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## In Memory of Tacoma Youth Symphony Association Founder, Virginia Morrison

Tacoma Youth Symphony Association founder, Virginia Washburn Morrison, died on February 13, 2020, eight days short of her 101st birthday.

Mrs. Morrison was born in Tacoma. She attended Lincoln High School where she played the clarinet in the marching band, orchestra, operettas and musicals. She graduated from Lincoln in 1938 and received a scholarship to Whitman College where she pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Conservatory Diploma in Music Teaching. After graduating from Whitman, she returned to Tacoma where she worked as head of Mail and Records at the Mt. Rainier Ordnance Depot during World War II. She married E. Albert Morrison in February, 1943, five days before he left for basic training. After World War II, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison had four children, three of whom participated in the Tacoma Youth Symphony.

It was always Mrs. Morrison's dream to start a youth symphony. She was a member of an arts advocacy organization, "The Arts for Youth Council." Through the Arts for Youth Council, she had the opportunity to make her dream come true. During the summer of 1963 the Council offered a month long summer string orchestra program at Pacific Lutheran University. The students involved fell in love with it and begged to be allowed to continue. Mrs. Morrison persuaded a conductor she knew, Dr. Paul Oncley, to volunteer his Saturday mornings for the following school year to rehearse with the new Tacoma Youth Symphony. Rehearsals were held in the new UPS music building and concerts were held at PLU's Eastvold Auditorium and local schools. The following year the organization expanded and a second orchestra for younger students, the Tacoma Junior Symphony conducted by John H. Walters, was added. Mrs. Morrison continued to lead the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association until 1976 when Shirley Getzin took over as Executive Director. During her time leading the organization, TYSA became an internationally renowned youth orchestra when they travelled to Switzerland in 1970 to participate in the International Festival of Youth Orchestras. In 1975 they traveled to Scotland to again participate in the International Festival of Youth Orchestras, the only youth orchestra to represent the United States. At both festivals, the Tacoma Youth Symphony took top honors. Mrs. Morrison also started this publication to communicate with parents and supporters of TYSA. She joked that the Youth Symphony was her fifth child. Virginia and her husband, Judge E. Albert Morrison, continued to support the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association for the rest of their lives.

In 1989 Whitman College presented Virginia Morrison with the Alumnus of Merit Award for founding the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association. This was one of the highest points of her later life.

The Tacoma Youth Symphony had planned to dedicate its May 16 Season Finale to the memory of Virginia Morrison. As so many things are right now, it will be rescheduled for a later date. Our thoughts go out to the entire Morrison family. Thank you for sharing Virginia with us.



To our wonderful seniors, CONGRATULATIONS and thank you!

Thank you for the many excellent performances and fun rehearsals over the years. You have, no doubt, discovered during this year of challenges, that the sea of life can sometimes be quite stormy. Nonetheless, never forget that you had and will have the strength to overcome.



As you leave TYSA to begin the next chapter in your story, remember: always maintain a positive attitude, work hard and strive to improve each day in all that you do. Be kind, compassionate and patient, with others as well as yourself. In the words of JK Rowling, “We do not need magic to change the world. We carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.”

We wish each of you a calm sea and a prosperous voyage. You will be missed!

If you are remaining in the area, however, feel free to stay another year or so. We would definitely welcome that!

Dr. Paul-Elliott Cobbs

## TYSA's Class of 2020

Josiah Anderson	Kyler Garcia	Jacob Lomboy
Ethan Berg	Alicia Geimer	Carmella McCracken
Benjamin Birmingham	Ethan Germer	Elle Murray
Molly Bliss	Michael Gribbon	Bethany Olson
Asha Boldroff-Ward	Christina Harkness	James Orr
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Thomas Brain	Christopher Howard	Lawson Quesinberry
Jordan Cahoon	Kirsten Iverson	Madelynn Quiett
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Jabez Choi	Juliana Kvamme	Samantha Schultz
Sebastian Cooke	Carli Larson	Brennan Schwebke
Sarah Cunio	Blake Leahy	Sofia Sednef
Claire Cunningham	Phoebe Lemon	Andrew Stevens
Brianna Davis	Audrey Leonard	Emily Whitney
Clara Ehinger	Benjamin Limric	
Ela Escobar	Nicolas Lofgren	

# Evergreen Music Festival

## New Dates and Locations

Session I: July 27-July 31, 2020

Urban Grace Church

Session II: August 3 - 8, 2020

Urban Grace Church



Applications are now available.  
Register today at [www.tysamusic.org](http://www.tysamusic.org)!

# *Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!*

To all the parents, board members, students and friends who have helped chaperone, copy and file music, pass out fundraising items, hand out tickets or usher at a concert, move equipment, stuff envelopes or work at the Discover Music Concert, we thank you. The TYSA staff is small and we would not be able to do all that we do without you. Thank you for the difference you make in the lives of our young musicians!

**Special thanks to Sandra Coffen** from the organization **Inform Puget Sound** who continues to place TYSA rack cards and camp brochures in brochure racks throughout the Puget Sound area. Sandra's daughter, Nicole, was a bassoonist in TYSA and Sandra performs this as a special service to TYSA. Thank you Sandra!

## Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Volunteer of Note, Lynne Everling, and Student Volunteer of Note, Josiah Anderson

Lynne Everling has two children in TYSA: Kate, a violinist in TYAO and Leah, a cellist in TSP. Lynne is one of the most energetic, positive parents we have ever had associated with the TYSA. She is eager to lend a hand wherever and whenever the need arises. Lynne is optimistic, proactive and thorough with everything she does. This year she served as the rehearsal assistant for the Tacoma String Symphony and Tacoma String Philharmonia. She is the first face a lot of new students will see when they arrive at a TSS/TSP rehearsal for the first time and she welcomes everyone with authentic enthusiasm. She never seems daunted by any tasks that fall to her, even if she already has a huge amount on her plate. In every gesture and decision she makes it is obvious that she has the best interests of TYSA at heart. Her dedication and kindness are truly indispensable. She also became a member of the TYSA Board of Trustees last season and as a Board member she has ignited the fund-raising efforts with the conception and diligence needed for the First Annual Gala and Virtual Auction. She is a pleasure to work with and we look forward to many more years with Lynne as a member of our TYSA family.

Josiah Anderson is a cellist in the Tacoma Youth Symphony. He has volunteered at the String Orchestra Festival, Evergreen Music Festival and has been a mentor in the younger orchestras. His strength of character is notable for a person his age and he is tireless in his desire to help whenever possible. Josiah has always been the first student to help out in each of the orchestras he has been a part of. He is a natural leader and consistently spearheads all efforts to clear a room of chairs, stands and percussion instruments. He is an amazing musician and a fine citizen and has been a wonderful mentor to the students in the younger orchestras that he has worked with. He is patient with the younger students, thorough and kind. When the orchestra he is mentoring is ready to pack up, he is usually the first to begin that effort as well. When we have need for an additional person to help organize a migration up to Urban Grace, Josiah is our guy. It has been a pleasure to watch him grow and his benevolence and enthusiasm will truly be missed.





Do you “like” us? We post pictures, TYSA news, concert information and more on our Facebook page. Check us out at [facebook.com/TacomaYouthSymphonyAssociation](https://facebook.com/TacomaYouthSymphonyAssociation)

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**TYSA Virtual Auction!**  
 Through midnight July 18

Support TYSA and bid on some incredible items. Check it out today and check back often.

<https://event.auctria.com/98ecabe0-f813-487f-bc21-043f9b5863fc>

# THANK YOU SPONSORS!

The Tacoma Youth Symphony Association wishes to thank the following season sponsors for their support. Without you our organization could not provide quality music education for the youth of this community.



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