

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **VYOA Appoints Two New Choral Conductors**

*Colchester, VT* — The Vermont Youth Orchestra Association is pleased to announce that Caleb Pillsbury and Sarah Cullins will be joining the VYOA artistic staff in August 2015. Music Director Jeffrey Domoto says, “I’m ecstatic these two outstanding music educators will lead the VYOA’s choral ensembles into their second decade. Caleb is a committed, energetic, and widely-respected choral educator who will offer our students challenging and inspiring programming and performance experiences. Sarah brings a performing and teaching background that ensures superb vocal training and development of musical skills for our younger students in an environment where they will grow as singers and performers. I’m confident that they will lead the VYO Chorus and Concert Chorale to new levels of artistic achievement and visibility in our community and look forward to partnering with them on projects that bring our orchestras and choruses together.”

Caleb Pillsbury has accepted the position as conductor of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Chorus, the VYOA’s chorus for students in grades 8-12. He is the Choral Director of the Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, VT and holds a Bachelor’s of Music in Choral Music Education with Teacher’s Certification from University of Michigan’s School of Music, Theater, and Dance, and a Master’s of Arts in Choral Conducting from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where he studied with Simon Halsey, Neil Ferris and Sarah Tennant Flowers. In 2010, he was selected by the Chittenden East Supervisory Union as the University of Vermont College of Education Outstanding Teacher of the Year. In addition to a commitment to excellence, Mr. Pillsbury’s continued demonstration of success can be seen in the performance growth and respected standing of MMU choral ensembles at both regional and national music festivals.

Caleb Pillsbury is excited to take on the new role of Conductor of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Chorus because of its great musical potential. “The choir is very well established and with the energy and dedication of the current members, we are ready to continue building a culture which empowers students to develop their musicianship and vocal technique while preparing outstanding performances of the finest choral music.” Pillsbury looks forward to bringing to the chorus members musical experiences that engage students’ imaginations through a wide variety of repertoire and performance opportunities. “The VYOC is in a unique position to represent Vermont through well-crafted choral performances at regional, national, and international venues. My energy will focus on creating a choir that represents all of Vermont and makes it proud.”

Sarah Cullins joins the VYOA as conductor of the Vermont Youth Concert Chorale, the VYOA’s chorus for students in grades 4 – 7. Sarah writes “I am thrilled to become a member of the VYOA team and bring my knowledge of classical vocal training to the Concert Chorale. I hope to help expand the choral program so that it reflects the amazing talent and diverse population that we are so fortunate to have in our small state, and to continue to inspire both the young singers and their audiences with the magical world of classical music.” A graduate of the New England Conservatory and Mannes School of Music, Ms. Cullins is Affiliate Artist/Director of the University of Vermont’s Opera Workshop and returned to Vermont in 2013 after living in Bogota, Colombia for seven years. While there, she founded and directed the Universidad Central’s voice program and Gimnasio Vermont, a children’s chorus for grades 3-5.

**For additional information, please call 802-655-5030 or visit [www.vyo.org](http://www.vyo.org).**

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