

ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS




2024-2025

WINTER CELEBRATION

Featuring the Anchorage Youth Symphony with
concerto competition winner Isaac Ward, cello

David Hagen, Principal Conductor

With Guest Performance by  alaskadance**theatre**

Sunday  Feb. 23, 2025  4:00 pm
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Katie Wasko, 2nd violin
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Brett Lindsay*, cello
Avalon Lee, double bass
Laura Koenig, flute
Emily Weaver, oboe

Sandra Cox, clarinet
Andrew Zartmann, bassoon
Lupe Marroquin, horn
Sean Evanick, trumpet
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Joanna Mayer*, harp

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Joanna Mayer*

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*Thank you also to the many volunteers, families, and friends
who assist at AYO rehearsals and concerts!*





A fundraiser to benefit

ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Saturday, May 17, 2025 / 6-9pm

at the **Alaska Center for the Performing Arts**

This year's theme:

Bubbles & Blooms

- Bites and specialty beverages (NA welcome)
- Silent and Live auctions
- Special concert by the **Anchorage Youth Symphony**
featuring the winning **Maestro for a Minute** bidder!

Tables for 8 (\$1,250 and \$2,000 price points)

Pub-height cocktail tables for 4 (\$750, seated)

Individual admission (\$100, seating available but not guaranteed)

You can also support by donating an auction item!

www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/Classics

A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

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

AYO holds a concerto competition for our musicians each year, and this year we had an impressive field of competitors. I'm thrilled to congratulate this year's winner, Isaac Ward, and can't wait for you all to hear his masterful rendition of Dvořák's cello concerto! We are also excited to welcome our friends from Alaska Dance Theatre to join us on stage for a wonderful collaboration.



Coming up on our spring calendar is the Classics & Cocktails gala fundraiser, on May 17. It will be an evening of great food, a fun auction, and a special concert from the Anchorage Youth Symphony. Following that, on May 18, is our final concert of AYO's season. Attending both events would be a great way to spend the weekend, and we would love to see you there!

Finally, thank you to all the musicians on stage, as well as the families, school teachers, private 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)



ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

AUDITIONS & UPCOMING EVENTS

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SPRING SCREENINGS NOW OPEN

Rehearsals begin March 16, 2025. Submit your screening today!

Open to musicians grades 4 - 12.

AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/Symphony-School



ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

2025-26 SEASON AUDITIONS

Audition music now available. Submissions open March 1 and are due June 2, 2025.

Open to musicians age 14 (or grade 9) through college.

AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/auditions

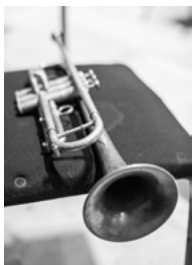
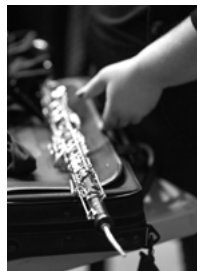
COMMUNITY CONCERT

Featuring performances by AYO chamber music ensembles
Tuesday, Apr. 29, 2025 @ 6:30 pm / The Nave

CLASSICS & COCKTAILS

AYO's annual fundraising event featuring delicious food, beautiful auction items, and a private concert by the Anchorage Youth Symphony!

Saturday, May 17, 2025 @ 6:00 pm
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts



SPRING CELEBRATION CONCERT

Join us for our exciting season finale featuring the Anchorage Youth Symphony, with performances by AYO's Symphony School ensembles.

Sunday, May 18, 2025 @ 4:00 pm
Atwood Concert Hall

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thank you for coming to celebrate and support our young musicians at AYO's Winter Celebration Concert!

I am honored to extend our sincere thanks to tonight's concert sponsor: ConocoPhillips Alaska. We are so grateful for their support of our programs and tonight's special collaboration with Alaska Dance Theatre!

I am also pleased to recognize our wonderful soloist this evening, Isaac Ward, for the tremendous musicianship and inspiration he has shared with us all. This year's Concerto Competition is generously sponsored by Soroptimist International of Anchorage / Barbara and Ed Dimock Art Scholarship.

I look forward to seeing you at our events this Spring. Symphony School rehearsals resume March 16, and AYO chamber music ensembles will be hard at work preparing for our Community Concert, on April 19 at The Nave. Spring is also a time for the community to gather in support of AYO. Individual and table admissions are now on sale for our annual Classics & Cocktails fundraiser on May 17, followed by our Spring Celebration Concert on May 18. We hope you can join us!

Finally, a big thank you to the AYO team, and the many supporters far and wide who make our work possible. I especially want to highlight the incredible work of our community's music educators, and their dedication to seeing our young musicians thrive.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Pierre Derycz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Pierre Derycz
Executive Director

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PROGRAM

ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

CONDUCTOR: *DAVID HAGEN*

Marche Militaire, from Op. 51

Franz Schubert

Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák

I. Allegro

Soloist: Isaac Ward, cello

- *INTERMISSION* -

Dance Rhythms, Op. 58

Wallingford Riegger

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 23

Edvard Grieg

I. Morning Mood

II. The Death of Åse

III. Anitra's Dance

IV. In the Hall of the Mountain King

Slavonic Dance in G minor, Op. 46 No. 8

Antonín Dvořák

Featuring: Alaska Dance Theatre



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Bryce Herda
Sarah Kim
Jocelyn Kerley
Dylan Beals
Gordon Jennings
Ethan Kim
Bailey Hamilton
Amber Snelling
Leo Shephard
Ellowyn Lang
Reine Soule
Madison Chaitoff

VIOLIN 2

Kristina Kagerer
Principal
Svea Harvey
Soren Rhodes
Brandon Kim
Izzy Munson
Isaiah Kim
Nicholas Goetz
Bruno Bookman
Alyiah Hufana
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Catalina Whited
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VIOLA

Eirene Hansen
Principal
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Willow Wielechowski
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Claire Cartee
Lucinda Grant
Julien Riviere*

CELLO

Grant Chythlook
Principal
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Ezzy Allwright
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Lindsey Lucas
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Maren Lund

BASS

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Principal
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Talon Motyka
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Marley McDonagh

OBOE

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Principal
Charlotte Fontana

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Principal
Maximilian Erickson
Ruby Beardsley
Gavin Baker

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Amaya Hammatt

HORN

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Principal
Olivia Gressett
Josephine Leonard
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Lolly Rader*
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Malachi Temiz
Principal
Drake Ward
Liam Kraft
Sean Evanick*

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David Schreyer
Principal
Suri Devillena
Bill Klemm*

TUBA

Luke Thomas

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Ashton Bednar
River Devillena
Isaac Klemm
Anya McLaughlin

HARP

Mary Grace Cope
Greta Yeager

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or Coach*



THE NAVE

BIOGRAPHY

ISAAC WARD, CELLO

Isaac Ward, age 16, is a student of Cleveland Institute of Music Professor Dr. Melissa Kraut. He also studies piano with Dr. Timothy Smith and cello with Dr. John Lutterman at the University of Alaska, Anchorage as a high school student.



Isaac attended the Interlochen Arts Camp as a scholarship student where he won the principal cello position in the orchestra. This season he was invited to Dr. Melissa Kraut's Complete Cellist program in Cleveland, the Tanglewood Institute String Quartet workshop, and was a featured local artist with the Portland Cello Project. His studies were subsidized in part by the Alaska Community Foundation's Dorothy and Dona Lee Croft String Music Scholarship for Young Musicians.

Last year, Isaac, was selected to perform the Elgar Cello Concerto as the winner of the Symphony of Sounds competition in Anchorage, and this spring he will perform Bruch's *Kol Nidrei*. He was a guest artist at Siletz Bay Music Festival in Oregon where he performed with pianist and artistic director Mei-Ting Sun and has been invited again for this coming season. Isaac performs on an 1861 Charles Gaillard cello on loan to him as part of Alaska Resounding's Fine Instrument Initiative for Alaskan musicians.

AYO's Concerto Competition is generously sponsored by:

***Soroptimist International of Anchorage /
Barbara and Ed Dimock Art Scholarship***

A NOTE FROM ALASKA DANCE THEATRE

Dear AYO Friends, Family, and Fans,

Alaska Dance Theatre is thrilled to share the stage with the tremendously talented musicians of the Anchorage Youth Symphony! We are especially grateful to Pierre Derycz and David Hagen for saying yes to this collaboration and embracing it. It has been a pleasure to work with AYO.

Alaska Dance Theatre believes that the arts are for everyone. That music, dance, and theatre exist to make the world a better place. Thank you for supporting these young artists as they learn and grow and do this important work.

With Gratitude,
Cari Zawodny, Executive Director
Farah Zoetmulder, Artistic Director
Alaska Dance Theatre



CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

Dance of the Peasants, performed to Dvořák's Slavonic Dance
Choreographed by Cady Lynn O'Brien

This dance is inspired by Dvořák's lively music, which conjured images in my mind of brightly colored skirts spinning in all directions, as dancers high-kicked and twirled at a street dance or country fair.



Cady Lynn O'Brien began her dance training in Sitka, Alaska at Sitka Studio of Dance. As an adult, she moved to London, England to study at the dance conservatory Trinity Laban. Her performance credits include *Chopiniana*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Giselle* with Anchorage Ballet; *Cravan*, *Dusk to Dawn*, and *The Nutcracker* with Pulse Dance Company. She holds a degree in Dance Studies and a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education.

ADT Performing Company, Corps Dancers:

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Olga Grunwaldt ~ Eva Hopwell ~ Adelaide Iverson Kaufman
Jade Johnston ~ Juliette Post ~ Penelope Priest ~ Evelyn Pustina
Adaïre Robinson ~ Emmalynn Wages ~ Avalyn Worthy

MUSIC NOTES

Marche Militaire

Franz Schubert

Composed in 1818, Schubert's March Militaire No. 1 is the first of three marches, which he originally wrote for piano with four hands. Schubert created this piece while he was teaching music to the daughters of the Esterházy family, and its lively, uplifting character reflects the charm of music meant to entertain and inspire. The march opens with a bold, energetic theme, evoking the grandeur of a ceremonial procession. It then transitions to a softer, more lyrical middle section providing a moment of contrast before the main melody returns in full force, bringing the piece to a spirited close. Though originally written for piano, the march has been widely arranged for orchestras and other ensembles, becoming one of Schubert's most beloved works.

- *HUNTER BERNAS, AYS BASSIST*



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Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104

Antonín Dvořák

Written in 1894, one of the most successful and innovative aspects of this composition is the contrast of grandiose versus sombre musical characters. While Dvořák was concerned that the cello's upper range could be "weak, limited and nasal", he was inspired to compose for the instrument after hearing his conservatory colleague Victor Herbert's cello concerto. It's reported that he attended at least twice in fascination, rushing backstage to hug his friend and exclaiming, "Splendid, splendid!" This was a strong endorsement from Dvořák's typically quiet and formal demeanor.

The difficulty of the cello part, its use of double stops and the higher registers, and the depth of musical expression achieved in the orchestration combine to result in one of the most rewarding classical works. Near the end of his life, even Johannes Brahms said "If I had known that it was possible to compose such a concerto for the cello, I would have tried it myself!"

A dark tentative clarinet solo introduces the main motif, ushering in the full orchestra's sweeping romantic overture. An iconic solo in the French horn part displays the second theme, before the cello opens with its improvisatory melody. The cello develops the themes and leads the orchestra through displays of technical prowess, soaring melodies filled with reminiscence and longing, a fiery cadenza and a gorgeous duet with the flute. The movement closes with a triumphant return of the opening melody this time in the home key of B major, and with the clarity of the cello's singing upper register. It's been a rare opportunity to work with a full orchestra on this masterpiece, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

- ISAAC WARD, AYS CELLIST



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Dance Rhythms

Wallingford Riegger

Wallingford Riegger (1885-1961) was an American composer known for his contributions to modernist music. *Dance Rhythms*, composed in 1954, is one of his most celebrated works and showcases Riegger's ability to blend rhythmic complexity with engaging melodies. It was composed during a period when American composers were exploring new musical languages and forms. Riegger, a contemporary of Aaron Copland and Charles Ives, who were also American contemporary composers, was influenced by both European modernism and American folk traditions. This piece reflects the vibrant and experimental spirit of mid-20th-century American music.

Dance Rhythms is an energetic composition that features intricate rhythmic patterns and a playful character. The piece is structured in a single movement and is characterized by its syncopated rhythms and bold orchestration. Riegger's use of unexpected accents and dynamic contrasts creates a sense of excitement and unpredictability for the audience as well as the orchestra. The piece is known for its challenging rhythms, which require precision and coordination from the ensemble. The interplay of different rhythmic patterns creates a sense of movement and dance. Despite its complexity, "Dance Rhythms" is highly melodic. Riegger weaves memorable themes throughout the piece, often introducing them in one section and developing them in another. Riegger's orchestration is colorful and inventive. He makes full use of the orchestra's capabilities, from the bright, soaring sounds of the brass to the delicate textures of the woodwinds and strings. *Dance Rhythms* by Wallingford Riegger is a testament to the composer's skill in combining rhythmic innovation with melodic charm. It remains a favorite in the orchestral repertoire and continues to captivate audiences with its upbeat character and originality.

- *Drake Ward*, *AYS* TRUMPETER



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Peer Gynt Suite No. 1

Edvard Grieg

Edvard Grieg is widely considered to be one of the leading Romantic era composers. Amongst his most famous works are the *Peer Gynt* Suites, originally composed as ninety minutes of orchestral music to accompany the five act play, *Peer Gynt* by Henrik Ibsen. Grieg originally had reservations for writing music for the play due to its irreverent nature but his compositions later became a massive success. He was praised for his music's wide range of styles and orchestral effects that matched the journeys of the protagonist, Peer Gynt. Later on, Grieg went back and extracted certain sections from his orchestrations to create two four-movement suites. The first suite's movements include *Morning Mood*, a serene melody for the flute and oboe depicting a calming dawn, *Åse's Death* which represents the grim anticipation of the death of Peer's mother in the play with the soft hum of the strings, *Anitra's Dance*, a nimble, captivating dance for strings, and finally, *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, a short and mysterious theme that gains speed and volume as it is repeated, building towards a frantic climax. We are excited to present the tales of Peer Gynt and his adventures along with the colors and emotions that tell the story.

- ABIGAIL PAGE, AYS VIOLIST



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Slavonic Dance in G minor

Antonín Dvořák

The Slavonic Dances, Opus 46 by Antonín Dvořák, a Czech composer, were originally written as a piano duet and later were orchestrated by Dvořák in the romantic period. Dvořák was inspired by Johannes Brahms and his Hungarian Dances. Brahms and Dvořák met through an Austrian composition contest in which Brahms' publisher had commissioned Dvořák for these songs, and in return we get this wonderful and intricate composition of dances.

Ironically, this 8th dance is not particularly Slavonic and instead is more closely related to a Bohemian dance, known as a 'furiant' in which the song contrasts 2/4 (duple) with a 3/4 (triple) meter, as well as rapid changing accents which give off a fiery quality in all sections of the orchestra.

Within this dance, there is an emphasis on offbeats and chords that are bright and thrilling, often switching to and from major and minor chords, as well as from a powerful, heavy volume from the full orchestra to a jaunty, light melody from the oboe, flute, and piccolo. Afterwards, the piece dies down into a soft melody between the woodwinds, before the solo oboe starts its small waltz feel to accompany the solo flute. This leads to a beautiful moment that dwindles to a hold, interrupted by the blazing ensemble united together again.

We also have some special guests performing the Slavonic Dance with us tonight! A big thank you to them! With that, the Anchorage Youth Symphony hopes that you enjoy the mesmerizing combination of performances as we present it with music and dance!

- *KAI PEPPINGER, AYS OBOIST*



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BIOGRAPHY

DAVID HAGEN

David Hagen is delighted to have been chosen to serve as Principal Conductor of the Anchorage Youth Symphony for the 2024-25 Season. Mr. Hagen and his family have a long association with AYS: he himself played trumpet in the orchestra, and his two brothers and two sons were also members. Mr. Hagen's time playing in AYS was particularly formative for him as a young musician.



Mr. Hagen has been active as a conductor and music educator in Anchorage for many years. He became artistic director and conductor of the Alaska Chamber Singers (ACS) in 1995, succeeding founder and artistic director Elvera Voth. Mr. Hagen also served as Chorus Master with Anchorage Opera for several seasons, preparing such works as *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Romeo et Juliette* and *Sweeney Todd*. He served as general director of the Anchorage Festival of Music, and was the founder and music director of *AVE*, a vocal ensemble that performed to much acclaim in Anchorage in the 1990's.

Mr. Hagen recently retired from the Anchorage School District, where he served as an instrumental music teacher for many years, as well as Music Curriculum Coordinator for two years. His many compositions for beginning band are regularly heard at local band festivals.

Hagen received his earliest musical training in the Anchorage School District and is a graduate of Robert Service High School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Fox University and a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. He is a recipient of the Anchorage Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Individual Artist.

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Jodi Rhoades
Sasha Ringgenberg
Stetson Sannes
Diana Slafka
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Smaka
Ben Smith
Sean Smith
Andrew Swartz
Sarah Switzer
Touchstone Executive
Coaching
Eva Vischer
Anchorage Waldorf School
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Bruce Wood
Cari & Joe Zawodny, *in*
honor of Ethan Zawodny

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ANCHORAGE OPERA

The background of the poster is a complex, abstract artwork. It features a dark, stylized face with large, expressive eyes and a prominent nose. Overlaid on the face is a violin, with its body and f-hole visible. The entire composition is rendered in a dark, monochromatic style with various textures and overlapping lines, creating a sense of depth and movement.

The Italian Girl in Algiers
April 24, 26, & 27
centertix.com | 907-263-ARTS

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 and Dr. Bruce Wood.



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, succeeded in the role of Music Director by Bruce Wood, Ph.D. Dr. Wood and Executive Director Denise Brown-Chythlook further 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 outreach program, After School Music (a community partnership with Camp Fire Alaska), provides a music inspiration program in an after-school care setting.

In 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.

At the conclusion of the 2023-24 Season, Dr. Bruce Wood announced his retirement from the position of Music Director. In fall 2024, AYO launched its search for its next Music Director, with a tenure to begin in the 2025-26 Season.



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