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Noteworthy is the official eNewsletter of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Organization.

## From the Podium



PYO & Maestro Scaglione in rehearsal on the Verizon Hall stage.

Dear Friends:

Rehearsals are well underway as all students prepare for upcoming concerts in November and December. Enrollment of the entire PYO organization is at an unprecedented high, with over 400 talented students participating in PYO, PYAO, Bravo Brass, PRYSM and Tune Up Philly.

The caliber, drive, discipline, and professionalism of students have far exceeded my expectations this season. In my 17 years with the organization, I am earnestly heartened and impressed by all the committed and talented young student musicians who auditioned this year. 2013 proved to be a very competitive year; we auditioned over 180 prospective students alone for the PYO. Students and music teachers in our tri-state region recognize the level of training and preparation offered through the PYO.

The PYO's season debut is only several days away. I encourage each of you to reserve your tickets now! Please call the Ticket Philadelphia box office at 215.893.1999 or visit the [Kimmel Center website](#) to purchase your tickets.

After enjoying in the concert of Nov 17th, do not forego getting into the holiday spirit with our December concerts. A full listing of all PYO, PYAO, Bravo Brass, PRYSM, and Tune Up Philly events can be found on the [PYO website](#).

Thank you for your unwavering support of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra organization. We look forward to seeing you in the audiences in the coming weeks.

With best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving,  
[Louis Scaglione](#), President & Music Director  
Philadelphia Youth Orchestra

## Annual Appeal Drumroll as of November 1, 2013



The Philadelphia Youth Orchestra gratefully acknowledges and celebrates the following for their quick response to our annual fund appeal! If you have not done so yet, please join these giving leaders in support of our organization. Help us exceed our goal this year...can we count on your help to raise \$100,000?

We are proud to carry on the legacy of our founding mission: *to provide an unrivaled and unparalleled music education and performance opportunity to our talented youth, whilst inculcating a strong sense of discipline, citizenship, and overall excellence in all the endeavors they undertake.* Your support is paramount to ensure that we continue to offer programming to many more generations of PYO student musicians in the decades to follow. Your gift, NOW, ensures our pledge and our promise to these gifted young musicians.

Our heartfelt thanks go to: Denise & John Abrams, Barbara & David Benglian, Donna Murasko & Dr. Kenneth Blank, Margaret & Stephen Dana, Jason DePue, Evergreen Family Foundation, Lan Jin & Cheng Gang, Dorothy & Frank Giordano, Sharon & Isidore Hofferger, Jane Koh, Wendy Lee, Dr. Yuan Lin, James & Frances Maguire, Susan & James Matour, The McFadden Family, Richard Mulford, Frances Myers Obrien, Abby Phillipson & David Weiner, Dr. Harry Rosenthal, Yumi & Henry Scott, Larry Simpson, Jeanne Vissa, Caroline Walsh & Gregory Rosenberg, Jerome Wigler.

And to the Matching Gift Programs in which our donors participate: GlaxoSmithKline, Give with Liberty Employee Donations, Microsoft Matching Gifts Program, PSEG Power of Giving and Merck Gives Back Program.

These matching gifts double your support for the PYO Organization. Please be sure to inquire with your company, if they have a matching gift program, too!

*For more information on how your gift can have even greater impact, please contact Maria Newman, Director of Development at 215.545.0502 or [mnewman@pyos.org](mailto:mnewman@pyos.org).*

## Youth Work Foundation Good Citizen's Award



Congratulations to PYO members: Austin Berman, Elizabeth Lee, Lavi Ben-Dor, Edward Pyun, Dennis Woo, Mike Sha, Michelle Cheng, and Helen Gerhold.

At the 67th Annual Union League of Philadelphia Good Citizen's Award banquet, eight of our students were honored with this prestigious recognition as leaders in their school and home communities. They (and 252 others from across our region and from a wide array of organizations) are now among the 17,000 young people recognized over the decades and who represent the motto of the [Union League of Philadelphia: Love of Country Leads.](#)

The mission of The Youth Work Foundation of the Union League of Philadelphia is to motivate young people to set high personal standards of behavior and leadership, and to inspire them to become responsible citizens.

The Award recipients spent a day filled with activity, visits to the courthouses and other historic sites, presentations and open discussions with esteemed League members and leaders in our City. The evening concluded with a ceremonial parade of good citizens and spectacular banquet dinner complete with raffles and prizes for the young leaders. The PYO is very grateful for and proud of the service and achievements of our students.

Michael Brookshire (seen pictured here, left, with staff, Maestro, and students) is also a PYO alum percussionist who—with Lisa Canoura, our agency representative and other committed members of the Union League—helped to make this evening a wonderful celebration of our student leaders.

We were also joined at our table by Sohale Sizar (standing next to Mr. Brookshire), who graduated from PYO in 2008.

## Come One, Come All...Let the Holidays Begin!



PYAO performing in the historic St. Mark's Church of Center City Philadelphia.

Our season debut opens on November 17th at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts with the works of: Beethoven (*Symphony No. 3 – "Eroica"*), Mussorgsky (*Pictures at an Exhibition*), and Ravel (*La Valse*). The complex, yet dulcet, repertoire will prepare you for our holiday themed concerts in December!

Do plan on getting into the holiday spirit with one-or all-of our December 7th presentation of "A Renaissance Holiday" featuring the music of Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Palestrina, and Praetorius. The backdrop of Saint Mark's Church with its Gothic revival architecture could not be more fitting! Join the audience as the riveting sounds of our brass ensemble transport you through the music of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries.

Later in the month, the **PYAO** returns to this "Notman" church on December 17th for the annual [Holiday Benefit Concert](#). Again this year, the *Holiday Benefit Concert for St. James School* will feature the Upper Darby High School Encore Singers with the music of J.S. Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi and festive songs and carols of the season for audiences to join in. There will be a special pre-concert reception in the rectory and more information will reach you shortly. Maestro Scaglione returns to the podium to lead one of his favorite concerts.

Lastly, don't miss **Tune Up Philly** on December 21st at Trinity Center for Urban Life. Our expanding outreach ensemble will offer a crowd pleasing and festive concert that will introduce our newest members from our Kroc Center site.

*Reserve your tickets by calling the PYO office: 215.545.0502. As a special offer for December, reserve and purchase all three December concerts for \$25 per person.*

## The Salvation Army Kroc Center Welcomes Tune Up Philly



Tune Up Philly faculty member, Veronica Hudacek, in a cello lesson with Tyler Jackson.

On October 14th, The Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's Tune Up Philly launched a program at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Center located at 4200 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia. This expansive facility boasting an Olympic-sized lap pool, a full fitness gym, an indoor water park, 400 seat multi-media theatre, and large outdoor performance space is nothing short of an oasis in the Hunting Park section of North Philly.

We have welcomed 35 new students into our outreach program geared to provide access to the highest quality music education for low-income students in under-resourced communities. We are very pleased to partner with the Salvation Army Kroc Center in this community-wide model of our Tune Up Philly program.

## Alumni Spotlight



Michael Brookshire, PYO alumnus (percussionist), pictured then and now.

Michael Brookshire grew up in the Hatboro area and graduated from Upper Merland High School in 1990. He spent his free time throughout high school pursuing his first love in life—music—and became a member of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra in 1989.

Michael distinctly remembers his first rehearsal under Maestro Primavera and reminisces about the pleasure of performing with the region's top youth ensemble. The impact PYO would have on his life was not yet known. Maestro Primavera proved to be the impetus to Michael's attending Michigan State University.

Michael continued his music performance career at Michigan State University where he earned a BA in English Lit with an emphasis on Dramatic Literature. After four years with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and the Mid-Michigan Opera Company, he moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to take up residence as an Education Director and Resident Production Manager at a theater company.

While in Baton Rouge, Michael ran an arts education company until 2000 before pursuing a career as an investment advisor. In November of 2008, Michael joined TD Bank and is currently a relationship manager running the Willow Grove location.

Michael credits the rigors of his training at PYO in large part for his success as a classical percussionist and music educator for—what would be—the next 10 years. "My training with PYO and Maestro Primavera prepared me for much more than being a musician, the experience taught me the discipline to be a success within a larger group, to be a team player. I carry those lessons into my business with me every day."

Michael is excited to be engaging with the newly emerging PYO Alumni Association and hopes to reconnect with more of his fellow PYO Alumni both in and outside of the Arts community.

Alumni are encouraged to connect with Michael Brookshire via email: [Michael.a.brookshire@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.a.brookshire@gmail.com) or [LinkedIn](#).

## Upcoming Concerts

**PYO**  
Sunday, November 17, 2013  
3:00 p.m.  
**PYO Kimmel Concert Series**  
Kimmel Center, Verizon Hall  
Philadelphia, PA

[More information >>>](#)

**Bravo Brass**  
Saturday, December 7, 2013  
7:30 p.m.  
**A Renaissance Holiday**  
Saint Mark's Church  
Philadelphia, PA

[More information >>>](#)

**PYAO**  
Tuesday December 17, 2013  
8:00 p.m.  
**Benefit for St. James School**  
Saint Mark's Church  
Philadelphia, PA

[More information >>>](#)

Complete performance schedules for Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra, Bravo Brass, PRYSM and Tune Up Philly may be viewed at [www.pyos.org](http://www.pyos.org).



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