

## UPCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS

**Sunday, January 28th — 3:00 pm**  
Vermont Youth Orchestra @ the Flynn  
*Tchaikovsky in Vermont—Celebrating Identity*

**Saturday, March 10th — 11:00 am**  
Spring Rug Concert @ ELMC

**Tuesday, April 10th — 7:00 pm**  
Spring Choral Concert @ ELMC

**Sunday, May 6th — 3:00 pm**  
Vermont Youth Orchestra @ the Flynn  
*Tchaikovsky in Vermont—Celebrating Mastery*

For ticket information, visit [vyo.org](http://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](http://www.vyo.org/bravo) to join today!

**VYOA**  
VERMONT  
YOUTH  
ORCHESTRA  
ASSOCIATION  
223 Ethan Allen Avenue  
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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2017



Left: Mrs. Long with Ray Anderson at rehearsal Right: Mrs. Long loads music stands into the VYO trailer



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your stories and address updates to [info@vyo.org](mailto:info@vyo.org). Let us know what's going on in your life and share memories and photos of your time with the VYOA!

# VYOA VERMONT YOUTH ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

## The VYOA Honors Carolyn Long

Rosina Cannizzaro, Executive Director



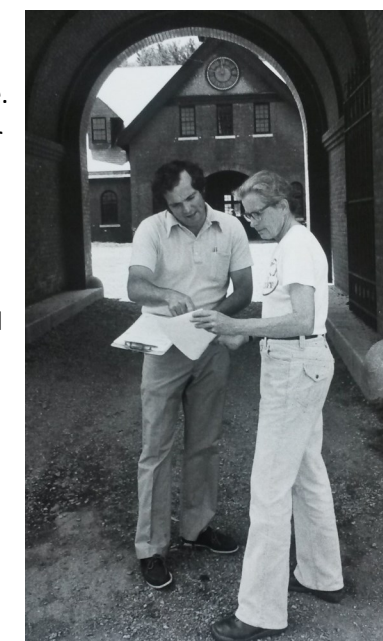
On Tuesday, November 21, 2017, the VYOA lost a dear friend, advocate, and supporter of the organization, **Carolyn Long**. Mrs. Long was 98 and her presence was felt by generations of Vermont Youth Orchestra musicians. Fondly thought of as the “matriarch” of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, her association with the VYO started in 1964 when her son Alan joined the orchestra and she became involved with the Burlington Friends of Music. She was the volunteer VYO manager starting in 1967, a role she continued in for a remarkable 40 years. In addition to being the volunteer VYO orchestra manager for 4 decades, she was a beloved violin/viola teacher who launched the after-school string program at South Burlington High School.

Her tireless work had a direct impact on the lives of thousands of young musicians. VYO alumni who had Carolyn as their orchestra manager have their own Mrs. Long story. Carolyn reminded everyone when it was time to rehearse, stored the music library in her garden shed, and transported the timpani in a trailer behind her car. Many remember seeing her pick up cans along Spear Street knowing that the bottle deposits would be donated to the VYOA. Others remember hiking with her during their VYO summer camp or doing odd jobs at her home such as picking apples or grapes. In the early years, Mrs. Long was known for driving and picking up musicians if they needed a ride to weekly rehearsals. And many individuals can say that they received their first instrument from the VYO Used Instrument Sale that took place annually under her supervision.

It is because of Carolyn Long that the beautiful Elley-Long Music Center is the VYOA's home. She made the lead gift for the renovation and the building is named in honor of her and her father, Harold Elley. At the time, the VYOA was one of the first youth orchestras in the country to have its own building.

The passing of Mrs. Long marks the end of an era for the VYOA. She was the link that connected us to its rich, grassroots-inspired beginning when a few moms gathered around a kitchen table to start a youth orchestra. She always downplayed her role, saying “no one person did this,” but we would all agree that the VYOA would not be what it is today without her.

*We are grateful to the Long family for naming the VYOA as a beneficiary of donations in Carolyn's memory. If you would like to make a gift in Carolyn's memory to the VYOA, please note "Carolyn Long Memorial" on your check or online donation so that we may properly acknowledge your gift.*



ALUMNI NEWS

Margaret Swinchoski (flute, VYO '75-'77, Lamoille)

In recent years I have been very busy with my trio Palisades Virtuosi—a flute, clarinet, and piano ensemble. We started our group in 2002 as three friends who just loved to make music together. After discovering that there was very little repertoire written for this combination, we began commissioning new music for ourselves in 2003. Now, 15 years later, we have created nearly 80 new works by a wide cross-section of American composers as a result of our established “Mission to Commission” ® We have been recording as many of them as possible and released our sixth volume of these “New American Masters” on the Albany Records label on May 1st. Visit palisadesvirtuosi.org for video and audio samples of our work.

In addition to my trio, I have been continuing to do freelance work in NYC including subbing at “Phantom of the Opera.” I often see VYO alum Peter Reit, French horn '73-77, at the show and with the NY Gilbert & Sullivan Players. I live in New Jersey, just outside of NYC, with my husband Mike (Stagehand at “Wicked”) and my 16 year old twin girls. I also still enjoy my vocation of figure skating, which I began at age 31! I still remember wonderful summers and terrific musical experiences from my years with the VYO—it is truly an amazing resource for young musicians in Vermont!

Find me on Facebook and “friend” me!

Lui (Louise) Collins (violin, VYO '63-'64)

After a year in Brazil with AFS, where I played French horn in two orchestras and fell in love with bossa nova, I went on to major in music theory at UConn. Five semesters in I bailed on my major but continued playing horn in the orchestra and concert band, while I got my BA in Sociology. After graduation I started doing music full time - but folk music, singing and playing guitar - and went on to tour nationally and to record albums with Philo, Green Linnet, and Waterbug. In 2003 I trained with Music Together to teach early childhood family music classes. I founded Upside-Up Music and teaching became my focus, though I continued doing concerts as well. I developed my own Kodály/folk-based curriculum for 5-7 year olds, Kids' Jam, which I've subsequently adapted for homeschool families in an online program called Upside-Up's Music at Home.

My coolest news? I took up the clarinet 6 years ago and joined my community band! I'm also playing clarinet, along with ukulele and banjo, in a trio I founded last year with fiddler Donna Hébert and guitarist Max Cohen, called 3 Ravens. We'll be releasing a recording in 2018 of a show we created with writer Jane Yolen, focused around her poems, called The Infinite Dark. So my life is still full of music, as well as family time with my three grown children and 4 grandsons, from newborn to 9.

Armando Veve (flute/piccolo, VYO '02-'07, SBHS) was selected for the Forbes “30 under 30: Art & Style” list for his work as an illustrator. Based in Philadelphia, his work has been featured in the *New Yorker* and *Conde Nast Traveller* among others. **Congratulations, Armando!**

Fond Memories of Carolyn Long

Elizabeth (Liza) Scriggins Lowry (violin, VYO '81-'85, Plattsburgh)

Mrs. Long was my violin teacher in the early 80s when I was about 10-12 years old. My family used to trek to Vermont from Plattsburgh twice per week for private lessons and orchestra. I remember her no-nonsense-yet-congenial manner, her cat Barnaby drifting in and out as we worked (sometimes taking up residence in my violin case for the duration), the occasional bag of crisp, flavorful apples, helping out with orchestra bowings (and erasures before returning rentals, with her handy-dandy electric eraser), hauling music stands from the BHS band room to the stage and back— Mrs. Long could carry more than anyone, faster than everyone... Carolyn and Tiny generously hosted me for several days one summer so I could attend the String Orchestra camp at Shelburne Farms. One evening, we were down by the ferry dock, and I managed to get sand in my eye after throwing gravel in the water. Mrs. Long took me to an eye doctor, where the offending granule was removed and my scratched cornea was covered with an eye patch. (Mr. Anderson said it was OK if I missed some notes in rehearsal, since I was reading with only one eye.) Carolyn continued to be a stalwart supporter as I joined the VYO, moved away, eventually became a member of the VSO, and move away again. I will never forget her incredible energy and boundless devotion to creating quality musical opportunities for children. Her contributions will reverberate ever onward!

Fond Memories of Carolyn Long

Tami (Vandermeer) Christensen (violin, VYO '76-'82, CVU)



Mrs. Long , Tami & Gypsy in 2007 at “Disaster Manor”

I’d like to start by talking about my private violin lessons with Mrs. Long at her home on Spear Street, which she jokingly called “Disaster Manor.” When I was 5 years old my parents started taking me to private piano lessons. At the age of 9 I decided I would prefer to play an instrument in a group instead of playing alone on a piano. I started taking percussion and violin lessons in addition to piano every week. I loved them all! I began playing in the string training orchestra and rehearsing at SBHS. Eventually I moved up to the VYO, went to All States and All New England music festivals competing on both violin and percussion. I most loved being a part of the sea of strings!!! Performing Tchaikovsky’s Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture was so exciting for me. I loved the exhilaration and comradery of playing in a big orchestra. I met some of my best girl friends in the VYO. I treasure my memories of VYO summer camp in Poultney and Lyndonville. Somehow Mrs. Long was everywhere! She could be seen carting the big timpani drums around in a trailer, organizing sectional rehearsals—both scolding and encouraging me—and I loved it! Mr. Anderson was our conductor, and he was wonderful.

I went on to play in the CVU and UVM orchestras along with the Vermont Symphony when they needed extra violins. After graduating from UVM in 1986, I moved to Tokyo to start working and traveling the world. I’ve been to 51 countries and have lived in Tokyo, Moscow, and London. I enjoyed going to the symphony in every city, but especially in Moscow where we went to Tchaikovsky Hall quite often! Marble busts of all the great Russian composers surround you as you sit and listen to beautiful music. We were fortunate to hear Rostropovich perform there on his cello in the late 90s. Now we live in Atlanta, and we’ve been thrilled to hear Joshua Bell with the Atlanta Symphony twice in the past two years!

Mrs. Long has had an immeasurable impact on my life even though I haven’t continued to play the violin. Whether I’m in Venice or Milan, New York or London, I continue to seek out classical music concerts. I enjoy the knowledge that I once performed many of the pieces I’m hearing. I listen for the violins, violas, oboes, etc. and remember my childhood friends and our many hours of practice and rehearsal. I appreciate every note and nuance. Most of all, I appreciate all that Mrs. Long taught me. What a wonderful gift she gave to the whole state of Vermont! **Brava Mrs. Long! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!**



A Musical Tribute to Mrs. Long

Benjamin Klemme, Music Director

On behalf of everyone at the VYOA, I wish to congratulate our young musicians for their incredible **OrchestraChorusPalooza** performances. Palooza gives us a unique opportunity to bring our entire organization together, and powerfully demonstrates the musical and personal growth of our students. If you were in the audience on Sunday, I trust you were moved by the joy and passion with which the musicians performed, especially in their tribute to Carolyn Long. For the first time in VYOA history, every student participated in the combined piece, “Simple Gifts” by Aaron Copeland, in memory of Mrs. Long. From every corner of the Flynn auditorium, our students filled the hall with beautifully moving music, bringing many in the audience to tears.

We are deeply grateful for everyone’s attendance at the concert, and for the support of the sponsors, volunteers, donors, and community partners that make these memorable musical experiences possible. **Thank you** for partnering with us to ensure young Vermonters have access to the high quality musical experiences they need and deserve!

Follow **@VYOAorg** for news, events, contests, and fun activities. Be sure to check out our “Flat Tchaikovsky” project **#tchaikovskyinv** and tag us in your VYOA memories **#vyoa**

