

# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



2024-2025

## SPRING CELEBRATION

Featuring the Anchorage Youth Symphony with performances by AYO's Symphony School Ensembles

David Hagen, Principal Conductor

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

Tickets available at **CenterTix** or by calling (907) 263-ARTS



**PURSUE**  
*Your*  
**PASSIONS**



**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

For application information visit [esm.rochester.edu/admissions](http://esm.rochester.edu/admissions)

# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Building a community where music education  
and performance are valued and shared.

## STAFF

Pierre Derycz ~ Executive Director  
David Hagen\* ~ AYS Principal Conductor  
Bruce Wood, Ph.D. ~ Symphony School Conductor  
Zach Akins\* ~ Operations Manager  
Sheila Miller ~ Technical Director

## BOARD

Nate Berry\* ~ President  
Dale Cope ~ Vice President  
Anne Connors ~ Secretary  
Will Lacy ~ Treasurer  
Jacquie Braden\*  
Denise Brown-Chythlook  
Margit Jensen-Cook  
Bill Klemm  
Jodi Rhoades  
Sang Schirard  
Danika Watson\*

## EMERITUS

Music Director Emeritus ~ Linn Weeda\*  
Conductor Emeritus ~ Frank Pinkerton  
Board Member Emeritus ~ Bob Amos

*\*Alum*

1505 W 32nd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503  
[www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org](http://www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org) / 907-538-6406



ASHBURN & MASON P.C.



*Your Music, Our Passion.  
Celebrating 40 Years!*



JUPITER

 Roland



Eastman Strings  
Modern Instruments. Old-fashioned Quality



YAMAHA

ALL YOUR FAVORITE BRANDS...  
AND MORE!

EXPERT REPAIRS & SERVICING ON  
BAND & ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS

NEW & USED INSTRUMENT SALES

DIGITAL HOME & STAGE PIANOS

ALL THINGS MUSICAL!

**Alaska Music & Sound**

The Horn Doctor Music Store, Inc

1000 Ingra Street Anchorage

[www.horndoc.com](http://www.horndoc.com)

907-272-4676



*Since 1984!*

# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

## COACHES

### ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

Nina Bingham\*, 1<sup>st</sup> violin  
Katie Wasko, 2<sup>nd</sup> violin  
Miriam English Ward, viola  
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  
Mike Ottaviano, low brass  
Kade Bissell, percussion  
Joanna Mayer\*, harp

### SYMPHONY SCHOOL

Marie Nielson\*, violin/viola  
Brooke Wood, cello/bass  
Brad Hamilton, winds/brass  
Kade Bissell, percussion  
Joanna Mayer\*, harp

### CHAMBER MUSIC

Miriam English Ward  
Joanna Mayer\*

*\*Alum*

### SPECIAL THANKS

JMM Productions ~ Surreal Studios ~ Color Art Printing  
Anchorage School District ~ Anchorage Symphony Orchestra  
Camp Fire Alaska ~ Anchorage Arts Alliance ~ The Violin & Viola Studio  
Cook Inlet Housing Authority, The Nave ~ Ashburn & Mason  
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts ~ Municipality of Anchorage  
Northern Culture Exchange ~ Alaska Dance Theatre  
Central Lutheran Church ~ UAA Department of Music  
Berry and Barnes Fine Violins ~ The Foraker Group

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



ALASKA STATE  
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

## AUDITIONS & SCREENINGS



### ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

#### 2025-26 SEASON AUDITIONS

Submissions due June 2, 2025

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

[AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/auditions](https://AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/auditions)

### SYMPHONY SCHOOL

2025-26 SCREENINGS

Fall Session (Sep - Nov, 2025)  
Spring Session (Mar - May, 2026)

*Open to musicians grades 4 - 12.*

[AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/Symphony-School](https://AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/Symphony-School)



UNIVERSITY of  
**PUGET  
SOUND**

School of Music

**Create,  
Perform,  
and Explore.**

Tacoma, WA | 253.879.3228  
[music.admission@pugetsound.edu](mailto:music.admission@pugetsound.edu)  
[pugetsound.edu/music](https://pugetsound.edu/music)

# A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Welcome to our final concert for the 2024-25 season! On behalf of the AYO Board of Directors, thank you so much for joining us tonight to celebrate another amazing year of music.

To those of you that attended *Classics & Cocktails* last night, thank you for helping us have a great evening! It's an important event for our organization, and it's always such a fun time. Your support means so much to us, and we hope to see you again next time!



This has been a busy year, from the Music Director search to a record amount of rehearsals disrupted by weather, but our wonderful staff kept everything running smoothly; we are so fortunate to have them on the team! Thanks also to our coaches who give so much of their time and talent, our wonderful volunteers, and all the teachers and educators who help build and maintain our music community. Most of all, thank you to our musicians and their families, without whom none of this would be possible. Good luck to our graduating seniors, and to everyone else, I'm looking forward to seeing you next year!

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



# LIBBRECHT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP



The Libbrecht Family Scholarship, provided by Marcella Libbrecht and the Libbrecht Family, gives the gift of music to a qualified Anchorage Youth Symphony violinist each season. In addition to a tuition scholarship, the recipient will have use of a violin donated by the Libbrecht family throughout the season.

Tanguy and Marcella Libbrecht have supported AYO throughout the years through their generous service and contributions. Each of their 4 children are Anchorage Youth Symphony alumni, and 2 went on to perform with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra. Tanguy served as AYO Board President for 7 years. This scholarship continues their family's commitment to AYO.

The Libbrecht Family Scholarship is open for applications from violinists accepted to the 2025-26 Anchorage Youth Symphony season. Contact the AYO office for more information.



# A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am thrilled to welcome you to AYO's Spring Celebration Concert! What a treat to be back in Atwood Concert Hall to close out our 2024-25 Season.

I am so looking forward to this evening's program. Our young musicians and ensembles have grown so much this year. We are playing music we never would have thought possible but a short time ago, and I am so impressed by everyone's hard work. I can't wait to

share it with you tonight and see our ensembles on the big stage!

I want to share my gratitude for our amazing AYO team: David, Bruce, and Zach, as well as our professional musician coaches. I celebrate their dedication tonight, and am honored to count them as my colleagues. I also want to recognize the tremendous work that happens outside of AYO—in our schools, lessons, and at home. Our achievements are only possible thanks to our collective nurturing, support, and encouragement of our youth. Thank you!

Finally, a big thanks to all who came to support *Classics & Cocktails* yesterday, and to all of our partners who show up throughout the year for AYO. Your support means the world to us!

I look forward to seeing you in our 2025-26 Season! Anchorage Youth Symphony auditions are due June 2, and Symphony School will resume in the fall. To all our musicians, families, and friends, thank you for making AYO such a special part of our community. Have a great summer!

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

Pierre Derycz  
Executive Director

*If you can dream it,  
you can be it!*

Classes for  
all levels,  
18 months  
through

Adult:

Creative  
Movement

Ballet

Jazz

Tap

Contemporary

Hip Hop

Acro

and more!



*This is the place to start!*



alaskadance**theatre**

(907) 277-9591

[info@alaskadancetheatre.org](mailto:info@alaskadancetheatre.org)

[www.alaskadancetheatre.org](http://www.alaskadancetheatre.org)

# PROGRAM

## SYMPHONY SCHOOL ~ PRELUDE

CONDUCTOR: *BRUCE WOOD, PH.D.*

### **Concerto in D**

Antonio Vivaldi ~ *Arr. Bob Phillips*

### **Meridian Passage**

Doug Spata

### **The Campbells are Coming**

Traditional Scottish ~ *Arr. Sandra Dackow*

## SYMPHONY SCHOOL ~ OVERTURE

CONDUCTOR: *BRUCE WOOD, PH.D.*

### **The Abduction from the Seraglio**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart ~ *Arr. Richard Meyer*

### **A Can-Can Festival**

Jacques Offenbach ~ *Arr. Todd Parrish*

### **Hungarian Dance No. 5**

Johannes Brahms ~ *Arr. Roy Phillippe*

### **Main Theme from *Star Wars***

John Williams ~ *Arr. Charles Sayre*

- INTERMISSION -

## ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

CONDUCTOR: *DAVID HAGEN*

### **Coronation March**

Giacomo Meyerbeer

### **Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity (from *The Planets*, Op. 32)**

Gustav Holst ~ *Arr. by Richard Ling*

### **Symphony No. 2, Op. 30 II. Andante con tenerezza**

Howard Hanson

### ***Huapango***

José Pablo Moncayo

# SYMPHONY SCHOOL

## PRELUDE ENSEMBLE:

### VIOLIN 1

Hanna Lundebye  
*Concertmaster*  
Vanessa Vakulich  
Marian Beals  
Luna Elrod  
Téolo Loving  
Isabella Tran  
Bea Besh Barber

### VIOLIN 2

Jacqueline Parker  
*Principal*  
Virginia Ayer  
Lydia Johnston  
Kylie Walton  
Zachary Howe  
Cloey Crea  
Annabelle Nicolai  
Naomi Green Rose  
Lucy Takano  
Rory Essary

### VIOLA

Camille Ulrich  
*Principal*

### VIOLIN 3

Eliana Bailly  
Alexandra Johnson

### CELLO

Siri Erickson  
*Principal*  
Hendrik Hansen  
Hanna Elrod  
James Carlson  
Ian Lim  
Carter Holbrook  
Cameron Young

### BASS

Lyra Brosius  
*Principal*

## OVERTURE ENSEMBLE:

### VIOLIN 1

Hannah Kim  
*Concertmaster*  
Ileah Hansen  
Nolan Phelps  
Micah Holsopple  
Natalie Taylor  
Alejandra Choi  
Olivia Lessens  
Ethan Swartz  
Yoel Schulgasser

### VIOLA

Ava Christianson  
*Principal*  
Emma Dougherty  
Jolar Castillo  
Zynna Comeau

### CELLO

Lily Bohman  
*Principal*  
Adrian Cryan  
Caden Grunst  
Primrose Ward  
Kaitlyn Dunfee  
Lilly Jeppesen  
Caedmon Johnson  
Siri Erickson  
Callie Mae Essary  
Ian Lim

### BASS

Samuel Temiz  
*Principal*  
Elliot Olson

### FLUTE

Joshua Warren  
*Principal*

### OBOE

Maria Witmer  
*Principal*  
Benedict Gartland  
Kai Tokita

### CLARINET

Rena Tokita  
*Principal*  
Blaise Gartland  
Mason Militello  
Lyla Bailly  
Alexandria Myers  
Ian Chun

### HORN

Zoe McDonagh  
*Principal*  
Lawrence Pennino

### TRUMPET

Samuel Erickson  
*Principal*

### TUBA/BARIT.

Logan Williams  
*Principal*  
Deenise Lucero

### PERCUSSION

Anya McLaughlin  
*Principal*  
John Bazin

### HARP

Chloe Hayner  
Rena Tokita

### VIOLIN 2

Amy Stockly  
*Principal*  
Isabella Schirard  
Lillian Beals  
Mirai Moore  
Hanna Lundebye  
Fiona Salao  
Ella Guzik  
Amelia Ellison  
Marcelo Whited  
Annika Hosselkus  
Jacqueline Parker  
Kylie Walton  
Zachary Howe

## SYMPHONY SCHOOL MENTORS:

Alaina Hansen, violin  
Eirene Hansen, viola  
Nicholas Goetz, viola  
Marley McDonagh, flute



Department of Music  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

# ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

## VIOLIN 1

Alaina Hansen  
*Concertmaster*  
Benjamin Strauss  
Bryce Herda  
Sarah Kim  
Jocelyn Kerley  
Dylan Beals  
Ellowyn Lang  
Ethan Kim  
Leo Shephard  
Amber Snelling  
Reine Soule  
Madison Chaitoff  
Gordon Jennings

## VIOLIN 2

Kristina Kagerer  
*Principal*  
Svea Harvey  
Bailey Hamilton  
Soren Rhodes  
Nicholas Goetz  
Udith Senevirathne  
Brandon Kim  
Izzy Munson  
Alyiah Hufana  
Ethan Ivey  
Catalina Whited  
Sofia Amalia Pennino  
Isaiah Kim

## VIOLA

Eirene Hansen  
*Principal*  
Abigail Page  
Willow Wielechowski  
Nina Geist  
Lucinda Grant  
Claire Cartee  
Eden Rhoades  
Makayla Cobb  
Auda Bernier

## CELLO

Grant Chythlook  
*Principal*  
Isaac Ward  
Ezzy Allwright  
Lavinia Li  
Minghan Dai  
Ira Libby  
Ethan Johnson  
Leah Kim  
Lindsey Lucas  
Kendrew Liu  
Mary Grace Cope  
Zoey Dougherty  
Riley Snider  
Maren Lund

## BASS

Violet Bowie  
*Principal*  
Hunter Bernas  
Rienzi Witmer  
Erika Dobler  
Talon Motyka

## FLUTE

Lena So  
*Principal*  
Amelia Swartz  
Marley McDonagh

## OBOE

Kai Peppinger  
*Principal*  
Charlotte Fontana  
Adria Myers

## CLARINET

Kolter Kalt  
*Principal*  
Maximilian Erickson  
Ruby Beardsley  
Gavin Baker

## BASSOON

Kaitlyn Paculba  
*Principal*  
Amaya Hammatt

## HORN

Josephine Leonard  
*Principal*  
Kai Burns  
Olivia Gressett

## TRUMPET

Malachi Temiz  
*Principal*  
Drake Ward  
Liam Kraft

## TROMBONE

Matthew Nordstrom  
*Principal*  
David Schreyer  
Mike Ottaviano\*

## TUBA

Luke Thomas

## PERCUSSION

River Devillena  
Anya McLaughlin  
Ashton Bednar  
Isaac Klemm

## HARP

Mary Grace Cope  
*Principal*  
Greta Yeager

*\*Mentor, Volunteer,  
or Coach*



**THE NAVE**



Proud to support **Alaska Youth Orchestras**,  
as it is our heartfelt commitment to support the health  
and wellness of our community.



**Anchorage - Main Office**

3841 Piper Street, Suite T-100 | Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: (907) 561-3211

**[www.alaskaheart.com](http://www.alaskaheart.com)**

# MUSIC NOTES

## Coronation March

*Giacomo Meyerbeer*

Giacomo Meyerbeer (1791-1864) was often regarded as one the most frequently performed composers during the 19th century. His operas, for which he was known, blended Italian vocal tradition with German orchestral style. He was the middle ground between classical Mozart and expansive Wagner. Although his works were suppressed during WWII, opera houses and the public are beginning to rediscover his works.

“Kronungsmarch” (Coronation March) is a piece taken from Meyerbeer’s opera *Le prophète* (The Prophet). The opera was composed after Meyerbeer witnessed political unrest in Europe in 1848 and describes a misguided upheaval against the upper class. The original opera featured ice skaters, electrical effects, and a gunpowder explosion that destroys the palace in the last scene.

- *BRYCE HERDA, AYS VIOLINIST*



**TOUCHSTONE**  
Executive Coaching

**Unlock your team’s greatest potential ...  
unleash your leadership brilliance.**

Coaching for Executives | Teams | Life

[www.michaelallwright.com](http://www.michaelallwright.com) (907) 863-8688

# Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity

from *The Planets*, Op. 32

Gustav Holst

Gustav Holst was a 20th century English composer best known for his symphonic suite *The Planets*. Holst was interested in astrology and the mythologies associated with the planets in our solar system, animating the Roman personifications of seven planets in distinctive movements. Of the seven, "Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity" is the most popular and recognized. This movement features moods of nobility, power, and authority—key attributes of the mythological King of the Gods. The listener will hear the bass and tenor voices booming a fanfare that both opens and closes the piece. The high voices take over the melody in the middle section, maintaining the liveliness of The Bringer of Jollity. As the Anchorage Youth Symphony performs "Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity" from *The Planets*, Op. 32 by Gustav Holst, as arranged by Richard Ling, the listener may also hear themes that inspired the movie soundtracks of John Williams and Hans Zimmer.

- MATTHEW NORDSTROM, AYS TROMBONIST



October 25, 2025

BEST OF  
BROADWAY

December 21, 2025

FAMILY  
HOLIDAY POPS

Join us!

(Auditions in early August)

[www.anchorageconcertchorus.org](http://www.anchorageconcertchorus.org)

LORA NORDSTROM  
REALTOR®, GRI, CRS, ASP® Stager



907-360-8540

[Lora@loranordstrom.com](mailto:Lora@loranordstrom.com)

[www.LoraNordstrom.com](http://www.LoraNordstrom.com)



Your local REALTOR®  
& proud supporter  
of the arts!



BUYING · SELLING · STAGING

# **Symphony No. 2, Op. 30:**

## **II. Andante con tenerezza**

*Howard Hanson*

Composer Howard Hanson was born in a small Nebraska town to Swedish immigrants. He studied music from a young age and began teaching as an assistant at Northwestern University. At the height of his conducting career, he lived in Rochester, New York, and was appointed to be the head of the Eastman School of Music at University of Rochester. Through his development and influence, Eastman became one of the most well-known and prestigious music establishments in the nation. Hanson was also known for his passion for educating the general public about American music through free orchestra concerts and radio broadcasts.

As a neo-romantic composer, Hanson was part of a movement that emphasized lyrical melody, contrary to the growing body of atonal music at the time. The melody is introduced by the woodwinds and strings with a countermelody by the horns. Woodwinds are later featured in complex, interlocking passages that give way to the beautiful and contemplative conclusion. The hymn-like qualities and sweeping melodies in this work evoke images from Hanson's Scandinavian heritage. We hope this majestic piece which is regarded as a staple of American orchestral literature brings you peace and warmth.

- *MAX ERICKSON* AYS CLARINETIST



GROWING WITH YOU

4141 B Street, Ste 403, Anchorage, AK 99503

(907) 563-2727 • [www.ha-ak.cpa](http://www.ha-ak.cpa)

# Huapango

*José Pablo Moncayo*

José Pablo Moncayo García was born in 1912, two years into the Mexican revolution. The period of political upheaval that followed influenced both Moncayo's Mexican identity and the country's musical institutions. In 1929, Moncayo began his studies at the National Conservatory of Music. There he became a devout student of Carlos Chávez, a very influential Mexican composer who worked to popularize indigenous music and avant garde techniques.

Several years later, after Chávez was removed from his position by a new administration, Moncayo collaborated with three other proteges of Chávez to form an independent group dedicated to composing, performing, and promoting specifically Mexican music, despite the conservatory actively working against them. Moncayo started to gain notoriety from his involvement in this group, as well as from his occasional work as a composer and conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra. Chávez was in fact the musical director of the Orchestra, and in 1941 he asked Moncayo to compose a piece based on the traditional music of Southeast Mexico. Moncayo then spent several days in the state of Veracruz transcribing everything he heard, a unique challenge as the musicians there would never perform in the same way twice. The results of this endeavor you will hear tonight as *Huapango*, a piece named after a family of Mexican musical styles.

The interplay of duple and triple meter that pervades this work would generally be used to guide the quick and complex steps of dancers. Likewise, the prominence of violins, harps, and trumpets was intended to evoke the instrumental style of Veracruz. After the monumental success of *Huapango*, Moncayo continued to compose, conduct, and teach for the next 17 years. Moncayo passed at the age of 45, and his death essentially marked the end of the Mexican nationalist movement he had dedicated his life towards. The man proclaimed that "our music must first be deeply Mexican in order to become universal," but while *Huapango* is indeed well known, the rest of Moncayo's vast catalogue largely remains underperformed and unstudied.

- *ETHAN JOHNSON, AYS CELLIST*

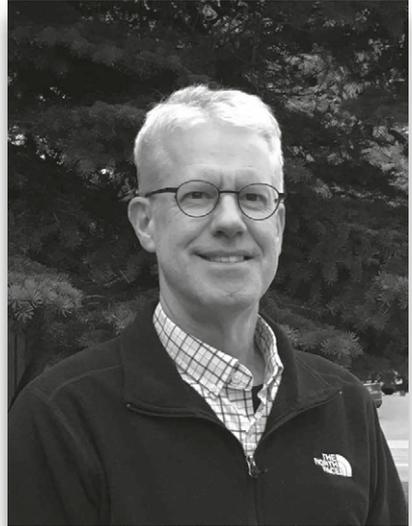


ALASKA PREMIER  
**DENTAL GROUP**

# BIOGRAPHY

## DAVID HAGEN

David Hagen is delighted 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.

Mr. 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.

AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS.

WORLD CLASS DENTISTRY.

THANKS FOR VOTING US



*Playing our  
part to get you  
there safely.*



# SENIOR PROFILES

## GAVIN BAKER, CLARINET



Gavin has performed in AYS for 3 years. He is proud to have been able to play in such a great group and meet so many wonderful people. His greatest take away from AYO is that everyone in the ensemble is important to the larger picture, and being there helps build a community.

## DYLAN BEALS, VIOLIN



Dylan has performed in AYS for 4 years. His proudest accomplishments include winning nationals for hockey and playing in AYO. His most memorable moment at AYO? The time he confidently started performing the wrong piece at his first ever AYO concert!

## VIOLET BOWIE, BASS



Violet has performed in AYS for 4 years. Besides serving as principal bassist for 2 years, Violet has presented original research at a linguistics conference in France, learned to play the banjo at a high level, and obtained a Seal of Biliteracy in German. Violet has learned the importance of collaboration, appreciating how the different members and sections of the symphony come together to make a beautiful end product.

## GRANT CHYTHLOOK, CELLO



Grant has performed in AYS for 4 years. He is proud of being accepted to the National Youth Orchestra program, and honored to have performed with and supported multiple ensembles in Anchorage. He is grateful to his teacher, Linda Ottum, for preparing him to study cello with Allistair MacRae at the University of Puget Sound School of Music. Grant will most remember his time spent with friends, and seeing AYS develop throughout his four years in the ensemble.

# SENIOR PROFILES

## MAX ERICKSON, CLARINET



Max has performed in AYS for 5 years. His proudest accomplishment in music is getting first chair in All-State band, and qualifying for All-Northwest (twice!) Outside of music, Max has won the Bartlett math invitational (again, twice!) His biggest takeaway is the transformational power of music. Even on a bad day, the music he played in AYO gave him a new sense of purpose and something to enjoy.

## CHARLOTTE FONTANA, OBOE



Charlotte has performed in AYS for 4 years. She is proud to have learned the oboe over Zoom, performed twice for State Solo and Ensemble, and spent eight days kayaking in the Alaskan backcountry. AYO has taught Charlotte to love classical music, which she did not initially enjoy. It is a huge part of her life now, and Charlotte has connected with so many people through music.

## OLIVIA GRESSETT, HORN



Olivia has performed in AYS for 2 years. She is proud to have been accepted to All-Northwest, and All-State for 2 years. She has also performed in two musicals, and is proud of performing with her high school band at the Large Group Festival. Her favorite memory at AYO is playing her favorite piece from childhood: In the Hall of the Mountain King, from Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite (performed this Winter!)

## BAILEY HAMILTON, VIOLIN



Bailey has performed in AYS for 2 years. She's proud of herself for continuing with violin into high school and beyond. She is also proud of maintaining a good sleep schedule, and of being the napping queen! She really enjoyed playing Shostakovich's 5th Symphony and Festive Overture last season. Bailey loves Shostakovich!!

# SENIOR PROFILES

## *SVEA HARVEY, VIOLIN*



Svea has performed in AYS for 2 years. She is proud of giving her 10-minute capstone speech at the end of this school year, and playing the violin alongside her school choir at the 2024 graduation. Svea will most remember the strong bonds she built with her peers at AYO, all while becoming more immersed in the classical world.

## *BRYCE HERDA, VIOLIN*



Bryce has performed in AYS for 3 years. He is proud to have played with his high school orchestra at the Large Group Festival. His fondest memory of AYO is playing Shostakovich for the first time in concert.

## *ALYIAH HUFANA, VIOLIN*



Alyiah has performed in AYS for 1 year. Her proudest accomplishment is gaining the confidence and determination to play in an orchestra and to pursue activities outside of school, including AYO and deciding to continue playing in college. Her greatest takeaway from AYO is to never doubt your ability—you could just surprise yourself with what you can do and accomplish!

## *GORDON JENNINGS, VIOLIN*



Gordon has performed in AYS for 1 year. He is proud to have won the Alaska Fiddle Contest twice, as well as State Hockey. He feels accomplished with each classical piece he learns. He will remember fondly playing his first concert this year with AYO.

# SENIOR PROFILES

## LAVINIA LI, CELLO



Lavinia has performed in AYS for 2 years. One of her proudest accomplishments was playing the cello for West Anchorage High School's production of *Hadestown* in front of a sell-out crowd in Atwood Concert Hall! Lavinia's favorite moments of AYO include playing in her chamber music groups, which helped her bond with fellow musicians and develop her musicality.

## MAREN LUND, CELLO



Maren has performed in AYS for 1 year. She attended All-State Chorus in Virginia and in Alaska, receiving First Chair Soprano I in the SSAA choir in Alaska. Outside of music, Maren received a scholarship and the South High Outstanding Student Award from AATG, relating to her accomplishments with the German language. Maren says that being in AYO has been a great experience that has increased her musicality, skills, and confidence in who she is as a musician.

## IZZY MUNSON, VIOLIN



Izzy has performed in AYS for 2 years. She is proud to have served as concertmaster at Stellar Secondary School for two years in a row and at Aurora Music Festival. She also learned to play fiddle music, was a lead in several theatre plays, and has written her own books! She'll remember AYO as a place to improve her skills by trying new techniques, and feels that she is leaving a much better musician.

## MATTHEW NORDSTROM, TROMBONE



Matthew joined AYS this season. He was selected as All-State Band first trombone for all four years of high school. He also co-founded the South Anchorage HS lacrosse club as a freshman and served as club president for the past three years. This spring, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in his BSA troop, establishing a Student Assist Club at South and East high schools that connects students with peers seeking help with school and classroom issues.

Matthew appreciates AYO coach Mike Ottaviano for challenging him to listen intently to tuning in relation to the section and ensemble.

# SENIOR PROFILES

## BENJAMIN STRAUSS, VIOLIN



Benjamin has performed in AYS for 3 years. He is particularly proud of playing in the Command Performance for State Solo and Ensemble, getting a First-Chair Award in the All-State Orchestra, and playing with professional music groups. Outside of music, he was a state-qualifier for cross-country skiing, graduated *summa cum laude*, and has helped his community through service. Benjamin has played a ton of great music and had so much fun at all AYO concerts, but most of all, he's truly enjoyed getting to know so many amazing people in the orchestra.

## DRAKE WARD, TRUMPET



Drake has performed in AYS for 1 year. His biggest accomplishments include being elected band president at South Anchorage High School, as well as being accepted to play for the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers Marching Band this upcoming year. Despite his short time in AYO, he's had many experiences he will treasure for years to come, a particular favorite being playing the Peer Gynt Suite during the winter concert.

## WILLOW WIELECHOWSKI, VIOLA



Willow has performed in AYS for 3 years. She's proud of taking piano lessons since age nine, playing viola since age twelve, and of having the courage to audition for swing choir this year. She is also proud to have participated in theater for the past two years, because it helped her become more confident in herself. Willow really liked performing in all AYO concerts! She feels she has improved a lot since she first joined AYS, and hopes her passion for music will continue well after graduating from high school.

# SPONSOR THE ORCHESTRA

## 2024-25 SEASON

*Thank you to our AYO families and friends for supporting this year's  
Sponsor the Orchestra campaign!*

### CONDUCTOR'S PODIUM SPONSOR

Stephanie & Toby Erickson

### SECTION SPONSORS

David & Jeanne Bowie - Bass  
Gary & Denise Chythlook - Cello  
Anne Connors - Oboe  
Dale Cope - Harp  
Lisa Geist - Viola  
Wayne Goetz & Cheryl Graves - Second Violin  
Dustin & Armelle Hansen  
Bill Klemm - Trombone  
Johan & Charmaine Lundebye  
Jonathan McDonagh  
Erin & Frank Witmer - Bass  
Erin & Frank Witmer - Symphony School Woodwinds!

### MUSICIAN SPONSORS

Virginia Ayer - The Ayer-Waters Family  
Virginia Ayer - Spencer and Deborah Waters  
Bruno Bookman - Lea Filippi  
Alejandra Choi - Erika Rodriguez & Simon Choi  
Minghan Dai - Meiling Liu & Weifeng Dai  
Max Erickson - Glen Newton & Jill Singer-Newton  
Max Erickson - Sandra Redmond  
Sam Erickson - Glen Newton & Jill Singer-Newton  
Sam Erickson - Sandra Redmond  
Charlotte Fontana - Linda Phillips  
Nina Geist - Ann Geist  
Nina Geist - William & Betty Lou Nanovsky  
Lucinda Grant - Shenandoah & Joseph Herda  
Bailey Hamilton - Carolee Hamilton  
Bryce Herda - Shenandoah & Joseph Herda  
Caedmon Johnson - Sasha Ringgenberg  
Ira Libby - Murray Orthodontics  
Kendrew Liu - Michele Liu  
Sofia Amalia Pennino - Mary Primis Pennino  
Isabella Schirard - Sang Schirard  
Kylie Walton - Mary Ellen McGlothlin  
Joshua Warren - Carrie Hisaoka

# AYO SUPPORTERS

## \$10,000 +

Alaska State Council on the Arts ~ Municipality of Anchorage  
Atwood Foundation ~ Richard L and Diane M Block Foundation  
Carr Foundation ~ ConocoPhillips Alaska  
Cook Inlet Housing Authority, The Nave ~ Rasmuson Foundation

## \$5,000+

Alaska Community Foundation ~ National Endowment for the Arts

## \$1,000+

Bennett Amodio ~ Anchorage Education Association  
Anna Andrews & Mark Johnson  
Dr. Clark Bassham at Alaska Premier Dental Group  
Dennis & Roxann Berry ~ The Braden-Pospisil Family  
James L & Jan Y Cawvey ~ Erika Rodriguez & Simon Choi  
Gary & Denise Chythlook ~ Anne Connors ~ Dale Cope  
Sharon Davies ~ Eastman School of Music  
Stephanie & Toby Erickson ~ First National Bank Alaska  
Barbara Bishop Garner ~ Lisa Geist ~ Wayne Goetz & Cheryl Graves  
Farley & Graves, P.C. ~ Alaska Heart Institute ~ Robert Jensen  
Johan & Charmaine Lundebye ~ Alaska Music & Sound  
Charmine Anjuli Mallipudi ~ Wezzie Munthali  
Rural Energy Enterprises ~ Hannah Thompson, Hairplay Salon  
Kirsten Tschofen ~ Erin & Frank Witmer

## \$500+

Alaska Metrology & Calibration Services ~ Brita & Nate Berry  
James & Linda Blair ~ David & Jeanne Bowie ~ Chris Brillon  
Artina Cunning ~ Meiling Liu & Weifeng Dai ~ Global Credit Union  
Dustin & Armelle Hansen ~ Susan & Jeff Hayner Laura Kanyer  
Kinney Engineering ~ Bill & Elizabeth Klemm  
Yvonne Lamoureux ~ The Libbrecht Family ~ The Libby Group  
Lynx Peak Foundation ~ Amy Martin ~ Michael McCrudden  
Jonathan McDonagh ~ New Path Psychological Services  
Clint & Sang Schirard ~ Carla & Tony SlatonBarker  
Subway of AK ~ Cassandra Zahn



**ATWOOD**  
FOUNDATION



**Richard L and Diane M Block Foundation**

# AYO SUPPORTERS (CONTINUED)

## UP TO \$500

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| The Alisjahbana Family                                 | Shenandoah & Joseph Herda                                    | Glen Newton & Jill Singer Newton                       |
| Dana Anderson  | Carrie Hisaoka   | Lora Nordstrom   |
| Anonymous  | Andy Holleman  | Orthopedic Physicians AK                               |
| Anonymous, <i>in memory of Mirella Laudi</i>           | Catherine Howard   | Renee Parks, <i>in honor of Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes</i> |
| Tricia Allwardt  | Hutchings & Associates                                       | Mary Primis Pennino                                    |
| Victoria Backa   | Margit Jensen-Cook   | Linda Phillips   |
| Erik Bergh   | Mark Johnson, <i>in honor of Anna Andrews</i>                | University of Puget Sound                              |
| Kristi & Alan Brown                                    | Laurie Kay   | Zeke Rabkin, <i>in honor of Lupe Marroquin</i>         |
| Sarah Collins Burtner                                  | Pamela Keeler  | Sherri Reddick   |
| The Camm Family  | Alison Kelley  | Sandra Redmond   |
| Beverly Churchill                                      | Richard Kern   | Jodi Rhoades   |
| Christine Cadogan                                      | The Kroger Company   | Sasha Ringgenberg                                      |
| Gerald E Cook  | Willard Lacy   | Stetson Sannes   |
| Grant Cooper   | Martin Lang  | Diana Slafka   |
| Edgar & Cindy Cowling                                  | Tracy LeBlanc  | Mr. & Mrs. Francis Smaka                               |
| Christopher & Joyce Cryan                              | Erica Leman  | Ben Smith  |
| Pierre Derycz  | Warren & Cindy Libby   | Sean Smith   |
| Sandrine & Peter Derycz                                | Michele Liu  | Sherry Smith   |
| Latasha Dougherty                                      | Markel's Collision Center                                    | Andrew Swartz  |
| Lisa Earnhart  | Guadalupe Marroquin  | Sarah Switzer  |
| Kathryn Eckmann  | Mary Ellen McGlothlin  | Touchstone Executive Coaching                          |
| Tricia Elliott   | Tom McGregor   | Eva Vischer  |
| Laurel Epps  | Lisa Moore   | Anchorage Waldorf School                               |
| Lea Filippi  | Moose's Tooth  | The Ayer-Waters Family                                 |
| Matt Findley   | Brett Motyka   | Spencer & Deborah Waters                               |
| Heather & Frederick Fourie                             | Elizabeth & James Munter                                     | Josie & Chad Wilson                                    |
| Michael Fredericks                                     | Murray Orthodontics  | Bruce Wood   |
| Dale Gardner   | William & Betty Lou Nanovsky                                 | Cari & Joe Zawodny, <i>in honor of Ethan Zawodny</i>   |
| Ann Geist, <i>in honor of Nina Geist</i>               | Katy Westfall Neher, <i>in memory of Melissa Jayne Neher</i> |  |
| Jennifer Green, <i>in memory of Marcella Libbrecht</i> | Network for Good   |  |
| Maribel Gutierrez                                      |  |  |
| Carolee Hamilton                                       |  |  |
| The Harris Family                                      |  |  |

## GIVE TO AYO!

*Join our dedicated community of supporters!  
Gifts of all sizes make a big impact.*

• Visit our website for more info:  
[www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/donate/](http://www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org/donate/)



Scan to give online



ANCHORAGE OPERA

25 | 26

Gian Carlo Menotti | Giacomo Puccini

The Medium | Gianni Schicchi

Huang Ruo

Bound

Giuseppe Verdi

Aida

in collaboration with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra

# 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.

**SUBWAY**

**\$7.99**

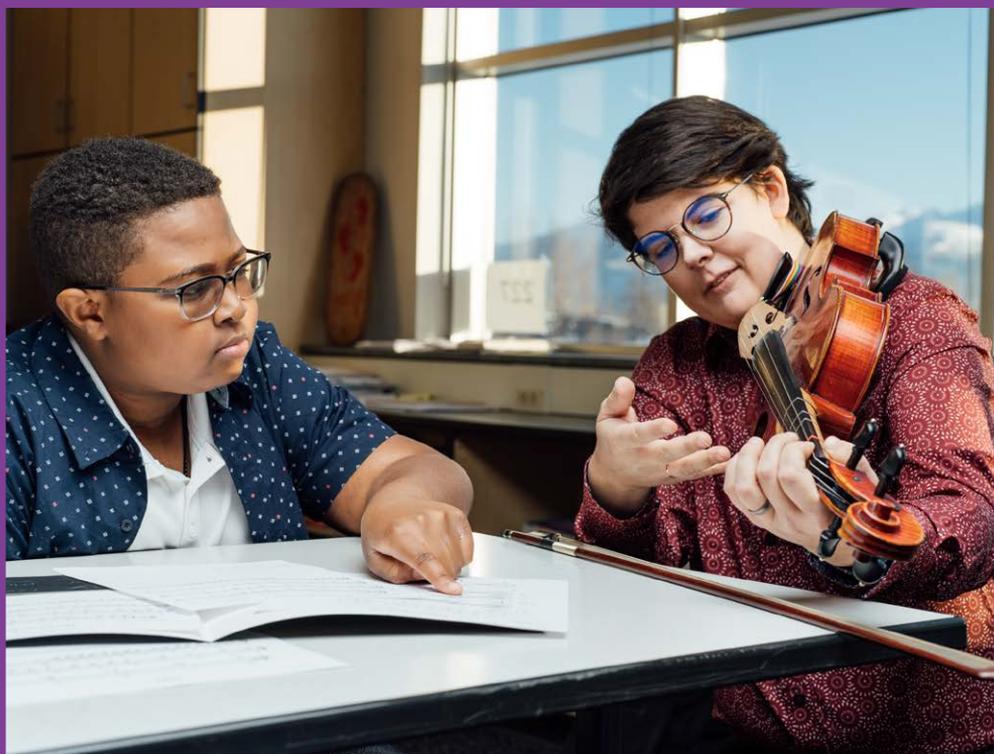
**meal**  
**OF THE DAY**



**+\$3 MAKE IT A FOOTLONG**

**6" SUB OF THE DAY, SMALL DRINK & CHIPS OR 2 COOKIES**

At participating U.S. restaurants. Check your app for pricing and participating stores. Meal includes a 6" Sub of the Day, chips or 2 regular cookies, and a 20oz fountain drink. Upgrade to a Footlong Sub of the Day for \$3 more. Add-ons and bottled beverages add'l. Fountain drinks not available on delivery. Add'l fees apply on delivery orders. Plus tax. 1 use per order. Cannot combine with other offers. Limited time. All snack brands are registered trademarks owned by Frito-Lay North America, Inc. ©2025. Subway® is a registered trademark owned by Subway US IP Holder LLC. ©2025 Subway US IP Holder LLC.



The 3000 educators with the  
**ANCHORAGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**  
are proud to introduce a new  
generation to the joys of  
theater, music, and art.



**ANCHORAGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

Connecting Educators • Inspiring Students