

UPCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS

Thursday, September 29 — 5:30 pm

Autumn Promenade @ ELMC

Saturday, October 15 — 11:00 am

Fall Rug Concert @ ELMC

seating is limited—please reserve in advance

Tuesday, December 6 — 7:00 pm

Winter Choral Concert @ ELMC

Sunday, December 11 — 4:00 pm

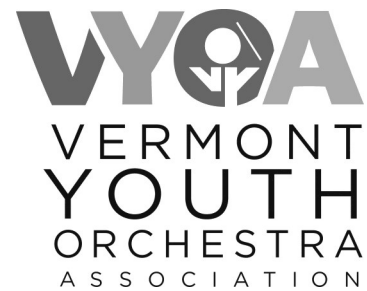
OrchestraChorusPalooza! @ the Flynn

For ticket information, visit vyo.org

Bravo Club

Give our kids a standing ovation by joining the **Bravo Club**, a monthly giving club that makes it easy to provide sustained charitable support to the VYOA and its student musicians. When you join with your **monthly gift of \$5 or more**, you will receive a **VYOA bumper sticker** with your welcome letter! It's easy to set up, and you can cancel at any time. With support from alumni like you, we can continue our mission to develop young people as artists, citizens, and leaders through the shared pursuit of musical excellence.

Visit www.vyo.org/bravo to join today!



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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2016

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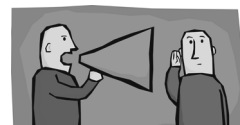
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Burlington, VT



FLASHBACK FEATURE: 90s Takeover! Do you recognize these aspiring musicians? If so, send an email to martha@vyo.org and let us know!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your stories and address updates to Martha Pullen at martha@vyo.org. Let us know what's going on in your life and share memories and photos of your time with the VYOA!



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer/Fall 2016

Reflections on Reveille!

By Art DeQuasie, Director of Operations



VYO and VYP started their 2016-17 season last week with a spectacular Reveille! music camp. The five-day camp flew by in a wink of an eye and was filled with fun and inspiring rehearsals and activities each day. The VYO, under Interim Conductor Dr. Edward Cumming, filled the Elley-Long Music Center with beautiful rehearsals of Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 and Sibelius's *Finlandia*. VYP, under their conductor Dr. Yutaka Kono, gave a powerful start to their first rehearsals with *The Tempest* by Robert Smith, music from *Indiana Jones* by John Williams, and arrangements of *Jupiter* by Holst and Overture to *Rienzi* by Wagner. By Tuesday afternoon, the impressive progress of both orchestras inspired the plan for a short end-of-camp concert for the parents. This concert included a rousing

VYO/VYP side-by-side performance of Bizet's *Farandole* from *L'Arlesienne* Suite No. 2. The orchestras received this piece only on Thursday for their Friday performance! The concert also included VYO playing *Finlandia* and VYP performing *The Tempest*.

Many thanks go to our dedicated Camp Life Staff, led by Andrew Riegler, for providing activities that helped the students bond as friends and musicians. There were many activities that called upon groups of students to create solutions to fun problems. Other activities got the heart rates up, such as kickball, dancing, and soccer. Wednesday afternoon was unforgettable with an outing to Skateland. Roller skates, bumper cars, bouncy houses, and go-karts kept all of us, staff included, greatly entertained. Congratulations to VYO and VYP for such great spirit and a fantastic beginning to the season!



Summer Music Extravaganza!



Each season, the VYOA offers a number of summer music opportunities. First up this summer was Music Day Camp. With two sections of band, two levels of string orchestra, chamber music ensembles, musical and non-musical elective choices, sectional coachings, and fun planned activities, students are able to immerse themselves in music learning for an entire week while having fun at the same time. The Music Day Camp faculty includes some of the best local educators and performers. After 20 years, Tim Buckingham has retired as Director of Music Day Camp. **Congratulations and thank you, Tim!** This was the second summer we offered Discovery Strings. Led by award-winning pedagogue Kathleen Kono, Discovery Strings offers young string players some of their first ensemble and performance experiences. Mini-Camp is the season kick-off for Vermont Youth Strings and Vermont Youth Chorus and Chorale members. This 2-day intensive gives students a chance to meet fellow ensemble members, get to know their conductor, and dive into repertoire for the season. We had a blast with our unique and varied summer programs!

ALUMNI NEWS

Katie Jordan (Horn, VYO '02-'08, Vergennes Union High) Life has been full of music since leaving the VYOA. I received my BM from the Curtis Institute of Music in 2012 and MM from The Juilliard School in 2014. I recently completed my second season as 2nd horn with the Sarasota Orchestra, and spend the year traveling between Sarasota and New York City, where my husband, Billy Short, lives and works.

The nicest part about being a musician is the vast amount of traveling that we do for work. In the past few years, I've toured with school and freelance-based groups to China, Japan, and Germany. In August, I performed with the Lucerne Academy in Switzerland, working with living composers on their own music and expanding my knowledge of modern music with coaches from the Ensemble InterContemporain.

No matter how far I travel away from Vermont, I'm never too far away; the music world is incredibly small. Last July, I played a run of South Pacific with Zachary Guiles (Trombone, '04) at the Ash Lawn Opera festival in Charlottesville, VA. Neither of us knew the other would be there. It was amazing to see each other for the first time since our last concert together at the Flynn Center, almost 13 years ago!

Tyler Kieft (trumpet, VYO '99-05, Essex High)

I've been working at Instagram for four years now, and have watched as the company grew from 20 to 400 people. I work on the iOS and Android apps, helping to keep them fast even as we keep growing. After spending five years living in San Francisco (where I definitely left at least a piece of my heart), I moved to New York City this past March. It's been wonderful to experience the arts scene here - some weeks I'm at the theater multiple times. And of course being much closer to my family in Vermont is a huge perk. I spent a week there in June biking around the Champlain Valley, eating maple creemees, and visiting all the new breweries that have popped up.



Amanda Milne (violin, VYO '10-14, CVU) I grew up learning the Suzuki Method and my career goal is to open my own violin studio one day. I will be a junior Violin Performance major in the conservatory at Lawrence University. I enjoy performing with others, especially in a chamber music setting.

This summer I was accepted into the National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Institute in Washington, DC. I spent a month rehearsing and performing at the Kennedy Center with musicians from around the world. The festival really pushed me as a player and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from top tier professionals. It was an unforgettable experience. I also enjoyed working at VYO's Reveille and Discovery Strings Day Camp this year!

Dr. Katharine DeBoer (violin, VYO '63-66, BHS)

I was concertmaster of VYO in its first years, as well as the Burlington High School orchestra. I continued to play in the orchestra at UVM, but after college I developed my career as a concert soprano. I earned my doctorate in vocal performance at the University of Illinois in 1993, and subsequently appeared as guest soloist with the VYO. I retired in 2015 as Professor of Music at the University of Nevada, Reno, and moved to Bradford VT.

Sarah (Kahn) Samnick (flute/piccolo VYO '94-'96, U-32) lives in Seattle and plays in a community orchestra, Rain City Symphony. She is a stay at home mom to two daughters, ages 4 and 8.

Nathan Caudill (horn, '06-09, Plattsburgh High)

Even a decade later, VYO still holds many of the best memories I have of playing music, from playing on the Great Wall of China to playing An American in Paris (in Paris). I remember the orchestra members as friendly and talented, and Mr. Peters hilarious. Lately, I've been getting a Master's degree and playing with the University of Maryland Gamer Symphony Orchestra, as well as a couple of smaller ensembles. Although I don't get to travel back north often, I do hope at some point to be able to stop by to hear a future VYO concert and see the new conductors.

ALUMNI NEWS

Cynn timer Wheeler-Thunem (violin, VYO '76-79, CVU)

I'm very excited that both of my sons are musical. My older son is a music major at Bates College and sings in The Deansmen a Cappella group. He plays lead guitar in a band with other Baties called The Good Luck Gentlemen. They had a few gigs in NYC last summer and a recording session at Atlantic Records. He has a large Sound Cloud portfolio of original work and has composed and performed pieces for a modern dance group at Bates. He was in Cape Town, South Africa last fall teaching music in the public schools and working in a recording studio with a hip-hop artist (King Prinz) from Ghana.

My younger son finished high school up in Montana. He excels in theater. In February, we went to see him perform in his first drama as Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*. He has also been cast as Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*. That production took place in April. He is currently a freshman at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. He is considering a double major in theater and communications.

Brian Messier (percussion, VYO '97-99, BFA-St. Albans)

Since my last entry, I was recently appointed as the "Artist in Residence in Winds and Director of the Wind Ensemble" at Williams College. I will be doing this in addition to my role as Artistic Director of The Valley Winds (www.thevalleywinds.org) and Director of Bands at Belchertown High School, MA.

Eli Chalmers (trombone, VYO '00-03, Montpelier)

After VYO I went to The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, and then finished a degree in Trombone Performance at McGill University in Montreal. Since then I've spent some time playing music professionally along with a full time job in telecommunications for the past 6 years. I recently redesigned the telecom job in order to perform and teach music full time. This journey starts with a 2.5 month gig on a cruise ship, the Crystal Symphony. I will be back in New York City in January 2017.

Some of my musical highlights since VYO (which was 13 years ago, wow!) were playing with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, the New York Chamber Players, the Empire State Sinfonia, and New York Theater Workshop, recording on tracks that feature notable artists such as Snoop Dogg, Method Man, Talib Kweli, Melanie Fiona, Vernon Reid, and Leon Gruenbaum, performing on stage across the US, Canada, Europe, and the UK alongside artists such as Mike Clarke, Anais Mitchell, Sean Hayes, Tao Nguyen, Josh Roseman, Deekline, and Marc Edwards.

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VYOA WELCOMES EDWARD CUMMING

The VYOA is pleased to announce that **Edward Cumming** has been named VYO Interim Conductor for the 2016-2017 season. Mr. Cumming is the Primrose Fuller Professor of Orchestral Activities at The Hartt School, the music school of the University of Hartford. A highly acclaimed conductor, he served as the music director of the Hartford Symphony from 2002-2011. Prior to joining the Hartford Symphony, he was the resident conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony and has guest-conducted numerous orchestras throughout the United States and internationally.

As an educator, Mr. Cumming was music director of the nationally-acclaimed Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra and was the founding music director of the Pacific Symphony Institute. He has taught at Yale University, California State University in Fullerton, University of South Florida in Tampa, and Pacific University (OR). We are thrilled to have him work with our students this season!

