



Oakland Youth Orchestras

Spring Concert

April 25, 2024

Oxford Fine Arts Center



Educating and Enriching Youth Through MUSIC

Concert Etiquette Considerations

OYO conductors and performers graciously request your observance of the following performance etiquette:

- For the sake of the performers and the audience around you, please refrain from talking or making distracting noises during the concert.
 - Turn off all electronic devices such as pagers and cell phones before the concert begins.
 - Do not use flash photography.
 - When operating your video device please keep viewfinder closed.
 - Do not enter or leave the auditorium while students are performing. Please wait until an orchestra group has completed their music set.
 - Do not applaud for the performers until the end of a music piece with several movements.
 - Prevent children from running in the auditorium, and accompany them in and out of the auditorium as necessary.
 - Remove crying children to the lobby.
 - Refrain from putting your feet on the chairs in front of you.
 - No food or drink is permitted in the auditorium.
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Season Concert
Program!

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Dear OYO Community,

It has been a delight to step into the role of Executive Director of OYO, bringing together a lifetime of experience in performing and educating young musicians. For the better part of my life, I have participated in orchestras, from school orchestras to youth orchestras and ultimately as a professional cellist. I have been in awe of the longstanding collective dedication and generosity of everyone involved with OYO, from parents and students to conductors and staff members. The sense of community and collective purpose for this organization is infectious and is underscored by so many, from the sentiments shared by our seniors in their bios to the number of students who encourage their friends to join.



This year, I have been privileged to work with our talented and dedicated conductors, whose vision for the organization is always driven with an aim to offer the best experience for your students. Tonight, we recognize our Symphony Orchestra conductor Zeljko (Bill) Milicevic, for 30 years of dedication to OYO. His commitment to providing exceptional instruction and inspiration is evident not only in the product we hear at each concert, but also in the words of our musicians as they recollect their most inspiring moments with OYO. He is joined in providing excellent education to OYO students by his colleagues Wendy Stuart, John Kennedy, and Nick Karpinsky.

Tonight, we say goodbye to many seniors, some who have spent their Thursday evenings with us for as many as TWELVE years! Many plan to pursue careers outside of music, but a resounding number have voiced their desire for a continued orchestral experience. As I read through our seniors' memories, I was struck by the feeling of inclusivity, support, and encouragement found in OYO, exemplified by the following sentiments:

"Everyone I've met through OYO has impacted me in good ways, whether a teacher or peer. I remember feeling safe and happy on my first day of Studio Strings and since that day I have never felt otherwise."

"Seeing and hearing the results of everyone's hard work and having a supportive audience listening always brings a happy smile to my face."

We are proud to see our students so excited by the camaraderie and musical excellence offered by our programs. Thank you, seniors, for your participation in OYO. We wish you all the best, and hope that you will take your memories and experiences with OYO to apply to your future pursuits, keeping music in your lives and hearts always.

Many eager volunteers have offered their assistance throughout the year, helping with various events and activities. I'd like to thank all of you for your generous assistance this season. I would like to extend a special thank you to our orchestra managers and assistants who are at rehearsals helping week after week. It's always a joy to witness your thoughtful interactions with the students and conductors.

Next year, we will celebrate our 50th season, bringing forth opportunities to further engage our students and build our programs. Most excitingly, we have commissioned a new work to be premiered by our orchestras next spring from esteemed composer Catherine McMichael! As we come to the close of our 49th season with this evening's concert, I would like to thank all of you, the OYO students and families, teachers, and greater community, who inspire the OYO conductors, board members, and staff to continue providing outstanding musical experiences year after year.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you this fall for our 50th season!

Warm regards,

Nicole Shogren
OYO Executive Director

OYO 2024 Competition Winners

Studio String Orchestra Solo Competition

Isabelle Nowlin, violin – 1st Place

Honorable Mention

Joyce Cao, violin

Jaemin Kim, violin

Nathan Li, violin

String Orchestra Solo Competition

Aiden Yang, violin – 1st Place

Alina Ju, cello – 2nd Place

Gus Kish, violin – 3rd Place

Honorable Mention

Owen Long, violin

Riley Tenbusch, violin

Philharmonia Orchestra Solo Competition

Chloe Kim, violin – 1st Place

Raegan Dallaire, flute – 2nd Place

Alice Bonten, violin – 3rd Place

Sacheth Hegde, flute – Jessica Rogers Memorial Award

Honorable Mention

Gabriella Murphy, violin

Brian Zhang, violin

Andrew Zheng, clarinet

Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition

Isabelle Bonten, violin – 1st place, Teresa Schuster Memorial Award

Amalia Socha, violin – 2nd Place

Junghwan Kim, cello – 3rd Place

Jeheon Lee, clarinet – Jessica Rogers Memorial Award

Honorable Mention

Michael Cho, violin

Josiah Ferguson, violin

Danielle Leight, bass

2024 OYO Merit Scholarship Awards

Studio String Orchestra

Estelle Borla

Joyce Cao

String Orchestra

Eryn Choi

Suhana Reddy

Philharmonia Orchestra

Zachary Glass

Hayun Jeong

Gabriella Murphy

Symphony Orchestra

Michael Cho

Jian Kim

Isabella Lebert

Seojin (Sarah) Lee

Oakland Youth Orchestras Spring 2024 Concert

Studio String Orchestra

Nick Karpinsky, Conductor

Wonka's Welcome Song	Danny Elfman; arr. Bob Cerulli
Vanguard Overture.....	Richard Stephan
Gauntlet.....	Doug Spata
Dragon Fire.....	Susan H. Day

String Orchestra

John Kennedy, Conductor

Symphony No. 25, 1st Movement	W.A. Mozart; arr. Thomas LaJoie
Simple Song from Mass.....	Leonard Bernstein; arr. Robert Longfield

Aiden Yang and Jun Kim, violin soloists

Pursued	Stephen Lias
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Philharmonia Orchestra

Wendy Stuart, Conductor

American Salute	Morton Gould
Over the Rainbow.....	E.Y. Harburg, Harold Arlen; arr. Chuck Sayre
Curtain Up!	arr. Bob Krugstad
Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End.....	Hans Zimmer arr. Paul Lavendar and Robert Longfield

Symphony Orchestra

Zeljko Milicevic, Conductor

Carnival Overture.....	Antonin Dvořák
Norwegian Dances, Op. 35.....	Edvard Grieg
West Side Story.....	Leonard Bernstein

Program Notes

Studio String Orchestra

Wonka's Welcome Song

Danny Elfman (b. 1953); arr. Bob Cerulli

Vanguard Overture Richard Stephan (b. 1929)

Gauntlet Doug Spata (b. 1975)

Dragon Fire Susan H. Dey

Welcome to the 2024 spring concert! The Studio String Orchestra has an exciting program to conclude this year's incredible season! I'm so proud of the progress these students have made this year and it is truly a pleasure to be their director!

We will open the program with *Wonka's Welcome Song* from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. This up beat cut time march gives all students a chance at the melody, with the basses holding down the pizzicato bass line throughout. It also changes key in the middle of the song giving students the opportunity to play a familiar melody in a new key signature.

We then move on to *Vanguard Overture* by Richard Stephan. This dramatic overture, in the key of G minor, has rhythmic melodies that move throughout the ensemble. The triplet march feel gives students exposure to new rhythms that don't always occur in a common time signature. It transitions to a slower melodic middle section in B flat major. This is contrasting to the opening with flowing lyrical melodies that are still in a key signature that gives students practice with flats. The piece concludes with a similar melodic march like the opening of the piece.

We will then move on to *Gauntlet* by Doug Spata. This piece is in D minor, which gives students more practice with flats. Everyone gets a chance to play a melody in this piece. *Gauntlet* has a hauntingly beautiful middle section that is more legato. It contains some tension chords that eventually resolve in suspense. The piece concludes with a final variation on the opening melody.

Our final song of the evening will be *Dragon Fire* by Susan H. Day. This rhythmic piece changes key signatures several times and gives students the opportunity to work on other techniques such as pizzicato, hooked bowings, tremolo, and displaced accents. It has low roaring melodies featured on the low strings of the cellos and basses, as well as high soaring melodies in the violins and violas.

We hope you enjoy our final performance for the season! I can't thank you all enough for the tremendous amount of support and dedication you have to this wonderful organization! Orchestra managers, parent volunteers, students, and all others who help out and volunteer to make this orchestra such an amazing group I truly appreciate everything that you do! I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you all next year in the fall!

String Orchestra

Symphony #25, 1st Movement

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791); arr. Thomas LaJoie

Simple Song from Mass

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990); arr. Robert Longfield

Pursued Stephen Lias (b. 1966)

We begin our portion of the concert with a movement written by Mozart while clearly in a very intense mood, even though (or perhaps because) he was only 17 at the time. One of only two symphonies he wrote in the stormy key of G minor, this piece starts with power and drama, and rarely lets up. Even the quiet moments are full of tension and anticipation, and the full orchestra is always waiting in the wings, jumping out with angry commentary whenever it can. Often the different sections of the orchestra are pitted against each other, as if in argument. Enjoy the drama and fire of Mozart at his most energetic!

In 1971, Leonard Bernstein premiered his *MASS*, a commission by Jackie Kennedy for the opening of the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Centre in Washington D.C. It is a huge and varied work, involving an orchestra, rock band, Broadway-sized chorus, soloists, electronic recordings, a marching band, and even a kazoo band. Only Bernstein's astounding creativity could keep all of these elements together in a piece of deep spirituality. In Bernstein's hands, the traditional Catholic mass was reinvented to explore the great spiritual questions of the time. Audiences were thrilled (the first performance had a 20-minute ovation) but the wider public was more conflicted – some Catholics denounced the work, while others embraced its challenging spirit.

The *MASS* opens with a cacophony of percussion coming from speakers throughout the auditorium. This wild setting of the Kyrie is cut off by the song you hear tonight, sung and played by a soloist with his acoustic guitar. Its words (by Stephen Sondheim) are simple and direct:

Sing God a simple song: Lauda Laude...
Make it up as you go a long: Lauda Laude...
Sing like you like to sing,
God loves all simple things,
For God is the simplest of all,
For God is the simplest of all.
I will sing the Lord a new song
to praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord,
I will sing His praises while I live, all of my days.
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord
Blessed is the man who praises Him: Lauda Lauda Laude
And walks in His ways...
I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my health,
I will lift up my voice to the Lord, singing Lauda Laude...
For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand,
And the sun shall not smite me by day, nor the moon by night...

Under a simple melody, Bernstein creates a lovely but complex harmony, and intersperses a flute solo (played tonight on violin by Aiden Yang and Jun Kim) to set off the vocal line. This arrangement for strings captures the emotional strength and sheer beauty of the original work.

Pursued is described by the composer as an homage to the great film composer Bernard Herrmann, best known for the music of *Psycho* and many other Hitchcock films. This work is intense and often disturbing, and any story of pursuit that you might imagine will fit. It is also intensely complex and difficult for every section of the orchestra, challenging us to the limit. Enjoy this dramatic journey!

Philharmonia Orchestra

Tonight's program highlights a distinctly American take on orchestral music. The stylistic challenges presented by this repertoire takes our students from the traditionally classical/romantic genre into the modern popular style which provides a rhythmic and tonal challenge beyond that found in the traditional repertoire. Please enjoy the journey through some of the great music written for Broadway, film, and an exciting rendition of a famous American folk song.

American Salute Morton Gould (1913-1996)

Morton Gould was an American composer, conductor and pianist. He was considered a child prodigy due to his abilities on the piano and his publication of his first composition before he turned seven years old. He served as the staff pianist for the Radio City Music Hall at its opening in 1932. He composed Broadway musicals, movie scores, and works for band and orchestra in addition to pursuing a conducting career. He was a Pulitzer Prize winner in 1995, won the Kennedy Center Honor in 1994, and a Grammy award in 1966.

"American Salute" is a stirring orchestral work inspired by the patriotic folk tune "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Composed in 1942 during the height of World War II, Gould's inventive orchestration and lively rhythms capture the excitement and energy of a military parade, evoking images of soldiers marching proudly in defense of their country.

As the piece progresses, Gould explores various moods and emotions, from triumphant fanfares to tender, lyrical passages. The music builds to a thrilling climax, with the full orchestra joining together in a triumphant rendition of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," before concluding with a majestic flourish.

"American Salute" has become one of Morton Gould's most beloved and frequently performed works, cherished for its vibrant orchestration, stirring melodies, and patriotic spirit.

The piece is scored for three flutes/piccolo, two oboes, English horn, three clarinets/bass clarinet, two bassoons, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, piano, harp, mallet percussion, timpani, percussion, and strings.

Over the Rainbow

E.Y. Harburg (1896-1981), Harold Arlen (1905-1986); arr. Chuck Sayre

Over the Rainbow remains among the most iconic songs that came from the MGM Picture, "The Wizard of Oz." It is a poignant and evocative song that captures the longing for a place of happiness and belonging beyond the confines of everyday life.

The lyrics, penned by E.Y. Harburg, convey a sense of yearning and hope as the protagonist, Dorothy, dreams of escaping to a world “somewhere over the rainbow” where troubles melt like lemon drops and skies are blue. Harold Arlen’s haunting melody perfectly complements Harburg’s lyrics, creating a sense of wistfulness and nostalgia. The song’s gentle, lilting rhythm and memorable melodic line make it instantly recognizable and deeply affecting.

As one of the most beloved and enduring songs of the 20th century, “Over the Rainbow” continues to captivate audiences with its timeless message of hope and yearning for a better tomorrow. Chuck Sayre arranged a beautiful Orchestral version that you’ll hear tonight.

The piece is scored for flute, oboe, two clarinets, bassoon, two horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, piano and strings.

Curtain Up! arr. Bob Krogstad

“Curtain Up!” is a dynamic and exhilarating orchestral arrangement crafted by the talented arranger Bob Krogstad. Drawing from a diverse selection of Broadway show tunes, Krogstad’s arrangement weaves together beloved melodies and themes from the world of musical theater.

“Curtain Up!” begins with “No Business Like Show Business,” Irving Berlin’s famous song from the Musical “Annie Get Your Gun.” “The Phantom of the Opera” is next in the arrangement which was Andrew Lloyd Weber’s famous musical based on the French novel by Gaston Leroux written in 1910. “One” is the finale from “A Chorus Line,” the music of which was written by Marvin Hamlisch, one of the most decorated composers of Musical history. “Don’t Rain On My Parade” was made famous by the incomparable singing of Barbara Streisand in her 1964 TV and stage version of the Musical, “Funny Girl,” written by Bob Merrill and Jule Styne. “If He Walked Into My Life” was a song from “Mame,” a hit Broadway Musical written by Jerry Herman. “Curtain Up!” concludes with one of Ethel Merman’s signature songs, “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” from the 1959 Broadway Musical “Gypsy: A Musical Fable,” by Steven Sondheim and Jule Style.

“Curtain Up!” is a celebration of the rich musical heritage of Broadway, honoring the composers, lyricists, and performers who have brought joy and inspiration to audiences for generations.

The piece is scored for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, percussion, timpani and strings.

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End

Hans Zimmer (b. 1957); arr. Paul Lavender and Robert Longfield

“Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End” continues the tradition of epic adventure and high-seas excitement established by its predecessors in the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise. Hans Zimmer’s score for the film is an integral part of its success, providing a rich and dynamic musical backdrop that enhances the action, drama, and spectacle on screen.

The arrangement performed tonight is the Symphonic Highlights from the 2007 third installment of the swashbuckling Pirates franchise. The piece features many themes from the film, including “Hoist the Colours,” “Singapore,” “I See Dead People in Boats,” “Up is Down,” and many other familiar themes from the series.

“Up Is Down” is a lively and energetic piece that accompanies one of the film’s most thrilling action sequences. Featuring driving percussion, rousing brass fanfares, and playful woodwind melodies, “Up Is Down” perfectly encapsulates the sense of chaos and excitement that defines the Pirates of the Caribbean series.

“Hoist the Colours,” a stirring choral piece that serves as the film’s main theme. Sung by a ghostly choir, “Hoist the Colours” conveys a sense of defiance and unity as the pirates rally together to fight against tyranny and oppression. You’ll hear the Orchestra standing in for a choir tonight.

The piece is scored for two flutes and piccolo, oboe, two clarinets, bass clarinet, bassoon, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, and strings.

Symphony Orchestra

***Carnival Overture* Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904)**

As probably the greatest Czech nationalist composer of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Dvořák was one of seven children of the local butcher who also kept the village inn. Growing up in the countryside, his music exudes the love of the Slavonic folk tradition. As a youth, he studied the piano, organ and viola before studying composition.

Premiered in 1892, *Carnival Overture* is an exciting showpiece for symphony orchestra. Its original inspiration was to be used as the middle section of a trilogy also including “In Nature’s Realm” and “Othello.” The composer himself described the piece as a portrayal of “a lonely, contemplative wanderer reaching at twilight a city where a festival is in full swing. On every side is heard the clangor of instruments, mingled with shouts of joy and the unrestrained hilarity of the people giving vent to their feelings in songs and dances.”

***Norwegian Dances, Op. 35* Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)**

Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg developed a love for composing smaller works after less successful attempts of large-scale orchestra writing. Although he composed the famous *Piano Concerto, a Symphony in C Minor* (at the age of 20) and an opera that he never finished, it was compositions like the *Lyric Pieces* for piano, and the *Peer Gynt* and *Holberg Suites* that were favored by the composer. These beloved pieces have become a mainstay in both the classical setting as well as pop culture including cartoons and television commercials.

Grieg gained his inspiration to write the Dances, Op. 35 after coming across the three-volume anthology titled, *Older and Newer Norwegian Mountain Melodies* compiled by Ludvig Mathias Lindeman between 1853-1867. Thus the four Norwegian Dances were conceived in 1881. Originally scored for piano duet, the symphonic rendering sought inspiration from the need to add a ballet to extend the scene in the *Hall of the Mountain King* (from *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1*). The irony is that Grieg himself never did the orchestrating. Rather, German-trained violinist and composer Hans Sitt penned the most often performed version we hear tonight. Coincidentally, Grieg very much approved of the result!

Each of the dances employs old tunes and follows a three-part (ABA) form where the middle (B) section is designed to offer contrast to the two outer sections. The first dance is based on a minor tune entitled *Sinclair’s March*. The following three dances are based on Hallings from the mountains west and northwest of Oslo. Halling dances are composed

in duple meter for a solo male dancer who was to either kick down a hat held on a stick or kick his foot up in the air.

West Side Story Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Leonard Bernstein's contributions to the classical music world were immense. As a pianist, composer, conductor and teacher (look up Young People's Concerts/New York Philharmonic, 1961), he managed to leave an indelible mark on the popular audience's acceptance and appreciations of classical music. In 1943, Bernstein was appointed to Assistant Conductor of the NY Philharmonic while still adding to his prolific vitae of symphonies, ballets, operas and numerous other compositions.

In a modern day version of the Montague's and Capulet's in William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Leonard Bernstein's musical *West Side Story* plays out the violent world of two New York street gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. Premiered on September 26, 1957, the show ran for almost a thousand performances. In collaboration with Stephen Sondheim, the musical was transformed into film version winning ten Oscars. Not scored in the order of the musical, Jack Mason arranged the songs from the show as follows: *I Feel Pretty; Maria; Something's Coming; Tonight; One Hand, One Heart; Cool and America.*

Additional Donations

Silver \$150 - \$249

Jeheon Lee

Ronald Elder



**Donations are always accepted
online at www.oyomi.org**

Congratulatory Message

Congratulations on your first OYO performance, Jaxon! We love you!

Welcome New Students

Symphony Orchestra

Kyle Kirklin - trumpet

Studio String Orchestra

Sophia Li - violin

Philharmonia Orchestra

Sameer Pai- piano

Claire Reinhard- saxophone

Abigail Ritzenhein - violin

Jaxon Szkatulski - violin

Thank you to our volunteer photographers!

Christophe Gaillard, David Yarnall, Lydia Yeom, and Ch Zhou

Congratulations 2024 OYO Seniors!

Hannah Arnett has played Violin in OYO for nine years, is part of the Troy Argonauts robotics team, and enjoys skating with friends and being outdoors, especially with her two dogs. Some of Hannah's favorite shows are Gravity Falls, Hazbin Hotel and The Owl House. Hannah is planning to attend Michigan Tech to study Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and would like to join the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra. Hannah will remember performing music they loved and knew by heart on stage.

Natalie Chang has played Violin with OYO for seven years, enjoys hanging out with friends, reading new books, and watching new movies. After senior year, she hopes to keep in touch with all her current friends while making new friends. Natalie will be attending the University of Michigan to study Business and hopes to continue to be involved in orchestras and music recreationally. Her favorite memories with OYO are playing new and interesting orchestra programs with peers and meeting new people.

Nora Chiew has played Cello in OYO for seven years, enjoys running, reading, working out and journaling. The ability to connect with people through music is something she has consistently enjoyed, and her enjoyment of playing music with others is what brought her to the OYO. Nora plans to major in Neuroscience at the University of Michigan but will continue music as a hobby in college. Nora's favorite memory is playing *Dance of the Tumblers* twice... in Philharmonia and Symphony.

Garrett Crescenti has played Percussion in OYO for two years, adding orchestra to the many settings in which he's played. In his free time, he also plays the piano. Next year, Garrett plans to attend college and obtain degrees in Computer Science. His favorite memory of OYO is doing sectionals with Josh, the percussion mentor.

Gabriela da Silva has played Violin in OYO for ten years, starting when she was 8 years old because it was all she talked about doing. Besides playing the violin, she also enjoys playing tennis, jamming with friends, and sushi. Gabriela plans to major in Music Education at Oakland University. Being part of the orchestra is one of her favorite things in life and she hopes she will never stop being involved. Everyone she has met through OYO has impacted her in good ways, whether a teacher or a peer. She remembers feeling safe and happy on her first day at Studio Strings, and since that day, she has never felt otherwise.

Minh-Nhi Daniels has played Violin in OYO for twelve years, having started on her instrument thirteen years ago. She has participated in other area youth orchestras as well, including the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. In addition to playing the violin, she has also been studying, performing, and competing on the piano for fourteen years. She also enjoys playing ice hockey and performing in school plays. Minh-Nhi plans to study Biology on the east coast with the goal of becoming a Clinical Oncologist with an emphasis on research. Her favorite OYO memory was walking into the first rehearsal of the start of the season and seeing that her stand partner was a childhood orchestra partner.

Ben DrummelSmith has played Violin in OYO for six years, having been referred to the group by his violin teacher. He enjoys running and learning new languages. Ben plans on studying Nursing at Oakland University and has plans to play violin in the Oakland Chamber Orchestra. He hopes to help others through nursing and continuing to play violin for the community. His favorite memories of OYO are meeting new friends and playing challenging pieces.

Josiah Ferguson has played Violin in OYO for two years. In Josiah's words, "I have always most loved God, and people, but people used to reject me, much to my deep sadness and confusion. The first time I discovered music camp, I would tell my mom these words, "Mom, this is just the kind of place, for a kid like me." Music became the miraculous way a kid like me (with unilateral deafness, and Asperger's) finally found himself included and invited, not "something wrong with him" or "weird", but loved, wanted, appreciated and accepted. Orchestra is not just a hobby for me: it is belonging; it is shared creativity, communal creation and beauty -- and I am humbly grateful to be a member." Josiah is planning to pursue a Violin Performance degree at Wheaton College's Conservatory of Music in Illinois. He would count it a great privilege, were he able to share music with others for a lifetime. His favorite memories of OYO are the amazing people. Josiah has very much enjoyed having a teacher who cares about his students, encourages them, and even entertains! An amusing memory is when Mr. M. would stop conducting and wait for us to notice. No one wanted to be the last student playing! It was a funny way to teach us to always pay attention.

Mark Hong has played Violin for two years. In addition to orchestra, he loves other fine arts like writing, acting and singing, and hopes to get involved with musical theater in college. Mark plans to attend the University of Michigan, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Music. Mark shared, "My first time performing an entire symphony was when I played Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2 with OYO. Now, I feel nostalgic whenever I listen to it."

Michael Hong has played Cello in OYO for the last two years. He is a senior at Troy High School and in his free time, enjoys cooking. Michael plans to attend the University of Michigan in the fall. He is grateful to OYO for being a part of his journey as a musician. One of his favorite memories is spending time with friends before rehearsal at Varner Hall.

Hyoungkoo Jeong has played Violin in OYO for seven years, enjoys attending classical concerts and studying music, including listening to multiple recordings every time he practices. Next year, Hyoungkoo plans to attend college and hopes to join orchestra or chamber ensembles while there. His favorite memory in OYO is the first time hearing the full orchestra with woodwinds in person after the long break due to the pandemic.

Arthur Kim has played Clarinet in OYO for five years. His passion for playing the clarinet began in middle school, which led him to audition for OYO so he would have the opportunity to play at a higher level outside the school band room. Arthur considers it a privilege to have played with the orchestra for the last 5 years. It was a wonderful "climb-up the ladder" experience he will never forget. Arthur plans on studying Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He loved being able to showcase the wonderful music of this "amazing group" to his family.

Jian Kim has played Flute in OYO for the past two years. She loves music and plays the flute, piccolo, piano and sings, with some of her favorite musicians being Yunchan Lim, Emmanuel Pahud, Yuja Wang, Hilary Hahn, Ray Chen, Seong Jin Cho, and more. On the weekends, Jian performs as a music therapy volunteer at her local hospital. She plans on majoring in Biology and minoring in Music. Jian loves Dvorak's Symphony No. 8! She thinks that the flute solos are so beautifully written, and she really enjoyed playing them with the Symphony orchestra this season.

Maya Konkolesky played Flute in OYO this year, joining orchestra for the first time, wanting the experience, while improving her playing alongside “talented and devoted musicians.” She enjoys swimming, reading, and spending time with family and friends. Maya plans to attend Wayne State University to study Music Education. Her favorite part of OYO was getting to play challenging pieces that she wouldn’t usually get to play at her high school.

Olivia Kramer has played Cello in OYO for two years, enjoys snowboarding, tutoring, and playing cards with friends. She was drawn to orchestra because she comes from a family of musicians, with her dad influencing her to play an instrument early in life. She hopes to use what she has learned about family and teamwork in orchestra in her future endeavors. Olivia plans to attend college next fall to study Applied Mathematics. While she has enjoyed all aspects of OYO, her favorite memory is working under Mrs. Stuart’s leadership.

Isabella Lebert has played Viola in OYO for six years. She is very passionate about creating art like painting, drawing and embroidery. In addition to viola, she plays guitar, piano and violin and enjoys writing songs and composing music. Isabella plans on attending either Central Michigan University or Oakland Community College and pursuing a major in Cyber Security with a minor in Music. She loves being in OYO because everyone is so musically motivated and ready to be challenged. She loves the feeling right after a concert when all the hard work comes together.

Laura Lemerond has played Viola in OYO for four years, initially joining orchestra because she loved the sound of the viola and because she thought the orchestra kids were really cool when they played for her class in fifth grade. Leah is a member of many clubs at school like the Orchestra Council and NHS and started playing the clarinet this year and joined the marching band. Laura plans to study Engineering at the University of Michigan and join the Campus Orchestra. She has always loved Ms. Stuart’s jokes and how she describes the mood of a piece, and especially enjoyed it when Ms. Stuart acted and sang as they played Carmen.

Jakub Oronowicz has played Cello in OYO for six years, is a fencer and enjoys reading books. Jakub will attend Wayne State University next year with plans to major in Music Education. He also plans to join their division 2 Fencing team. His favorite memory of OYO was playing in the chamber music program in 9th grade.

Vivian Orr has played Violin in OYO for nine years, having joined on the recommendation of her first teacher. In addition to playing in the orchestra, Vivian enjoys singing and is a member of choir at OHMI, and enjoys fashion design, reading (especially fantasy), and volunteering at her Church. Vivian plans to attend college to study Instrumental Music Education in the hopes of teaching a youth orchestra and becoming a private violin teacher. Her favorite memory in OYO was hearing Ms. Stuart’s tell about when she accidentally flipped a table, “and of course playing the *Lord of the Rings* medley.”

Paloma Palomino has played Violin in OYO for two years, enjoys playing field hockey, being on the debate team and performing in school plays. Throughout the 15 years she has been playing the violin, she has had the privilege of developing her skills through various orchestras and amazing teachers. She also had the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall! Paloma will be attending the honors program at the University of Michigan and hopes to continue her violin studies for the rest of her life, seeing where her passions take her. Paloma’s favorite memory of OYO is the energy and excitement right before each performance.

Jimin Park has played Percussion in OYO for three years. She hopes to continue doing music after high school! Next year, Jimin plans to attend the University of Michigan to study Biochemistry. She will always remember and enjoy playing with the orchestra.

Ava Rabban has played Violin in OYO for two years, enjoys going to the gym, reading, volunteering at the hospital, and spending time with friends and family. Ava was introduced to orchestra at school and has loved playing in ensembles ever since. Next year, Ava will be studying Biology on the Premed track at the University of Michigan. She will also keep her eye out for musical opportunities on campus. Her favorite memory of OYO was getting to play the *William Tell Overture* with the Symphony Orchestra during this season's winter concert.

Amalia Socha has played Violin in OYO for nine years and loves orchestra because of the process of preparing music to perform. She has enjoyed getting the opportunity to play with many different groups and meet different people, which she considers the highlight of her high school career. She hopes to continue her involvement with music throughout college and the rest of her life. Amalia plans to attend Purdue University to study Aerospace Engineering and hopes to minor in Music. Her favorite memory is working hard in rehearsals and seeing improvement each week.

Grant Supancich has played Piano/Percussion in OYO for three years, enjoyed playing tennis on the varsity team throughout high school and having fun spending time with his teammates. He has also enjoyed and learned from playing piano in his school string orchestras since middle school. Grant plans to attend the University of Virginia to study Environmental Studies and Business. One of his favorite memories in OYO was going to rehearsal for the first time and hearing the wind instruments, since he had not played in an orchestra with them before.

Leah Tantengco has played Violin in OYO for the past nine years, enjoys spending time with her friends, reading books and watching movies. Music and playing in OYO has made a really big impact on her life and she hopes that music will continue to be a central part of her life after graduation. Leah is undecided on what university she will attend next year, but still plans on playing in an orchestra wherever she ends up. Her favorite memory of OYO is just getting to play good music with other great musicians. "It's an amazing experience!"

Maddie Updike has played the Double Bass in OYO for the past three years. In her free time, she participates in FIRST robotics as a member of team 3175 and plays in the pit orchestra for her school as well as other theater groups. Maddie plans to study Civil Engineering and Music in college, and hopes to continue playing in pits, symphonies, and pops ensembles. She hopes to go on to play in the pits of Broadway musicals in New York. Maddie's favorite memory in OYO was when the bass section of Philharmonia Orchestra (2022) made trombass section shirts and hats.

Chester Van Daele has played Trumpet in OYO for three years, enjoys reading, sketching, and studying French. He hopes to travel to France one day and study the language abroad. Ever since joining OYO, his passion for music has grown tenfold. Chester plans to train to become a Marine at Parris Island, South Carolina, with plans to serve four years in Operational Communications and Data Systems, while studying computer science and/or mathematics. His favorite memory in OYO was rehearsing in sectionals with Dr. Klana in Philharmonia, which helped him bond with the other wind and brass players, and learning interesting facts about composers, such as Percy Grainger and Georges Bizet.

Kate VanNorwick has played Violin in OYO for eight years, enjoys listening to music and going to concerts. Kate also loves to bake and currently works in a bakery. She has plans to go to Culinary School on the east coast next year and hopes to continue playing violin in college. Kate's favorite memories of OYO are the stories Ms. Stuart would tell about the music. It made the pieces a lot more moving and put soul into them.

Kathy Vu has played Violin in OYO for three years. Her school never had an orchestra, so she learned violin on her own with her private teacher, who led her to audition for OYO. Whenever she is not doing something music related, she enjoys drawing and writing as well as baking. Kathy plans to attend college to continue her education, exploring new interests and opportunities while continuing music. Kathy's favorite memories in OYO are the days leading up to the concert and the day of the concerts. Seeing and hearing the results of everyone's hard work and having a supportive audience listening always brings a happy smile to Kathy's face.

Haoyi Wang has played Oboe and English Horn in OYO for three years. His teacher introduced him to OYO, and he found it to be a fun place. When asked what he will do after his senior year, he replied, "Go to college...?" According to Haoyi, OYO is a great place for young musicians to practice and get familiar with how an orchestra functions.

Jacob Weiss has played Tuba in OYO for two years, initially being drawn to play by two friends who recommended OYO to him. Outside of music, he enjoys watching and playing sports. Jacob plans to study Business and Music at Oakland University. His favorite memory was playing Dance of the Knights with the Philharmonia Orchestra last year. He had an amazing experience, especially playing with such a great trombone section.

Jihyo Yoo has played Flute in OYO for four years, enjoys listening to music and spending time with family and friends. She plans to attend the University of Michigan to study Data Science and hopes to join an orchestra in college to continue playing music. Her favorite memory was playing the flute solo in *The William Tell Overture* by Rossini for the winter concert, because it was a challenging but fun piece to play.

Additional Seniors:

Adam Albanese

Christian Bush

Tabitha Fisher

Keegan McDonough

