







Celebrating 60 Years - A Look Back with Shirley Getzin

As part of our 60th Anniversary Season we are looking back at some key figures in TYSA history. For more than ten years, TYSA was run by parents, conductors, and board members (many of whom were parents) out of the backs of cars. Music and records were driven around to rehearsals and concerts. In 1976, Virginia Morrison and her husband, Judge E. Albert Morrison, secured an office for the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association in Remann Hall. Someone was needed to clean up the office space and organize all of the records that came out of people's car trunks. Shirley Getzin was the mother of a TYSA cellist; she brought her son to rehearsal each week. Conductor C. Irvin Wright and his wife, Helen, noticed Shirley and asked her if she would be willing to clean up the office. The job was supposed to be temporary but when Shirley finished cleaning up the offices, the Morrisons asked her if she would be willing to stay on as Executive Secretary. Once again, the job was supposed to be temporary but Shirley continued to work for TYSA until she retired in 1997. Shirley Getzin was the first paid administrative employee of TYSA and, while she started out with the title Executive Secretary, she soon was named Executive Director and managed the whole organization for twenty-one years.

Shirley loves music, although she is not a musician herself. She took piano lessons for a time while she was growing up in Wisconsin but one time, during a rain storm, a window next to the piano was left open and the piano was rained on and ruined. When the piano was no longer available, her father got her an accordion but she was never really a strong player. At some point after she started working at TYSA, a picture of her with her accordion was taken that was used in the A Tempo. After that A Tempo came out, she used to get calls asking her to play the accordion!

Shirley credits her success as the first TYSA Executive Director to her love of people and love of music. Along with her love of people, she was good at persuading people to give and she was an effective fundraiser. During her time at TYSA, she oversaw TYSA's largest expansion. In 1976, there were two orchestras. During the 1980s, TYSA added the Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra, Tacoma String Symphony, the Symphonic Wind Arts Training program, Evergreen Music Festival, and String Orchestra Festival. Tacoma String Philharmonic and Tacoma Classical Youth Sinfonia were added in the 90s, just before Shirley retired. She was also responsible for TYSA's move to the offices in the Jones Building above the Pantages Theater (TYSA's current home) and she was involved with the remodeling of Studios 2 and 3 that TYSA currently uses for rehearsals and the remodeling of the Rialto Theater which opened in 1992 as the home of the Tacoma Youth Symphony.

In 1983 the Tacoma Youth Symphony went on a six - country tour in Europe. The European tour was one of the greatest highlight's of Shirley's career with TYSA and a highlight for the students that went on the tour. Shirley's fundraising skills went a long way towards making that tour happen but her love for the TYSA students was a big part of what made that trip so memorable for her and made her time as Executive Director so special. Looking back at the students she worked with, she thinks that music was a big part of what made the students who they were. She remembers all of them fondly and doesn't remember having any trouble with any of the students.

Shirley Getzin retired from TYSA in 1997 and was succeeded by Dr. Loma Cobbs. Before starting at TYSA, Shirley had always volunteered; she continued to volunteer after she left TYSA. Following her retirement, Shirley served on the Board of Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup and then for the Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation. One of the things she is most proud of is helping to build the Children's Therapy Unit at Good Sam. She also helped to raise money to build the cancer center at Good Sam.

Thank you, Shirley, for everything you did for the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association! We look forward to seeing you at the 60th Anniversary Concert on May 6th!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023!



Martin Anderson Erin Cammack Sarah Choi Eliana Cobbs Brynn Cogger Shaelynn Cuenca Tia-Jane Fowler Marissa Gilliam Kindra Gonsalves Kellen Gonsalves Hanna Grinstead Eleanor Jepsen Angelina Ji Kirsten Kierum Kayla Koo Amy Kositzky Kate Kurosky

Sofia La Rosa Gabriela Lizarraga Cameron McLennan Carter Mitchell Noah Montgomery Jonathan Myers Aaron Park Luke Richards Kendra Stauffer **Andrew Stevens** Sydney Thayer-O'Brien Andrew Wade Tanner Waldron Isabella Werth Lily Yan Haoyu Yang

To all of our seniors, thank you! Many of you were with us before 2020 and stuck with us through virtual rehearsals, camps, masterclasses, and performances. Thank you for mentoring our younger students and for supporting each other. It has been such a joy to get to know each of you and to watch you grow as musicians and as human beings.

We wish you all the best in whatever path you take!

Come back and visit often!

You will always have a place in your TYSA Family!

OME CELEBRATE WITH US,





Anniversary Season

Anniversary Concert!
Saturday, May 6, 2023
7:00 P.M.
Pantages Theater

Buy your tickets today at www.tysamusic.org



Help Us Fill the Summer with Music!

GiveBIG, Washington's biggest community fundraising event of the year, is May 2-3. By giving what you can in support of our summer programs, you provide an unsurpassed musical education this summer for ALL students, regardless of financial need or prior experience. Help us to keep the music going this summer for students from all over Washington state! Donate whatever you can today and help us spread the word by telling your friends, family, and colleagues about GiveBIG.



KEEP THE MUSIC GOING THIS SUMMER WITH TYSA'S SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAMS!

TYSA-HAMMOND ASHLEY DOUBLE BASS WORKSHOP







HAMMOND ASHLEY DOUBLE BASS WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY THE TACOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

JULY 5-8, 2023 PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

THE 2023 EVERGREEN MUSIC FESTIVAL

TYSA's Summer Music Camp For String, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Musicians, Ages 8-21, and Choral Musicians, grades 5-8.

SESSION I JULY 17 - 21, 2023 PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

Grades 3 - 8 string, woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians are invited to join us for a fun-filled day camp.
In collaboration with Tacoma Youth Chorus,
we are thrilled to offer a choral program for students grades 5-8.

SESSION II JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2023 CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Grade 9 through age 21 string, woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians are invited to join us for an overnight camp. Featuring fun activities including faculty recital, EMF talent show, and more!

SYMPHONIC JAZZ WORKSHOP

JULY 25 - 27, 2023
TACOMA CITY THEATERS STUDIO 3
FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS GRADE 8-AGE 21.
Performance in Spanish Ballroom.

For more information about any of these programs, go to www.tysamusic.org

April Runouts

TYSA is proud to be a part of the greater Tacoma area and we are so happy to be able to serve our community. Here are some pictures of TSS, TWP, TSP, and the Brass Ensemble performing outreach concerts during the month of April.











Thank you!

What an incredible 60th Anniversary Season we have had! The TYSA administrative staff consists of 2 full-time staff members and 5 part-time staff. None of what we do is possible without our incredible volunteers! Thank you to all who helped with the TYSA Trivia Night Fundraiser, the Discover Music Concert, and our run-outs to Victorian Country Christmas, the Tacoma Art Museum, and the Eastside Community Center, Merrill Gardens, and our school tour. Thank you to all of our wonderful concert volunteers, both those who planned to help out and those who were willingly drafted at the door when a volunteer wasn't able to show up. Thank you to the parents who helped our Picture Day run smoothly and to everyone who helped with mailings. Thank you to our wonderful Board of Trustees who have worked so hard to make this year a success and to ensure the future of TYSA. Thank you to the parents who support the students and help to make a music education possible for their children. And thank you to our incredible students for providing joyful reminders each week of why we do this! We so appreciate our entire TYSA Family!

Volunteers of the Year

Our wonderful families and students made it really hard this year to pick a 2023 Volunteer of Note and Student Volunteer of Note so we decided not to stick to only one in each category.

Congratulations to TJYS Orchestra Parent, Dick Rayray, and TYS Orchestra Parent, Julie Gonsalves! Both Mr. Rayray and Mrs. Gonsalves have gone above and beyond their Orchestra Parent duties. Mr. Rayray has taken some beautiful photographs during rehearsals and at concerts this year and has freely shared them with the TYSA staff and students. Mrs. Gonsalves helped with Trivia Night planning and has been a wonderful support to the TYSA staff.

Not only do we have wonderful parents that volunteer with TYSA but we have incredible students. Congratulations to Zachary Chang, Kindra Gonsalves, and Kellen Gonsalves! Zach Chang is a percussionist in TYS. Being a percussionist requires moving a lot of equipment and Zach has gone above and beyond to support logistics and loading. He comes early on concert days to help load the truck and follows the truck down the hill after concerts to help unload. Kindra is a violist in TYS and Kellen is a cellist in TYS. As string players they would not normally be responsible for moving equipment but both have been there after every concert, helping to load the truck. They have also both worked as mentors in Tacoma String Philharmonic.

Join us for the TJYS Concert on May 13 as we honor Dick Rayray and the TYS Concert on May 21 as we honor Julie Gonsalves, Zachary Chang, Kindra Gonsalves, and Kellen Gonsalves!

Find us on:

Join Us for These Upcoming Concerts

May 6, 2023, 7:00 P.M. 60th Anniversary Concert Pantages Theater

Featuring all of TYSA's orchestras

Sponsored by Consejo Counseling and Referral Service,

Pacific Edge Multimedia,

and Tacoma Creates

TWP is sponsored by Symphony Tacoma

May 13, 2023, 3:00 P.M. Urban Grace

Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony Tacoma Youth Brass Ensemble Sponsored by Tacoma Family Dental

May 21, 2023, 3:00 P.M.

Rialto Theater
Tacoma Youth Symphony
Sponsored by McEachern Charitable Trust,
Tacoma Creates, and
the Washington State Arts Commission

For more information or to purchase tickets go to www.tysamusic.org.







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