



60th

Anniversary Season
Celebrating Youth Creating
Joyous Music
Since 1963

Celebrating 60 Years - A Look Back with the Wilkie Family

The Tacoma Youth Symphony Association lost its founder, Virginia Morrison, in February, 2020. We did a feature article on Mrs. Morrison in the May, 2020 issue of A Tempo (still available at www.tysamusic.org/news). Mrs. Morrison had the idea for a youth symphony in Tacoma, worked with the Youth for Arts Council to get a summer youth orchestra going at PLU during the summer of 1962, and then found Dr. Paul Oncley, the first TYS conductor for the Tacoma Youth Symphony in the fall of 1962. She also helped to gather early supporters and board members and worked with other parents and supporters to run TYSA out of the backs of cars in the early years. In honor of our 60th anniversary, we will look at some of those early supporters and conductors that helped to build TYSA into the amazing organization we know today. For the fall edition of the A Tempo, we talked to Marilyn Wilkie, the wife of Tacoma Junior Symphony conductor Alan Wilkie, as well as Alan's son, Kurt.

Alan Wilkie was the second Tacoma Junior Symphony (now Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony) conductor. He was hired to be the orchestra teacher at the brand new Lakes High School in the Clover Park School District in Lakewood, Washington in 1962. The family moved to Tacoma for him to take the job and he quickly made connections in the area. He became a member of the Tacoma Symphony (now Symphony Tacoma) and also played in the University Symphony Orchestra at PLU. He also made the acquaintance of many other music educators in the Tacoma area.

In 1963 or 1964 Alan Wilkie was asked to serve on the Board of the new Tacoma Youth Symphony Association. Marilyn Wilkie recalls that he was the only music educator on the Board at the time, which gave him a unique perspective among the Board members. He knew music students and he knew the music programs they were coming from. This helped to frame his ideas about what TYSA should be doing. It also gave him an advantage working with other music educators in the area. In the first years of TYSA many school music teachers objected to the organization, afraid that it would distract their students too much from what they were doing in their school music programs. Part of Mr. Wilkie's early responsibilities as a member of the Board was to act as a kind of ambassador between TYSA and the local school music educators. As he went out and visited other teachers, he was able to show them the benefits of having TYSA and get many of them behind the new Tacoma Youth Symphony.

Mr. Wilkie was a member of the Board during TYSA's 2nd year when two important decisions were made. The first was to hire C. Irvin Wright to conduct the Tacoma Youth Symphony. Dr. Paul Oncley had volunteered his time to conduct TYS during its first season but after that first year, the Board needed to find someone else. C. Irvin Wright was an instant success, loved by the students. Under his direction, the quality of TYS soared. The other important decision was to add a second orchestra for younger students. Initially called "The Training Orchestra", what became

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**RUTI CONCERT
MACHINEN FABRIK
1970**



ED JOHN, AL WILKIE, HOVHANESS, IRV WRIGHT

... continued from page 1

Tacoma Junior Symphony, and later, Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony, was initially conducted by John Howard Walters. Mr. Walters conducted the Training Orchestra until 1967. Alan Wilkie's son, Kurt, described a meeting when the Board began discussing a replacement for Mr. Walters. As they were discussing who could lead the orchestra, someone looked at Alan and said, "Well, why not you?" Mr. Wilkie spent the following summer preparing for his new position. Tacoma Junior Symphony had been only a string orchestra up until that point but he thought it should be a full orchestra. Over the course of the summer, he spent a lot of time on the phone calling music teachers from around the region to find woodwind, brass, and percussion students for TJS. Kurt recalls that his father was a good salesman and by the time for auditions in the fall, he had enough students for a full orchestra. His biggest concern going into his first TYSA rehearsal was that the students would enjoy it enough to want to come back the following week.

In 1969 the TYSA Board of Trustees received the invitation for the Tacoma Youth Symphony to perform at the International Youth Orchestra Festival in Switzerland in the summer of 1970. As they began to discuss whether or not TYS would go, they found out that the youth symphonies from Tacoma and Washington, D.C. were the only two youth symphonies in the United States that had been invited to participate. Everyone was amazed at how far TYSA had come in such a short period of time. The decision was made to go to Europe the following summer and the daunting task of raising \$65,000 for the trip was begun. Marilyn Wilkie was appointed trip chairman. She worked closely with the airlines to figure out how to build on orchestra tour. Alan was equipment manager and he, along with another man, built crates to transport double basses, harps, and percussion equipment. The trip was a huge success and the Tacoma Youth Symphony was invited to the festival again, this time held in Scotland, in 1975.

Mr. Alan Wilkie conducted the Tacoma Junior Symphony until 1979 when Mr. Dale Johnson became the conductor.



Tacoma Junior Symphony with
Mr. Alan Wilkie, Conductor
1972

SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE . . .

LOOK AT WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER!



It was a busy summer for TYSA! In the summer of 2021, TYSA added the Hammond Ashley Bass Workshop to the summer programs offerings. The **TYSA - Hammond Ashley Bass Workshop** continued this summer during the first week of July at Pacific Lutheran University. Over 40 double bassists attended the workshop, including teachers who participated in the String Teacher track. The workshop concluded with a performance on July 8.

Session I of the Evergreen Music Festival ran July 25-29 at Pacific Lutheran University. This year TYSA was thrilled to collaborate with Tacoma Youth Chorus to provide a choral option for voice students in grades 5-8. The festival also featured string orchestras and a band program for students in grades 3-8 and a combined festival orchestra for the final concert. **Session II of the Evergreen Music Festival** ran August 8-12 at the University of Puget Sound. Session II this year was an extended day camp for students grade 9-age 21. There were two orchestras and students also had the opportunity to perform in a student recital, participate in the EMF Talent Show, and hear incredible performances by EMF faculty members.



TYSA's first annual **Symphonic Jazz Workshop** took place between Session I and Session II of the Evergreen Music Festival, August 2-4. For our first Jazz Workshop, we had 45 students who worked on the music of George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, and William Grant Still with TYSA Music Director, Dr. Paul-Elliott Cobbs. The students were also treated to a performance and a clinic with professional jazz artists the Jeff Chang Trio.

SUMMER MUSIC WITH TYSA, CONTINUED



TYSA hosted a community arts walk in partnership with Downtown on the Go! The half-mile walk explored the vibrant musical culture of downtown Tacoma featuring performances by the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, Symphony Tacoma, Northwest Sinfonietta, Tacoma City Ballet, Puget Sound Revels, and the PLU Opera program. The walk took place on Wednesday, July 6 and led through the downtown Theater District, Antique Row, and Opera Alley. Participants enjoyed performances along the walk and learned more about the history and programs of each performing group. At the end of the walk, attendees enjoyed ice cream and popsicles provided by the TYSA Board of Trustees, as well as fun, kid-friendly activities with Greentrike.

The **Tacoma Community Ukulele Project (TCUP)** got off to a great start this summer with the **Eastside Uke Jams** at the Eastside Community Center. These free community events took place on Friday evenings in July and August and were open to anyone who wanted to attend, no matter their skill level or previous playing experience. TCUP was also offered this fall at Franke Tobey Jones and at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital as part of their outpatient offerings. TCUP is being offered as part of the Club Beyond program at Baker Middle School for this school year.



The Tacoma Youth Symphony Association is proud to be a part of Tacoma Arts Month this October. Tacoma Arts Month is dedicated to showcasing the very best about our community. Celebrate art. Create community. Find out more at www.TacomaArtsMonth.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022-2023 CONCERTO SOLOISTS!



Jorie Dyvig
Violin
TYS March 5 Concert



Logan Tec
Violin
TSS April 22 Concert



Caleb Richards
Violin
TSP April 22 Concert



Leah Everling
Cello
TJYS May 13 Concert



Lily Richards
Violin
TJYS May 13 Concert



Eliana Cobbs
Violin
TYS May 21 Concert



Anna Choi
Viola
Concerto Spotlight



Sarah Choi
Violin
Concerto Spotlight



Sebastian Kyle
Violin
Concerto Spotlight



Samuel Richards
Cello
Concerto Spotlight



Jeremy Song
Violin
Concerto Spotlight



Andrew Wade
Clarinet
Concerto Spotlight



Joanna Yan
Violin
Concerto Spotlight



Susanna Yan
Violin
Concerto Spotlight



TACOMA
YOUTH
SYMPHONY
ASSOCIATION

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES COSTUME CONCERT

FEATURING ALL OF THE ORCHESTRAS OF THE
TACOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 29, 2022 / 7:00PM
PANTAGES THEATER

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT WWW.TYSAMUSIC.ORG



WELCOME NEW TJYS CONDUCTOR, JOE DYVIG!

TYSA is excited to welcome Joe Dyvig as the conductor of the Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony for the 2022-2023 Season. Joe Dyvig is currently the orchestra teacher at Olympia High School, as well as the Music and Visual Arts coordinator for the Olympia School District. As a performer, Joe has been a member of the Symphony Tacoma Double Bass section since 2011. He has also served as Assistant Principal Double Bass with Olympia Symphony Orchestra and Principal Bass of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, he has performed with Federal Way Symphony, Auburn Symphony, Port Angeles Symphony, and the Dallas Wind Symphony. While an undergraduate student at the University of Washington, Joe studied double bass with Barry Lieberman, and tuba and conducting with Tim Salzman. His Masters of Music Education was completed at the University of North Texas where he was a double bass teaching assistant to Jeff Bradetich, as well as the Master Teacher for the University String Project. He has been on the WMEA board in various roles for six years and has been the organizing chair for both the All-State Chamber Orchestra and the All-Northwest Orchestra. Additionally, he is on staff as assistant director and double bass teacher at the Birch Bay String Teachers' Workshop, as well as leading the teacher inservice component of the Hammond Ashley Memorial Bass Workshop. Joe was selected as the Chinook Music Educators Association music teacher of the year in 2022 and is a National Board Certified Teacher. He lives in rural Thurston County with his wife Lisa and two children, Jorie and Lucas.



GIVING TUESDAY IS NOVEMBER 29

TYSA will be participating again in this international day of generosity. Your donations will go towards:

- Scholarships
- Community Programs
- Continuing to create an inclusive space for all
- Summer music camps and programs
- Ensuring another 60 years and beyond for TYSA
- Stay tuned for more information about a food drive to support the Emergency Food Network

Go to bit.ly/tysagives between now and November 29 to give or scan the QR code to the left.

The Tacoma Youth Symphony Association invites
you to join us for

TRIVIA NIGHT

MARCH 10, 2023
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

TACOMA YACHT CLUB
21+ EVENT | WWW.TYSAMUSIC.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us March 10, 2023, for our second annual Trivia Night Fundraiser & Auction! This event will feature three rounds of trivia, a variety of fun games, silent and live auctions, student performances, delectable Italian cuisine, drinks, and more! All proceeds from the event will go towards supporting the TYSA scholarship fund, increasing access to music education, expanding programs, and ensuring 60 more years of youth creating music in honor of our 60th anniversary. Tickets are on sale now at www.auctria.events/trivianight.

Join Us for These Upcoming Concerts

October 29, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Costume Concert

Pantages Theater

Sponsored by Weddermann Architecture, University of
Puget Sound School of Music, and Tacoma Creates



November 19, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Youth Symphony

Urban Grace

December 10, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Tacoma String Symphony

Tacoma String Philharmonic

Tacoma Wind Philharmonic

Tacoma Young Violin Program

Schneebeck Concert Hall, UPS

December 17, 2022, 3:00 P.M.

Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony

Urban Grace

January 21, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

Chamber Ensemble Concert

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

For more information or to purchase tickets go to

www.tysamusic.org

Find us on:



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Benjamin Kamithi	
Li-Ling Liao, DMA	
Jennifer Rhyne, DMA	
Fred Warnick	
Anna Wittstruck, Ph.D.	

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Jensen, DMA	<i>Executive Director</i>
Paul-Elliott Cobbs, DMA	<i>Music Director/ TYS Conductor</i>
Joe Dyvig	<i>TJYS Conductor</i>
Anna Jensen, DMA	<i>TSP Conductor</i>
Karen Helseth	<i>TSS Conductor</i>
John M. Wetherington	<i>TWP Conductor</i>
Elizabeth Ward	<i>TYS Assistant Conductor</i>
Pat Wooster	<i>Director, Harp Ensemble</i>
Loma Cobbs, Ph.D.	<i>Music Theory</i>
Megan Berkinshaw	<i>Operations Manager</i>
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