

ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



2023-2024

WINTER CELEBRATION

Featuring the Anchorage Youth Symphony with
concerto competition winner Bentley Altman, cello

Maestro Bruce Wood, Ph.D., Music Director

Monday 🎵 Feb. 12, 2024 🎵 6:30 pm
Discovery Theatre

Tickets available at [CenterTix.com](https://www.CenterTix.com) or by calling (907) 263-ARTS

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ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

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Evan Hagen* ~ Assistant Conductor
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www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org
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- Albert Einstein

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ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

COACHES

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Nina Bingham*, 1st violin
Katie Wasko-Klink, 2nd violin
Nancy Darigo, viola
Brett Lindsay*, cello
Avalon Lee, double bass
Laura Koenig, flute
Emily Weaver, oboe

Sandra Cox, clarinet
Kyle Noonan, bassoon
Evan Hagen*, horn
Sean Evanick, trumpet
Bill Klemm, low brass
Kade Bissell, percussion
Joanna Mayer*, harp

SYMPHONY SCHOOL

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Joanna Mayer*, harp

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Brett Lindsay*
Kyle Lindsey
Brett Lindsay, Camp Fire AK
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Dr. Miriam English Ward
Kyle Noonan

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Anchorage Opera (AO) receives operating support from the Atwood Foundation, the Richard L and Diane M Block Foundation, the Kumin Foundation, the Rasmuson Foundation, The Carr Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Municipality of Anchorage. AO is supported in part by grants from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Official Videographer is Talking Circle Media. Guest Artists' Sponsors are Alaska Airlines, EasyPark, and The Alaska Club. Anchorage Opera is a member of OPERA America.

BIOGRAPHY

BENTLEY ALTMAN, CELLO

Bentley Altman comes from a musical family—with two cellos, a trumpet, harp, and viola in the house, practice occurs at all hours of the day! Bentley started his own musical journey in fifth grade, after watching a few too many videos of The Piano Guys. He was drawn to the cello, studying under the guidance of his teacher, Linda Ottum, and has been a member of the Anchorage Youth Symphony since his freshman year of high school, serving in principal roles for three of his four years in the orchestra.



Bentley has participated in many music events in Alaska and beyond, including All-State, All-Northwest, and State Solo and Ensemble, for which he has given two command performances with chamber ensembles. Bentley has enjoyed playing chamber music going on five years, and is a founding member of *Trio Eligique*. He has participated in the Anchorage Chamber Music Festival for three summers, and also studied the piano for three years with instructor Dean Epperson.

In addition to music, Bentley has actively participated and competed in many sports activities, including as a national and international Karate champion, swimming and diving state qualifier, and as varsity high school swim and dive team captain. He has also worked and volunteered to coach many of these activities, assisting with teaching over 100 hours of beginner karate classes, and serving as a swim instructor for kids ages 4-16. Bentley is an Eagle Scout (his Eagle Scout project involved creating an alumni database for AYO), has achieved two Eagle Palms, and is an avid ailurophile.

A high school senior, Bentley will graduate as valedictorian this spring from Family Partnership Correspondence School. He is a National Merit Scholar and Presidential Scholar nominee, and plans to choose both his college and major with the help of a dartboard!

ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024, 6-9 PM

at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts

Join us for our annual fundraising event benefiting music education and performance! You'll enjoy a fun evening featuring delicious bites and sips by Ginger, a silent and live auction, and a private concert by the Anchorage Youth Symphony including a piece conducted by the evening's winning **Maestro for a Minute** bidder!



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www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org

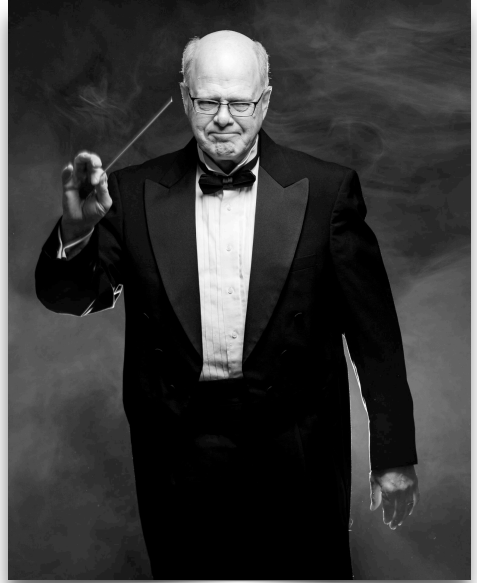
BIOGRAPHY

MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD, PH.D.

Dr. Bruce Wood was appointed Music Director of Alaska Youth Orchestras in July of 2021. Dr. Wood was the founding Music Director of the Youth Orchestras of Lubbock, Texas while also serving on the faculty of Texas Tech University. From 2014 to 2021 Dr. Wood was the Director of Fine Arts for the Anchorage School District.

Dr. Wood received a bachelor's degree in music education from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa and his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Wood has taught in public school settings for eleven years and at the university level for over twenty-five years. He has been published by the American String Teacher Journal, Strings Magazine, and GIA publications.

A cellist and singer, Dr. Wood has been a member of the Alaska Chamber Singers. He has also conducted a number of the performances of the Anchorage Community Chorus Messiah. Dr. Wood's wife, Brooke, works for the Anchorage Museum.



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SPRING 2024 SESSION

*Training ensembles for young musicians grades 4-12
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Rehearsals: Sundays, 4:30-5:45 pm or 6:00-7:15 pm, at UAA.
Spring session begins Sunday, Feb. 25.

Concert: AYO Spring Celebration Concert. Saturday May 4,
in the Atwood Concert Hall (7pm).

To Apply: Submit a screening to ensure correct placement in
one of the two performing groups. Requirements on website.

Visit www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org
for more information and to apply!



A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the AYO Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to tonight's Winter Celebration Concert! This will be an evening filled with amazing music, and we are thankful you could join us.

Every year, AYO holds a concerto competition for our musicians. We had an impressive field of competitors this year, and congratulate the 2023-24 Concerto Competition winner, Bentley Altman. Bentley's performance of the Lalo cello concerto is incredible, and sure to be a highlight this evening! We are also excited to hear some of the competition runners-up at our AYO community concert in March.

Finally, thank you to all the musicians on stage, as well as the families, teachers, staff, donors, and sponsors offstage whose dedication and support make AYO concerts possible. We hope you enjoy the music, and look forward to seeing you at future AYO events!

Nate Berry
Board President, AYO alum ('05-'09)



AFTER SCHOOL MUSIC

A program of Alaska Youth Orchestras, providing free music education and inspiration to hundreds of future musicians!

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A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is a pleasure to be back at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts for AYO's Winter Celebration Concert! Tonight, we celebrate the accomplishments of our young musicians in the Anchorage Youth Symphony, who have been hard at work since November preparing this inspiring program.

We are honored to celebrate one of AYS' own this evening—Bentley Altman, our Concerto Competition winner and featured soloist in tonight's performance of Edouard Lalo's Cello Concerto. We have been amazed by Bentley's energy and focus in rehearsal, and it is a treat to hear him on the Discovery stage!

This new year, we are thrilled to be offering a chamber music program for our AYS musicians, in collaboration with Dr. Miriam English Ward. Four chamber groups, ranging from duos to a quintet, are rehearsing with their coaches every week! They will perform at AYO's Community Concert, on March 7 at The Nave (6:30pm). I hope you will join us!

Spring will be an exciting time for AYO! Symphony School will be back in session, along with After School Music in partnership with Camp Fire Alaska. Concluding the season is our annual Classics & Cocktails fundraiser on May 3, followed by our Spring Celebration Concert on May 4. There is so much music still to come, and we look forward to sharing it with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Pierre Derycz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Pierre Derycz
Executive Director



The Anchorage
Waldorf School

Awakening Wonder

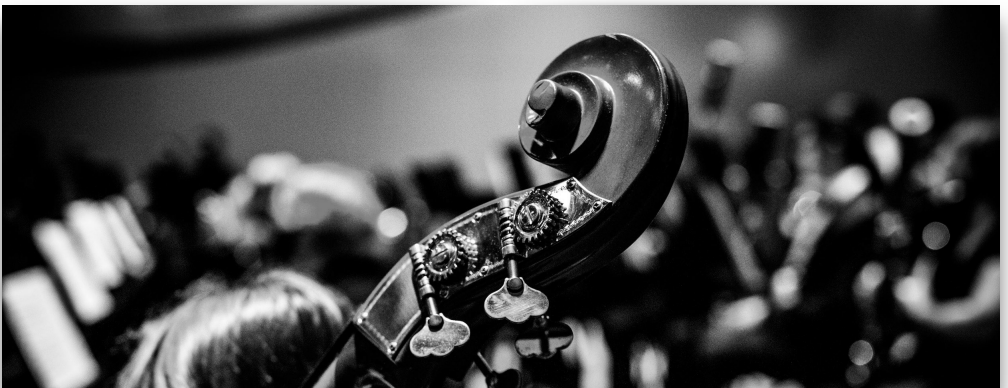
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A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Thank you for coming to our concert and supporting these fine young musicians!

Tonight's program features very challenging but rewarding literature for the youth symphony. This year's ensemble works hard at every step of learning, whether in sectionals, individual practice or together in rehearsals. Both Evan and I are proud of their progress and development. We hope you hear and enjoy that growth this evening.



A big thanks to our Anchorage Youth Symphony coaches, and to all of the teachers in our community supporting our youth in their musical endeavors. We are grateful for your partnership, which makes our work possible each and every week.

Bruce Wood



ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

VIOLIN 1

Rania White
Co-concertmaster
Kestrel Wigglesworth
Co-concertmaster
Benjamin Strauss
Ingrid Berryhill
Zoe Burtch
Ethan Saephan
Alex Walukiewicz
Svea Harvey
Amber Snelling
Angel Yang
Reine Soule
Caleb Miller
Ellie Lang
Madison Chaitoff
Elias Soule
Isaac Dodge*

VIOLIN 2

Sarah Kim
Principal
Bryce Herda
Dylan Beals
Peter Hobbie
Bailey Hamilton
Rebekah Renner
Harris Anderson
Bruno Bookman
Aurora Panilo
Coal Flint
Ethan Ivey
Nicholas Goetz
Catalina Whited
Robert Calivo**

VIOLA

Kyler Stafford
Principal
Amira Ball
Nina Geist
Jonathan Moore
Eden Rhoades
Gabriel Novero
Tália Tovar
Fisher Lajoie
Willow Wielechowski
Breanna Hester*
NaShanti Fearington*

CELLO

Grant Chythlook
Principal
Bentley Altman
Ezzy Allwright
Lavinia Li
Isaac Ward
Ruben Rhodes
Ira Libby
Donovan Mahoney
Eros Sotelo
Alex Osgood
Kendrew Liu
Minghan Dai
Zoey Dougherty
Faith Felton*

DOUBLE BASS

Violet Bowie
Principal
Ashlyn Paynter
Mary Grace Cope
Casi LeBlanc**
Erika Dobler

FLUTE

Lena So
Principal
Amelia Swartz
Laura Koenig**

OBOE

Kai Peppinger
Principal
Charlotte Fontana

CLARINET

Kolter Kalt
Principal
Maximilian Erickson
Gavin Baker
Ruby Beardsley
Abigail Spear*

BASSOON

Kaitlyn Paculba
Principal
Amaya Hammatt

HORN

Dylan Thompson
Principal
Olivia Gresset
Kai Burns
Evan Hagen**
Erik Oder**
Lolly Rader**

TRUMPET

Noah Kurth
Principal
Isaac Diltz*
Sean Evanick**

TROMBONE

Olivia Martin
Principal
Erik Rueb*
Bill Klemm**

TUBA

Kristian Nudlash-Barger**

PERCUSSION

Jack Greenwell
Principal
Ashton Bednar
Isaac Klemm

HARP

Mary Grace Cope
Principal

PIANO

Tiger Amornkiat**
Principal

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PROGRAM

ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

CONDUCTOR: *MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD, PH.D.*

Overture to *Ruslan and Lyudmila*

Mikhail Glinka

Conducted by: Evan Hagen

Cello Concerto in D minor (1st mvt.)

Édouard Lalo

Soloist: Bentley Altman, cello

Symphony No. 5, Op. 47 (Finale)

Dmitri Shostakovich

Danzón No. 2

Arturo Márquez



MUSIC NOTES
BY MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD

Overture to *Ruslan and Lyudmila*
Mikhail Glinka

Mikhail: "I really want to do music."
Parent: "No. You need to get a real job."

Yes, I am making up the text here, but Glinka's family did not want him to pursue music. After a trip to Italy (hearing the operas of Donizetti and Bellini) and his father's death, Glinka gave his life to the art form. He composed two operas, *A Life for the Czar* and *Ruslan and Lyudmila*. *Ruslan* was based on an epic poem by Pushkin of folk tales he heard as a child. The overture is often played around the classical music world, while the whole opera is performed almost exclusively in Russia. For AYS, this is a fast moving and challenging overture, with intricate entrances and passages that make it an audition favorite.

Cello Concerto in D minor
Édouard Lalo

Once again, a dad who did not want his child to become a professional musician. Hmm.

Édouard Lalo broke out from his small town of Lille in northern France to try a career in music in Paris. Part of a string quartet in that great city, Lalo was influenced by the Beethoven quartets he played as well as others of the contemporary Austrian/German repertoire. As a composer, his two most performed works are *Symphonie Espagnole* and the cello concerto. In the cello concerto, what you will hear are a number of "set-ups" in which the orchestra poses dramatic structures that the cellist uses in cadenzas, beautiful lyric passages, or technical virtuosic sections. The first movement is a work that is, in turn, forceful and plaintive, and simply beautiful.

Symphony No. 5, Op. 47 (Finale)
Dmitri Shostakovich ~ arr. Stephen Bulla

Heaviness, drama, and forced joy. Shostakovich, during his life, was both celebrated and vilified by the Soviet Union government and propagandists. Below is from the program notes of Michael Steinberg, writing notes for the San Francisco Symphony:

“Shostakovich memoirs” published in 1979, includes a passage that seems to embody a truth about the closing moments of the Fifth Symphony. [The author] attributes these words to the composer: “Awaiting execution is a theme that has tormented me all my life. Many pages of my music are devoted to it. Sometimes I wanted to explain that fact to the performers, I thought that they would have a greater understanding of the work’s meaning. But then I thought better of it. You can’t explain anything to a bad performer and a talented person should sense it himself. . . . I think it is clear to everyone what happens in the Fifth. The rejoicing is forced, created under threat, as in Boris Godunov. It’s as if someone were beating you with a stick and saying, ‘Your business is rejoicing, your business is rejoicing,’ and you rise, shaky, and go marching off, muttering, ‘our business is rejoicing, our business is rejoicing.’ What kind of apotheosis is that? You have to be a complete oaf not to hear that.”

This Stephan Bulla arrangement of the last movement of the Fifth Symphony, I believe, keeps the mood and focus of the original work.

Danzón No. 2

Arturo Márquez

I first heard this piece from a recording I watched of the 2007 BBC Proms in London, performed by the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra with Gustavo Dudamel conducting. It was electrifying. This Cuban dance, written by Mexican-born Márquez and performed by a youth orchestra (a fine one) allows for both classical and popular Latin themes to be woven into a wonderful concert piece. AYS has really enjoyed the process of learning this and putting it together.



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and Explore.**

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EVAN HAGEN
AYO ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Evan Hagen is Assistant Conductor with the Alaska Youth Orchestras, working as a conductor and brass coach with both the Symphony School Ensembles and the Anchorage Youth Symphony. Born and raised in Anchorage, Evan performs as a hornist with the Anchorage Symphony, Opera, and Concert Chorus Orchestras, and is also a member of the Alaska Chamber Singers.



Before returning to Alaska from college, Evan studied horn under Dr. Jeffrey Snedeker at Central Washington University, where he pursued additional interests such as conducting, music history, and religious studies. Evan enjoys reading, meditating, running, and rock climbing.



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honor of Ethan Zawodny

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OUR HISTORY

The Anchorage Youth Symphony was formed in 1965 by Frank Pinkerton and has continued under the leadership of prominent local musicians and educators including Dewey Ehling, Kurt Pasch, Jeanne (Ray) Bruhn, Charles Gorsuch, Marlow Thomas, and, most recently, Linn Weeda.



In 1981 the Anchorage Youth Symphony Association began operating separately from the Anchorage School District and was granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Shortly thereafter the organization adopted the name Alaska Youth Orchestras. Since then, the organization has remained an active member of the Anchorage arts community and has been a resident company of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts since 2011.

Linn Weeda served as Music Director for 31 years, expanding the program to include coaching by local professional musicians, many who were in the youth symphony as young players. He retired in May 2021.

Maestro Bruce Wood, Ph.D., was selected as AYO's next Music Director in July 2021. Since then, Dr. Wood and Executive Director Denise Brown-Chythlook expanded AYO's education and performance programs, increasing their reach from 80 to 500 youth each year. The Anchorage Youth Symphony provides a professional performance experience for high school and college age musicians. Symphony School provides teaching ensembles for musicians from grades 4-12. AYO's most recent outreach program, After School Music (a community partnership with Camp Fire Alaska), provides a music inspiration program in an after-school care setting.

In August 2023, Pierre Derycz joined the AYO team as Executive Director, bringing a deep passion for music education and youth development. Under his leadership, AYO continues to participate in advocacy and community building efforts across the Anchorage Arts community.

AYO COMMUNITY CONCERT

*Featuring performances by Chamber Music Ensembles
from the Anchorage Youth Symphony.*

THURSDAY, MAR. 7, 2024, 6:30 PM

*at The Nave (3502 Spenard Rd)
Free Admission*

Chamber Music is a new AYO program this season! Participants work together in small ensembles (duos, trios, quartets, and quintets) to learn new music and further develop their ensemble playing skills. The program is led by Dr. Miriam English Ward.

To learn more about joining a chamber music group this Spring, contact the AYO Office!



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