



VERMONT YOUTH ORCHESTRA

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014
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VYO NEWS

RIDING HALL

Here it is, 2014, and the VYO's 50th year. Add to this cause for celebration: it is the VYO's over-12 years in its own home, the former U.S. Cavalry Riding Hall, built in 1895, and used during World War I for all those horses and riders.

We all know from articles in the newsletters how it became the wonderful music center it is today. In fact, the Search Committee had to consider a number of other possibilities in the Burlington area, including one almost chosen, the Calkins Farm on Dorset St. in South Burlington, before anyone considered the Riding Hall. It was Troy Peters who said that the Calkins building could never be used for rehearsals and concerts. A whole building would be needed there.

It took considerable sleuthing on the part of your Editor to find the first thought of the Riding Hall as a possibility. In the summer of '97, the Burlington school system needed the space we were using for an office in the Edmunds Junior High School. Dan Lindner, Executive Director (remember Banjo Dan?) described the move to the second floor of a St. Mike's building on Ethan Allen Drive on a "sweltering" 95 degree summer day. He and his assistant, **KATHLEEN (KATE) BLAIR STEIN**, bassoon '85-'86, principal '86-'87, SBHS were there for two years and, of course, jogged and biked around the area in their free time. It was Kate who said to Dan that that big, old musty-looking building might be a VYOA home. They talked to the Search Committee (Jill Coffrin and Tom Carlson, co-chairs), to Troy Peters, and finally to Marc vanderHeyden, St. Mike's President. Then came a feasibility study by Debbie Bergh and the rest is history. To give an idea of the importance of the project here is a list of the sponsors from a 2000 letterhead:

Trey Anastasio
Paul Bruhn
Carolyn Long
Gov. Howard Dean
Sen. James Jeffords

Soovin Kim
Jaime Laredo
Sen. Patrick Leahy
Andrea Rogers
Rep. Bernard Sanders

Doro Sims
Kate Tamarkin
Amy Tarrant
Marc vanderHeyden

DORO SIMS

There is a portrait of Mrs. Dorothea Ethan Allen Sims in the ELMC rotunda. Who is she? Some people have wondered.

Back in 1955, before there was a Vermont Youth Orchestra, a group of Burlington High School parents, the PTA, got together to bring music to youngsters beyond what local schools were offering. Their initial project was to co-sponsor the Lane Series matinees. Schools had bands and choral groups; a few had music for strings. Burlington, under Virgilio Mori, had two junior high orchestras totaling about 40 players each and 100 in 5th grade who wanted to start, but only 20 unused violins were available.

Early minutes of the PTA group show that the idea of a statewide full orchestra was simmering. Now called the Friends

of Music, by Oct. '62, a Steering Committee (Doro Sims president '61-'64), swung into action. Teachers throughout Vermont were contacted, a number to do auditions (including Peter Brown, beginning '68 VYO conductor). This committee was responsible for publicity, recruitment, auditions, finances, rehearsals, concert spaces, choosing and hiring a conductor, and acquiring legal non-profit status. As Doro said to Betty Sproston, her Free Press contact, "The only thing I'm worried about is that it's going to be a lot of work." Yes!

The result: a trial orchestra in the winter of '62 was conducted by "Jiggs" Mori at the high school. And by Oct. 16, '62, a larger orchestra, using a number of non-BHS players, played its first concert at the Lyman Hunt Junior High School. Its picture hangs on the ELMC office wall.

The steering committee, with added new parent members, continued to manage the growing VYO. Doro Sims continued work with the committee, including -- with Governor Hoff -- the founding of the Vermont Council on the Arts. It wasn't until 1987 that a professional, April Werner, was hired to do the work of the committee.

The musical world knew Doro Sims, but many never knew how she spent a good part of her time since 1955 when she was diagnosed with insulin-dependent diabetes. She was founder and co-president of the Vermont American Diabetes Association and served on the National Board of the Association. She gave talks in 22 states and wrote, among other publications, "Reach for Health and Freedom."

But Doro's support for the Youth Orchestra never stopped. When the development of the VYO's future home became a possibility, Dr. and Mrs. Ethan Allen Sims donated \$6,000 toward a feasibility study. Her continued large donations explain her name and picture in the ELMC rotunda. Doro knew how the work on the building was progressing, but she died on Jan. 3, 2001, before the grand opening of the VYO's new home on Nov. 10, 2001.

The memorial service for her was held at her Unitarian Church in Burlington on Jan. 20, 2001. She had hoped there would be music from the VYO at her service. It was the Mozart Clarinet Concerto, second movement, as a prelude to remembrances from her friends. It was wished that gifts in her memory be made to the campaign for the VYO's new building or to the Vermont Chapter of the American Diabetes Assoc.

VSO-VYO

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the VYO's spring concert on May 4 at the Flynn will be history. Likewise, the VSO's spring concert will have been played on May 3. In a way, those close dates are symbolic. Over the years since the founding of the VYO in '63, there have been 49 VYO members who have played in the VSO, some for a short time, but four take the record for longevity. They are: Stewart Schuele, 33 years; Bonnie Thurber Klimowski, 31 years; Anne Janson, 29 years; and John Dunlop, 27 years.

STEWART SCHUELE, French horn '69-'73, harpsichord '70-'71, piano '71-'72, guest horn player from UVM '74-'75, SBHS. UVM, double Bachelor of Music in French Horn performance and music/theory composition; Masters in horn from Manhattan School of Music. Stewart has been living in Martha's Vineyard with his wife and three children, keeping active in music especially composing for and playing in small ensembles. He has a deep interest in brass music. Managing a local deli helped with expenses while he continued playing in the VSO. Now he has moved with his family to Spokane, WA, but will keep his contract with the VSO and return for as many concerts as he can. No doubt he will continue his interests in food, birds of prey, railroad history, languages and the physical and earth sciences.

BONNIE THURBER KLIMOWSKI, cello '64-'69, guest from UVM '70-'72. UVM, M.A in cello performance Kent State Univ. in Ohio. She performed with the Orquesta Sinfonica Del Estado de Mexico for three years where she met her husband Steve, Vermont professional clarinetist. In addition to the VSO and teaching privately, Bonnie is manager of Classic Consort, which is a varied group of duos, trios, quartets for weddings, receptions, and special events. She also loves folk music and is featured on three of Jon Gailmor's albums. Bonnie writes, "I adopted a litter of feral kittens last year and they tear around the house ... lots of fun...furry, black and white triplets. I ski cross country, swim and garden and read books and have come to adore old movies like Shirley Temple."

ANNE JANSON, principal flute and piccolo, '78-'79 CVU. B. M. Hartt School of Music; M.M. Manhattan School of Music. Anne is on the applied music faculty at Middlebury and UVM. An active freelance artist in the New England area, she plays with the Hanover Chamber Orchestra and the Vermont Virtuosi. Another contribution to the music world should be considered her daughter, **ALICE HASEN**, VYO violin '04-'08, principal second '06-'07, co-concertmaster '07-'08, CVU. Anne lives with her husband, Andrew Wormer, in a refurbished farmhouse in Ferrisburgh. She has two sons as well as Alice and two stepchildren. Ferrisburgh tenants include a dog and three cats.

JOHN DUNLOP, cello '78-'81, principal '80-'81, BHS. B.M. Oberlin; M.M. San Francisco Conservatory of Music. An active Vermont soloist, John teaches privately and at Dartmouth and UVM. He has composed a multi-track score for several short films, including a documentary on childhood hunger in Vermont. He enjoys polishing his skills on Celtic guitar and bouzouki, as well as cooking, biking, hiking, skiing, and gardening. He lives in Jericho with VSO violinist Laura Markowitz, and while we're into cats, there's two of them there.

VERMONT PRIZE COMPOSER

PIERRE JALBERT, percussion '82-'82, timpani '83-'84, SBHS.

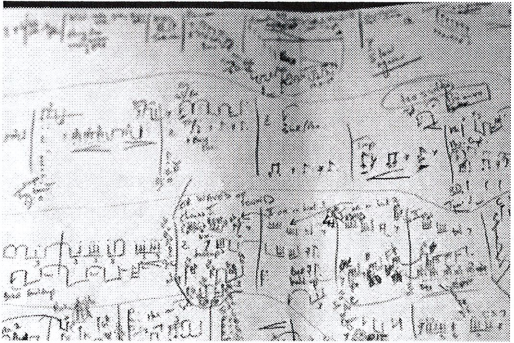
Pierre's news has appeared many times in the Newsletter. A description of all his work from grade school on would crowd this issue. Fortunately, his wide recognition, including his winning the London's Masterpiece Competition (1,151 competitors) for \$44,000 in October '01 does not include his forgetting Vermont. As early as Oct. '94, the Vermont Symphony performed his *Fanfare Overture* at the Flynn. In '08, his *Autumn Rhapsody* was in the VSO's Made in Vermont Festival Tour. And just this year, the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival performed his *String Quartet No. 3* at the Elley-Long Music Center. And his very own VYO on January 26, played his *Music of Air and Fire* at the Flynn.

Pierre has composed for small ensembles and orchestras. He says he is not a fast composer, but when working on a piece he goes back and forth to the piano thinking and then trying out an idea for structure and details. Sometimes it's "Am I ever going to finish?" but once he has it it's like "A snowball going downhill effect."

Inspiration comes from various sources: from a Tiffany stained glass window; from literature such as *The Songs of Gibran* for mezzo soprano and ensemble; from nature as in *Autumn Rhapsody*. (Pierre often hiked the Long Trail above his home in Lowell, VT, from Hazen's Notch to Canada.) The Big Bend National Park in Texas was behind his *big sky*. Rhythms have come from his Catholic upbringing hearing liturgical music or from hearing his unborn son's heartbeat, or early in his work, from the Beatles and syncopated fast rhythms.

Composing for a symphony is a major challenge. Pierre tells what he learned working with the California Symphony, where *In Aeternam* was composed in May, 2000, his *Symphonie Sacra* in 2001 with an opportunity to stay with the orchestra for a third year. Pierre describes these years as his "most life changing musical opportunity." As he heard his work in rehearsal, he was able to make changes. In a way, the composer, conductor, and musicians were working together to produce a better piece. To help him with these changes, Pierre uses a "musical shorthand." See sample above. "It saves a lot of paper," he says.

It was his *In Aeternam* that won the Masterpiece Competition. To bring things down to earth, when asked what he would do with the \$44,000 prize, Pierre said "I was shocked to have won." But he said he would use the prize to pay off some bills. I have two small children and many debts."



TUBAS

STEPHEN LAVALLEE, tuba ’82 -’84, BHS.

Tuba players are special people. It’s a rare orchestration that requires more than one, but for the VYO there were years when there was an empty seat back by the trombones. In the beginning in 1965 there was no one; a post-grad came for ’66-’67; a blank for ’99-’00, and a “guest” for the February ’14 concert. In all, the VYO had 25 tubas, not counting guests.

But the VYO concert on May 6, ’84 was special. There was a tuba soloist, the only one in the VYO’s history so far. Stephen Lavallee played the first two movements of the Vaughan Williams Tuba Concerto. Stephen writes that he used the same score premiered by John Barbirolli in 1954. It was 30 years before Burlington heard this work again, played by Takatsugu Hagiwara with the Vermont Symphony in March of this year.

Stephen writes, “I am very excited to be playing in the 50th Alumni concert. The tuba has been cleaned and oiled. I even have put some silver cleaner on it and put a shine on the bell. As for my face, well, it ain’t as young as it used to be.” Stephen’s professional life as a Captain for Southwest Airlines for 16 years means two to four days per week free time for other activities. His first flying lesson was in ’86. As he looks back on his adult professional career he has “no complaints and no regrets.”

At present, Stephen is living in Mont Vernon, NH, with his wife and her two boys, ages 13 and 16. They have six dogs and spend most of the fall season with their two hunting dogs in northern Vermont and Wisconsin. One, Mojo, “spends evenings with me in my music room. I tell people he is the world’s only audiophile bird dog. Since I have been practicing tuba he has decided to remain a safe distance away.”

In his music room he has a “wonderful audio system that I work on improving all the time.” Also, he has been digging through bins on his country-wide travels collecting records and finding amazing bargains in the used record sections of most music stores. He even went to a New York Philharmonic concert with two bags full of records by his knees. About 15 years ago he took up the guitar. Learning to play it when on his airline free time is “a wonderful way to be stuck in east overshoe nowhere. The resources available on line for guitar are tremendous (much more than for tuba, I might add). I mostly play jazz style, solo chord melodies, and improvisation . . . The guitar has kept my head in music and has been a great outlet in my adult life.”

ALUMNI NEWS

PAMELA HILL, violin ’64-’66, CVU, BA, University of Rochester; JD, University School of Law ’78. Law school prepared Pam for her career. “I worked as an environmental lawyer at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 33 years, first in Washington, then, for most of my career, at the New England office in Boston. I retired two years ago, but I’ll be teaching an environmental course at Boston University Law School (where I have taught before) this spring. I had a wonderful job at EPA as a senior lawyer; I worked on practically everything EPA does over the years, having arrived when the agency was only eight years old, and having left after its 40th anniversary.

Pam lives in Concord, MA, with her husband Michael Coogan. Michael is a biblical scholar who teaches a little at Harvard and writes a lot for Oxford University Press. His next book will be out in the spring from Yale University Press.

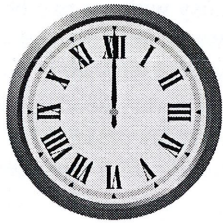
I left EPA “to (finally!) have the luxury of time with my three children, now 24, 28, and 30; and in part to pick up where I

left off with music. I’ve been practicing violin a lot and playing in an orchestra which puts on occasional performances in Concord.” She is particularly happy with the flute trio she’s in that plays in retirement homes. She plays viola once in a while (most recently in the Schumann Piano Quintet at the Concord Music Club and Schubert’s Rosamunde Quartet for a friend’s birthday celebration). She also is on the board of a relatively new non-profit called Shelter Music Boston, which brings classical music to homeless shelters.

“So you can see that music is a continued commitment and joy for me! I credit Burlington with providing the initial supportive environment. I am thrilled that the VYO is thriving. Strong youth orchestras are hugely important. Our youngest son is a cellist, whose experience in the Senior Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra was among the most important parts of his high school career.”

LINDA WELCH, clarinet ’68-’72, principal ’70-’72, CVU. Linda moved to Boulder, CO, in July, ’97, when her husband received a job there. She writes, “I am still playing a lot. I teach two 40-minute 5th grade band classes per week for an elementary school in Boulder and am still in the National Guard band, currently in the Wyoming National Guard. I also play with the Boulder Concert Band. I go to visit my parents one or two times a year and am never able to find time to see all the people who mean so much to me.”

KAREN REED CARPENTER, oboe, ’71-’76, CVU; Crane School of Music. Lately your Editor has been going over her treasure trove of clippings about VYO alumni from way back. She discovered a big one from the Free Press titled “Time on Her Hands—Karen Keeps the Clocks.” “I wound that clock in the Federated Church in Williston for quite a few years, literally winding up this huge box of rocks from the bottom of the church to the steeple. My mom had to put gussets in my shirt sleeves, for they were too tight because of the winding.”



“So what am I doing now? Rick and I live in Williston--our children are grown. Ben is 25 and lives in the area; Luke is 22 and is doing grad work out in Boulder, CO; and Sarah, our youngest, is a sophomore in college studying nursing. I am still teaching music at Hiawatha Elementary School, grades K-3, and I really enjoy that. It’s a great school, and it keeps me feeling young. I’ve taught there for 20+ years! I’ve been the accompanist for the Essex Children’s Choir for 25 years, and we have performed at many conferences, festivals, and special events during that time. I have a junior choir at my church, and I often play piano for services and special music. I don’t play oboe any more, except when I demonstrate it for kids at my school when we are studying woodwind instruments. I’ve learned the flute, and I enjoy that. Piano is my main instrument, though, and it’s always been a big part of me. “

“I have very fond memories of being in the VYO--meeting Saturday mornings at BHS, going to summer camp at Lyndon State College, and going on the school tours.”

From the Editor: It’s good to know that quite a few VYO grads don’t have to travel to Australia or Norway or Japan to make a living!

LISA CUKLANZ, violin ’76-’78, Edmunds and BHS. Duke University; Univ. of Iowa PhD. Lisa left the VYO after the 10th grade when her family moved to New Hampshire. She now is a professor and chair of the Communication Department at Boston College. She is past chair of the Radcliffe Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies. She has many articles, reviews, and chapters in books on women, including three books on the representation of gendered violence in media. Check her website for very interesting details on her work.

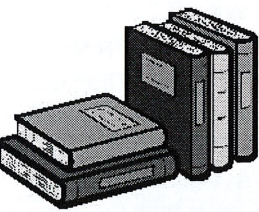
Lisa writes that she lives in Arlington, MA, has a 13 year-old son, and gets to Vermont quite a bit in winter. There’s skiing, of course. She gets to see SCOTT METCALFE, violin ’76-’81, principal second ’77-’88, assoc. concertmaster ’80-’81, BHS “from to time” in the Boston area. Scott is a busy musician with his Blue Heron ensemble described in the Spring ’11 Newsletter and the New Yorker.

ALICE EMERY, violin ’78-’83, SBHS. Greetings to VYO friends! I’m always so glad to get the VYO newsletter and learn of the latest amazing news of the orchestra(s). I’m located outside of New Haven, CT, after living many years in beautiful, extraordinary Mexico City, with my husband, Octavio Sotelo, and daughters Ana, 14, and Julia, 9.

My violin was largely unplayed for 20 years or so as we moved around until I couldn’t NOT play it anymore. It was an itch that needed scratching. So I started lessons again in 2010 with a wonderful teacher here in CT, Viara Albonetti, and occasionally play some recitals and in chamber ensembles. Also, I take advantage of the tuition remission I get as a university faculty member and have taken music theory, musicianship and music history courses.

I teach Spanish and teacher ed courses at universities in the area, but of greater interest is a Spanish immersion summer day camp I’m starting with a colleague. The model we’re developing has a strong arts component to it, so that’s where music comes in again! I’d love to hear from friends. Muchos Saludos. My e-mail is alicebemery@gmail.com.

KYM (BERGENDAHL) ROBERTSON, viola ’84-’86, Mt. Mansfield UHS. B.A. U. of Toronto; M.A. Univ. of Florida; Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) San Jose State Univ. Kym’s marriage to Jenns Robertson, an officer in the Air Force, meant many moves between Air Force bases in Montana, California, Washington D.C. and Alabama. Kym found



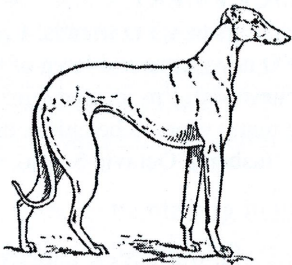
volunteer and paid work in libraries as they moved around. Finally, when Jenns retired in 2013, she got her first professional librarian job running the Talking Book Department at Alexandria Library in Alexandria, VA. She writes, “I see to the reading needs of the blind and physically handicapped, providing Library of

Congress National Library Service digital books and book players for eligible users. I have my own special library within the public library so I get to do all sorts of librarian tasks: helping choose books for patrons, maintaining the collection, circulating items--the works.”

Kym took up viola again while they were in Alabama. She took lessons with Dawn Heese, principal viola in the Montgomery Symphony. “To be honest, I’m better at practicing than I was as a teen... and more aware of abilities/limitations than I

remember being then.” She played in a Lachner’s *Grand Trio in C* with other military spouses and discovered how much she missed playing in ensembles. She hopes to find more ensembles in the D.C. area.

Apart from Kym’s musical interest, she and Jenns are greyhound lovers. They adopted their first retired greyhound, Ripley, not long after attending a “meet and greet” where people can get a chance to see what a greyhound looks like up close, how they behave, and how they might be as pets. After their first one died of cancer, they later adopted another one who is living with them now, Chase.



Kym writes, “I’ve enjoyed the military life style, mainly because the frequent moves meant a fresh start every few years, but I’m also looking forward to staying put for a while just to see what it’s like.”

CAROLYN MOORE AHRENS, bass clarinet ‘86-’88, clarinet ‘87-’89, principal ‘88-’89, Colchester High. Carolyn writes from Austin, Texas, “Texas too hot in summer, but great for the rest of the year. My whole family is down here now so it is unlikely we’ll ever move back north.” Carolyn says she is MOM—Mother, Momma, and Mama—to her three children: Kate 7, Will 5, and Hans almost 2. Her husband is a landscape architect. They have their own design/build firm. Carolyn says she does “all the non-landscape stuff (bookkeeping, invoicing, payroll, etc.) – it works great.”

“I play my clarinet in a woodwind octet—have for about 7 years now and love it. We play for fun around town. I remember playing some of the pieces at VYO camp. I have very fond memories of VYO. Is Ace Ali still involved? What a guy.” [ASIAT ALI, violin ‘85-’88, principal second ‘87-’88, EJHS. He is as of fall 2013, VYS conductor. –Ed.]

DEBORAH ALBERT, clarinet ‘86-’88, CVU. Tufts B.S. Ecology and Environmental Studies; SUNY Albany Graduate Certificate in GIS (Geographic Information Systems); Univ. of Maryland Master of Community Planning. “I am living and working in Arlington, VA, where I have been for the last 13 years. After a twelve-year career with the Nature Conservancy and NatureServe, where I was GIS analyst and database manager, I went back to school for my Masters and have been in Arlington for the last seven years as an urban planner. Before I moved to Virginia, I played a lot of music in Albany, but unfortunately there are few opportunities for an amateur clarinetist in the Washington, D.C. area. I briefly played in an amazing concert band, but prefer orchestral playing. After catching up with **CAROLYN MOORE AHRENS** in Austin,

TX, while on vacation last spring, and reminiscing about our VYO days, I was re-inspired to seek out a decent orchestra.”

NANCY BLODGETT MATSUNAGA, violin ‘86-’92, EJHS. Nancy writes: “I am now living in Munich with my husband and two sons, Taka (who turned 5 in March) and Luca (who is almost 2). Since leaving Brooklyn and full time work (ESL) in 2010, I have had the luxury of focusing on my fiction writing. In addition to my own writing, I teach creative writing classes through the New York-based Writers Studio. I continue to direct the Amsterdam branch of that school, which I founded while I was living there. Classes there are going strong, and I teach the advanced level students in an online class. Here in Munich I recently discovered a wonderful English language bookstore which hosts writing groups, so I am hoping to start some classes here as well. We’ll see! Other than that, I keep myself busy with my two boys. They are both in a bilingual pre-school. We recently got Taka his first violin and are planning to get him started with some lessons. He’s really interested in music and has a very good ear. He’s begging for an acoustic guitar for his birthday present. I’d love to hear from my old friends. Here’s the e-mail to use: nancy.matsunaga@gmail.com.

JULIA BLODGETT NICHOLS, violin, ‘86-’91, EJHS. In the fall 2010 Newsletter, Julia wrote that southern Maryland needed a youth orchestra. Here are the results: “A couple of years ago I told a friend that I was toying with the idea of starting a youth orchestra in our county. She immediately asked what she could do to help, and we decided to make it happen. We started a non-profit organization to form the Southern Maryland Youth Orchestra and then got a website up and running (www.smyorchestra.org) in the spring of 2012. Last fall we brought on several board members, all of whom have been very helpful, and we interviewed directors. We were fortunate enough to find a wonderful director locally who is as enthusiastic about the project as we are. We secured a location at a local high school (where we have permission to use the percussion) and advertised in our tri-county area for auditions, which took place in January. In the meantime, we were also working on orchestra policies and a handbook and registration packet for families, and our director obtained music.

On February 11, we held our first rehearsal with 31 students selected for the orchestra. I think we are going to have a wonderful spring season which will culminate in a concert on June 1. We have also begun to discuss holding a camp during the summer. It’s been a lot of work, but the students and parents are so grateful to have this in our community, so it makes it all worthwhile! Carolyn Long and my time in the VYO were the inspirations behind my idea to embark on this project, and it is so exciting to see it become a reality.”

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

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

MELISSA BURNETT MCNULTY, clarinet ‘90-’92, EJHS. Melissa has worked for the past nine years as a pediatric dermatologist at Mass General and as a Clinical Instructor for Harvard Medical School. She also has a private practice in Wellesley. She met her future husband, Chris McNulty, when he was at MIT and she was at Wellesley College. They have two children, Emma (9) and Ellie (6). Melissa’s dermatology residency took her and Chris to Minneapolis for three years. They came back to the Boston area for Chris to attend Harvard Business School. Their home is in Weston, about 12 miles from Boston and, as Melissa says, “It feels a lot like Vermont. Our backyard abuts some beautiful conservation land and I garden at a small farm down the street in Lincoln.”

There’s music in their house, even a music room. Both girls play piano, as does Chris, and Emma also plays violin. Melissa says, “I still enjoy picking up my clarinet and playing from time to time, although I feel a bit arthritic doing it.”

Vermont has still been in their life. They were married in June 2002 at Shelburne Farms, a very special place for Melissa. She attended VYO camp there and remembers using clothes pins to keep music from blowing away. The water was too cold for swimming.

Professionally, her big news is collaboration with a Harvard professor on an article in *Cell*, a prestigious scientific journal, on genetic research relating to dermatology. She’s also had a couple of publications in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

“But my true passions, though, are caring for my patients and time with my family.”

SHAMAN HATLEY, violin ‘92-’04, Montpelier High. Shaman writes: “After high school, I studied composition and theory at the Cleveland Institute of Music, then switched fields to Asian Religions, completing my BA at Goddard College. I subsequently studied Sanskrit and Asian Religions at the University of Pennsylvania, completing my Ph.D. in 2007. We live between Toronto and Montreal. I am an associate professor at Concordia University, specializing in religious traditions of medieval India. I haven’t had much time for violin, though now and then I teach a comparative course entitled ‘Religion and Music.’ Daughter Revati started violin at age four (too young) but now she enjoys it and is progressing well at McGill’s Suzuki program. Perhaps we’ll make it to a VYO concert in Burlington one of these days!”

KATE DONNELLY JENKINS, trombone ‘94-’96, EJHS. BM in Music Education, Ithaca College; MM in Music Performance, U. of Georgia. Kate has been active playing trombone with the Charleston (SC) Symphony and the Hilton Head Symphony. She’s been teaching low brass at Charleston Southern University, and has many private high school and middle school students. When she’s not playing or teaching, she’s home taking care of their three year old son, Will, who loves to play his blue p-bone (plastic trombone). Will’s dad is a local professional trumpet

teacher and plays trumpet in many ensembles, including the Charleston Symphony. Small world: Tom Joyce was the trombone teacher at VYO camp when Kate was there. When Kate moved south and played in the Charleston Symphony, there she found herself sitting next to her former teacher. Kate writes, “I wish I could be there for the alumni concert, but I was already scheduled to play a recital at Hilton Head on the same day.”

MORGAN RUELLE, violin ‘95-’97, Mt. Mansfield UHS. Morgan writes, “I graduated from Yale in 2001 with a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and went to work for the Bureau of Land Management in the Mojave Desert. I was part of a team looking into the effects of off-highway vehicle recreation on threatened species, including desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrels, and several species of birds and bats. After two years at the BLM, I joined the Peace Corps in Armenia as an environmental education volunteer. I worked with a local NGO (non-governmental organization) developing curricula and conducting teacher training on water quality protection, biodiversity conservation, and solid waste management.

“Returning from Armenia, I served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North and South Dakota. I worked for Nutrition for the Elderly and Care-giver support, a tribal government agency that tries to increase the availability of healthy traditional foods. After a year in Standing Rock, I started graduate school at Cornell in the Department of Natural Resources and American Indian Program. I returned to Standing Rock to conduct my Master’s thesis on indigenous ecological knowledge and food sovereignty.

“I have stayed at Cornell for my PhD, but am now working with subsistence farmers in the mountains of Ethiopia, studying the roles of plant diversity and indigenous knowledge as these communities adept to climate change. Although I have neglected my fiddle (as always) I am grateful for my time in STO and VYO and hope that my old friends from the back of the second-fiddle section are doing well.”

MARIA SCHWARTZ, flute ‘00-’02, CVU. Maria writes, “The five years I spent in VYOA were great! I remember my very first Sinfonia rehearsal in 1997 when the strings were tuning before we rehearsed Hopak. I was a member of Sinfonia the first year it was created, and two years after that, I was a member of Philharmonia when that orchestra



began. In 2000 I moved up to VYO! I have awesome memories of all the friends I made and the wonderful repertoire we played in all of the orchestras. I will always be grateful for the director, Troy Peters, and the VYOA program for kickstarting my love for orchestral music.”

Since graduating in 2002, Maria earned a Bachelor of Music from Crane at SUNY Potsdam. She then moved to Cleveland, OH, to study at the Cleveland Institute of Music. She said this

experience really changed her life. The school had an exceptionally wonderful orchestral program with many performing opportunities. After graduating from CIM with a Master of Music and a Professional Studies certificate, having studied with Joshua Smith, she moved to Chicago and began serving at a restaurant, but not for long. A year later she won the second flute spot in the Northwest Indiana Symphony. In addition, she has a private studio with about 15 students and freelances all around Chicago on flute and piccolo.

In 2011, she met her fiancé, John, who is a Chicago native and works as a video/audio producer and technician. Their wedding in a Chicago suburb is planned for June, 2015.

KIMBERLY LUISI, cello '01-'03, EJHS. B.A. in Advertising, Temple University.

Kimberly writes, "For the last six years I've been living and working in Manhattan as an advertising copywriter and art director. It's a fun job that basically consists of making things

up every day. Currently I'm living in Berlin (Germany) as a part of a three-month job exchange through my company. So far it's been an incredible cultural experience. I think I may have found the up-side of globalization. My cello remains in NYC collecting dust, but hopefully I'll be able to catch a performance of the Berlin Philharmonic while I'm here. My brother, Mike, is really the one who is up to interesting stuff. He just left for India, and honestly, I'm still not entirely sure what he's doing, but it seems to involve business and politics." [So what is it, Mike? Please get in touch. Ed.]

SAMANTHA GELFON, flute '04-'05, Montpelier High.

"I am in my fourth year as a K-5 music teacher in Dedham, Massachusetts, and recently brought my third grade students to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra. While I haven't played my flute in a while, I hope to begin playing again soon, perhaps with a community orchestra. While Massachusetts has been a great place to live and work, it's time for me to return to my roots, and I am hoping to find a job teaching music in the central Vermont area."

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