TACOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

TYSA'S
ATEMPO
Stay up to speed with all things TYSA

Volume 63 No. 3
May, 2026

PUGET SOUND TYSA PERCUSSION FESTIVAL 2026 TACOMA, WA

Bassoon Fest NW

TYSA-HAMMOND ASHLEY DOUBLE BASS WORKSHOP

Turn Up the Summer with TYSA

Summer is just around the corner and TYSA has some great options for music students of all ages and abilities to sharpen their skills this summer. **Session 1** of the **Evergreen Music Festival** will be July 13-17 at Pacific Lutheran University. This fun-filled day camp is designed for string, woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians entering grades 2-8. **Session 2** of the **Evergreen Music Festival** is an amazing overnight camp for musicians entering grade 9 through age 20. It will be July 19-25 at Central Washington University. The **TYSA-Hammond Ashley Bass Festival** is July 28-31 at the University of Puget Sound. The festival offers an immersive study of the double bass for students of all ages and abilities. The Bass Festival also offers an in-service opportunity for school orchestra teachers who would like to sharpen their double bass skills. The **Summer Jazz Orchestra** is August 6-9 at Tacoma City Theaters. All instrumentalists entering grade 8 through age 20 are invited to take part in this workshop which celebrates jazz! Students will learn about the unique history of jazz through hands-on musical experiences, guest performances, oral traditions and a final performance for the public in the Spanish Ballroom at McMenamins Elks Temple.

This year TYSA is introducing 2 new summer camps, the Puget Sound Percussion Festival (June 30-July 2 at Tacoma City Theaters) and Bassoon Fest Northwest (July 7-9). All of TYSA's summer music camps feature amazing faculty. Read on to learn more about some of the talented instructors involved in this summer's programs.

The Puget Sound Percussion Festival will be led by **Dr. James Doyle**. Dr. Doyle is a percussionist and teaching artist based in the Pacific Northwest. As a soloist and collaborator, he's performed throughout North America, Europe, Australia, Africa, and Asia, with recent appearances at the Nakanojo Biennale, residencies at Gunma University in Maebashi, Japan, performances for the Seattle Symphony's octave9 Series, the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, and the premiere of new works at the Composers Showcase of Las Vegas and the NEXTET contemporary music series. Before relocating to Washington, James served as Professor of Music at Adams State University, where he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in percussion, global music and culture, music education, and directed the Music of the Americas Project, an ensemble exploring the music shaped by the African diaspora throughout the Americas. Prior to his tenure in academia, he was principal percussionist with the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West.

Brittany Harrington will lead Bassoon Fest Northwest. Ms. Harrington is a versatile bassoonist, dedicated educator, and creative performer whose artistry and innovation have earned her wide acclaim. *The Dallas Morning News* praised her playing, writing, "Special praise goes to Brittany Harrington's gorgeously intoned, eloquently shaped bassoon solos." She currently serves as Affiliate Artist/Faculty at the University of Puget Sound and is a Performing Artist for the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle. An active freelancer in the Pacific Northwest, Brittany performs regularly with ensembles including the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Music Ensemble, The Sound Ensemble, and other leading regional organizations. In 2025, she appeared as principal bassoonist with the Bellingham Music Festival, and in 2024 she spent the summer performing with the Britt Festival Orchestra in Jacksonville, Oregon. Brittany is also a member of the newly formed quintet, Wind Advisory, whose mission is to use music as a force for community impact and social good. The ensemble performs a wide-ranging repertoire with an emphasis on making the classical canon accessible and relevant, while partnering with local organizations to support meaningful causes.

We are excited for the return of Jeff Bradetich for the TYSA-Hammond Ashley Bass Festival. Mr. Bradetich has taught on the faculties of the University of Michigan and Northwestern University prior to his 1994 appointment as director of the largest double bass program in the world at the University of North Texas. His students hold positions in major orchestras on five continents and occupy many important teaching and leadership positions throughout the profession. An active performer, he has performed more than 600 concerts around the world since his debut in Carnegie Recital Hall in 1982.

Learn more about all of TYSA's summer music camps at https://tysamusic.org/tysa-programs/summer-camps/

Get your tickets today for these upcoming TYSA Concert finales!

Go to www.tysamusic.org

Summer Music Camps 2026

Puget Sound Percussion Festival
June 30 - July 2, 2026
Tacoma City Theaters

Bassoon Fest NW
July 7-9, 2026
Tacoma City Theaters

TYSA
TACOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

Evergreen Music Festival
Session 1 July 13-17, 2026
Pacific Lutheran University

Evergreen Music Festival
Session 2 July 19-25, 2026
Central Washington University

Register Today:
tysamusic.org

TYSA-Hammond Ashley Bass Festival
July 28-31, 2026
University of Puget Sound

Summer Jazz Orchestra
August 6-9, 2026
Tacoma City Theaters

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Michaela Bae
Braeden Baker-Huff
Vasvi Bhagia
Errin Bilson
Violet Boeddeker
Emily Boitano
Nicholas Brazier
Claire Bremer
Nathan Byrd
Ibel Cantelmi
Rudy Capek
Ezra Corcoro Marx
Alexander Cromer
Lucienne Cuenca
Aubrey DeCremer
Nadia Dixon
Maryanne Drake
Lucas Dyvig
Aiden Hatcher
Juliaunna Hodge
Justin Hovey
Hazel Ingram
Logan Johnson
Logan Keeley
Mädchen Kirkhart
Violet Knobel
William Morales
Eliezer Mordo
Angela Ng
Luke Nist
Ella Norquist
Harrison Oberg
Henry Park
Alexander Pitruzzella
Griffin Pochop
Madison Ralls
Aiden Ramirez
Adeline Rice
Lily Richards
Carmen Rozendaal
Grace Ruffner
Daniel Sim
Kaitlyn Song
Aidan Stevens
Denis Suhatchi
Miles Taniguchi
Ella Wagner
Jadyn Washington
Leoni White
James Woodside
Prisca Won

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors! Thank you for your musicianship and for the inspiration you provide to the younger students in our organization. Thank you for mentoring, volunteering to help with auditions, summer camps, and SOF. Thank you for helping to make each Saturday a joy. We wish you all the best as you head to college next year and wherever life leads you. Remember, you are ALWAYS a part of this TYSA family. Stay in touch and come back to visit often.

Spring Runouts

April is runout season at TYSA. The Tacoma Wind Philharmonic performed at the Tacoma Art Museum on April 16. This event was a part of the free Thursday Night Art Walk. As part of their performance, TWP played *Baseball March* and invited members of the audience to conduct.

On April 18, the Tacoma String Symphony performed for the residents at Merrill Gardens on Rosemount Circle. Student soloist Emily played the Vivaldi *Concerto in G minor* with TSS. The following Saturday, April 25, Tacoma Academy String Orchestra performed for the residents at Frank Tobey Jones. The Cello Choir played for the residents at Merrill Gardens at Wright Park on May 3. We are so thankful for these runout opportunities. They give our TYSA students great performing experiences for enthusiastic audiences, and our youth have the chance to brighten the day for the residents of these retirement communities.

The Tacoma String Philharmonic did a different kind of runout on April 24. They did six mini concerts at Narrows View Intermediate School in University Place, and worked side by side with the orchestra students there. It was a great opportunity for our students to meet other string players their age, and the NVI students had the chance to learn more about TYSA.

Last week was the grand opening of the new Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. TYSA was honored to be a part of their celebration. Students from the Tacoma Youth Symphony performed on Tuesday, April 28 for the grand opening festivities. We were also involved in an open house on May 2.

TYSA students were involved in two events on Sunday, May 3. First, we were excited to be able to collaborate again with the Tacoma Youth Chorus for their concert "Sharing Our Song" at the University of Puget Sound. Next, TYSA students Jasmine and Tiger and the TJYS String Quartet performed at Ben & Gary's Ice Cream Social as part of the Ben Faigin Music Opportunity Fund's annual fundraising event. The organization provides scholarships for underrepresented youth and children from low-income families to participate in music programs in Seattle and Tacoma.

Thank you!

TYSA could not do the work that we do without volunteers, and we have such amazing volunteers who help us each week. Thank you to all who helped with the Discover Music Concert, the Symphonic Orchestra Festival, the TYSA Trivia Night Fundraiser, and our run-outs to Victorian Country Christmas, the Tacoma Art Museum, Merrill Gardens, Frank Tobey Jones, and the TSP side - by - side at Narrows View Intermediate. Thank you to all of our wonderful concert volunteers, who come early and willingly help clean up after concerts. Thank you to all of the parents who helped with mailings this year - you help to make a huge task easy. Thank you to our wonderful Board of Directors, 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

Congratulations to our **2026 Volunteer of Note, David Thomas**. Mr. Thomas began volunteering with TYSA in the early 2000's. A teacher and vocal musician, he believes strongly in the work that TYSA does. Mr. Thomas has volunteered at countless concerts over the last 20 years and has helped with mailings.

Congratulations to the **2026 Student Volunteer of Note, Brayden Greatwood**. Brayden has been a remarkably kind and patient percussion mentor to the younger percussionists in TWP and has worked with TASO this year. He was a huge help at EMF last summer, mentoring at Session 1 and helping to organize parts in the percussion section and managing the tearing down and setting up of equipment at Session 2. He also volunteered at SOF this season.

David and Brayden will both be recognized at the *Finale in Full Color* concert on Saturday, May 9.

Save the Date!

The TYSA and Friends Music Walk will be Wednesday, July 8 from 6:00-7:00 PM. This special Music Walk will unfold within a block of the Pantages Theater and feature performances from our sister arts organizations. The event will conclude with some delicious ice cream provided by the TYSA Board of Directors. The event is free, but preregistration is required and will be open sometime in June. Stay tuned for details.

TYSA ANNUAL MEETING

May 16, 2026 • 9:00 A.M.

4th Floor Conference Room

TACOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

TYSA 2026-2027 PLACEMENT AUDITIONS!

August 3-12, 2026

Join in the music AND the fun! Fill out your application today at

www.tysamusic.org

Join Us for These Upcoming Concerts

May 9, 2026, 4:00 PM
Finale in Full Color
Tacoma Academy String Orchestra
Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony
Tacoma Youth Brass Ensemble
Rialto Theater
Sponsored by: Barrett Family Dental

May 16, 2026, 7:00 PM
Tacoma Youth Symphony
The Year 1905: Love and Revolution
Rialto Theater
Sponsored by: University of Puget Sound School of Music and Wells Fargo Advisors

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

Season Sponsors:

ARTSFUND
CITY OF Tacoma
TACOMA CREATES

Program Supporters:

Houglum Family Fund
Sound Surgical Arts
Drs. Manuel and Silvia La Rosa
Specialists in Oral Surgery, Implants, and Periodontics
Est. 1888 UNIVERSITY of PUGET SOUND School of Music
WEDDERMANN ARCHITECTURE

Find us on:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Weddermann	*President*
Rachel Brown	*First Vice President*
Eleni Willis	*Second Vice President*
Julie Gonsalves	*Secretary*
Benjamin Kamithi	*Treasurer*
Cathy Early	*Immediate Past President*
Jamie (Clark) Dunning, PharmD	
Jessica Gasper	
Mark Green	
Deborah Li	
Li-Ling Liao, DMA	
Joseph Scott, DMA	
Melinda Wharton	

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Jensen, DMA	*Executive Director/ TSP Conductor*
James O. Welsch, DMA	*Music Director/ TYS Conductor*
Joe Dyvig	*TJYS Conductor*
Gianna Debolt	*TWP Co-Conductor*
John M. Wetherington	*TWP Co-Conductor*
Karen Helseth	*TASO Conductor*
Rebecca Pelandini	*TSS Conductor*
Katherine Sartori	*Prelude Strings Conductor*
Sarah Viens	*Brass Ensemble Conductor*
Jeff Chang	*Jazz Studies*
Loma Cobbs, Ph.D.	*Music Theory*
Megan Berkinshaw	*Operations Manager*
Tommy Hawthorne	*Education/EMF Manager*
Kristina Thomas	*Marketing Manager*
James Doyle, DMA	*Engagement Manager*
Laura Stone	*Advancement Officer*
Rebecca Reinmuth	*Finance Manager*
Heidi Davidson	*Librarian*