



VERMONT YOUTH ORCHESTRA

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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VYO NEWS

Banjo Dan

The front page of the Burlington weekly newspaper *Seven Days* for Sept. 26-Oct. 3 has a full-page color photo titled "A Tasteful Ruckus." The ruckus? It was an article about the final performance of Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys. Not all VYO grads know of this bluegrass quintet, a major feature of popular music for some 40 years, often with 60 gigs a year. What VYO'ers may also not know is that Dan Lindner (a.k.a. Banjo Dan) was Executive Director of the Friends of Music for Youth, later Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, from Sept. 14, '92 to the spring of '98.

Dan described in the fall '98 FOMY Newsletter his musical background "in case you are interested." He worked as a band leader, composer, and recording artist. Founder and director of a piano service and music distribution company, he was also a tour manager and producer of musical events for non-profits. He was Artistic Director for Project Harmony beginning in '88. His work with Russian and American youth in concerts and camps in Vermont and overseas added to his interest in working with young musicians.

Dan concluded that he needed all the help he could get from students, parents, board members and supporters to fill his new position of Executive Director. In the winter Newsletter, he thanked all those great helpers, but in another article, he worried because the year's fund drive showed a major decline. New fundraising suggestions would be essential. One solution came a year later. With the help of all these wonderful volunteers, Dan created the fundraiser, "Soirée Musicale, Where the Auction Is." Dan, a fine writer, enjoyed the light touch. At the ballroom of the Radisson Hotel in Burlington, and later at the Ramada Inn in Colchester, the walls were lined with silent auction items. **PAM REIT**, violin '76-'80, concertmaster '78-'80, CVU, brought her Suzuki Strings to greet guests in the lobby. Professional musicians and singers donated their services to entertain customers, and then there was the "sinful dessert buffet." The event grew in popularity. By the fifth year, there were 250 guests, "tons" of auction items from businesses (94 in '98) and some 60 musicians. Sponsor: the Howard Bank. Profit: well over \$5000.

Dan kept in touch with all of his volunteers via the Newsletter. His articles were well written and not dull. His heading, for instance, for a VYO concert featuring Czechoslovakian composers was "VYO concert. Czech This Out." He describes a challenge in the summer of '97. His office had outgrown its quarters in the Burlington Edmunds Elementary School. Volunteers swung into action. Dan writes, "for a blistering afternoon, the entire contents of the office were U-Hauled over to Fort Ethan Allen (St. Michael's Dupont Building) and up a steep flight of stairs to the second floor by a team I'd put up against any pro wrestlers" (including) "what's left of yours truly, Dan Lindner."

Dan remembers another non-executive type role. David Dworkin, VYO conductor, scheduled the Kurt Weill Little Threepenny Opera for the May '93 concert. A banjo and guitar were needed. Dan volunteered. He writes, "But when I saw the music I began sweating bullets." He could read music, but "slowly and painfully. It was a totally different world for this old hillbilly banjo picker." He says of his solo measures, "I was scared like I've never been before in a musical situation." But he survived and so did the music. "The five years I was with the VYO were ones of great growth and expansion, especially after Troy Peters came on. So the demands of my position grew constantly. The Executive Director job gradually became full-time and then some! I was living in Montpelier and commuting to work five days a week and sometimes more. So, with a lot of mixed feelings, I decided to tell **JOHN CANNING**, bassoon '78-'81, VYOA Board Chair, that I planned to resign."

Soon after his departure from the VYOA, the Monteverdi Music School in Montpelier hired Dan as its first Executive Director. After two years of growth there, he left to focus on his performing and recording career. Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys played their last sold-out concert at the Barre Opera House on Sept. 29. He'll be continuing to perform as a duo with his brother Willy on the mandolin.

BURLINGTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (BCO)

The Burlington Chamber Orchestra is becoming well known. In the summer of 2007, Michael Hopkins, UVM Assoc. Professor of Music and UVM Orchestra Conductor, felt that young local musicians, especially string players, needed chamber music experience. With the help of local music teachers and professional players, including ones from the VSO, a string orchestra of 20 players was formed with Hopkins as conductor. **PAM REIT**, violin '76-'80, concertmaster '78-'80, CVU, and her husband, Ira Morris, and **JOHN DUNLOP**, cello '78-'81, principal '80-'81, SBHS, gave valuable advice.

The orchestra increased in size over the years to just over 30 players, including wind players and a pianist depending on the demands of the music. It was mostly baroque and classical, but modern pieces were not ruled out. One of Hopkins' own was welcomed.

The orchestra was and is a great opportunity for top VYO players. They usually made up a third or more of the ensemble and except for two strong violinists, were concertmasters and principals of sections. BCO soloists from the ranks were John Dunlop and **BILL TILLEY**, bass '78-'83, principal '79-'83, SBHS. And non-string player soloists were **RACHAEL ELLIOTT**, bassoon '93-'95, principal '94-'95, Lyndon Institute, and **BETSY LEBLANC**, clarinet '91-'95, principal '92-'95, BFA St. Albans. One VYO alum, **SOOVIN KIM**, violin '86-'91, ass't concertmaster '87-'89, concertmaster '89-'91, Plattsburgh HS, was both soloist and conductor for his second appearance with the orchestra in January 2012. There were works by Geminiani and von Biber, and the Mozart Violin Concertos No. 1 and No. 4, which Soovin conducted while playing.

There were other conductors with VYO connections as well as Soovin. Interim Conductor, '09-'10 Andrew Massey conducted at the McCarthy Arts Center in October, '11, and present VYO Conductor, Jeff Domoto, conducted in March, '12. The most recent guest conductor was **SEAN NEWHOUSE**, violin '92-'98, SBHS, now the Ass't Conductor of the Boston Symphony. In October, he conducted a 20-member BCO orchestra that was fortunate to have as soloist world famous clarinetist, Romie de Guise Langlois, known to many locally for her performance with the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival in 2010.

Besides giving fine players a local chamber music outlet, the BCO believes strongly in supporting younger players. The Young Artist Solo Competition, begun in 2008, gives the winner a chance to play with the BCO. Of the five winners to date, four were from the VYO! The were: **SALLY BRUCE**, violin '05-'10, concertmaster '09-'10, CVU; **EMILY WIGGETT**, flute '08-'10, Lake Region UHS; Mitchell Goff '08-'13, homeschool, Plattsburgh; Matthew Goff, cello '09-'14, homeschool, Plattsburgh.

Pam Reit feels this ensemble is a "valuable opportunity for local musicians to play together at a high level of musical integrity." The personnel is stable so that the players feel comfortable playing with each other. They don't have to travel far so it's easy to get to rehearsals no matter what the weather. They are not the kind of professionals who have to adhere to the clock if a rehearsal needs to go overtime. And they all listen to recordings before works to be rehearsed. The BCO she says, is "for Vermonters by Vermonters."

VYOA OFFICE MANAGER

MARTHA PULLEN, French horn '97-'99, BHS, joined the VYOA as Office Manager this past May. After attending UVM for her B.A. in Music (during which time she spent a year as Manager of Sinfonia) she went on to UMass Amherst and completed her M.M. in Horn Performance in 2008. After returning to Vermont, Martha spent several years working for Melvin Kaplan Inc., a Burlington-based manager of world-class chamber music ensembles, before coming to work for the VYOA. She lives in Colchester and in her spare time runs a successful jewelry business called Sweet Avenues. Martha hasn't played horn much in the last couple of years, but hopes to find time soon to play more often.

ALUMNI NEWS

CHRISTINE PLUNKETT, cello '69-'73, principal '71-'73, SBHS. After five years as Vice-President of Administration and Finance, as of June 1, Christine is President of Burlington College. Her path to this position has not been traditional, that is, through the academic ranks. Her past included corporate employment, educational administration, and even apple farming. (See Alumni Newsletter, fall '05.)

But she says, "Over the course of my own five children's educational journeys, I have developed a deep appreciation for the diverse abilities and learning styles of students and for the benefits of student-centered education in small institutions. As employers increasingly complain about young college graduates who are unprepared in critical thinking skills and collaborative work practices, the importance of a classroom setting that provides opportunities for student involvement and student voice becomes clear. It is through these small and engaged conversations that students learn the important skills of listening, reflecting, hypothesizing, arguing, challenging, respecting, and problem solving."

"In my role at Burlington College, my focus is necessarily on how best

to prepare students for life beyond the classroom... Our programs provide opportunities for unusual hands-on learning experiences in our film, photography and craftsmanship and design programs; opportunities for deep reflection and conversation in the areas of humanities and psychology, internship and career opportunities through our hospitality and event management programs. A special educational opportunity is through a semester spent in the University of Havana in Cuba."

Finances are, of course, a problem. The cost of college education has been rising. Burlington College's tuition freeze and four year tuition guarantee is one way the college is trying to cope. "One of our biggest challenges now is to meet aggressive enrollment growth goals, as we now have room to grow with our recently acquired beautiful 32 acre campus and historic buildings overlooking Lake Champlain."

Christine loves to give tours, and talk about the college's history. She invites VYO current members/alumni/staff and their friends, neighbors, colleagues and family members to call her and arrange for a visit. Or to share a cup of tea or coffee!

LINDA JONES SILVER, violin '70-'74, principal 2nd '72-'73, BHS. Paul and Linda celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary this August. They have three children, pretty well grown up now.

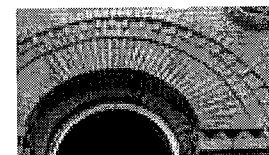
The boys were really ruled by sports as they grew up, always texting their father about some sporting event. After all, Pittsburgh is the home of the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates. In high school the boys played all sports, but settled mostly for varsity baseball. Jeremy was team golf captain and played in AJGA (American Junior Golf Association) tournaments. He's now head of the Golf Club at Penn State, but finding it hard to find time with his Biomedical Engineering major. David has already graduated from Penn State and works as a financial planner at Lutner Financial in Pittsburgh.

So that leaves three for music in the family. Paul is violist with the Pittsburgh Symphony and Linda teaches Orchestra in the Mt. Lebanon School District, a suburb of Pittsburgh. Sarah is violinist with the New World Symphony in Miami, Florida.

Linda concludes, "For the most part we are boring people."

PAUL LIST, viola '73-'75, Browns River Middle School. Paul left the VYO when all four string-playing Lists left the orchestra for other interests. But Paul's interest in music continued. To make a recording of the Beethoven *Diabelli Variations*, a complicated work and hard to grasp as a whole, Paul worked for over a year interpreting the work with acclaimed Juilliard pianist, Susan Halligan (now deceased). The 1999 CD was made in Historical Temperament under the direction of Owen Jorgensen, the world's foremost expert on temperaments.

Paul's life has, indeed, been full. He enjoys studying classic philosophy and ancient history. His main business has been Liszt Historical Restoration (note spelling) for over 20 years. (See Newsletter for Fall '02 for work on the Vermont Statehouse.) Now he's restoring the masonry on the huge Wells house on upper Main Street in Burlington, the UVM Alumni House. Authentic materials and tools had to be used to match the 1882 construction.



Then there's Paul's Grass Roots Farm in Hinesburg, where Lowland Angus, developed in Australia, are raised. It's a very hardy breed, very fertile, producing better, more tender beef. They live off the land. They are of a docile temperament with no horns, but they chase coyotes! For more details, check out Paul's websites: www.lisztrestoration.com, and www.grassrootsfarmvt.com.

KATE HOTCHKISS TAYLOR, cello '75-'79, Mt. Mansfield UHS. Kate writes that since the Newsletter article in '06 told about her life on Isle Au Haut in Maine, "I have gotten married, changed my name, built three island houses (for clients) and moved to a bigger island so our sons, now 14 and 16, can go to high school.

The across-the-water move necessitated living on a boat for a while, and precipitated a happy career change to global business and photography. The work brought me to the Middle East for the summer, with experiences that included a business trip to Iraq, a personal trip to Palestine, lots of business and personal touring within Jordan (some of it by camel), and my favorite: being hired to photograph a queen. My younger son came with me, volunteering as an assistant coach at a sports camp for Syrian, Iraqi, and Palestinian refugee girls. We are now back on our home island, North Haven, population 350, where I continue consulting and photography. I am missing the culture and



beauty of Jordan, while thankful to live in the gorgeous state of Maine.

Oh, and the big news. Yesterday I had my first piano lesson, ever! Someday I will get back to the cello for real (haven't played in years), but for now am enjoying something new. However, it is embarrassing to play Jingle Bells on the school piano, seriously hoping nobody walks by. I am sure the principal's very young daughter, who had lessons before I did, is more advanced. Fearing embarrassment is good incentive to practice more. I remember it was quite effective for me practicing hours and hours before VYO concerts.

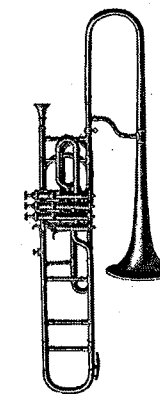
I recall one camp concert in particular when cellist John List and I had the sequence of music wrong, resulting in slamming our cellos with hard bowing when the conductor had (thought he had) gently started the piece, expecting a sweet, soft, harp solo. We stopped playing at Peter Brown's horrified look in our direction, and it was that moment I wished I played the viola so we could be partially hidden from the audience—a great memory, truly, now that I am 51."

Kate lists some websites that may be of interest: Photography - www.katehotchkisstaylor.com; Maine Islands - www.maineislandliving.net; Business Consulting - www.Taylorwrite.com

PAM REIT, violin '76-'80, concertmaster '78-'80 CVU. The June VYOA Newsletter had a headlined article "Congratulations to Pam Reit" which said she had recently received the Creating Community Award at the National Suzuki Conference in Minneapolis. But there's lots more!

Pam always attended these every-other-year conferences. This was her 11th. The award is given to two musicians from North and South America. Pam had no clue she had been chosen until it was announced before the over 10,000 attendees. There was a slide show of all of Pam's 20 teaching years and speech after speech to go with the show. Pam says, "I still haven't recovered from the enormity of it." A photo of Pam taken at the Conference includes some of her former students: **SALLY BRUCE**, violin '05-'10, concertmaster '09-'10, CVU; **ANJA JOKELA**, violin '97-'02, assoc. concertmaster '01-'02, CVU; and **BEN VAN VLIET**, violin '98-'02, principal second '01-'02, CVU. In Vermont, it's known how much Pam has done for music. In 1992, she returned from Texas and started the Suzuki program here, which now plays a major role in providing strings for all the VYOA orchestras (see Fall '10 Newsletter article). She has many private students and is seen frequently at the ELMC, where she coaches sectionals. She was one of the early founders of the Burlington Chamber Orchestra (BCO). Pam now has a solid crystal award/trophy as well as "mind boggling" remembrances.

PETER BOUCHARD, principal trombone '77-'79, BFA St. Albans. Peter writes: "In 2006, I learned what it meant to be uprooted, leaving my hometown of 45 years (see Newsletter for Spring '07) to work for Columbia College Chicago as their Space and Scheduling Manager. It was a huge change as I left teaching music for good and started climbing the free-lance ladder all over again.... In the six years I was in Chicago, I played for the Northwest Festival Orchestra, the Chicago Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (where I served on the board and as president for two years), the Northshore Concert Band (with the incomparable Mallory Thompson), the University of Chicago Orchestra, Chicago Trombone Authority, and the State Street Brass Quintet. I also worked with the People's Music School, a free music school in north Chicago. And I was able to play on the stage at Ravinia. I played my last concert as a 'classical' trombonist in May of 2010. It was a



wrenching transition after 25 years as a professional trombonist.”

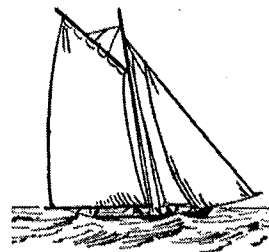
These were all great experiences, Peter says, but the best was meeting Nora, whom he married in May, 2010. “I still thank the VYO for all the support and experience that allowed me to pursue one of the most enjoyable professions a person could have. I am now the Associate Director for University Scheduling at Princeton University and living in Princeton with my wife and beagle, Ripley. The deep rich world of the jazz trombone is calling.”

ANNE JANSON, principal flute '78-'79, CVU, B.M. Hartt School of Music, M.M. Manhattan School of Music.

“I am proud that I have a successful musical career here in Vermont. Now more than ever I work hard at my music since 2 of my 3 children have grown up. My daughter, Alice Hasen, a VYO alum, graduated from Yale in 2012 and is now ‘Teaching for America’ in the Mississippi delta; son Edward Hasen is a freshman at Villanova University; and 12 year-old son Willem Wormer is in the 7th grade at Vergennes Middle School. I have been playing second flute with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra since 1983; a second family with colleagues as my greatest friends. Jaime Laredo brings a worldliness to the Orchestra with his musical connections and I greatly admire and respect my fellow flutists, principal flutist Albert Brouwer and Peggy Friedland on piccolo. I work hard not only for the orchestra, but to sound my very best playing in the flute section. I have learned so much from both of them, Jaime, and the whole orchestra over the years.

With the VSO I have a lot of other performing opportunities; I play with harpist Heidi Soons in a duo called “Harp & Soul” performing VSO educational programs in schools all over Vermont. I also just performed a VSO Halloween family concert featuring *Peter and the Wolf* arranged for wind quintet.

I chose to live in Vermont because I can't seem to pull myself away. I have the perfect balance here of what I love in life, raising my kids and playing music. My husband, Andrew Wormer, and I share a passion for sailing and the water. One of our sailing adventures was bringing our 38-foot sailboat here to Vermont from Savannah, Georgia. We traveled on the Intra Coastal Waterway, through the Chesapeake to the Atlantic Ocean bringing us to the New York Harbor, onto the Hudson river, through the canals, and finally to Lake Champlain. We hope to take a year on the boat with our son Willem to make our way down to the Bahamas soon. I get interesting looks as I practice my flute and steer the wheel with my feet!”



SUE ALLARD GROSSMAN, French horn '78-'80, Montpelier HS. Manhattan School of Music Bachelor of Orchestral Performance in French horn '86.

During a month long tour of Florida playing horn in *42nd Street*, Sue fell in love with trumpet player Irving Grossman. Irv is with top jazz players in NYC and is currently working in the show *Nice Work if You Can Get It*. Their 13 year old son, Michael, is a top 8th grade student very into math and science, an accomplished athlete, and has a “great sense of humor.” Sue and Irv are now shopping around to choose the right high school for Michael among the 400+ schools in NYC. The family lives in Long Island City Queens, which is 20 minutes from midtown Manhattan, so they can experience all the wonderful things NYC has to offer.

As for Sue herself, since graduation she's freelanced with professional and community groups, especially the Amato Opera Company, which has been in business for more than 60 years in the Bowery. It closed in May, 2009. Sue found the conductor, Tony Amato, the “hands-down

kindest, most compassionate conductor” she's ever worked with. Another highlight was subbing on Broadway in *Showboat*. She's really proud of that accomplishment. Tours have taken her abroad to Berlin, Spain, and Asia. In the last five years she's been on tours with Ivan Jacobs' production of *Phantom of the Opera* to Indonesia, Latvia and Estonia. And, of course when visiting her parents in Essex, she's played with any group that needs a horn, like the Mahler Festival.

In addition to music, Sue has worked for almost 25 years now as a human resources director for a global consulting company in Manhattan. The company has offices in India, the UK, Germany, and the US. She works at home and her job is quite flexible so her employer has allows her to take time off to travel or play horn when opportunities come up. Sue adds that she's taken up pottery making, And for music, about two years ago she started singing with an a cappella jazz group. The singers are of all abilities; they just love to sing.

JOHN CANNING, bassoon, 78-'81, SBHS.

John was for many years a Burlington Friends of Music for Youth (now VYOA) Board President, founder of the Physicians' Computer Company, co-founder with Soovin Kim of the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, and supporter of many local music organizations. The VYOA has been indebted to him for many years.



In the late winter of 2011, when Jeff Domoto came to the VYOA as Music Director, there were major expenses. John issued a challenge to Board members and friends of the BFOMY and VYOA to raise \$10,000 “to assist with the relocation and start-up costs of bringing our new conductor, Jeff Domoto, to Vermont.” The goal was far surpassed. 80 donors contributed \$7,670! John matched their gifts 1:1.

In 2012, the Flynn Theatre (now the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts) underwent a major renovation, including all new seats. Two of John's PCC colleagues set about finding donations, hoping to raise \$2000, enough to have two seats named in John's honor. Of course, it was kept a secret from him. On September 19, the Flynn held an event to celebrate the renovations. It came as a surprise to him to be “dragged over” (as he described it) to find FOUR seats with arm labels “Hello from John Canning.” Over 85 people contributed. John set about thanking each one of them. He hopes to see them all at the Flynn.

JEAN JANSON FULKERSON, oboe '81-'84, principal '82-'84, CVU.

Jean writes, “My husband and I live in Newton, outside of Boston, and we have three daughters. I studied city planning after college, though I've been at home with the girls for the last few years. I'm not playing oboe any more, but that doesn't mean there isn't plenty of music in our house. My oldest takes violin lessons, the second loves her new electric guitar and playing in her band, and the youngest plays the piano and sings along to the radio. We spend a good portion of our summers at Chautauqua in New York State, and we get fantastic orchestral music sitting in a covered amphitheater in our flipflops. My children love to see the contraptions the musicians have devised to move their instruments around via bicycle. Our favorite is the cellist who put wheels on a rubber garbage can and tows his instrument behind him. So, even though I don't play myself anymore, I'm still able to share my joy of music and make it a part of our family life. Thanks, VYO!”

AMY KIERAN, viola '83-'87, SBHS.

Amy writes, “I've had a busy life. I have lived in Maine for 17 years, and I love, love, love it. It is a special place to live. I can walk my pugs on a beach every day, and enjoy a little city life (Portland) with my small town life. I teach first grade in Cape Elizabeth, a small town on the coast. I have a Master's Degree from the University of Southern Maine, and have watched Jen's kids grow up into two amazing human beings who still hug me all the time even though they are teenagers!” (Amy's sister is **JENNIFER KIERAN JOSEPH**, violin '83-'87, SBHS, who lives close by in Windham.)



“I have not kept up with my viola since leaving VYO so many years ago, but I sing and dance and laugh with my first graders.”

KELLY COOPER LEHMAN, violin '84-'88, principal second '86-'87, BHS.

Kelly has used her VYO experience to see her through a lot of music in Toccata, GA, now her home town. She's been with the Toccata Symphony since her graduation from college, concertmaster since 2000, and with the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra (about 40 miles from Atlanta) for 15 years, principal second for eight. Interestingly, the Toccata Orchestra, in a city of only 10,000, is doing well financially with lots of local wealthy backers, but the Gainesville Symphony, in a city about the size of Burlington, may have had its last concert in July. It could be poor management and fund raising, poor publicity, or perhaps an increasingly elderly population.

Kelly's husband is also a musician, but finding it hard to get a full time job in music. He drives a school bus and paints houses to bolster the family income! Kelly, herself, teaches privately. She has 5 to 10 students and is able to have recitals for them in the local college Music Prep program.

Their son in the 10th grade is a French horn and mellophone player, busy in the school marching band, ranked superior at a recent marching band festival. After the football season, he plays in the concert band and trumpet in the jazz band. He's not so interested in string playing, though it might be cello, which would be important if he wants to go into Music Ed. Kelly worries. Making a living in the arts in schools is often a struggle these days.

Kelly likes following the progress of the VYO. She has even seen a video of the VYO trip to China. She writes, “I don't think a day goes by that I don't talk about (or think about) all the things I have learned in the VYO. I hope I can pass along those same things to my students as well.”

NATHAN EDDY, trombone '89-'92, principal '93-'94, Randolph UHS.

Nathan is enjoying life in Norwich, England, where he is the minister for the North Lowestoft United Reformed Church. Nathan writes that he and his wife, Clare, a Brit, have two girls, Mahalia and Elise, aged 6 and 3. He enjoys listening to English brass bands, but, sadly, no longer plays his trombone. Mahalia has started recorder and will start piano soon. Nathan remembers VYO fondly and hopes old friends will get in touch. His e-mail is nathangeddy@gmail.com.

ANDREA FLINT, bass '91-'94, principal '92-'94, EJHS.

Andrea doesn't have time to play bass with the full life she is leading now.

She studied Textile Surface Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC and worked for about 8 years



in the industry. She created patterns for everything from bedding to men's graphic t-shirts to swimsuits and then patterns for little girls' clothing. A small jewelry business she started four years ago got so large that she was able to quit the textile design business to concentrate on jewelry. She says her work has gotten a lot of publicity in the press--two years in Sports Illustrated, Lucky Magazine, Instyle, Bullet Magazine, Bridal Guide and People. “It has been an exciting journey running my own business. I do travel around the country for it and work all the time, but I have never been so happy or satisfied!”

Andrea loves to travel. She's been to Central and South America a lot, Spain and France to visit friends. But when she wrote for this newsletter, she said she was trying to enjoy summer in NYC, her favorite time of the year.

JENNY PLATT TOYOHARA, violin '92-'96, EJHS.

Jenny writes about a play date she and her two sons, Jackson, 3, and Ethan, not a year old yet, had with the young daughter of DAMON SIDEL (trumpet, '94-'97, principal '95-'96, co-principal '96-'97, Harwood UHS) back in July. She and Damon were reminiscing about the “good old days.” Jenny says she continued to play violin through medical school with the Doctors' Orchestra at Columbia, and has been very active with vocal performances over the years--even multiple musicals while in medical school. “However, since residency, I haven't picked up my violin much, and my vocal performance has been limited to the shower and rocking out in my car.”



Jenny, a dermatologist, sees patients two days a week and does microscopic work the other three days. Jenny and her husband, a violinist in his youth, are interested in leasing out their instruments to anyone in the Boston area. Get in touch if you have any suggestions. Jenny's e-mail is jenny.toyohara@gmail.com.

AMY ZABIEGALSKI, tuba '93-'96, BHS.

While in Plymouth State College (now a university), majoring in Music Education, Amy worked as a theater technician and on the stage crew for many performances, including being the stage manager for the recital hall. This work helped her become Ass't Manager and eventually Manager for the New Hampshire Musical Festival. One of many great moments was “coming up with the stage setup for Carmina Burana, which consisted of a full orchestra including two grand pianos and a full chorus including a children's chorus. It was quite an amazing setup and we didn't have a lot of room to spare, but I made it work.”

Through college Amy was active in the student chapter of the MENC (Music Educators National Conference), later changed to NAfME, (National Association for Music Education) and performed in the New England Intercollegiate Band. After graduation in 2000, Amy first taught K-5 music and 4-12 chorus; the next year, at a different school, general music, 5-8 band and chorus. She says, “I thought I would hate teaching beginning band, but they were my most favorite group of all to teach.” But after these two years, with the prospect of a third different school for the next year, Amy decided to take a break. She continued to work with the NHMF, but only during the summers. For the next seven years, she worked at a ski resort.

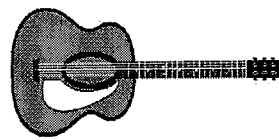
Then came another big change. She's now working as a volunteer EMT (Emergency Medical Transport) for the local ambulance service and recently started a similar paid job with another ambulance service in another part of the state. She also works as a dispatcher for her local police department, which dispatches police, fire, and for one of the ambulance services she works for. Amy loves the work and is looking forward to continuing with it.

At the ski resort job she met her future husband. They'll be married in August. While keeping busy with all the above activity, Amy still plays tuba with the Plymouth University Symphony Band and recently joined the student-run Pep Band.

DAMON SIDEL, trumpet '94-'97, co-principal '95-'96, principal '96-'97, Harwood UHS.

Damon writes, "It's been 15 years since I last played with the VYO, but I still have my t-shirt. And more importantly, I still keep in touch with many of the friends I made while making music with the VYO. Music is also how I met my wife, Marianne. We were playing in the pit orchestra at the Lowell House Opera as students at Harvard. Marianne plays the flute and had to endure quite a trumpet solo I played in the back of her head every rehearsal and performance. Apparently I played well enough to impress her. At least that's my story and I'm sticking to it."

My two children, Holden, who is one, and Linnaea, who is four, both love music. (And speaking of keeping in touch with VYO friends, **JUSTIN HOLDEN**, clarinet '95-'97, ass't principal '96-'97, Mill River UHS, is my daughter's godfather!) My son can't sit still when there is music playing. He gets up and dances away. I'm happy to say he especially loves it when I play the guitar. I started playing guitar a few years before Linnaea was born so I could have an easy and casual way to make music with friends and family. She loves to sing along when I play her favorite songs. Hopefully she'll be a soprano and Holden will be a tenor. I'm a bass and Marianne is an alto, so we could have our own choir.



My expressive outlet through music has transformed a number of times. In college I took theory, composition, and conducting classes while playing with orchestras, small ensembles, and singing, but I thought physics would be my career. It turns out I needed to combine my expressive and analytic sides, which I think I've done by becoming an architect. So while I practice architecture and play my guitar for my singing family, I think my tenure with the VYO 15 years ago really set me on a wonderful path that continues to be as much about relationships as it is about making music."

JUSTIN HOLDEN, clarinet '95-'97, Mill River UHS. Boston University '01 B.A. in Music Performance (clarinet); B.U. Master's with distinction in Arts Management.

"I am indeed Linnaea Sidel's godfather. I have kept in touch with Damon over the years. Here's a bit about me."

Justin worked for WGBH (Boston's Public Television and Radio affiliate) for five years before moving to NYC in 2006, where he worked in the Public Relations departments of the New York Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall. In the fall of 2011, he left Carnegie for Polskin Arts & Communications Counselors, a leading firm in cultural public relations, who provide strategic communications counsel and program implementation in the United States and abroad for major museums and performing arts organizations, philanthropic foundations, corporations involved in supporting the arts and government agencies in cultural initiatives. For graphic photos of the Polskin Arts work, see www.polskinarts.com.

NICK OGAWA, cello '98-'00, Middlebury UHS.

Nick writes: "I graduated from Haverford College, lived in Kyoto, Japan for a year where I taught English, drank too much, and practiced cello until I got tendonitis. Moved to Vancouver where I wrote a bunch of songs and got culturally weirded out. Moved to New York, got mugged, won a songwriting contest, gave up music, got a real job, and forgot about music for a bit. Moved to Atlanta for another job. Pandora started blowing me up, I started my own company called Beerstache and was able to quit the corporate world because music and my business started paying the bills."



In another e-mail, Nick says, "I live off my compositions via iTunes, and have released 3 self-composed and self-performed albums for cello and voice. My group, Takenobu, is about to come out with a new album, which will be available on my website www.listen.takenobumusic.com. I don't have any pets, but want to get a dog soon."

ADAM TENDLER, percussion (mallets) and piano, '99-'00, Spaulding.

"Since my VYO days, I studied at Indiana University School of Music (now the Jacobs School of Music), and upon graduation organized and performed the fifty-state tour, America 88x50, performing free concerts of American music mostly in underserved or out-of-the-way communities. I organized the tour mainly from the front seat of my Hyundai, and funded it all through my own savings (teaching piano, substituting at public schools, and working construction.) The project received enough attention to eventually land me a position in Houston, TX, where I directed the new music presenting organization, Foundation for Modern Music, as well as the classical music division of the inner-city arts center, MECA (Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts). I also announced and programmed classical music on Houston's NPR station, KUPF."

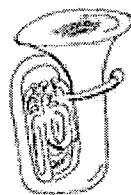
From Houston, I moved to NYC, where I developed my own independent teaching studio and began to concertize more regularly, both in the city and once more across the country, focusing on modern or contemporary music or unique pairings of classical music with performance art, modern scores, or even works of my own. With this year being the John Cage centenary, I've traveled extensively with a memorized performance of Cage's landmark Sonatas and Interludes for prepared piano, of which I perform all 70 minutes from memory."

Locally, in September, Adam played with Vermont musicians Amber DeLaurentis (vocal) and Brian Johnson (piano and percussion) for Sounds and Silence, a program of John Cage's works including his homage to quiet, 4'33".

Adam has also founded a nightly jazz series at a club in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, and will publish a book about his experiences in the America 88x50 tour.

NICOLE MONGEON PICKUP, tuba '00-'03, BFA Fairfax.

Nicole writes on October 28, "Things are going well down here in sunny Florida. The weather is starting to cool down to the 80's during the day. My husband, Nathan, and I have been married for 2 1/2 years. He is working as an Instructional Designer, building curriculum material via web-based platforms. I have turned my artistic eye to the world of fashion, and after doing mannequins and window-dressing for Forever21, am now finally working as a Personal Shopper/Stylist Assistant for Neiman Marcus. I absolutely love working in the world of high fashion."



Besides her professional work, Nicole is playing tuba with a semi-

professional volunteer wind ensemble in the Tampa area known as Fanfare Concert Winds. "I play first chair tuba (there are 4 tubas in this group!) and absolutely love the 65 member ensemble that is composed of professors, students, and business men (people like me who have degrees in Music, but work in other businesses but still want to play). Our first concert of the fall season is Tuesday, Oct. 30. We will be playing fall favorites such as *Night on Bald Mountain*, *The Witch and the Saint*, *October*, as well as a montage of John Williams themes known as *Chillers & Thrillers*. You can view our page at www.FanfareConcertWinds.org."

TRAVIS CARPENTER, viola '00-'03, principal '02-'03, SBHS. After graduating from the Crane School of Music, Travis was employed by the Whitesboro School District in central NY. He taught elementary and middle school strings and performed with the Utica Symphony and various regional orchestras. Many evenings were spent with the Utica Curling Club, of which **ANN KEBABIAN**, violin '66-'68, SBHS, is also a member."

During his long stay in New York, Travis stayed involved with the VYOA by working as a counselor at Reveille and playing with the VYO during its trips to Carnegie Hall and China. He's spending the school year 2012-2013 back in Burlington waiting to earn a Master's in conducting, starting next fall. He had a great talk with **SEAN NEWHOUSE**, violin '92-'98, SBHS, when he was here in October to conduct the Burlington Chamber Orchestra under the auspices of the Lane Series. Sean had his introduction to music playing as a third grader with the volunteer-led South Burlington school string class. (**SUSAN DINKLAGE**, violin '86-'93, concertmaster '92-'93, SBHS also got her start this way.)



Travis feels he wants to work with young people in education as well as being a conductor. Right now he has two private violin students and eight with the Winooski JFK Elementary School after-school program, sponsored by the VYOA with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has a good chance to watch conducting styles by playing in the Burlington Civic Orchestra under Daniel Bruce from Peoples Academy and with the UVM orchestra under Yutaka Kono, who is also the Vermont Youth Philharmonia conductor.

MOLLY GIBSON, violin '01-'05, asst. concertmaster, '02-'03, co-concertmaster '03-'05, Stowe H.S. Molly writes, "Since graduating from Smith, I have been studying spinal cord regeneration at Tufts New England Medical Center. We damage sensory axons traveling to the spinal cord, and then apply a novel drug and see if axons can grow into the spinal cord and form functional synapses with their original targets. We have had success getting about 40% recovery in the spinal cord, and what is even more exciting is that these axons grow through the spinal cord to targets in the brainstem."

In mid October, Molly was at an international neuroscience conference in New Orleans, where about 33,000 people were there to talk about neuroscience over the course of three days! Molly writes that the research she was presenting was slightly different from the one she described. "One of the major clinical complications for the type of spinal cord injury we study is that axons have no physical connection with the spinal cord. My project is looking at a surgical method to reattach dorsal roots to the spinal cord using a dye activated by a laser."

"I am also applying to MD PhD programs around the country to start school in 2013. I am interested in studying traumatic brain injury, or spinal cord injury."

Music has not been forgotten. She's playing violin in the Boston Civic Symphony conducted by Max Hobart. It's an orchestra of highly skilled students and very competent amateurs, playing standard classical and modern works.



The first VYO concert was played on April 19, 1964. VYO concerts this coming year, 2013-2014, will each have reminders of this beginning, with the final concert, sometime in May 2014, the biggest celebration.

What other ways are there to celebrate?
How can you be involved?
E-mail suggestions to Rosina@vyo.org!

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any address changes to
carolynlong1720@comcast.net