



VERMONT YOUTH ORCHESTRA

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012
Vol. 32 No. 1

VYO NEWS

Rosina Cannizzaro, VYOA Executive Director

It has been a thrilling three months since joining the VYOA as executive director. During the January 29th VYO concert at the Flynn, I was reminded of my time as a young musician and the friends that I made in band and orchestra many years ago. It is a special bond among musicians which stems from numerous rehearsal hours and inspiring performances spent together. One doesn't forget the feeling of accomplishment and pride from playing great music with friends.

Moving to Vermont was very special to me because of my longtime connection with Vermont and the music community here. As a former professional percussionist, I performed with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, its school outreach group DrumShtick, and Opera North for a number of years. Also my VYO husband, **NICOLA CANNIZZARO**, tympani '90-'92, BHS is well known here. Over the years, I have made great friends in this area through playing music and I look forward to making new ones.

The opportunity to work with the VYOA is exciting and allows me to continuously draw on my experience as a professional musician, educator, and arts administrator. I consider myself very lucky to be able to continue working in music and to be part of an organization and community that focus on offering young musicians rich music learning and performing opportunities, and also to see the special friendships that grow from playing music together.

Robert Paterson, VYOA Composer-in-Residence

As composer-in-residence for the last three years, it's been an absolute pleasure working with all of the kids, staff, and faculty. Everyone has welcomed me with open arms, and the musicians have been incredibly enthusiastic about performing my music.

Overall, my favorite aspect of working with the VYOA has been the wonderful sense of community. Evidenced by the packed audiences, Vermonters obviously realize how fortunate they are. The best part of these experiences is seeing how excited the kids are. They may hold back sometimes and be a little reserved (read: too cool to show it), but you know they are thrilled that everyone cares so much. There is nothing better for kids than to be supported by their community.

Outside of working with kids in the VYOA, I have also traveled to numerous schools around the state. Some schools have amazing music programs, while others—as you might expect—do not. This is where VYOA comes in: creating a holistic musical experience for all Vermont kids, no matter where they come from.

I think one of the best moments was when I gave a talk at the Rotary Club of Essex. One of the members came up to me afterwards and said, "I'm so glad I got to hear you speak. I have to admit, I thought I would really hate hearing what you had to say, but you won me over. You are so not what I was expecting."

My final project was a work for orchestra, chorus, and narrator entitled *A New Earth*, featuring and inspired by Vermont's world-famous environmentalist Bill McKibben. I am incredibly excited about this collaboration and the performance in May.

In the end, I think my greatest accomplishment was helping everyone warm up to regularly performing music by living composers. Who else can reflect on our daily lives better than living artists? Mozart, Beethoven, and so on are all great, but they didn't feel what we feel. My lifelong job is to show a connection, to connect people with music of their time.

This last three years has been an incredible journey, and I feel blessed. I truly hope this is not the last time I have an opportunity to work with everyone at the VYOA.

TRUMAN PIANO

On Wednesday, March 7, a recital at the ELMC commemorated the gift of the 1924 Baldwin piano, originally owned by Pres. Harry S. Truman’s daughter, Margaret Daniel , who played it at the White House. How did this wonderful gift come about?

Vermonter Thomas Daniel, Margaret’s fourth son, and his brother Clifton were cleaning out her NYC apartment after her death. They found an incredible collection of memorabilia, a painting by Winston Churchill, even unopened wedding presents, AND the baby grand piano. It was too big for Clifton’s home in Chicago, or Thomas’s in Vermont. They both agreed that although it needed a lot of work, it should be put to good use. Here the VYOA came in!

After extensive repairs by Hilbert Pianos of Bristol, VT (new soundboard, pegboard, strings, hammers, and key tops) it was in excellent playable condition. In 2010, it found its new home at the ELMC, the same year Margaret’s granddaughter, OLIVIA DANIEL, violin ’06-’10, Mt. Abraham UHS, graduated from the VYO. She is now majoring in cultural anthropology at the University of British Columbia.

The commemorative recital included short talks by Rosina Cannizzaro, VYOA Executive; Director; Jeff Domoto, VYO Music Director, Edwin Hilbert, of Hilbert Pianos, and Thomas Daniel. Mr. Daniel’s speech was full of reminiscences too long to include here, but so interesting that a copy is being held at the VYOA office for all to read. Pianists from VYO and VYP played short selections by Debussy and Chopin. Art DeQuasie, VYOA Operations Director, brought the program to a very exciting close with music by Franz Liszt.

Mr. Daniel writes: “I see this piano as appreciation for the VYOA. They give children the power of orchestral music and help them to adopt the life skills that come from learning and performing as a group. They also provide an extended family of musicians, friends and other parents that support kids in a positive endeavor. Thank you so much.”

FROM MELISSA BROWN

“Hello VYO members, old and new! Carolyn Long asked me to recall some of the years I’ve been connected with the VYO. (A few of her recollections have been added.)”

Peter Brown, Melissa’s ex-husband, began conducting the VYO in 1967, taking over from Virgilio Mori. The Browns lived in the hills above Lyndonville. Peter taught at Lyndon State College, traveling across the state Saturday mornings to conduct the VYO. To give the VYO orchestral experience during the summer he created Summer Camp (now Reveille), beginning in his own territory at LSC from 1969 for six years and continuing for another six down the hill at Lyndon Institute. Melissa was on the staff teaching cello and coaching sectionals and ensembles. She recounts two incidents probably never widely publicized.

One summer the faculty performed *Façade*, music by William Walton, verses by Edith Sitwell. William Metcalfe came over from UVM to read the verses. He explained that many found the verses nonsensical, though upon careful listening they did make sense. At the conclusion of the performance, Melissa and **INGRID KRIZAN**, cello ’75-’76, ’77-’80, EJHS, composed a verse of repeated nonsense words that Ingrid as Edith Sitwell recited, complete with fancy Victorian hat, backed by the VYO cello choir, “now on a roll.”

Another recollection for this Newsletter involves the fact that the faculty staff was asked to be responsible for student behavior in the dorms. One night Melissa heard a lot of noise behind a closed door decorated with a set of underwear, apparently a sign for an illegal gathering. She opened the door on a completely dark room, ordered the inmates to come out and sign her notebook for the authorities. The signatures: “Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Wagner, etc., etc.”

On a much more serious note, while camp was in session at LSC the Brown’s house was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. VYO’ers hiked over the hills to help clean up.

After some years with the VYO, Peter Brown realized the orchestra needed a preparatory string orchestra. In 1975, the String Training Orchestra (STO), now Vermont Youth Strings (VYS), was formed. Melissa became its first conductor. She kept the young players interested with new experiences: trips to nursing and homes and schools; a visit from Melissa’s Hanover, NH, Alcott Ensemble; sessions conducted by Efrain Guigui, VSO conductor, and David Gusakov, VSO violinist (and now VYS conductor for many years). In the files are some of her letters to STO players, including two with sketches of outstretched-legged, grabby, rather unhappy frogs with reminders “Play at the frog!”

Melissa has taught 23 cellos from VYO and STO. Some have become professionals. For the others, she writes: “I hope the musicians I worked with over the years will also enjoy the return to music-making and the world of music. This is a resource which will be very comforting as they grow older.”

The Browns’ contribution to VYO music would hardly be complete without recognition of their daughters in the VYO, **LUCY**, viola ’74-’79, SBHS, and **ANNA**, bass ’76-’79, principal ’76-’78, SBHS.

And not really one of Melissa’s VYO experiences, but one to remember, comes from this spring at the VSO’s Flynn concert where she was recognized for her 50 years with the orchestra. As the audience applauded, a delivery boy in cap and work jacket scurried on stage from the wings with a beautiful bouquet of flowers for her. It was YoYo Ma, the concert’s solo cellist!

IN MEMORIAM

ALAN IRWIN, tuba, pre-’63-’64, BHS, died on April 7, 2012. “Pre” means that Alan was a BHS senior who played the two experimental rehearsals at BHS under the direction of BHS conductor, Virgilio Mori, in the spring of ’63 to see if a youth orchestra using players from other schools in Vermont might be possible.

After graduation, Alan found time to play tuba and euphonium in various groups during his busy life as an ophthalmologist. His wife, Joanne, a flutist, was Burlington Friends of Music for Youth STO (now Vermont Youth Strings) Manager and then BFOM President for several years in the mid ’80s. Their daughter, **BONNIE IRWIN ROYAL**, cello ’86-’90, lives in Exeter, NH, with her two sons, Andrew and Samuel.

Alan wrote in the fall ’08 Alumni Newsletter: “My story clearly demonstrates how one does not have to be a professional musician to have music central to his or her life. Music is cheaper than a shrink and it works better!”

ALUMNI NEWS

RICHARD RACUSEN, clarinet ’63-’64, BHS. Richard remembers the first year of the VYO when rehearsals under Virgilio (Jiggs) Mori were held at the early location of BHS on upper College Street, now the site of apartments. He writes, “A poignant memory was the rehearsal held the weekend after the Kennedy assassination – it was hard for everyone to focus on mastering the music....” After BHS came UVM. Richard played for a year or two while there in the Burlington town band, rehearsing above Bailey’s Music Rooms and performing summer concerts at Battery Park. But college work took over; his clarinet stayed in its case for decades. Many of Richard’s reminiscences are in the plural. He and Lorraine Parent were side-by-side clarinets in that first orchestra. They were at UVM together. Her clarinet sat in its case, too. Six years after VYO they were married at the Newman Center. (For further details of their careers, see below).

LORRAINE PARENT, clarinet ’63-’64, Mt. Mansfield UHS. Lorraine entered the UVM Medical School and Richard the Cell Biology Program in 1970. Richard writes: “Our eventual degrees took us first to Yale University as postdoctoral associates, and then to Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the University of Maryland. Lorraine is a world-renowned (really!) senior Kidney Pathologist at Hopkins, and after a satisfying professional and administrative career, I retired from academia eight years ago. We had two sons during the life in Maryland. One is an engineer in Silicon Valley, and the other, a recent UVM graduate, is an accountant for an environmental company in Montpelier.”

REINHARD STRAUB, violin ’63-’64. BHS. Reinhard is another “first orchestra” member, forty years plus since he left the VYO. He is the owner and clinical director of a substance abuse facility, professional musician, and artist. At Syracuse University he was an English major from ’68-’70, but had already begun his professional music career which took him to New York City, where he played and recorded non-classical music with the likes of Aerosmith, Peter Dinklage, and the Monkees, Mitch Mitchell of the Jimi Hendrix Experience, and Harry Nilsson to name a few.

At the same time, though untrained as an artist, Reinhard was doing hundreds of pen sketches. A show planned for artist-musicians in NYC never came off for him because the life many of them led was too much for anyone to survive.

After recovery, his life took a new turn. From ’90-’92, he obtained a B.S. in Human Services at the Empire State College in Albany and an MSW at Adelphia in ’92-’94. He was an addictions counselor and therapist from ’89-’95 and adjunct faculty at Empire State from ’95-’05.

Reinhard now lives in Rhode Island, where he directs Clinical Services of RI. His other lives continue as well. He owns the Green Gallery where his art and the works of other artists are displayed.

He plays the electric violin with a number of rock groups. His art works using unconventional materials and subjects sell well at galleries in NY, Mass., RI, and Europe. There’s a picture of pliers that look like creatures flocking downward to a blue sea. Says Reinhard, “That’s sort of the nature of life, predatory, territorial, even amoral at times.” Reinhard is divorced with three children: Alexander 22, Ian 18, and Katrina 14. All three share his love of music and play various instruments.

SALLY DORN NOLAN, flute ’63-’65, BHS. Sally writes, “My husband Peter and I lived, worked and raised a family in Massachusetts outside of Boston for over 36 years. I was a children’s librarian and he was an aquatic biologist with the Environmental Protection Agency. During that time I played with the Southeastern Community Band. We retired to Vermont six years ago.

I now volunteer at the Stowe Library and the Copley Hospital and play in the Waterbury Band under the direction of Harl Hoffman. Our



son also lives in Vermont and has two children, and our daughter lives nearby in New Hampshire with her family. We are having fun spending time with our four grandchildren and watching them grow up. It is great to be back in the beautiful green mountain state. We love watching the wildlife that pass through our yard – wild turkeys, deer, moose and even bears.

One night at band rehearsal I had a discussion with one of my band mates who is in his ’80s, about who is a true Vermonter. I told him I was born and raised in Vermont, but left for 36 years and then returned.

He looked at me and said, ‘Well, I guess we’d have to call you ‘tarnished Vermonter.’ Hmm-mm, that sounds just about right.

Funny story: about 25 years ago I attended a James Galway concert at Symphony Hall in Boston with a friend. A couple came and sat in the seats next to us. I whispered to my friend, ‘I think that is my former conductor, Ronald Mori.’ (BHS conductor, son of Virgilio Mori, VYO conductor, ed.) Sure enough-- here we were seated next to each other in that big concert hall – small world!”

MARK HEIM, cello ’63-’68, principal ’65-’67, BHS. B.A. Amherst ’72, Ph.D. Andover-Newton Theological Seminary ’76. Ordained minister First Baptist Church, Franklin, NH ’79.

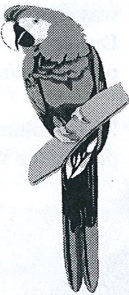
Mark is now the Samuel Abbot Professor of Christian Theology at the Andover-Newton Theological School. He has many publications to his credit and has taught and lectured in India, Malaysia, Thailand, the Fiji Islands, and Israel as well as the U.S. To quote the internet, “He is deeply involved in issues of religious pluralism, Christian ecumenism, and the relation of theology and science.”

For 2010-11, he was one of the six recipients in the U.S. as a Henry Luce Fellow in Theology. He conducted a year long research focusing on Buddhist and Muslim insights on atonement.

As for his life other than professional, he writes, “My cello, alas, fell by the wayside after college, and my music interests remained playing guitar and singing with my daughter. I find myself closely involved at one remove these days through our very musical church which has some BSO members in the congregation and is the home of our Newton Philharmonic. Two Sundays ago I attended the Greater Boston Youth Symphony performance of Brahms *German Requiem*, the culmination of a four week study on the piece for a group in our church. It made me think back for the first time in a while to the VYO and appreciation for those who made it go, then and now.”

Mark and Melissa Lewis from Shelburne were married in ’72. “Our daughter Sarah plays the flute and our son Jacob plays the violin. Sarah works as an archivist at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and Jacob works for the Rand Corporation in Washington, D.C.”

DEBBIE ANDERSON LADUE, violin ’65-’67, BHS. Parrot Adoption and Rescue Resource of the South. How did Debbie ever get this listing for her business in Florida? She writes: “I am a retired construction superintendent having built log cabins, single family homes, duplexes, condos, and high rises. Having worked as a ski patrol and ski instructor for several years, I decided sunny Florida was a much nicer way of life. One day a friend who had a Senegal parrot wanted a new cage, so we went to a bird show. There was a booth there for a rescue that wanted volunteers. After helping them for a couple of years, I thought that things could be done differently and the birds would have an easier adjustment period.” So that’s where her business began.

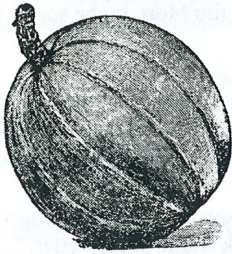


“Presently there are 15 parrots in house, highest number 27. Most often asked question – ‘how do you sleep at night?’ Within 5 minutes of lights out they are all quiet unless something is wrong. It is no different from a house full of kids. You get used to the noise. Most of the parrots speak English, although there have been a couple of Spanish speakers.” Debbie says most are given up after people have them for 2-4 years as they are noisy and messy. Or there are health reasons, or, of course, owners sometimes die. Some of the parrots get away from owners, are lost, and have to be coaxed or pulled out of trees. She also lives with four cats and a dog. The birds chase all of them. “The birds are adopted out from their point of view, not the human. They are adults and have already formed their personalities. Some don’t like big men, some don’t like little children; others just want to be loved.”

JOAN HOOPER, violin ’66-’70, oboe ’70-’71, BFA St. Albans. Joan writes that she continues her work as Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado, where she has initiated a mid-career transition from a ‘wet bench’ experimentalist to the drier world of Bio-information. She has a two-year retraining fellowship and this fall has been amused (and challenged?) by experiencing education from the other (student) side.

Her husband Aaron spent much of the year in Albuquerque rigging stunts for yet another Marvel Comics action movie –*The Avengers* (with Ironman, Thor, Captain America, etc.) which should be released Memorial Day, 2012. Her son Jordan, now 14, is in the eighth grade at Denver School of the Arts, where he loves playing double bass and piano. He dabbles with his ham radio, tries to make things that blow up (his gunpowder is definitely improving), and of course, various computer games.

HOLLY HULETT BOYCE, bassoon, ’71-’74, Fair Haven UHS. Holly sends a Christmas card from Dan and Holly Boyce featuring happy riders in giant pumpkins, one powered by colored balloons, the other floating in the lake with rider and huge fish. In 2005, the Boyces got into growing prize winning mammoth pumpkins when Dan bought a special seed for \$12.95 (yes! Holly thought he was crazy.) Since then they have produced pumpkins getting larger and larger, well over 1000 pounds each, the most recent one weighing 1421 pounds. (Holly doesn’t say how they produced such national prize winners or how they lift them! Ed.) There are lots of pumpkin enthusiasts and even an annual convention at Niagara Falls.



2005 was also a great year when Holly bought a fine Fox bassoon on eBay for \$2000. She had never owned one when she played in the VYO. She has played in local wind groups, including a Middlebury wind ensemble where she met **TIM WOOS**, then 14 years old, playing bassoon, and now at Curtis (See VYO Newsletter for spring 2010). She was amazed by his musical ability.

Dan and Holly have one daughter, Shannon, 29 years old, who teaches at the Leap Frog Nursery school in Poultney. Dan retired in ’09 from a career in law enforcement. Holly decided that working for 28 years in the Grand Union and Shaw supermarkets was long enough. When she began there, slicing meats paid better than being a nurse. But now, after more training and updating, she has returned to her original career as an RN and has been working full time the past 7 years at a sub-acute rehab/nursing home in Rutland.

MARCIA SINOW ARNOLD, flute ’72-’74, Peoples Academy. Marcia lives and works now in Virginia. “Beautiful,” she says, away from “the relentless cloudy and cold weather” of her home state. She and her husband, Russell, moved also to be close to Clifford, his only brother left. On the other hand, Clifford’s wife, Kate Tamarkin, formerly of the VSO, is the University of Virginia Musical Director and conducts the Charlottesville & University Symphony Orchestras.

Marcia and Russell enjoy going to many concerts when she is not working and on call as a peri operative nurse at the Martha Jefferson Hospital. She started the Neuro Spine Surgical team for them and continues to attend educational programs for In house Clinical Ladders! Husband Russell is staying busy in this poor economy finishing off the basement of the house they built six years ago. “It now looks like a first class sports facility!”

JILL MANUEL, French horn ’76-’79, principal ’78-’79, BFA St. Albans. Jill writes, “I am the news director at WEWS, the ABC affiliate in Cleveland, Ohio. WEWS just won a coveted Peabody Award for an investigative journalism piece about vets who served at Antarctica’s McMurdo Naval Station getting cancer from a nuclear reactor. I moved here from Chicago in 2008, where I was the news director at CLTV, the Tribune- owned 24 hour local news channel. In Chicago, I also worked at WBBM TV. I’ve worked in Washington, D.C. for Fox News Channel, and in NYC for Fox, CNN and Reuters.

I live in Shaker Heights, Ohio, with my partner Katherine and 10 year-old daughter Catalina. Shaker Heights has one of the largest elementary string programs in the country. Every 5th and 6th grade student is required to participate in band or orchestra. 60 percent of these kids continue playing in high school. Catalina plays the violin.”

JOE KECSKEMETHY, oboe ’77-’80, principal ’78-’80, U32. Joe’s family moved away from Vermont after his junior year, but he stayed in touch with many friends from VYO, including Christie Collins. Their friendship didn’t get serious until April 9, 1985, when Joe invited her to a NYC concert by the Portland String Quartet. His uncle was a member. “This year, on April 9th we celebrated 25 years from that first date! Now this marriage is in its twenty-first year, we have two in high school, the older preparing to graduate. It’s been a wonderful run, and I’m the most fortunate man in the world.

We live one county north of Pittsburgh, and my law practice continues to grow. We are a four attorney firm now, primarily serving Butler County, PA, and the North Hills of Allegheny County. I’m happy in the law, though sometimes it’s not the most sophisticated work. The law can be a blunt as well as a fine tool, but I’ve found a niche for myself trying to help people get through some of their toughest times. It can be very satisfying.

On the music side, I played regularly after leaving Vermont, studying with the principal oboist of the Pittsburgh Symphony, and playing with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony and the Johnstown Symphony while in college.”

Then law school and other activities took over. He thought of getting back into playing, talked with Neil Boyer about getting some lessons, bought reeds, but hasn’t had quite the nerve to get going again. However, with the kids taking less time, and his law practice not taking 70 hours a week, he’s “running out of excuses.” He’s still close to music with his children and being on the Butler County Symphony Board. The children are into music.

“Nathan, our senior, has played classical guitar for over ten years now. He’s played in his own local recitals, and now plays in the high school jazz band as well. This week he’s playing in the pit orchestra for the high school musical (the Sound of Music) while Zoe, his freshman sister, is on stage as a nun. The hills are alive!

Zoe played the flute for a few years, but decided the marching band wasn’t for her. At the same time, she is becoming a fine pianist and was one of the few freshmen asked to join the jazz band this year. She plays with Christie’s student group, as well, and is looking for other piano outlets. She also sings with the high school Chamber Singers and is looking forward to a trip to Annapolis next month for a concert festival.”

Joe and Christie would love to hear from their many VYO friends. They were happy to spend some time recently with **SCOTT METCALFE**, violin ’76-’81, principal second ’77-’78, Assoc. Concertmaster ’80-’81, who was in Pittsburgh with his excellent ancient music ensemble, Blue Heron. Joe says “Hear this group if you can!” (See Newsletter for spring ’11 for more about Blue Heron.) Joe sends best regards to their friends, too numerous to list here, but here’s Joe’s e-mail: magyar@zoominternet.net.

Joe says for himself and Christie: “Music is a daily presence for all of us, and we never go long without thinking of how important it was to both of us growing up. At the center of that, and in our hearts, will always be the VYO.”



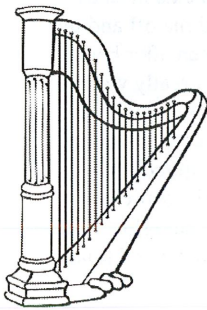
CHRISTIE COLLINS, violin ’76-’79, BHS, Manhattan School of Music. Joe continues his letter with news of wife, Christie, naming her “the busiest musician in the family. In addition to a busy teaching schedule, Christie is the co-founder of Lyric Strings, a wonderful student string ensemble that she coaches with a colleague violist. She is involved in educational outreach for the Butler County Symphony Association, and chairs the programming committee of the symphony’s Board of Directors. The symphony is also in the middle of a new conductor search and Christie is on the selection committee. In performance, she is the symphony’s principal second violin and gigs in the area as various small ensemble opportunities arise. In her playing, however, she is happiest right now with an improvisational jazz-folk ensemble of five players called the Mahoney Band, which plays Celtic and American folk and jazz.” After two years they are making regular appearances and are “in the process of publishing their first recording. The Band looks to be at the center of a small sort of cultural renaissance” in what Joe calls their “rust belt city.”

SUSAN BARBER, bassoon ’82-’84, principal ’83-’84, Colchester High. Assoc. Prof. of Bassoon, Chair Woodwind Area, James Madison University School of Music (Harrisonburg, VA) Sue writes: “After spending many years bouncing around the country, and to Spain with various orchestral jobs, I landed in Virginia and have been teaching at JMU for 12 years now and really enjoy it. I thought I had left orchestral playing when I took this job, but I seem to be regularly engaged as a substitute player with several of the orchestras in the region, and often play principal, which is nice. I enjoy the variety of things that I get to do in my current job—never a dull moment! It is really a small world. I actually teach with Janice Minor (clarinet) whom I met in Vermont 30 years ago at the Green Mountain Summer Music School (1982?) and Nathan Brubaker, son of David Brubaker and sister of **STACY BRUBAKER**, flute ’88-’91, co-principal ’89-’91, Colchester High. Nathan has been teaching at JMU for the last five years in our College of Education. I spend my summers now at the Brevard Music Festival in Brevard, NC as an artist/faculty member and play in the faculty orchestra under music director, Keith Lockhart (and quite a few distinguished guest conductors every summer). I play on faculty chamber concerts as needed and teach both high school and college level students. It’s a great festival with three orchestras (HS, College, and Faculty) and we do some side by side playing with the college students in the faculty orchestra, which is a wonderful way to teach.

It seems like so long ago that I was in VYO. I remember it fondly, and it certainly helped define who I am now as a musician.”

SHARON ALBERT KAPLAN, flute, ’84-’86, CVU. Sharon and husband Matt, who is in equity research, have been in New York City for over 21 years. “While we love being in Vermont to visit, I think I was always a city person at heart and just never realized it until I moved here. I love having tons of cultural opportunities an easy subway ride away (though, to be honest, we don’t get to as many as we did before we had kids). And I love being able to walk and take public transportation most everywhere we go. It’s so nice not to have to be driving all the time. New York is not the big anonymous place many people think it is. It’s made up of communities and neighborhoods like anyplace else.

In 2010, we moved from the East Side (of Manhattan) to the West Side, and we now have a beautiful view of Central Park that changes with the seasons. I play my flute infrequently, but I do play. I got back into regular practicing last year when Benji’s school needed a flutist at the Spring Sing, but I’ve become lazy again since, and clearly need another reason to start regular practicing. Both of my kids



play instruments. Madeline (age 12) plays guitar (not so willingly), and Benji (age 9) has been playing the harp for over a year now.

In school this year, he also had to choose a (more traditional) string instrument, so he is playing cello. I lobbied hard for him to choose violin, as the two of us walk across the park every day to school. But, alas, I am lugging the cello over a mile twice a week.

For the past four years, I have been working part-time as a fundraiser at a charter school for children with autism. The job is close to my kids’ schools, and offers me the flexibility to be involved in their schools and available to them after school and in the summer.

JENNEFER CROSS GARRITY, oboe ’84-’86, EJHS. Jennefer graduated from law school in ’95. She and her husband now live in North Carolina. Jennefer writes: “Matthews is a suburb of Charlotte, NC, with a definite sense of community. My husband and I enjoy living in a smaller town atmosphere while still having access to the bigger offerings of Charlotte. Six years ago I started my own law firm, where we practice Estate Planning, Elder Law and Estate Administration along with some Civil Litigation. After years of trying cases for companies, it is truly rewarding to work directly with families to help them make plans that will serve their needs as they age. I truly love going to work every day. We have three attorneys, a great staff, and our office is the oldest house in Matthews and is on the historic registry.

On a more personal note, my husband and I are in the process of adopting, so with any luck we should be adding to our family in the near future. We are very excited!”

MICHAEL DANIELSKI, cello ’84-’88, BHS. A UVM Med School grad in ’98, Michael has practiced nephrology and internal medicine in Portsmouth NH since then. He and his wife, Kathy, also an internist, have lived in New Hampshire’s only island town, Seacoast, since 2005. Michael urges friends to visit. The kayaking and swimming there are excellent! Michael keeps up a balance between work and other things in life mostly through music. He rehearses weekly with a string quartet and finds performances “an added motivator to keep up my cello chops.” Besides, it’s “a fun diversion from work.” He and Kathy very much enjoyed bringing their 10 year old violinist daughter, Anna, to see the ELMC and Michael’s VYO colleague **ASIAT (ACE) ALI**, violin ’85- ’88, principal second, ’87-’88, EJHS “in his element with the kids.” (Presto Conductor, Ed.) Michael also enjoyed playing duets with VSO **SOFIA HIRSCH**, violin ’84-’88, principal second ’84-’85, CVU.



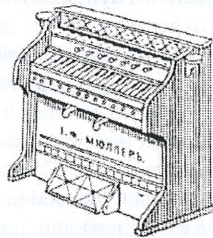
EMILY MARTZ, violin ’89-’90, Harwood UHS. Emily writes: “I moved to Seattle after I graduated from college in order to experience a new part of the country. After 3 ½ years I returned to the Boston area, worked for Putnam Investments in sales, and then they promoted me back to Seattle. Putnam laid me off and the Hartford hired me, also as a mutual fund wholesaler. Then after being back in Seattle a total of five years, I decided that what I really wanted to do was think, research, and write, and so I moved back to Delaware for grad school!” (as a doctoral candidate in history.) Recently, Emily moved to Tupper Lake in the Adirondacks “because it’s quiet, and because I needed to get away from distractions of friends, church, teaching, the university. Those are all wonderful and meaningful distractions, but I need a place where I can just sit and write and finish this darn thing!”

Emily says she’s a recent convert to fiddle music. “I play with a Celtic group once a week and I can’t get enough of it. I think I enjoy practicing more now than I ever did as a child! (But then as a child practicing took me from playing outside; now practicing is an excuse not to work.)” She says listening to or playing fiddle music can bring her out of a down mood. She’s focusing on bowing techniques and adding drones and double stops.

ROBERT MACEY, viola ’90-’94, co-principal ’92-’93, principal ’91-’92, ’93-’94, Middlebury UHS. Robert writes that his life has gone in a different direction than he had once hoped, and now viola is no longer a part of it. After his years at Brandeis, he auditioned for several graduate programs with no success. “I guess I just didn’t have the passion and dedication to make music my life.”

Robert is currently the beverage director for a prominent area chef at his newest location in Cambridge, MA, called Area 4. “It’s funny, restaurants are quite popular as a side job for musicians, so I often get to talk music while at work... I get out to hear live performances whenever possible, and always drift back to my days in VYO, fondly remembering all of the great people I met and all of the wonderful experiences I was lucky enough to take part in. I still keep in touch with several of the ’90-’94 orchestra members through Facebook.”

SANDRA GRESL, oboe ’92-’98, principal ’96-’98 Rutland H.S. Last heard from in ’09, Sandra was in her second year of law school in Seattle. Now here’s an update: “I am in India. I arrived late August and will be here in Kolkata for one year. I was lucky enough to get a Fulbright student research scholarship to spend time here to learn more about international law and domestic violence advocacy. However, the highlight thus far has been starting up singing lessons – Hindustani classical singing with harmonium. It’s been an amazing learning experience and I love reconnecting with music. ... I miss Vermont a lot and look forward to the time when I come back ‘home.’”



SEAN NEWHOUSE, violin ’92-’98 SBHS. Sean has been in the Newsletter lately (see spring 2011 with his conducting of the Boston Symphony and at Tanglewood). Here’s more! On June 22nd, he will make his conducting debut in France with the L’Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice and the soloist young Russian pianist Zlata Chochieva. And back home in the fall, he’ll be conducting the Burlington Chamber Orchestra, whose conductors last season were **SOOVIN KIM**, Andrew Massey, VYO Conductor two years ago, and Jeff Domoto, VYO’s present Music Director and Conductor.

Sean sends another piece of good news. Late this summer he’ll be marrying Marie Gryphon. She’s finishing her Ph.D. in public policy at Harvard and has just accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard, beginning in the fall.

JESSICA SCOTT, cello ’97-’00 SBHS. Jessica graduated from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and Vermont Law School. She writes: “I currently live in Washington, D.C., working as an environmental attorney for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I was in China for six weeks at the end of 2011 participating in an exchange with Chinese environmental law professionals. I still dust off my cello and play from time to time, though not as often as I’d like!”

Jessica is going to be married in late August in St. George, Vermont, and hopes to have VYO musicians there to play. She and her fiancé take advantage of the many classical venues in the Washington area. Performances at the Kennedy Center are among their favorites.

LAURA HAMEL BOUIX, flute ’98-’00, principal ’99-’00, home school Hyde Park. The VYO fall ’09 newsletter has news of Laura: degrees in music and education from McGill and marriage to Sylvain, who is also a musician. She is well known locally as camp life director for Reveille. An update this spring lists her professional work as middle and high school band director for the Boston Public Schools. She is working toward her master’s in arts education at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, which she will finish in the spring of 2013.

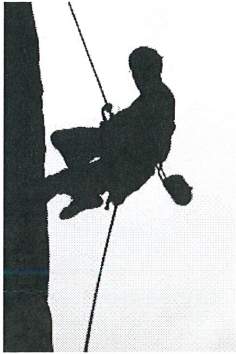
Laura writes: “Growing up, my most powerful community experience was one based in music, and I decided to dedicate my life to that through educating youth, continuing my study of the flute....” Now both Laura and Sylvain want to share music in the community around them.

“Everyone asked the typical questions, ‘When are you buying a house?’ and ‘When are you having kids?’ We decided the most logical step instead was to start an orchestra!”

The Brookline Orchestra, strong for many years, ceased to exist in 2000. After a year of planning, rehearsals began in September ’10 at the Korean Church in Brookline, open to about 65 amateurs and professionals. They have performed not only concerts, but sent ensembles to events such as the Brookline Ballet School’s spring performance, a Brookline Emergency Food Bank benefit, and the Chamber of Commerce annual awards ceremony.

Their plans continue to be ambitious, with outreach to schools, non-profits, and community organizations. Finances will be the usual problem. For more, see their web site, www.brooklinesymphony.org.

KENDRA LESSER, bassoon’99-’03, principal ’00-’03, CVU. Kendra writes: “I spent a year in a PhD program at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, but last summer decided to finish my PhD at the University of New Mexico (although I have switched to the electrical engineering department). It was not an easy decision, but I decided that happiness and quality of life ruled over getting a degree from a more prestigious university. I love New Mexico and the outdoors, and love having time to enjoy them. Of course, it also helped that my boyfriend is in a PhD program at UNM, and long-distance relationships are difficult, to say the least.



So I am back in Albuquerque, living with my boyfriend, and finishing my PhD in electrical engineering. I spend my weekends outdoors, primarily rock climbing, but also camping and hiking. The weather here is amazing; we have mountains twenty minutes away from our house, and I couldn’t be happier.”

LEAH SCHWARTZ, clarinet ’00-’02, co-principal ’01-’02, CVU. From living in Los Angeles, Leah has jumped to Denmark, as of August ’11. She writes “I now live in Aarhus, Denmark (western coast close to Sweden, south of Norway). I have played in many Danish orchestras as a freelance clarinetist, but right now I have a six month contract with Aarhus Symphony Orchestra playing 2nd and E-flat clarinet. Denmark is a country of wonderful people who speak really good English, and I am very glad to be living here. I am taking a Danish language course two times a week and am in the process of converting my U.S. driver’s license to a Danish one.

I am engaged to a Norwegian, Flemming, who plays principal French horn in the Aarhus Symphony, and we are expecting a baby boy in July. We are both really excited and look forward to meeting him.”

ALICE HASEN, violin ’04-’08, Principal ’06-’07, Co-concertmaster ’07-’08, CVU. Alice is this year finishing up a double major in French and Music at Yale. Her senior thesis is on the music of Claude Debussy. She’s been playing in the Yale Symphony Orchestra all four years and is currently Principal Second. She writes: “I also tutor violin at a local elementary school through a nonprofit program called Music Haven, and play in a string sextet. This summer I had an internship at the Metropolitan Opera Guild, which I absolutely loved!”

Next school year, Alice will be teaching for Teach for America in the Mississippi Delta region which covers part of eastern Arkansas and western Mississippi. (Check out the Fall VYO Newsletter for the article on **MARIETOU DIOUF**, violin ’05-’06 SBHS, and her work with this program. Ed.) Alice writes: I will be teaching music, most likely band or chorus classes, in one of the most depressed public school regions in the country (in fact, this region is actually the most depressed in America – incredibly poor areas with faltering public schools. Hopefully, I will find out soon exactly where I will be working within the region (we interview with each prospective school). I also hope to lead extracurricular activities in addition to class, such as drama club or jazz band. I’m very much looking forward to learning from my kids and the community, though the work there will be incredibly challenging.”

Alice continues, “I’m hoping my experience as a corps member in TFA will give me further insight as to what to do next, but I know that I would always like to be involved in music education. I always love remembering my great times in VYO, which has truly been a formative experience in my life, musical and otherwise. Some VYO friends and I still get together at First Night for a coffee and a good reminiscing session!”



The VYOA’s 50th anniversary is coming up (2013/2014)! Any ideas how to celebrate? If so, send them to Rosina@vyo.org.

VYO Alumni Newsletter Edited and Published by Carolyn Long, with layout design by Jody Wooes

Please send your news and any address changes to carolynlong1720@comcast.net