



PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
*Ovation Award*



Presented and Endowed by H.E.L.P.<sup>®</sup> Foundation  
Sponsored by Jacobs Music Company and J.W. Pepper  
In Partnership with WRTI 90.1 FM

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Sunday • June 5 • 2016 • 4:00 p.m.

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The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts  
Verizon Hall

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## Shelley Beard • Lansdowne, Pennsylvania

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*Shelley Beard "expanded my musical horizon and changed my life by setting me on the right path."*

This is Shelley Beard's second nomination for the Ovation Award. As an active chamber musician, she was a founding member of both the Tononi Quartet and the prize-winning Mühlenberg Piano Quartet. Ms. Beard is currently the Suzuki Academy Department Head and Master Faculty member at The Music School of Delaware. She has served as Vice President of the Greater Philadelphia Suzuki Association and former President of the Philadelphia Viola Society. Ms. Beard is a graduate of the Peabody Institute (BM) and Indiana University School of Music (MM) and has extensive Suzuki Teacher Training. Her students have won top prizes in many classical and folk competitions and have been accepted to some of the finest musical institutions including The Juilliard School, Cleveland Institute of Music, Peabody Conservatory, and Oberlin Conservatory, etc. Ms. Beard is a registered Suzuki teacher with extensive Suzuki training and has received the Suzuki Association of the America's Certificate of Achievement.

### **Nominator: Eric Gao**

Eric has studied violin for over three years with Ms. Beard, who brings out the best qualities in all of her students while encouraging them to reach their full musical and personal potential. Eric currently attends Garnet Valley Middle School and is a member of the Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra.

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## Matthew Ceresini • Malvern, Pennsylvania

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*Matthew Ceresini develops a strong connection with all students through his leadership and teaching.*

Music Educator, Matthew Ceresini, has been an Instrumental Music Director and Classroom Music Teacher at Great Valley High School in Malvern, PA since 2013. He is currently Director of the String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Basketball Pep Band, and co-Chairperson of the Secondary Music Department. He teaches elective music classes including Guitar I & II, Rock Band, Music Technology and Industry, and Adaptive Choir. Under his leadership, the Marching Band was awarded Gold and Silver Finalist placement at the Cavalcade of Bands A Class Championships in 2014 and 2015. Mr. Ceresini grew up in Upper Darby, PA and attended Upper Darby High School. He holds undergraduate degrees in Music (BA) and Music Education (BS) from Lebanon Valley College and a master's degree in Music Education (MM) from Boston University. A 2015 graduate of Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Leadership Academy, he began his teaching career at Radnor High School in Wayne, PA. In his spare time, he enjoys writing music, playing basketball.

### **Nominator:**

#### **Evelyn Bravo, Malvern, PA**

A student of Matthew Ceresini's for three years at Great Valley High School, Evelyn is "proud to say that he is one of the people who influenced me to become a music teacher." Before joining the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Evelyn was a member of Philadelphia Region Youth String Music and Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra.

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**Tatiana Ivanova • Penn Wynne, Pennsylvania**

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*Tatiana Ivanova increases self-esteem within her students through fun and engaging music learning.*

Tatiana Ivanova is a classically trained violin instructor. A graduate of Samara Music Collage and Belorussian Academy of Music, she holds a Master degree of performing art and pedagogic. She started music instruction in 1983 in Russia where she taught for 20 years. After migrating to the US, Ivanova continued to build her career as a violin instructor, teaching at Nelly Berman School of music, and others. Her distinguished teaching method is one that produces highly accomplished violinists. She enjoys teaching and is always happy to share her love for music with her students.

**Nominator:****Yasmine Meziani, Bala Cynwyd, PA**

A violinist in Philadelphia Region Youth String Music and student at Welsh Valley Middle School, Yasmine is grateful for Tatiana Ivanova's patience and kindness through her teaching.

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## Mary Wheelock Javian • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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*With her students, Mary Javian focuses on the idea of the performer-audience relationship and how music provides a beneficial experience for both.*

Mary Wheelock Javian's goal as an artist is to use music to create positive social change in communities. Ms. Javian joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 2011 and became the school's Director of Professional Development and Community Engagement in 2014. A double bassist, she performs frequently with The Philadelphia Orchestra, IRIS Orchestra, and numerous groups throughout the country. In the summer she serves on the faculty of the Verbier Festival in Switzerland. Ms. Javian has consulted on community engagement across the country and in Europe. She has done curatorial work for Curtis, LiveConnections and Intercultural Journeys. As a private teacher, Ms. Javian's students have gone on to music schools such as Curtis, Peabody, Indiana University, Vanderbilt, and Temple and have joined such orchestras as the Metropolitan Opera, New Jersey and Omaha Symphonies and the IRIS Orchestra.

### **Nominator**

#### **Juan Serviano, Springfield, PA**

Juan, a member of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and previously Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra, appreciates Mary Javian for teaching him to overcome the technical barriers of his instrument in order to communicate with the audience through musical expression. "She helped put music in the forefront of my life to the point where I could not imagine living without it."

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## Jennifer Jie Jin • Berwyn, Pennsylvania

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*Jennifer Jie Jin encourages students to give back to their communities through music and volunteering.*

Jennifer Jie Jin has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. Before her move to the United States, she won First Prize in the National Cello Duo Competition of China, the Bao-gang Elegance Art Award and the Excellent Performance Prize in the National Competition of China. She has appeared as a soloist with Bay Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, National Repertoire Orchestra and Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and has participated in prestigious festivals worldwide, including the Aspen Music Festival, Tanglewood Music Festival, Ravinia Festival and many others. A committed teacher, Ms. Jin is the Co-Director of Chamber Strings Summer Music Festival, Vivace Music Competition and Vivace Orchestra. She is the director of Honor String Ensemble at Archbishop John Carroll High School. Ms. Jin has coached her students to win top prizes in many competitions.

**Nominator:**  
**Jessica Zhang**

Jessica appreciates Jennifer Jie Jin for inspiring her to share her talents with others. Jessica is a student at the Baldwin School, previous member of Philadelphia Region Youth String Music, and current member of the Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra.

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## Meichen Liao-Barnes • Merion Station, Pennsylvania

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*Meichen Liao-Barnes motivates students and gives them confidence and the tools to embrace new challenges.*

Meichen Liao-Barnes is the Associate Concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School, Ms. Barnes has performed with the Lincoln Chamber Players and toured with Music from Marlboro. She was one of seven international judges for the Postacchini International Violin Competition in 2015. This summer she will be teaching at the Brancaloni International Music Festival and the Philadelphia International Music Festival.

**Nominator:**  
**Jason Ren, Wynnewood, PA**

Jason, a member of Philadelphia Region Youth String Music and student at Bala Cynwyd Middle School, contributes all of his musical progress to Meichen Liao-Barnes' unwavering support and high standards.

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**Dr. Ovidiu Marinescu • West Chester, Pennsylvania**

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*Dr. Marinescu teaches his students that musicianship gives them an opportunity to share a story with the world.*

Dedicated whole heartedly to the cause of music, Ovidiu Marinescu continues to inspire generations of musicians as a cello professor and conductor. Marinescu brings to the podium, his full commitment and passion to the profession. For many years, he was the orchestra conductor at West Chester University and he is frequently invited to lead orchestral festivals from Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association to All-Catholic or Mennonite orchestras. He has conducted the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Romanian Radio Orchestra, Helena Symphony, and many other professional groups in Romania, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, and the US. As a cellist he has performed in Carnegie Hall, Weill Hall, Merkin Hall, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, among others. Marinescu has developed and is co-producing a TV documentary series entitled Resonate, which explores music making with people from across the globe, with the first episode filmed this April in Cuba. Many of his students have developed professional careers as musicians, and some are successful in other fields, always drawing inspiration from music.

**Nominator:**  
**Jordan Brooks, West Chester, PA**

Jordan, a member of the Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra and student at Henderson High School, aims to emulate Dr. Marinescu's "calm demeanor and sense of humor" while applying all of the musical skills he has learned.

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## Susan Nowicki • Glenside, Pennsylvania

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*Susan Nowicki teaches beyond the theory and notes by building a love and appreciation of music within her students.*

Susan Nowicki is a faculty member of the Curtis Institute of Music where she coaches for the Vocal Studies Department. She has appeared throughout the United States as soloist and as collaborative pianist, and frequently performs with members of The Philadelphia Orchestra. A strong advocate of contemporary music, Ms. Nowicki has premiered and performed works with the ensemble Network for New Music, and has recorded numerous works for the Albany, Capstone, De Haske and North-South labels. She has also produced and performed on a release of chamber works by Jan Krzywicki for Albany Records. Ms. Nowicki is in demand as an adjudicator and clinician for music festivals, conferences and competitions. She maintains a private piano studio in Wyndmoor, PA, and is an instructor for The Well Balanced Pianist programs, intensive courses for pianists which combine the study of coordinate technique with performance mindset strategies and learning styles awareness ([www.wellbalancedpianist.com](http://www.wellbalancedpianist.com)).

### **Nominator:**

**Maria Thomas, Wyndmoor PA**

Maria, clarinetist with the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, recounts that "without Susan's relentless spirit and incredible teaching ability, I would not be where I am today."

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## Charles Salinger • Ambler, Pennsylvania

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*Charles Salinger provides students with a strong sense of self-motivation and encourages them to become better musicians and overall people.*

Charles Salinger graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music in 1977. For the past 38 years he has been an active performer in the Philadelphia area. Charles plays principal clarinet in the PA Ballet Orchestra, the Delaware Symphony, Opera Delaware, and also plays as an extra with The Philadelphia Orchestra, on occasion. In addition to his classical music career, Charles also enjoys performing other musical genres such as jazz, klezmer, Dixieland, and musical theater. In addition to his performance career, Charles takes pride in his teaching which has earned him an impressive reputation and produced many fine musicians in classical music as well as jazz.

**Nominator:**

**Jessica Liu, North Wales, PA**

Jessica, a member of the Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra and current student at North Penn High School, credits Charles Salinger for igniting not only her passion for music and learning, but also for encouraging her to embrace new challenges.

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**Corinna Wiedmer-Symer • Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

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*Corinna Wiedmer-Symer's teachings not only strengthen her students' musical skills but also enrich their academic and extracurricular pursuits.*

Students of oboist and teacher, Corinna Wiedmer-Symer, have gone on to prestigious colleges and universities with careers in music, letters, sciences and government. A pupil of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Principal Oboe, Richard Woodhams, Coco has won degrees and awards from both The New School of Music (BM), and Temple University (MM). A long-time substitute player with the Philadelphia Orchestra, she has been on the faculties of Lehigh University and The College of New Jersey. In addition to teaching oboe, she very much enjoys coaching student ensembles.

**Nominator:**  
**Alexander Kim, Cherry Hill, NJ**

Having known Corinna Wiedmer-Symer since fourth grade, Alexander, an oboist with the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, considers her the perfect role model for the profound and positive impact she has had on his life.

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## Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Ovation Award • 2016

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The Philadelphia Youth Orchestra **Ovation Award For Inspiration and Outstanding Leadership in Music Education** honors an outstanding music teacher in the Delaware Valley Region who, while imparting musical knowledge, builds character, self-confidence and capabilities that position students for success in every aspect of their lives. The OVATION AWARD highlights the significance of music education and applauds the positive impact of music teachers on the greater community. It is presented and endowed by H.E.L.P.<sup>®</sup> Foundation, sponsored by Jacobs Music Company and J.W. Pepper and in partnership with WRTI-90.1 FM.

Nominators were asked to submit a brief application and statement of no more than 250 words, answering the question: "How Has Your Music Teacher Changed Your Life?"

The Top Ten Finalists and one Grand Prize Winner have been selected by a Blue Ribbon Panel, consisting of representatives from regional universities, colleges, conservatories, and institutions.

The Top Ten Finalists have been invited, with their nominators, to attend the award ceremony and PYO Annual Festival Concert on Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

The Grand Prize Winner will be announced and presented with an award tribute, cash prize, and other recognition from our sponsors. All finalists will each receive a recognition award from our sponsors. Additionally, the Winning Nominator will be recognized.

### **2015 Finalists**

Karen P. Burgman – Fountainville, PA  
Shirley Curtiss – Philadelphia, PA  
Jonathan P. Holland – Little Egg Harbor, NJ  
Ralph T. Jackson – Lansdale, PA  
Robert Kesselman – Havertown, PA  
Dr. Anton Kiehner – Cary, NC  
Irving Ludwig (*posthumously*)  
– Philadelphia, PA  
Clinton F. Nieweg – Glenside, PA  
David Schopp – Fort Washington, PA  
Anthony H. Williams – Philadelphia, PA

### **2015 Grand Prize Winner**

Anthony H. Williams – Philadelphia, PA

### **2015 Winning Nominator**

Mark Mitchell

