

VERMONT YOUTH ORCHESTRA

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Fall 2013
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VYO NEWS

PETER AND THE WOLF

The 2013 Vermont Symphony version had ANNE JANSON, VYO Principal Flute '78-'79, CVU, as leader of a woodwind quintet – fl, ob, cl, bsn, Fr.h – that appeared at St. Mike's on a Sunday in October before a sold-out audience of young people and their elders, the youngsters all dressed in varying fantastic Halloween costumes. The quintet members themselves dressed for their roles. The bassoonist found it particularly tricky to play through Grandpa's bushy gray beard.

After several short introductory pieces--including the *Boo Rag* by composer Peter Hamlin (his *Manitou Rising* was played by the VYO in September '07)--the quintet prepared to play *Peter and the Wolf*. Clang, clang! The fire alarm! Everyone had to go outdoors. Luckily it wasn't raining. Turned out some young one in the lobby had pulled the switch. So back after ten minutes to *Peter and the Wolf*.

It was a somewhat new version adapted to a quintet (no strings, no percussion). Alternate endings were scripted by ELEANOR LONG, oboe '67-'70, principal '68-'70 SBHS and now VSO Manager. In one, the wolf had indeed swallowed the duck whole, but ate too much Halloween candy and threw up. Out came the duck alive. In another, it turned out the wolf was a boy in a costume, and when he unzipped his furry front, out came the duck. The audience thought that was the greatest version. How the transformation occurred from wolf to kid, ask Eleanor.

There was good reason back in 2000-2006 for calling the VYO the "Peter and the Wolf Orchestra." Under the direction of Troy Peters, with various narrators, the VYO started each performance with a variety of short, classical works, ending with *Peter and the Wolf*. There were ten performances at four different locations: the Flynn, the Vergennes Opera House, Enosburg High School VYO Day, and the ELMC. Four of the concerts featured VYO soloists: DEANE CALCAGNI, oboe 2000-2003 SBHS, (Elizondo, *Pan de Azucar* for English horn); DAVID PORTER, trumpet '01-'04, principal '02-'04, Randolph HS (Neruda, *Trumpet Concerto in Eb major*, Allegro); TREVOR BERGERON, principal French horn '02-'05, EJHS (Jacobs, *Concerto for Horn and Strings*, first movement); CHRISTINE BLUST, violin '03-'07, assoc principal '05-'07, Long Trail HS. (Lalo, *Symphonie Espagnole*).

KNABE PIANO

On October 12, '13, a reception dedicated the Knabe, now in the VYOA green room. It was donated in memory of Judge Donald Edward Fitzgerald and Donna R. Christensen by their families. The Judge's daughter, Kathryn Schenkman, lives in Rochester, Vt. Her daughter, ALINA, cello '99-'01, Rochester HS, from Barre, VT came to the reception with her father. Mrs. Schenkman, who arranged the donation of the piano, knew that her father and Donna Christensen loved music and would like to help support young people in "Music for Life" through the VYOA. She took photos of the reception that included Alina, as well as her parents, and the pianists who played.

The beautiful piano, now restored by Tom McNeil of Vermont Piano Restoration, was played by Yuki Soga (Chopin, *Waltz in C# minor*); Art DeQuasie, VYOA Director of Operations (Debussy, *Claire de Lune*); and Cynthia Huard (Rachmaninoff, *Prelude in G# minor*).

TRIVIA or not so TRIVIAL

How many do you remember?

When were balloons released over Peter Brown's head? Why?

Who was Montgomery?

Who often said "Play at the frog" and what did the frog do?

Who was Doro Sims? (Hint: her portrait hangs in the ELMC lobby)

What was the Wolf Gang?

When and where did a Greyhound bus transport the VYO?

What does the plaque outside the ELMC library door read? What about the one outside the ELMC kitchen?

Who made the banner that is mounted behind the VYO at the Flynn?

What connections are there between the VYO and Disaster Manor?

Who played a solo with the Vermont Symphony and a benefit concert for the VYO while he was still in the VYO?

Send answers to Carolyn Long, editor, Alumni Newsletter, via snail mail (1720 Spear St., S. Burlington, VT 05403) or e-mail (carolynlong1720@comcast.net).

Should there be a prize for the one who knows the most?!

ALUMNI NEWS

CHERYL MELODY BASKIN-ROSENBLOOM, principal cello '63-'64, BHS. B. Music Hartt College of Music, M.A. Lesley College. It's hard to describe in a limited space all that Cheryl has done since leaving the first year of the VYO, '63-'64. The fact that she has chosen her middle name, Melody, for her professional name says a lot.

Cheryl writes that she sings and composes for very young children (at birth, in fact) up to and including adults. Her CDs include *Celebrate* (songs with "Peace begins with you and me" themes), *Friends Forever* (a story with music about inclusion), *World Peace-the Children's Dream* (a musical story about children learning about how each person can make a difference), *Peek a boo, I love you* (for babies through 3), *Let's Pretend and More* (ages 4-7), *Songs that Make the Heart Feel Good* (for self esteem). Through her music and CDs she aims to have children feel that they are never alone, and are nurtured from inside-out with character-building messages filled with love and self-esteem. She performs her "Musical Imagination Adventure Concert" for young children, using song, storytelling, puppets and imagination, with every word in every song consciously created to reach children from inside-out.

Peace Begins with You and Me for older children and adults advocates non-bullying, respect, and raising consciousness about the power of words, actions, feelings, and thoughts. Each concert is interactive. Cheryl's greatest joy is to get even the non-singers to sing their notes, in or out of tune.

For adults she says, "I work as a sound healer, writer, performer, teaching songs, chants and affirmations." Her latest workshop is called "The Mystical Magic of Making Music from Inside-Out: Chakras on the GO!"

See www.cherylmelody.com for more of her work on inner melody called "The Shift."

Cheryl lives in Hopkinton, MA and besides performing, teaches in four schools. "I am married with two children and have a beautiful granddaughter in Portland, Oregon. I will continue to share my joy for music until the last breath."

MADELEINE (MALKA) KINGSTON GRUNAUER, flute '66-'67, Montpelier HS.

Madeleine says her flute playing fell by the wayside when she went to Oberlin majoring in organ. She married David, had a daughter Leah, and lived in Cleveland, OH, until 2004. Madeleine says she looked into her Jewish roots. She and David made alijah (which means immigration to Israel, Ed.) Her address there is Panim Meiroi 5 Entrance 8, Jerusalem, Israel. Leah lives in New York, where she is a successful artist. (Google - Leah Montalto!)

Unhappily, David died a year ago in August. Malka teaches piano. She writes, "I also belong to a small but very special women's group. We are called 'Hashmi-ini,' meaning 'Let me hear your voice,' from the Song of Solomon. You could call us a choir, and we sing in 3-part harmony. We sing a variety of Jewish music of all types as well as any music that fits our ideals. That may include an occasional spiritual, a jazz work, or a Broadway show tune. Just for fun, we sing the Rice Krispies jingle in 3-part counterpoint. We have a resident poet who sometimes writes, or rewrites, lyrics. I sing, play piano, sometimes compose, and substitute as conductor when needed. It is a very satisfying outlet, lending much room for improvisation and as well as friendship.

Best wishes to all the VYO musicians and supporters. Being able to play in an orchestra of such quality during one's high school years is a wonderful opportunity. I look back and appreciate the broad musical background I had."

ELLIS-KEMPNER

This combined family of four has been a great addition to the VYO. The first, **DAVID ELLIS**, cello '71-'72, '73-'74 (out a year for sports), BHS, is cello Professor at the Quebec Conservatory. He founded the Alcan String Quartet some twenty years ago which plays all over the world. His children are both musicians, violin and piano, and his wife, Nathalie, plays second violin in the Alcan. See Spring 2010 Newsletter for more details.

David's sister, **BETSY**, violin '72-'76, BHS, is a nurse practitioner and mother of **DOUGLAS**, cello '05-'08, principal '07-'08, BHS and **MARGA**, violin '05-'10, Ass't. Concertmaster, '08-'09, Co-Concertmaster '09-winter '10 (and on to Phillips Andover).

Betsy continues as a nurse practitioner. She's into camping in Maine, dance, and swimming. Doug majored in Political Science at Bates College and is now on the senior staff of a political action committee that helps elect Democrats to the Maine legislature. He lives in Maine with his girl friend Isobel. Marga graduated from Phillips Andover in 2012. She's singing in an a cappella group, klezmer, and fiddling, and is studying medical anthropology at Brown University. She's also learning Portuguese!

JEANNINE BURKY WEBBER, clarinet '73-'74, CVU.

Jeannine writes, "In April of this year I married David Webber, a cellist living in Philadelphia. We met at the Chamber Music Conference of the East in Bennington, back in 2001. We started dating almost four years ago and here we are! **JULIE BROWN WOLFE**, bassoon '72-'74, principal '73-'74, SBHS was my witness at our wedding.

Julie and I met at VYO Music Camp in Lyndonville back in 1973. I'll always be grateful to the VYO for so many things!

I'm still an investment advisor with Brown Brothers Harriman, having moved to Philadelphia with my clients in 2011. I am still playing clarinet and bass clarinet, and enjoy being a part-time step-mother to 11 year-old Elena and 16 year-old Dylan. I recently joined the Central Board of Trustees of Philadelphia's Settlement Music School, so I'll be carrying on the tradition of helping to provide music opportunities to kids of all ages. I'm delighted that VYO continues to thrive and to make such an impact on the greater Vermont community."

SARAH ALBEE, violin '74-'79, principal second '78-'79, SBHS.

Sarah writes, "I live in Watertown, CT. My husband is a teacher/administrator at Taft School, and my kids are 20, 18, and 15. Sam Willson, my oldest, is at Colby College where he is not only on the men's basketball team (he grew to be 6'5), but is also a talented pipe organist. He plays Sundays for two different congregations. Cassie, my middle one, just started at Wesleyan and is also very musical; she composes, arranges, and is a member of the Cardinal Sinners a cappella group. My youngest, Luke, plays piano. I haven't done much music formally since college, besides being a Tiger Mother to my children (who swear they're now grateful). I write children's books and have three presently under contract, which should be out in 2014/15."

See Sarah's website (sarahalbeebooks.com) for her amazing production of books for the very young, and not so young, on subjects such as Elmo from Sesame Street (under the pseudonym Constance Allen) and others on animals, science (use of levers), visits to the doctor and the dentist, sharing, bugs, reading and onward. Lately, she has been aiming at an older audience of young people, and even adults with her very popular *Poop Happened, A History of the World from the Bottom*

Up. Despite the rather off-putting title, the book is a fascinating history of sanitation and its use from the earliest civilizations up to the present. It's a history of plagues, wars, infant deaths, peasant revolts, all the result of the lack of proper sanitation with all sorts of unusual thoughts such as: Did lead pipes cause the fall of the Roman Empire? How did a knight wearing 50 pounds of armor go to the bathroom? Was poor hygiene the last straw before the French

Revolution? See the website under the book title for lots more!



Sarah writes that she was back in South Burlington last summer to be inducted into the South Burlington Athletic Hall of Fame. Indeed, in addition to being a writer and an artist, Sarah was at one time a semi-professional basketball player!

CHARLES BUNTING, violin, Assistant Concertmaster '75-'77, Otter Valley UHS.

Charlie is now living in Portland, Maine, on the top floor of a condo building overlooking Portland's Old Port and the port itself. From his top vantage point, which he calls the Crow's Nest, he doesn't see crows, but "large colonies of bickering seagulls, small gangs of mum pigeons, and flocks of barn-swallows way above the tugboats, tourists and cruise ships." He writes, "These days, I'm enjoying life in the Old Port. It truly is a magical place. If you Google Earth my neighborhood, you'll see cobblestone alleys, quaint restaurants and pubs, nice shops, and happy people.

"I'm working in business development for a little start-up firm, Wentworth Technology, that manufactures, markets, sells and services the Speed-Thru Drive-Thru Headset system. A head-set system a bunch of kids wear when they take orders at Dunkin Donuts or the like to communicate with the kitchen or wherever the food is prepared. Many of the old sets have poor quality technology so Wentworth surpasses the competition in sound and durability. My job is called 'business development and inside sales' because I'm to ferret out owners of restaurant franchises across the country, primarily the south central region of the US, and show them why it will benefit their business model to use our system in their stores.

"I don't practice, nor play very much any more. Occasionally, as the acoustics are fantastic in my unit, I will practice with the windows opened, playing half for myself, but also to entertain the pedestrians five stories below. And I have been known to cross the street and play in the park. One beautiful day this past summer while I was improvising, a guy pulled up alongside the park in a black Mercedes station wagon and pulled out two cases, one a violin and the other a mandolin (I now have a mandolin as well). I never even thought to ask his name, but we played together in the park for an hour or so... what great fun."

An anecdote that may be familiar to Charlie's colleagues concerns a drive from Brandon to a rehearsal with his brother James and Audi, a German exchange student, on board, speaking in German as much as possible. Unloading in Burlington, first Audi, then brother, then brother's cello, and ...no violin! Charlie's description of what followed needs to be read: "Where was it? The back seat? NO! The trunk? NO! Did it get kicked under the car in our haste to unload? (My nice new leather Jaeger case!) NO! Then... suddenly...even still trying to ignore the unimaginable, that sickening gut-wrenching idea plowed into my brain...burst, like a fire cracker in my head...I must immediately examine the polished roof of the car. There they were indeed, the little scratch tracks of four little metal Jaeger violin case feet, skidding around, zig-zagging and crossing the top of my car!!! As they say auf Deutsch: Scheisse!" Eventually, there is a happy ending. After two slow trips between Brandon and Burlington, the case was discovered in a hay field. And, having prepared for the worst, Charlie opened the case at home and found a scratch on the case where it had landed falling off the car, but the strings still intact, ready to be played!

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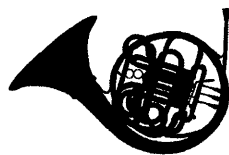
Please send your news and
any address changes to
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JACQUELINE (JACQUIE) LEWIS -WANG, violin '79-'81, CVU. Jacquie wrote six years ago about hearing the VYO in China. She and her husband, Quiang, and children Sophia, 5½, and Philip, 2½, were visiting his family. At the time, Jacquie was teaching instrumental and choral music in schools in Palos Verdes, CA. She still is. In July she wrote, "This past year had many exciting events for me professionally. I teach and direct 6th, 7th and 8th grade instrumental music at Ridgefield Intermediate School, and my Advanced Orchestra won the BEST Performance for the entire Festival season and BEST performance in many years." [Ed. Check this link for the performances – <https://vimeo.com/album/2363499>.]

Jacquie goes on to say, "If it weren't for the Vermont String Training and Youth Orchestras [there were no Sinfonias and Philharmonias in those days, Ed.] my foundation in orchestra would not have been built... I have fond memories of STO. Melissa Brown was very patient with us, tall and graceful on the podium.... I wanted to have the same vibrato as **RICHARD (Ricky) BARNES**, violin '78-'83, BHS. With practice and Carolyn Long's help I was selected by Melissa for a violin solo at one of the school concerts."

Jacquie and Quiang perform regularly with professional orchestras in California, especially for Jacquie during the summer months.

HEATHER ARCHER PINEAULT, French horn '80-'83, CVU. Heather writes, "I live in Wayland, MA, about 30 minutes outside of Boston. My husband, Michael, and I have three daughters—who, I can't believe, are 19, 17, and 16! Caitlyn is in her second year at Oberlin. She's in the Arts and Sciences, but enjoys playing cello with one of the orchestras on campus. Allee is a senior in high school looking at colleges. Her main focus is in anything related to musical theater. She loves dance, voice, and acting. Emily followed in my footsteps and plays French horn. I now know how my parents must have felt when I didn't practice---she just picks up her horn and plays (remarkably well) and I think 'if only she practiced.' As for me, I still play horn! I played a couple of years in college and then after a brief hiatus an opportunity to join the Metropolitan Wind Symphony as a sub fell into my lap. I have played with them as a regular member for twenty years. I truly feel so lucky at every rehearsal with my colleagues who majored in horn and actually earn money doing something they love!



"In real life, I am a French teacher, just getting back into teaching having spent many years at home with my kids and volunteering in the schools and on the local School Committee.

"My years at VYO are wonderful memories... It amazes me to think that my kids are the same age I was when with the VYO."

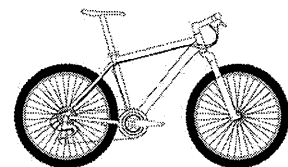
LYNN BILODEAU COLLINS, violin '80-'83, BHS. Lynn writes, "I work as a Certified Veterinary Technician at Mt. Mansfield Animal Hospital in Jericho. I have been employed at the same hospital for over 28 years. It is an extremely rewarding job—I get to help animals and also their dedicated owners. I am basically a nurse for animals and am part of all aspects of helping to run the hospital—surgery, anesthesia, laboratory work, reception, and inventory. I did consider training as a technical writer, but that didn't work out at the college I attended. I got the job I currently have right after graduation and haven't looked back.



I live in the small town of Fletcher in a beautiful log home on 10 acres. It is a very nice town with very nice people. My husband, Raymond, and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 1. We have two children. Emma is 19 and a freshman at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, NH, and Isaac is 13 and in the 8th grade at BFA-Fairfax Middle School.

Music is definitely part of our lives. Raymond plays banjo, Isaac plays guitar and mandolin, and Emma played violin for four years before discovering her passion lay in singing and musical theater. She was thrilled to be part of the VYO Chorus for the second half of her senior year, and I was so excited to see her perform with the VYO at the spring '13 concert at the Flynn Theater. What an amazing experience for both of us! It made me realize just how much I enjoyed my time with the VYO and how much I missed playing with an orchestra. I do pick up my violin on occasion. Because my husband is mostly into bluegrass music, I have learned to play a few fiddle tunes. It is fun when Raymond, Emma, Isaac, and I all play together."

KAREN LAVOIE, French horn '82-'85, BFA Fairfax. This Newsletter is not into fundraising, but here's one VYO alum who is. Karen, whose bio was in the fall Newsletter, is a family nurse practitioner for Marathon Health in Keene, NH. An e-mail to your editor reads in part:



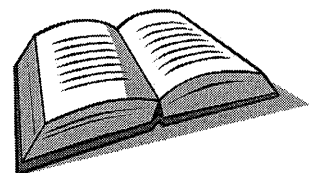
"Within the last 2 years my friend Mark was diagnosed with brain cancer, my friend Mary Jo was diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer, my dad was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer, and my aunt died of pancreatic cancer. Don't

we ALL know someone whose life has been touched by cancer? On July 13, I am going to bike 200 miles in the 31st Annual Prouty to raise money for cancer research at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center."

Karen has already climbed all the 48 4,000 foot peaks in New Hampshire and has done the 8 mile YMCA swim across Lake Champlain.

DAN BOSTWICK, trumpet '83-'86, BFA St. Albans. A note to Dan in Bedford, MA, told him he lives in the same town as **ALAN LONG**, flute '63-'67, principal '65-'67, SBHS. Dan replied, "It's a small world. I don't know Alan, but have probably seen him around. I have been working as a software engineer in the Boston area since 1991 and have lived in Bedford since 1996. I don't play trumpet any longer, but am raising two Suzuki kids (violin and piano), so there's plenty of music in the house nonetheless."

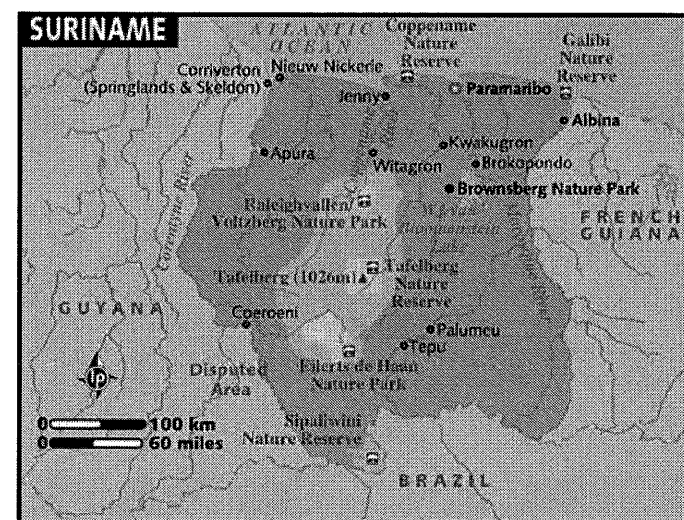
STEPHEN ALLEN, bassoon '84-'86, SBHS. Steve writes that he currently lives a quiet life in southwest Michigan with his wife and a cat who hides when people come to visit. He works part-time in a book store and part-time as a substitute teacher, two jobs that he has taken to support his habit of writing poetry (with some success recently—publication in the Notre Dame Review, among others). He hasn't picked up his bassoon in a while, and it probably needs some repairs, but he still counts the VYO among the most important experiences in his life. Anyone who wants to get in touch can find him online at <https://www.facebook.com/stephen.a.allen.9>.



GRETCHEN AUBIN HARWELL, clarinet '92-'97, co-principal '95-'97, Mill River UHS. Gretchen played as a senior the Milhaud *Scaramouche Op. 165d* at U32 and at the Flynn in January, '97. Gretchen lives in Asheville, NC with her husband Shawn, their ten-month old baby, Ingrid, and their three dogs and cat. Gretchen writes, "I got my Bachelor of Music from the North Carolina School of the Arts, and then got my veterinary technician license in Cincinnati, OH, where we lived for five years prior to moving here. I worked as a surgery tech for nine years before giving birth, and am now a full time mom. I still long to play and have my clarinets here but am unable to find the time. All the best to everyone in the VYO."

CORINNA CAMPBELL, bassoon, '94-'98, Rutland HS. BM Northwestern University; MM Bowling Green State University, PhD, 2012 Harvard University.

Corinna writes, "I started out as a bassoon performance major, but after some eye-opening experiences abroad, and with the encouragement of some amazing teachers, I switched to the field of ethnomusicology. In 2012, ten years after making the switch, I received my PhD in ethno from Harvard University. (Along the way, I've had a number of students and colleagues who are also VYO alums!) This past year I have been lecturing at Boston College, MIT, and Emmanuel College, and I'm thrilled to be joining the music faculty at Williams College this fall as Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology. For the past eight years I've been conducting research on the music and dance traditions of the Suriname Maroons. (Ed. - Some two to three centuries ago, Africans were brought as slaves to Suriname, an area in northeast South America between Guyana and French Guyana. To learn more about the Maroons and their life there, check out the internet, especially the "Maroons from Suriname, You Tube, Metro Golden Mayer. Continue to the end especially for the dancing and percussion by Djuka families.)



Corinna is looking forward to returning to Suriname for another extended stay in 2014 as a Fulbright Scholar.

She concludes, "I dust off the bassoon every now and then in the privacy of my own home, but these days my performance efforts go toward dance and percussion."

CRYSTAL RIPORELLA-CROSE, violin '96-'02, U32. Crystal write, "I graduated from Emerson College with a BA in Film and Media Arts and moved to Los Angeles in 2006 to pursue my dream of editing movies. About a month ago, I reached that goal. I am currently editing the movie *Cardboard Boxer*, an indie film featuring Thomas Haydn Church and Terrance Howard. This kind of work is everything I had dreamed it could be and more. I love it!

I have only taken out my violin once in the past few years. I took it down to Venice Beach and played the Bach Double with a guy I had met panhandling on Suzuki tunes.

We made a dollar and he insisted I keep it. This remains one of my most cherished memories, alongside many fond memories I have of making music and friends with the VYO."

REUBEN BARIS, French horn '99-'01, EJHS. "I work for the US Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Pesticide Programs. The most interesting thing I'm working on these days is pollinator protection efforts and developing methods and guidance to evaluate the risks of pesticides to bees. Bees are in constant turmoil in the environment with a multitude of stressors. I have been working with experts in the field and throughout federal and local governments to develop tangible solutions to complex problems."

SARA HONEYWELL, principal trombone '00-'01, Springfield HS. Sara writes, "I attended Boston University for two years, transferred to Berklee College of Music and graduated from there in '06. Been making all kinds of music in the Boston area for the past twelve years, including a handful of US tours and traveling festival work." [It's been] "ska, reggae and funk ensembles, live soundtracking projects, but most recently a soul band (Goldblood and the Associates)—able to open for acts such as Ruby Valle and the Soulphonics and Lee Fields as well as Balkan circus band (Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band - www.ensmb.com) which brings music to the people in both conventional and unconventional settings. ENSMB is under the umbrella of the Boston Circus Guild, so we regularly perform with circus artists. We are heavily involved and supportive of the Honk! Festival. It originated here in Somerville, MA, and now has roots in Providence, NYC, Austin and Seattle (honkfest.org). It's a festival that is music for the people, by the people, and encourages everyone to break down barriers between audience and performer."

JESSICA BRITT, violin '05-'06, SBHS. Bowdoin College, '10 BA in Government and Legal Studies and Spanish. After graduation, Jessica moved to Guatemala for two years, where she worked for Safe Passage (www.safepassage.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing education and social services to more than 550 children living around the Guatemala City garbage dump. She moved back to Burlington at the end of 2012 and is now a Project Manager at Tetra Tech ARD, working on USAID projects all over the world.



In her spare time, Jess organizes an annual 5K race fundraiser for Safe Passage in the Burlington area, so look for more news about the race in May if you're in the area.

In Memoriam

GARY WELCOME, principal viola '64-'65, BHS. UVM music major. Married with two children, his wife Jane in Colchester explains that Gary taught grade school music in Maine, returned to Vermont to take care of his elderly parents, and then went into the welding supply business. Upon retirement, he moved to Arizona, where he died in Yuma, April 14, 2012.