks to Madison Symphony Orchestra for providing this unique experience for WYSO students.

Photo by Bill Rosholt