



VERMONT YOUTH ORCHESTRA

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011
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VYO NEWS

From Music Director , Jeff Domoto

Since joining the VYOA last February, I've had many memorable experiences but none more so than the Vermont Youth Orchestra's debut at Dvorak Hall of the Rudolfinum in Prague on July 1, 2011. The culmination of a weeklong tour that began in Berlin and included concerts in the southeast German towns of Bad Schmiedeberg and Herrnhut, our 66 member orchestra performed a challenging program including Copland's *El Salon Mexico*, dances by Brahms, Dvorak, and Johann Strauss Jr., and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. As the only "serious" orchestra concert in Prague for the entire weekend, we were joined by a paying audience of close to 1000 people! Our family and friends in the audience noted that this was a sophisticated audience that displayed some initial skepticism towards a young American orchestra; we won them over completely by the time we finished the first half of the concert with the *Blue Danube Waltz* and were rewarded with standing ovations following the Elgar and our second encore of the *Radetsky March* at the end. It was a joy and a privilege to represent our state and the VYOA in one of the world's great concert halls, and I'm most grateful to our staff, families, supporters, and young musicians for making that evening possible.

Associate Director of Instrumental Programs

In 1997, Music Director Troy Peters and VYO Conductor created Sinfonia to give the many-too-many aspirants for the VYO a place to play. But in 1999, Sinfonia wasn't enough. Enter VYP (Vermont Youth Philharmonia). Mr. Peters couldn't very well conduct three orchestras. VYOA was fortunate to find Anne Decker, who won by audition to take over Sinfonia. The following year Mr. Peters returned to conducting Sinfonia and Ms. Decker took over VYP.

Now, in addition to VYP, Ms. Decker has been appointed to a newly created position, Associate Director of Instrumental Programs. In this role, she will be assisting Mr. Domoto's plans for arranging and scheduling more sectional coaching, setting up master classes, developing a chamber music program, arranging Instrument Days open to the public as well as VYOA students. Already one brass quintet from VYO and two string quartets from VYP have signed up for eight weeks of coaching. (Ed. There will be a great deal more on this whole exciting development in the spring VYO Newsletter.)

Ms. Decker is the orchestra director at U-32 Middle and High School in Montpelier. Her husband, Tim Buckingham, directs the VYOA Music Day Camp for younger instrumentalists. They have two young daughters.

In September, Ms. Decker found time to conduct at the Flynn Space the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble's production of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* and the premiere of *The Crane Maiden* by Erik Nielsen, who is Theory Instructor for the VYOA. **JASON WHITCOMB**, '99-'01 VYO, SBHS, held down the trumpet slot. Former VYO Conductor, Thomas L. Read was the lone violin. **RACHAEL ELLIOTT**, (see Alumni News) was the bassoonist. She says, "Anne Rocks!" On Halloween weekend, Ms. Decker also conducted the VCME in the premiere of Dennis Bathory-Kitsch's opera, *Erzsebet*.

Benefits

The August Tropical Storm Irene did an incredible amount of damage in Vermont. Vermonters have been working ever since to make and pay for repairs. The Burlington Ensemble (described in the last VYO Newsletter) played concerts at 6:00 and 8:30 in the Champlain College Alumni Auditorium to benefit the Burlington Intervale Recovery Fund. The overflowing Winooski River ruined all the professionally grown crops there. Even hard shell vegetables like watermelons could not be eaten because of pollution. The BE program was made particularly special by the contribution of **SOOVIN KIM**, violin '86-'91, concertmaster '89-'91, Plattsburgh H.S. Soovin arrived from Korea just four hours before playing the Bach *Sonata in C minor*, the Kreisler *Farewell to Cucullain* (Londonderry Air) and the brilliant Sarasate *Zigeunerweisen* (Gypsy Airs). Soovin said he had really waked up by the time for the second performance!

The VVOA always needs financial help. It came in the form of a VYO ensemble concert at the Brick Church in Williston on Oct. 21. There were strings (quartet, duo, solo), trombones, and a twelve member a capella ensemble from the VYO Chorus. Jeffrey Buettner, Choral Director, was one of the singers; Mr. Domoto, who conducted, also joined the trombones as conductor and trombonist. And then there were the “Irregulars,” – three fiddlers, a very jumpy cellist, flute, accordion, and keyboard. It was a real crowd pleaser!

Side-by-Side

It occurred at the Flynn on First Night Dec. 31, ’97. The Vermont Symphony had played First Night concerts at the Flynn for a number of years, but the VYO First Nights were held at less favorable locations - Burlington High School, St. Paul’s, Memorial Auditorium. That year, the VSO invited the VYO to play side-by-side at the Flynn. What an honor!

However, a glance at the program raised a doubt: the title “Abduction from the VYO.” Since this was fourteen years ago and the two conductors involved are no longer in Vermont, there may be some details missing. But here is pretty much what happened. The program opened with VSO Kate Tamarkin conducting the Mozart *Abduction from the Seraglio*. At its conclusion an announcement was made that Troy Peters, VYO Conductor, had been kidnapped and was being held for ransom! Ms. Tamarkin continued the program with the Webber *Phantom of the Opera*. As is it neared conclusion the lights suddenly went out, total blackness, a timpani drum roll, a scream, and then the lights slowly returned to show Mr. Peters, sitting on a stool stage left, bound and gagged.

Ms. Tamarkin triumphantly explained that the VYO was getting too good and the town wasn’t big enough for both orchestras. Negotiations followed. It was agreed if VYO Concertmaster **DORIAN VANDENBURG-RODES** played the last movement of the Sibelius *Violin Concerto* some concessions might be made. Dorian’s playing was excellent! VSO members all applauded. So Mr. Peters was released. Ms. Tamarkin graciously handed him her baton, and he conducted the Weber *Overture to Euryanthe*. He then left the stage after applause and Ms. Tamarkin took over for the Durand *Tango de la Rosa*. Midway through the piece, Mr. Peters returned, offered his hand to Ms. Tamarkin. They tangoed across the stage, she tall, slim, Grecian profile; he a little on the stocky side, black hair and beard. The program was repeated twice that First Night afternoon.

ELEANOR LONG, VSO Manager and an early VYO principal oboe, concocted the whole scenario. “How silly can you get?” she said. She also invents and produces the popular VSO kiddie shows.

ALUMNI NEWS

CAROL WEBSTER BLAIR, bassoon ’64-’68, principal ’67-’69, BHS. B.S. UVM Civil Engineering; M.S. Northeastern Univ. Urban Transportation (Environmental Impact). Carol writes: “My career has been in transportation engineering and planning and I’m now organizing Urban Adventures for Seniors. We have a good time going to new places and finding new ways to get there. We’re developing a habit of orienteering so that when each of us is confronted with the impairments and obstacles of aging, we’ll be ready to work around them! In Boston, there are many ways to get around--no need to become isolated and inactive!

I stopped playing bassoon after college and eventually sold my bassoon to one of my cousins, who plays regularly with her local symphony. Three of my cousins eventually followed me in playing the bassoon (all girls), so I feel I did my part! I now sing with the Old South Church Choir in Boston--a wonderful experience and I love it. I’ve been blessed with two long marriages (still working on the second), three wonderful sons, and two delightful granddaughters (third on the way). Life is good!”

CLAUDIA WOLVINGTON viola ’65-’70, principal ’66-’70, BHS. Claudia writes: “First of all, greetings to my now (very) old ‘First Generation’ VYO friends. It’s been just amazing watching the VYO grow over the years into the fabulous organization that it has become. Congratulations to all of you that have made that happen!

Retirement (from the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Orchestra in Florence, Italy) is treating me very well. I spend most of my time clearing brush and distancing the forest from our house as a fire prevention measure here in very dry Tuscany, and helping my husband with the never-ending work restoring our very, very old farmhouse in the Chianti hills. We’ve been slowly working on it for over 20 years now, and it’s been fascinating. From World War II bomb fragments, bullets and shrapnel in the walls, to Etruscan pottery shards, evidence of pre-Christian floor work and cooking areas, and ancient chicken bones(!) in the insulating straws between walls--the surprises never end!

I still play the viola occasionally, mostly with a string orchestra that makes an annual trip to China, besides its

local concerts. In spite of a large metal plate and screws in my wrist since a bad break two years ago, playing has not been a problem. Thank heavens for good orthopedic surgeons!

Meanwhile I’m also trying to brush up on my poor piano technique and having a lot of fun playing violin and piano duets with my brother when I’m in Vermont. My two kids are becoming ever more independent. My 19 year-old Katie is studying Environmental Engineering in Florence, while my 17 year-old son is specializing in revolution, rebellion, graffiti and teenage angst!”

SANDRA WEST PARRY clarinet, ’67-’68, Spaulding. Sandy is proof that VYO grads are busy people. Married at seventeen, she has two children and three grandchildren. Having worked full time for an insurance company for almost 35 years, she is looking forward to retirement in February.

Her clarinet has not been as active. She only played it for a couple of summers with the Barre City Band. Her son plays trumpet. But home, kids, and work kept the clarinet on the shelf. Maybe a grandchild will use it, or she might donate it to a school.

There’s been a bit of time for travel, but Sandy and her husband love making their home in Vermont.

DAN ALLARD, percussion ’70-’71, BHS. Dan writes: I’m living in Taos, New Mexico and have been the last eight years since retiring from IBM and re-marrying. 2003 was a year of change! Since retiring from computer work, I’ve dabbled with construction, teaching, and playing music. During the ’90s, I discovered African drumming while living in Boulder, CO, and have become completely infatuated with it! I started taking African dance classes while I was attending a divorce group and quickly realized that I wanted to drum far more than dance.



I started taking lessons on the djembe hand-drum and was soon performing with some of the local African master drummers--from Mali, Guinea, Senegal, and the Congo. I traveled with our Ghanian performance troupe to perform at an African drum and dance festival in Taos. I’d vacationed in Taos before and really enjoyed the skiing and laid-back artsy town. During a reception put on by a local photographer, I met my wife, Patti, also a drummer and dancer. We started long-distance dating and it wasn’t long before

I announced my retirement and packed my bags for Taos. We’ve been married almost eight years now. I have two children from my first marriage, a son 31 and daughter 28. My stepsons are 23, 33, and one now deceased.

I am working again, providing computer tech-support for Taos Ski Valley, where I ski at lunchtime besides working full-time. I’m proud to say my daughter (a dance major) has taken up drums and plays in a ‘garage/indie’ band, “Red Light Cameras,” in Albuquerque, and recently married a bass player. For the traditional father/daughter dance at the wedding, we drummed instead so that everyone could dance--and they did! [Too bad the enclosed picture can’t be used. --Ed.] I’ve never been more involved in music and am very happy with my new life!”

CHRIS CRAIG, cello ’73-’76, bass ’76-’79, Mt. Mansfield. Burrowing through old VYO archives, your editor found a handsome card featuring two red foxes, dated July 10, 1975. It described how Chris and his mother took a great load of paper and magazines to be recycled to benefit the VYO. Total income: \$2.00! The market was “really down.”

Chris writes of the present: “After graduating from Vermont Tech and bouncing through a couple of jobs, I started working for the Construction Division of the Vermont Agency of Transportation in the spring of ’85. Since then I have been working with contractors building roads and bridges (large and small) across the northern half of the state. I’m looking forward to retiring in 2015 and spending some time wood-working and possibly building some small wooden boats. While I haven’t played an instrument in a long time, I value my experience with the youth orchestra and I give it credit for my appreciation of a wide range of musical styles.”

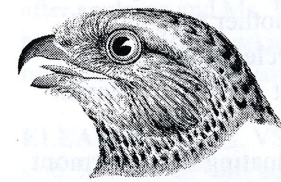
JOHN DRESSER, bassoon ’74-’77, BHS. Hartt College ’77-’78; Cornell Univ. ’78-’82. John writes: “It’s great to hear about my former orchestra mates and what they are up to these days. I’m especially inspired to hear about those who have continued a life in music. My musical career topped out with four years in the Cornell orchestra. After school, I moved to Boston, got married, and started a career and family. Somewhere in there I sold my bassoon to an MIT grad student. I threw in reams of music and some old reed-making equipment for good measure. My saxophone has had a longer life, though not under my breath. It was played for a while by my nephew, then my son, and then the son of a close friend. It’s going to come back to me soon, so maybe I’ll pick it up and blow a few notes!

Blog space for alumni to post memories or respond to a specific question.

I have had a twenty-or-so-year second career (my first was in real estate development) in fundraising, with the past eight years leading the effort of a community hospital in Concord, MA. My wife, Joanna and I are enjoying the empty nest with our two boys, Drew and Bobby, away at college. Drew will be graduating from Wake Forest this spring, so if anyone has a job lead for a mathematical economics major, send them my way! Bobby is a sophomore at Yale and sings with an a cappella group, the Bakers Dozen."



ANN KLOECKNER, violin '75-'78, Northfield H.S. Ann writes: "I enjoy reading the newsletter and learning about all the wonderfully interesting lives that VYO'ers lead after our experience with the orchestra. I still vividly remember a lot of my experiences. Maestro Peter Brown once told us in rehearsal to count the beats very carefully



on a piece of music we were struggling with. He told us to 'count like a hawk.' Then realizing how silly that sounded, he mimicked the shrieking cadence of a hawk as he counted out four beats to a measure for us: One! Two! Three! Four! in

the high-pitched way a hawk would count, if he could count in English. Now, that is pure gold!

As for me, I moved to Austin, TX, and lived there for four years, working with crime victims and representing battered women in a small non-profit law firm, where I was the director of civil litigation. I met and married Bryan Enright in 2005 (he is a musician who plays guitar and composes music for independent films). We lived in Bastrop, a town near Austin, while I worked for the State Bar of Texas, planning continuing education courses for lawyers. As the Bar started talking of layoffs and not filling vacant positions, I realized that I needed to look elsewhere if I wanted to be sure of a job. So I applied and was hired to be the executive director of Rappahannock Legal Services in Fredericksburg, VA. My husband and I managed to sell most of our possessions, the house in Bastrop, and move to Virginia all in two whirlwind months. Just about four months after I started work we learned that the horrible wildfires that blew through Texas were most intense in our former neighborhood. Our house we had just sold was vaporized in the firestorm. It leaves us with a complicated set of emotions: relieved, grieving, compassion for the unfortunate young lady and her disabled young son who bought the house and lost everything. It makes you think about fate and all the choices you make that put you in a certain situation or save you from a certain bad thing.

Now we are embracing our new location and settling in. I enjoy the challenges of working for equal justice in a proud legal services office (rewarding in all but the monetary sense!) and am relieved that I have just found out I passed the Virginia Bar Exam (that means I am licensed in NJ, PA, TX and VA), and am vowing that is my limit. My brother, Phillip, a professional musician (organ, harpsichord, choral conductor) is coming to Fredericksburg to give a benefit recital for my Legal Services office.

There is a lovely Fredericksburg Youth Symphony in the area that is doing wonderful outreach into the schools-reminds me of VYO 'master classes' at such exciting ports of call as Rutland! The local Episcopal church is trying to recruit me as a violist (Ann played viola in college, Ed.) for their chamber orchestra, but I have a busy year of acclimating to a new job before I can start thinking of extracurricular gigs. Still, I am enjoying playing without music, picking up harmonies and melodies I hear on the radio. Yes, the viola is the best!"

SHARON LACLAIR, flute '79-'82, principal '80-'82, CVU.

Sharon has lived in Georgia since 1989, working in IT (Information Technology) as a Database Administrator for a company that manufactures contact lenses and lens care. Because of a complicated merging of companies,

she will be transferred in 2012 to the headquarters of Alcon in Fort Worth, Texas. The realization that she will be leaving so many friends and favorite places to locate in hot, dry Texas, plus during this year getting a divorce, plus facing the problems of relocation (she is grateful that the company will pay for her mother to fly from Vermont to help her house hunt) has all made for what she has called a "crazy, busy year."



Sharon has enjoyed Atlanta Symphony concerts. She's thinking about getting her flute out. She wonders if she can still play it! And maybe, soon, she'll escape briefly to Vermont to visit her family.

KAREN LAVOIE, French horn '82-'85, BFA Fairfax. Karen has a busy life. Briefly in Tucson, Arizona, where she worked at the Medical Center, she moved to Lebanon, NH, working as a Homecare nurse. Her children (Sebastian, 15, and Allegra, 13) were born in New Hampshire. Then came northern Vermont, Morrisville and Elmore, and finally Saxton's River much further south. While working at Vermont Academy, she did graduate work at the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in Hyden, KY. She works as a Family Nurse Practitioner for Marathon Health in Keene, NH.

Now divorced, she finds her kids are "terrific." Sebastian is a freshman at Vermont Academy, plays varsity soccer, plays guitar, bass and drums, and is an excellent student. His "This I Believe" about his relationship with his guitar and music was selected as the best male freshman essay of the year. Allegra is a seventh grader at the Putney School and excels in art, soccer, and academics. She's played piano some; Karen hopes she'll find time to continue. Karen, herself, plays horn once in a while with a neighbor who is an accomplished pianist.

Besides her professional and family life, Karen has kept physically very fit, running, hiking and swimming in triathlons and swim races. In 2006, she did the eight-mile YMCA swim across Lake Champlain. She's just finished hiking the 48 4,000 foot mountains in NH.



TOBIAS KNAPP, trombone '86-'87, EJHS. B.A.

Amherst; J.D. Boston Univ.; M.A. L.D. Tufts Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

The internet tells us Toby has worked in Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union and speaks Russian. He is a partner with the law firm of Jenner & Block in New York, where he helps clients such as GE and General Dynamics with strategic business transactions. For details, check out www.jenner.com.

Toby is living in Pelham, NY, with his wife Deborah and their three children, who are 9, 8, and 6. He writes: "I have enjoyed helping my children begin learning all kinds of music. So far, they have taken up piano, drums, the bass, the flute, the ukulele and singing. No one has taken up trombone yet, but there's certainly still time. Somehow they have the energy for all of it. I spend my days at my law firm in New York City, but we all love to make it back to Vermont whenever we can! Best wishes to all."

MICHAEL BROWNE, cello '86-'90, SBHS. B.S.

Brown Univ. Material Science and Engineering.

Mike worked in traditional woodworking and then architectural woodworking and CNC (Computer Numerical Control) programming for ten years. Returning to engineering, he studied for and passed the Fundamentals of Engineering Test and completed the training and certification for RESNET (Residential Energy Services Network) energy raters. He is now able to help local builders and home owners take advantage of the best construction practices and funding assistance programs. He has his own business, ABA (Advanced Building Analysis) in Amesbury, MA, which covers the north shore of Boston and New Hampshire seacoast area. The ABA is a "proud partner of Energy Star."

GINGER BROWNE JOHNSON, violin '86-'91, SBHS. Ginger is a homecare veterinarian in Stoughton, MA, although when her family left Vermont after her 10th grade, it appeared music would be her career. Her B.A. from Brown University was in Human Biology and Music, her

M.A. from New England Conservatory of Music in Vocal Performance. But she says, "After I completed music school and realized opera was not in the cards," she remembered keenly how she felt as a five-year old when her father took her to the zoo, where he was assisting in the care of a baby endangered Western Lowland Gorilla. The baby looked in Ginger's eyes, reached toward her and grasped her extended finger, just as if it were a human baby.



So she obtained a Doctor's degree from the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. She became an associate veterinarian at Lloyd Animal Medical Center and Randolph Animal Hospital and veterinarian-in-charge at Animation Animal Rehabilitation Center. But she was laid off from work; no one was hiring. So she started her own practice. She now goes to people's homes to help their pets. Not having to go to a vet's office puts less strain on an already sick pet. It is a convenience to an owner and frees a pet from possible germs in a hospital.

Ginger lives with her husband and two girls, Cora (7) and Hadley (5) in Stoughton. Greg is the executive director of Bottom Line, a non-profit organization that helps disadvantaged high schoolers in Boston, Worcester, and NYC get into college and graduate. (See www.bottomline.org). Cora plays piano. Hadley plays violin on the 1/8 size instrument of Ginger's youth! Very properly, the family shares space with a yellow Labrador Retriever and a black cat.

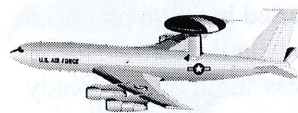
DETECTIVES WANTED!

Hours have been spent trying to get or correct addresses for missing alumni. Do you like to use Facebook and other internet connections where these addresses might be found? Or maybe you know parents or friends of "Lost" alumni.? Here is a very partial list of recent missing persons: Gary Welcome viola '63-'65; Sue Darling violin '66-'67; Jon Campbell violin '71-'72; Gwen Carroll bassoon '78-'81; Hillary Erston violin '81-'86; Steve Chupack flute '83-'88; Heather McGee cello '86-'88; Eliza Moore violin '88-'92; Agnes Pietraho violin '89-'90; Deborah Salzburg trumpet '91-'93; Shannon Donnell flute '92-'94; Rachel Goodfriend flute '94-'95; Alexander Court trumpet '94-'97; Jennifer Lilley flute '95-'96; Cat Lynch percussion '94-'97; Kevin Hebert trumpet '97-'98; Jennifer Robertson violin '98-'02; Ali Torabi violin '99-'02. If you have any luck, please get in touch with carolynlong1720@comcast.net. Thanks!

BRETT JOHNSON, trumpet '88-'89, Peoples Academy. Brett writes: "I received your letter today, or more accurately, my wife received it and read it to me over Skype. Isn't technology amazing? I am on active duty in the Air Force, and we have moved about the country several times. I am sending this email from my lovely little room here in the cold and snowy country of Iraq. I arrived here on Father's Day and should be home by Christmas. This is my first time deployed, and hopefully my last.

I have fond memories of my one and only year with the VYO. The year I played was Mr. Dworkin's first year with us. He made every rehearsal and every performance enjoyable. We visited several schools during the year and performed at the Flynn. I have followed the VYO over the years and I'm so impressed and pleased with the growth and success of the organization.

My Air Force career has taken me from Texas to Maryland, to Colorado and Massachusetts, to New Mexico and now back to Massachusetts.



At the moment, I'm a Program Manager working on the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS). It's a large airplane with a huge rotating

radar antenna on the top. Interestingly enough, this is the first time in 18 plus years in the Air Force that I've worked with aircraft. I've worked with space systems, satellites, lasers--you name it. I've visited 45 states so far, and have traveled to Australia, Moscow, and now Iraq. While in Moscow we went to hear the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. Here in Iraq we visited the Memorial to the Unknown Soldier in Baghdad and imagine our surprise to hear a full orchestra in the middle of a rehearsal inside the monument. Music is everywhere.

We are settled in Massachusetts and in about two years I'll retire from the military, and we'll figure out what we want to be when we grow up. Our only child is now in high school, and we can't think of a better place to live in than New England."

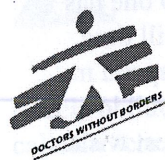
RACHAEL ELLIOTT, bassoon '93-'95, principal '94-'95, Lyndon Institute. B.M. Manhattan School of Music; M.M. Yale School of Music.

Commuting from North Carolina, where her husband is getting his Ph.D. in chemistry at Duke University, to Vermont has apparently not slowed Rachael down. She teaches at UVM and Middlebury College, plays regularly with the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble and subs with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. On Oct. 22 she was a soloist with the Burlington Chamber Orchestra in Burrill Phillips's *Concert Piece for Bassoon*

and *Strings*. Also featured in that concert was **BETSY LEBLANC** (clarinet '91-'95, principal '92-'95, BFA St. Albans) in the premiere of *Through the Clouds* by Don Jamison. The orchestra was conducted by Andrew Massey, VYO Interim Conductor '09-'10.

In addition, Rachael has three of her own music ensembles that perform regularly in Vermont and the U.S. Clogs, a small ensemble, was formed to play "loose fitting" music, which meant a lot of improvising of classical with rock and jazz influences. The Heliand Trio (clarinet, bassoon, piano) and the Heliand Consort (more instruments) "draws its name from the old Saxon term 'healing power.' We believe that hearing live music has a special ability to touch and move people, even perhaps a healing power." One version of the Consort was created by **KATIE EVANS OPREA**, oboe '84-'88, principal '86-'88, BFA St. Albans. Surely there is no ensemble with as unusual a name as Rachael's third, Polka the Elk. It was the title of a piece composed by Padma Newsome in 2001 for Janet Polk, Rachael's teacher and VSO principal bassoon, and Rachael. It's a blending of Polk and Elliott. Rachael writes, "The piece also includes vibraphone and is an absolute hoot to play. It's hard to listen to without having occasional visions of a somewhat ungainly elk doing a polka, and making her elk calls." The album, *Polka the Elk*, was selected as WQXR's Q2 Music Album of the Week for Sept. 20. It's on the Music Starts from Silence label.

KATIE HUTCHINSON, oboe '96-'97, BFA St. Albans. Katie writes: "I'm working as a midwife for Doctors Without Borders (MSF), currently in eastern Chad. I



started working with MSF two years ago, when I was posted to northern Democratic Republic of Congo. I worked with people affected by the Lords Resistance Army, a Ugandan rebel group. MSF ran several projects there, and I was in charge

of mobile health clinics for displaced people, outpatient nutrition programs, and outpatient health centers. It was a hard experience, but I really fell in love with the organization and being 'in the field.' From there I spent six months on the border of north and south Sudan during the referendum for South Sudanese independence. I ran a maternity unit at an MSF hospital for displaced people from Abyei, one of the contested zones on the border. We had almost no qualified midwives, no caesarean sections, and very very basic living conditions. But I had an amazing experience.

Here in Chad, I am working in collaboration with Chad-ian colleagues to run a maternity service in one of three referral hospitals in the whole country. It is immensely

challenging, and quite frustrating, but ultimately I think we are saving a lot of lives. Luckily, I am posted here with my partner, Yves, whom I met on a teensy airstrip in the middle of Congo. He is Swiss, and we enjoy sharing each other's love for gruyere and Cabot cheddar.

BENJAMIN CADWALLADER, oboe '99-'03, principal '00-'03, SBHS.

Ben writes: "After graduating from Mannes College of Music in 2007 with a degree in Oboe Performance, I continued working for the New York String Orchestra Seminar and Schneider Concerts as Production Coordinator. In 2008, I joined the staff of Manhattan Concert Productions, helping to produce concerts in Carnegie Hall and other major music venues around the country. In 2009, I began working with the East Coast Chamber Orchestra as Executive Director.

Most recently (August 2010), I moved from NYC to San Antonio, TX, after being hired by Youth Orchestras of San Antonio (YOSA) as Operations Director. In a fantastic twist of fate, this means that I now work very closely with esteemed previous VYOA Music Director, Troy Peters, with whom I was privileged to work while I was in VYO. (Troy left VYOA in summer 2009 for his work in Texas). In addition to my work with YOSA, I volunteer with the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas, play oboe with a community orchestra, and over the summer, serve as Principal Oboe for Mozart Festival Texas."

JON HUTCHINSON, trumpet '01-'03, BFA St. Albans.

Jon writes: "I've been working for a New York City agency called the Civilian Complaint Review Board for the past three years, investigating complaints of misconduct on the part of NYPD police officers. We have had our hands full with the recent Occupy Wall Street protests and corresponding police response. I am also studying to take the LSATs (Law School Administration Test) in December.

I still play my trumpet and am a founding member of a Brooklyn-based event band called Kinky Spigot and the Welders." (Surely a rival in name for Rachael Elliott's Polka the Elk? -Ed.) For details and pictures of that group see www.Kinkyspigot.com.



VYO Alumni Newsletter Edited and Published
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Please send your news and
any address changes to
carolynlong1720@comcast.net

YUKIO MCDONOUGH, violin '01-'05, Gailer School. B.A. Purchase Conservatory of Music. Yukio began his work at college as a violin performance major, but in his third year there changed to his new found interest in Arts Management. In New York, he managed and recorded a variety of artists from pop singers to jazz musicians. Back in Vermont in the fall of 2010, he continued his work with New York musicians. In Vermont, he "got married and with his wife, Theresa, opened an educational arts center in downtown Burlington called Diversity Studios. The new center provides opportunities for youth to study the arts and creatively express themselves. Diversity Studios offers acting and improv classes, production workshops, a recording studio and after-school programs."

Yukio also works at Vermont Public Television (a late shift operating the master control board), and plays and teaches violin. He and Theresa live in Winooski, sharing space with three dogs.

LINDSAY SELIN, viola '03-06, CVU, Middlebury College '10, Architectural Studies and English double major. Still starry-eyed and somewhat exhausted, Lindsay has just recently returned to Vermont after spending the month of September in Washington D.C., filming the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Competition—a biannual, international solar-design contest that challenges young architects to build the best, small, solar-powered homes. September, Lindsay writes, proved to be a marathon of endurance, logistics, sweat, and tears for the Middlebury College Decathlon team, as they raced around the clock to transport their (mostly-constructed) house-parts to Washington D.C., assemble the house in less than seven days, and proceed to give tours to over 350,000 visitors during the ten days of public exhibit. "It may sound like a rather crazy and unique venture, considering that the tensest moments of the project involved heavy equipment, 150 foot cranes (swinging enormous house modules through the air), and logistical problems with flat-bed truck companies—things most of us have never dealt with before, and may never again—but I think the lessons we learned during those moments were of the 'real-world' sort, and have a value beyond the profession of architecture and construction. It's kind of similar to those moments of self-revelation you have when sitting in the viola section during an orchestra rehearsal (which may sound funny, but I've found to be ironically true)." Lindsay has spent the last nine months working for the Middlebury College Communications Office documenting the Middlebury Decathlon team's progress, and the short videos she produced can be seen on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/MiddSolarDecathlon>. "Middlebury far exceeded our expectations, placing 4th overall out of 19 teams, but winning 3 of the 10 individual contests that comprise the whole competition (specifically,

the Marketability contest, the Communications contest, and the Home Entertainment contest). Given that we were the only competing school without a professional architecture or engineering program (and many of the other teams had graduate program students involved too), we represented the "liberal arts in action" very effectively, I think. Teams from China, New Zealand, Belgium, and Canada participated." She is now diving into the job hunt in the field of graphic design and architecture.

SAMANTHA GELFON, flute '04-'05, Montpelier H.S.

Sam writes: "I live in Boston, and graduated from Boston University with a B.A. in Music Education in 2009. I am now in my third year as a music teacher in the Dedham Public Schools. I performed my flute all through college, but have recently taken a break to focus more on my pedagogy. I currently teach K-5 general music, four choruses comprised of 4th and 5th grade students, as well as give private lessons. I am very fulfilled as a music teacher. I now teach others to love and enjoy music as much as I do."

MARIETOU DIOUF, violin '05-'06, SBHS.

A UVM grad, Mari is in her second year of the Teach for America program. This non-profit organization was begun in 1990 with the aim of bringing more teachers to early classes in low-income rural or city schools. The first year 500 college grads taught English or math in six areas in the U.S. In 2010, there were 4,500 teachers in forty-three areas, Vermont not included. The program has spread with similar organizations all over the world.

After a six week summer training session, Mari spent her first year in a poor, rural school in Holly Springs, MS, teaching third grade special ed. This second and final year she writes from Greenwood, MS, "I'm hopefully supposed to remediate a lot of deficits that my students have. I'm a sixth grade math teacher, which is both fun and exhausting, depending on the day."

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