



TYSA Premieres a Piece by TYSA Clarinetist, Ben Pelandini!

TYSA has had some incredible composers come through its programs during its history! Only last May, TYSA alumni Molly Turner conducted the premiere of her piece *Open Doors* with the Tacoma Youth Symphony. TYSA has also premiered pieces by alumni Alexandra Bryant, Daniel Ott, Troy Peters, and David Fick. Other TYSA students have been working on compositions during their time in the program and have used TYSA musicians to help them refine their works.

This Sunday, March 3, the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association's Chamber Winds will perform the world premiere of *A Tone Poem* by current TYSA student, Ben Pelandini. Ben is a senior at Rogers High School in Puyallup and has been in TYSA for the last five years. He will be playing clarinet in the Chamber Winds for the premiere of his piece. Ben also plays the piano. We asked Ben how he got his start and what inspires him to compose:

"I've been composing for 5 years, starting in 2019! I was in 8th grade at the time, and I started with really short little pieces.

I was inspired to compose by my dad, who is also a composer! He would talk about musical topics a lot with me and I thought it was just the coolest thing, so I started trying to compose music on my own! Now, just listening to music played well inspires me. I mainly compose for band and choir, so hearing live performances of band and choral literature played really well inspires me a lot. I love the concerts where I leave wanting to compose."

Ben took some composition lessons last year with Pacific Lutheran University Professor Emirtus Dr. Gregory Youtz. He plans to study composition next year in college.

Ben described his piece this way:

"My piece *Tone Poem* has been an exploration in harmonic language for me. It opens with a simple two note rhythm displaced in two voices, and only after altering one note, more voices come in playing dissonant chords that lead into the next section. Then, this section develops into a second alteration of the same harmonic progression in which a different melody is played, and finally going back to the original melody. This again develops into another section, much lower in energy and much more delicate and contrasting from the first. This then grows, however, into passion that flows over back into the first section, and the piece closes with a grand chorale-like ending. This piece is nothing but a simple curve, but as Da Vinci said, 'Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.'"

The Tacoma Youth Symphony concert "Building Worlds" will also feature Dr. Svend Rønning playing the Sibelius *Violin Concerto*, Finnish Soprano Heidi Kankaanpää singing the chorale in *Finlandia*, William Grant Still's *Afro-American Symphony*, and Alyssa Bogh, winner of the guest conducting opportunity offered at Trivia Night, conducting *Stars and Stripes Forever!* This is going to be an incredible concert that you don't want to miss! Buy your tickets today at www.tysamusic.org.

The Chamber Winds
present
a World Premiere of
Tone Poem by
Ben Pelandini

March 3, 2024
3:00 P.M.
Rialto Theater



Trivia Night 2024!



Photo credits: TYSA Staff

We had an amazing Trivia Night on February 10 with fun games, fabulous food, great performances, and some incredible auction items! Best of all, TYSA raised over \$57,000 that goes towards supporting our students and programs! Thank you to everyone who attended - and a special thank-you to our Trivia Night co-chairs Rachel Brown, Sue Daulton, and Julie Gonsalves!

Stay tuned for next year's Trivia Night dates!

Washington State ASTA 2024 Distinguished Service Award Winner!



American String Teachers Association
Washington Chapter

The Tacoma Youth Symphony Association received the Distinguished Service Award from the Washington State chapter of the American String Teachers Association at the WMEA State Convention in Yakima on February 16! The Distinguished Service Award is given to individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to music education. The Washington State Chapter of ASTA recognized TYSA for the tens of thousands of youth, families, senior citizens, and community members that TYSA has reached through music education in its 61-year history.



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TYSA Music Director Designate, Dr. James O. Welsch

After a long and thoughtful review process, the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association is excited to announce Dr. James O. Welsch as our next Music Director and Tacoma Youth Symphony Conductor, with his debut at TYSA's Evergreen Music Festival this summer.

Most recently he has served as Music Director & Symphonic Orchestra Conductor of Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras, Visiting Professor of Music and Director of Orchestra at The University of Central Florida and held the dual positions of Associate Conductor of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and Music Director and General Manager of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras. In El Paso, he conducted the professional musicians in a variety of Live to Film, Pops and educational concerts, including Carnegie Hall's Link Up program.

Dr. Welsch is the founding Music Director/Principal Conductor of Orquesta Filarmónica Juvenil México-USA "The Bridge." This binational youth program validates his belief in the universal power of symphonic music to create bonds among people in diverse communities. The initiative, which brings together talented musicians from Ciudad Juarez and El Paso for orchestral performances on both sides of the border, has been widely hailed by public media in Mexico and the United States and by professional musicians, including Yo-Yo Ma.

Dr. Welsch is an experienced educator who is dedicated to the development of the whole student through the nurturing of each musician's unique talent. Immediately after earning a Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Music there, where he taught undergraduate and graduate courses; conducted orchestras and ensembles; was Music Director/Conductor for fully staged operas, and performed all faculty responsibilities, including student recruitment and committee work. He was honored as the Outstanding Music Faculty Member in 2008.

With a commitment to broadening the experience of symphonic music for performing artists and audiences, Dr. Welsch has developed an extensive, eclectic conducting repertoire that includes not only the established canon, but also extraordinary works by under-represented composers. His focus on literature analysis, developed during his post-baccalaureate education, continues as he studies and shares with his orchestras and ensembles the works of the masters as well as those by new and overlooked composers.

Dr. Welsch is an active guest conductor, adjudicator, master class teacher, and festival conductor. He has considerable experience composing and arranging music.

Delighting in the collaborative experiences that his art affords, Dr. Welsch welcomes opportunities to work with others, whether for a session of score study, an impromptu ensemble where he plays French Horn, his principal instrument, or a public performance. He especially values the creative experience of working with and hosting guest artists and working with talented young musicians.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Welsch this summer for Session 2 of the Evergreen Music Festival!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023-2024 CONCERTO SOLOISTS!



Sarah Choi
Violin
TJYS December 9



Harlan Zhao
Violin
TSS May 4



Tiernan Flynn
Cello
TSP May 4



Oliver Searles
Cello
TSP May 4



Sarah Hudspeth
Cello
TJYS May 11



Jeremy Song
Violin
TJYS May 11



Caleb Brumfield
Viola
TYS May 18



Alia Uffendorfer
Violin
TYS May 18



Ben Early
Trumpet
Concerto Spotlight



Alexia Kurtzbein
Violin
Concerto Spotlight



Samuel Richards
Cello
Concerto Spotlight



Jack Ruffner
Cello
Concerto Spotlight



Midori Sokolik
Violin
Concerto Spotlight



Yukino Sokolik
Violin
Concerto Spotlight



August Triebel
Viola
Concerto Spotlight

Join Us for These Upcoming Concerts

March 3, 2024, 3:00 P.M.

Tacoma Youth Symphony
Rialto Theater

Sponsored by

The McEachern Foundation and
Weddermann Architecture, PLLC

May 4, 2024, 1:00 P.M.

Tacoma String Symphony
Tacoma String Philharmonic
Tacoma Wind Philharmonic
Mason United Methodist Church

May 11, 2024, 4:00 P.M.

Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony
Rialto Theater

May 18, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Youth Symphony
Pantages Theater

For more information or to purchase tickets go to

www.tysamusic.org

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