



ALASKA YOUTH  
ORCHESTRAS

*Celebrating 60 years*



2025-26

# FALL CELEBRATION

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

*Linn Weeda and Bruce Wood, conductors*

*Music by Beethoven, Rimsky-Korsakov, Khachaturian and others*

**Monday, November 10, 2025 6:30 pm**

**Atwood Concert Hall**

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# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

2025-26 SEASON

## FALL CELEBRATION CONCERT

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

*Monday, Nov. 10, 2025 @ 6:30 pm  
Atwood Concert Hall*



## WINTER CELEBRATION CONCERT

Featuring the Anchorage Youth Symphony performing with AYO's 2025-26 Concerto Competition winner

*Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026 @ 4:00 pm  
Discovery Theatre*

## CLASSICS & COCKTAILS

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

*Saturday, May 16, 2026 @ 6:00 pm  
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts*



## 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & SPRING CONCERT

Join us for our exciting season finale, celebrating 60 years of AYO! Featuring the Anchorage Youth Symphony, with performances by AYO's Symphony School ensembles

*Sunday, May 17, 2026 @ 4:00 pm  
Atwood Concert Hall*

# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

## COACHES

### ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

Nina Bingham\*, 1<sup>st</sup> violin  
Lynsey Slavonic, 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  
Kyle Noonan, bassoon  
Lupe Marroquin, horn  
Andrew Loeffler, trumpet  
Michael Ottaviano, low brass  
Corliss Kimmel\*, percussion  
Joanna Mayer\*, harp

### SYMPHONY SCHOOL

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Brooke Wood, cello/bass  
Brad Hamilton, winds/brass  
Corliss Kimmel\*, percussion

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# A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Welcome back to another great season of AYO. This season we celebrate sixty years of our organization and as the board president, I couldn't be prouder.

We have a long distinguished history providing space and education for our youth musicians across the area to practice their talents. I am honored and thrilled to serve this organization as the board president. As the mother of a recent AYO alum, I understand the impact AYO has made on her and her fellow musicians.



We also welcome Linn Weeda back to the podium. Linn has a long history with the Alaska Youth Orchestras and we are pleased he can share his skills with another group of musicians.

I would like to thank our donors, supporters, volunteers, and most importantly—all our musicians and their families. We appreciate the time and effort that every single one of you puts into making the organization function. We would not be here without you.

Enjoy tonight's concert and thank you for supporting Alaska Youth Orchestras!

Sincerely,

Anne Connors  
Board President



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# A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to AYO's Fall Celebration Concert! I am delighted to be with you all tonight, in beautiful Atwood Concert Hall.

This season, we celebrate a very special occasion: AYO's 60th anniversary! I am honored to welcome back to the podium AYO Music Director Emeritus, Linn Weeda. Mr. Weeda led the Anchorage Youth Symphony for no less than 31 seasons, and we are profoundly grateful for the opportunity to

have our young musicians learn from his tremendous orchestral wisdom, experience, and expertise.

I am also very pleased to continue our partnership with Dr. Bruce Wood, conducting AYO's Symphony School ensembles. I want to thank Dr. Wood for his enduring dedication and nurturing of our youth musicians. This fall, no less than 15 Symphony School graduates successfully auditioned for and joined the Anchorage Youth Symphony!

As we continue our search for AYO's next music director, I want to thank everyone on the AYO team—Linn, Bruce, Zach, and our AYS and Symphony School coaches. I am grateful for your partnership in bringing this exciting 60th season to life!

Thank you also to our dedicated AYO musicians, families, educators, and supporters across the community. I especially want to recognize the many people, in Alaska and beyond, who participated in our Sponsor the Orchestra campaign this fall. Your support means so much, and has a big impact on our organization.

I hope you enjoy tonight's concert! Thank you for joining us in celebration of our young musicians and the arts in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pierre Derycz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "D".

Pierre Derycz  
Executive Director



# PROGRAM

## SYMPHONY SCHOOL ~ PRELUDE

CONDUCTOR: *BRUCE WOOD*

### **Minuet and Bourée**

Henry Purcell ~ *arr. Deborah Baker Monday*

### **Capriol Suite**

Peter Warlock ~ *arr. Douglas E. Wagner*

### **Finale from Symphony No. 5**

Ludwig van Beethoven ~ *arr. Carrie Lane Gruselle*

## SYMPHONY SCHOOL ~ OVERTURE

CONDUCTOR: *BRUCE WOOD*

### **Symphony No. 36 (1st mvt.)**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart ~ *arr. Richard Meyer*

### **Prairie Dance**

Zachary Docter

### **Capriccio Espagnol**

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov ~ *arr. Richard Meyer*

### **Irish Suite, Part 1**

Leroy Anderson ~ *arr. Douglas E. Wagner*

- INTERMISSION -

## ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

CONDUCTOR: *LINN WEEDA*

### **Overture to *Egmont***

Ludwig van Beethoven

### **Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia, from *Spartacus***

Aram Khachaturian

### **Russian Easter Overture**

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

# SYMPHONY SCHOOL

## PRELUDE ENSEMBLE:

### VIOLIN 1

Marian Beals  
*Concertmaster*  
Jacqueline Parker  
Wuuri Shim  
Bea Besh Barber  
Margo Dufort  
Kareem Abdel Aziz  
Willow Mahaffey

### VIOLIN 2

Sophia Waters  
*Principal*  
Anna Jackson  
Eliana Bailly  
Aubree Cummings  
England  
Rory Essary  
Aiyra Parrish

### VIOLIN 3

Naomi GreenRose  
*Principal*  
Annabelle Nicolai  
Ellie Trevithick  
Elijah Lumba

### CELLO

Alexandra Roissing  
*Principal*  
Weston Stolee  
Carter Holbrook  
Cameron Young

## OVERTURE ENSEMBLE:

### VIOLIN 1

Ileah Hansen  
*Concertmaster*  
Lillian Beals  
Micah Holsopple  
Ruth Leman  
Suin Kim  
Jessica Westley  
Amy Stockly  
Luna Elrod  
Isabella Schirard  
Ethan Swartz  
Lily Coons

### VIOLA

Jolar Castillo  
*Principal*  
Ann Hamel

### CELLO

Caden Grunst  
*Principal*  
Lilly Jeppesen  
Primrose Ward  
Hendrik Hansen  
Hanna Elrod  
Siri Erickson

### FLUTE

Joshua Warren  
*Principal*  
Primrose Ward

### OBOE

Benedict Gartland  
*Principal*  
Maria Witmer  
Kai Tokita

### CLARINET

Dawson Brunquist  
*Principal*  
Benjamin Hancock  
Lyla Bailly  
Ian Chun  
David Parrish

### BASSOON

Jacob Hancock  
*Principal*

### HORN

Lawrence Pennino  
*Principal*  
Isaac Leman

### TRUMPET

Samuel Erickson  
*Principal*

### BARITONE

McKenzie Cope  
*Principal*

### PERCUSSION

John Bazin  
*Principal*  
Mirai Moore

### VIOLIN 2

Irene Kwon  
*Principal*  
Hanna Lundebye  
Jacqueline Parker  
Ella Guzik  
Arthur Cha  
Lydia Johnston  
Marion Kwon  
Wuuri Shim  
Virginia Ayer  
Mirai Moore  
Zachary Howe  
Pearl Bassham  
Marcelo Whited  
Kylie Walton  
Annika Hosselkus  
Ayah Alsoltani  
Meriam Alsoltani  
Olivia Jones

### BASS

Lyra Brosius  
*Principal*  
Mackenzey Shicks  
David Bristol

### AYS MENTORS:

Alaina Hansen, violin  
Eirene Hansen, viola  
Hunter Bernas, bass

Samuel Temiz, bass  
Lena So, flute  
Kaitlyn Paculba, bassoon



Department of Music  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

# ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

## VIOLIN 1

Alaina Hansen  
*Concertmaster*  
Sarah Kim  
Sahid Talome Dewees  
Jocelyn Kerley  
Caele Rohwer  
Natalie Taylor  
Ellowyn Lang  
Soren Rhodes  
Ryan Chew  
Leo Shephard  
Udith Senevirathne  
William Siebert  
Reine Soule  
Madison Chaitoff

## VIOLIN 2

Amber Snelling  
*Principal*  
Sebastian Terry  
Hannah Kim  
Nicholas Goetz  
Nolan Phelps  
Maui Delos Reyes  
Fiona Salao  
Brandon Kim  
Alejandra Choi  
Isaiah Kim  
Sofia Pennino  
Skye Moberly  
Catalina Whited  
Landyhn Patel  
Nora King

## VIOLA

Eirene Hansen  
*Principal*  
Matthew Jackson  
Abigail Page  
Nina Geist  
Thaddeus Greenwood  
Samuel Holman  
Lincoln Altman  
Lucinda Grant  
Kaitlyn Joseph  
Makayla Cobb  
Emma Dougherty  
Ava Christianson  
Eden Rhoades  
Claire Cartee  
Auda Bernier

## CELLO

Minghan Dai  
*Principal*  
Leah Kim  
Lindsey Lucas  
Luciana Liu  
Ethan Johnson  
Kendrew Liu  
Adrian Cryan  
Logan Fairbanks  
Riley Snider  
Zoey Dougherty  
Caedmon Johnson  
Ezzy Allwright\*\*

## BASS

Hunter Bernas  
*Principal*  
Rienzi Witmer  
Erika Dobler  
Paetyn Orebaugh  
Talon Motyka  
Samuel Temiz

## FLUTE

Lena So  
*Principal*  
Amelia Swartz  
Marley McDonagh  
Helen Wood

## OBOE

Kai Peppinger  
*Principal*  
Adria Myers  
Ksenia Bryant

## CLARINET

Ruby Beardsley  
*Principal*  
Chanelle Matlock  
Zachary Day  
Emryn Schock

## BASSOON

Kaitlyn Paculba  
*Principal*  
Amaya Hammatt

## HORN

Jojo Leonard  
*Principal*  
Zoe McDonagh  
Eve Setian  
Lupe Marroquin\*

## TRUMPET

Malachi Temiz  
*Principal*  
Will Bryan  
Connor Booth  
Liam Kraft

## TROMBONE

Kristina Kagerer  
*Principal*  
Mike Ottaviano\*  
Bill Klemm\*

## TUBA

Drew Cochran\*

## PERCUSSION

Anya McLaughlin  
*Principal*  
Ashton Bednar  
Corliss Kimmel\*  
Steven Alvarez\*  
David Williamson\*

## HARP

Mary Grace Cope  
Rena Tokita

\* *Mentor, Volunteer,  
or Coach*

\*\* *Leave of Absence*



**THE NAVE**

# CONDUCTOR NOTES

*As always, it is a pleasure to work with young musicians as they learn and improve. What particularly impresses me this fall are the groups' abilities to focus together for our whole rehearsal of 75 minutes. If I ask in rehearsal for great posture, it happens. If I give a rehearsal note, pencils come out (that we, of course, provide!) And, as we got closer to today's performance, the attention from these students to musical phrasing has grown more mature. I am very careful about what to program in the fall because it is hard to know the combined ability of students when I meet them for the first time in September. I am pleased to report that students have achieved a good standard in these three months and I'll be increasing the difficulty level a little for the spring as they continue to improve in their individual playing. Coaches, thank you for your efforts; parents, thank you for your support; private teachers, thank you for your work with each of member of our orchestras.*

- BRUCE WOOD, SYMPHONY SCHOOL CONDUCTOR

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*The rehearsals leading up to this concert have been a wonderful homecoming for me: I led the Anchorage Youth Symphony for 31 years and retired in 2021. I was so very pleased to be asked to return to conduct tonight's concert. It has afforded me the opportunity to get to know and work with the wonderful young musicians you see on stage.*

*The Anchorage Youth Symphony has been a major influence in my life. I was a student musician in the orchestra under Frank Pinkerton's leadership, and when I returned to Alaska after my schooling and early professional career on the east coast in the early 80's, I started working with the orchestra. Many, many adventures, wonderful moments and great concerts followed.*

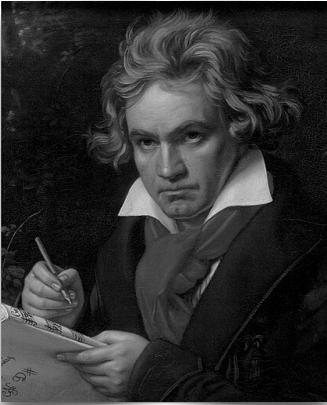
*Tonight's concert features Beethoven's famous Overture to Egmont. As is typical of Beethoven's music at this time in his life, the storyline is heroic and inspirational. We are also playing the Adagio from Spartacus by Khachaturian (composer of the well-known Sabre Dance). The ballet tells the story of the ill-fated Roman slave Spartacus. The dance from Act 2 heard tonight is a duet with his wife that expresses deep drama and love. Finally, the bright and energetic Russian Easter Overture by Rimsky-Korsakov is a long-time favorite of mine: not only have I conducted it many times, but I played it as a student—in the Anchorage Youth Symphony!*

- LINN WEEDA, AYO MUSIC DIRECTOR EMERITUS

# PROGRAM NOTES

## Overture to *Egmont*

Ludwig van Beethoven



As a transitional composer, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) occupies a unique place in the Western classical music tradition. His music—which consists of nine symphonies, 32 piano sonatas, 16 string quartets, an opera, and much more—would act as a catalyst for the Romantic Era and serve as the end to the Classical Era, therefore establishing him as one of the most influential composers of Western classical music.

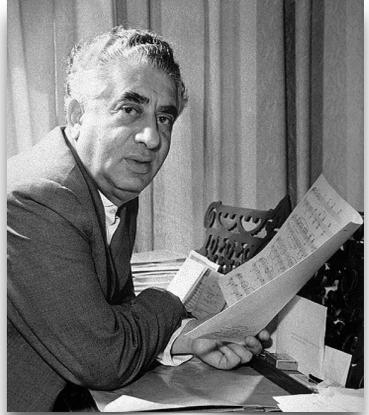
Having been born into a prominent musical family in Bonn, Germany, Beethoven’s musical training began at a young age by his father in the hopes of creating a child prodigy. While this endeavor was not successful, Beethoven would still go on to compose and publish almost 800 works from the age of eleven until just before his death in Vienna, Austria. He would become a well known and respected composer during his lifetime and produce some of his most monumental works when faced with deafness later in life, firsthand illustrating his genius that many still enjoy today.

The overture to *Egmont*, Op. 84 was composed in 1810 during Beethoven's “Middle” or “Heroic” Period that lasted from around 1802 to 1812, which was partly brought about by his admiration of French Revolution ideals and the counter-Enlightenment *Sturm und Drang* (“Storm and Stress”) movement. His music took on a distinct style during this time, characterized by a bold, intense, and individualistic approach that touched upon themes the composer himself was concerned with, namely rebellion, tyranny, and oppression. These concerns manifest in the overture, which was part of a commission in 1809 for incidental music to *Egmont*—a tragic play by Johann Wolfgang von Göthe. The play follows Count Egmont and his struggle to free his country, the Netherlands, from the oppressive rule of Spain. The beginning of the overture sets the sinister tone of the tragedy, with its heavy and threatening chords. Before his execution, Count Egmont uses his last words to spark rebellion in the face of injustice, and the play ends with what Göthe describes as a “Victory Symphony”, which can be heard in the overture’s brilliant and triumphant conclusion.

# Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia

*Aram Khachaturian*

Aram Khachaturian (1903–1978) was an Armenian composer widely regarded as one of the most prominent Soviet composers of the 20th century. His music is known for its emotionally charged melodies and vibrant rhythms. Distinctively, he drew inspiration from the folk songs and dances of the Caucasus, blending them with Western classical forms to create a uniquely expressive style of his own.



The *Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia* comes from Khachaturian's 1954 ballet *Spartacus*, which tells the story of Spartacus, a Thracian gladiator who led a slave revolt against the Roman Empire. Premiered at the height of Soviet ballet's influence, *Spartacus* captivated audiences with dramatic storytelling and heroic musical themes.

In the *Adagio*, Khachaturian captures a rare moment of peace and love between Spartacus and his wife, Phrygia, following their escape from captivity. The music gradually swells with emotion, rising into a powerful expression of their courage and enduring hope for freedom before fading back into quiet longing. In many ways, its rise and fall mirror their fleeting peace amid the turmoil of the revolt surrounding them.

Today, the *Adagio* remains one of Khachaturian's most beloved compositions, admired for its sweeping melody and timeless portrayal of love's endurance in the face of struggle.

- SARAH KIM, *AYS* VIOLINIST



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# Russian Easter Overture

*Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov*



Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908) is one of Russia's most famous and influential composers. Born in Tikhvin, Russia, Rimsky-Korsakov developed his musical talents at an early age. However before pursuing his musical side, Rimsky-Korsakov served time in the Russian Navy for 9 years, 3 years of which were spent active at sea. While in the Navy, Rimsky-Korsakov joined forces with composers Mily Balakirev, Modest Mussorgsky, César Cui, and Alexander Borodin and became "The Five". The Five's goal was to create a distinctly Russian sound in music that

lacked any influence from the Western side of the world.

Rimsky-Korsakov became quite talented in this genre of music and later went on to compose *Russian Eastern Overture*, with the goal of capturing the traditions of Easter Sunday celebrated in the Russian Orthodox religion. Listen for the joyous and bright tonal sounds of this celebration throughout the piece after a dark and rather emotional opening heard in the woodwinds and strings. Before the celebration begins, the brass enter with sounds of church bells, establishing the melody of the celebration soon to come. This celebration is obvious with increased tempos, lively dance rhythms, brass fanfares, and an overall gorgeous and exuberant feeling finale. Sit back and enjoy this traditional Russian Orthodox celebration!

- RUBY BEARDSLEY, AYS CLARINETIST



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# BIOGRAPHY

## LINN WEEDA

Conductor, performer, arranger and composer Linn Weeda was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. He has studied for his music degrees at UAF and Boston University with further studies in trumpet, solfège and conducting with several celebrated and revered masters.

Performances of his compositions include the recent premieres of his *Passacaglia for the Children of War* by the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra string section, and a set of songs premiered by UAA professor Dr. Mari Hahn.



As trumpet soloist he has appeared throughout the state, nationally as well as internationally, with many works composed for him. He has conducted in venues as varied as the Sydney Opera House, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, and in a plane hangar in Talkeetna, Alaska.

Linn Weeda is the Assistant Conductor and Principal Trumpet of the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra and can be heard frequently with groups throughout the city.

Recently retired from the UAA music faculty after 41 years, he retired in 2021 from the Anchorage Youth Symphony after 31 years as its music director at which time he was appointed Music Director Emeritus.

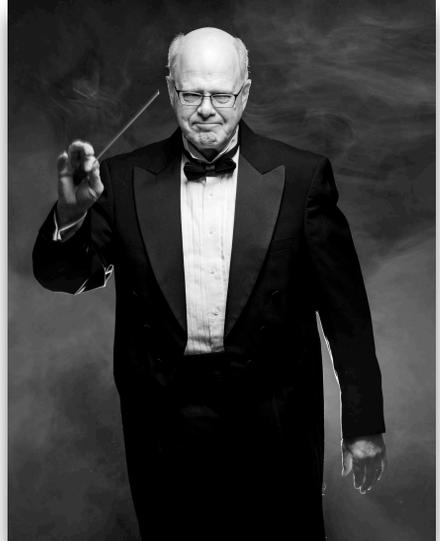
Linn Weeda is a Yamaha Artist, performing on Yamaha instruments.

# BIOGRAPHY

## BRUCE WOOD

Dr. Bruce Wood served as Music Director of Alaska Youth Orchestras from 2021 to 2024, and currently conducts AYO's Symphony School ensembles.

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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Hunter Bernas – *AYS, BASS*

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Ryan Chew – *AYS, VIOLIN 1*

Alejandra Choi – *AYS, VIOLIN 2*

Mary Grace Cope – *AYS, HARP*

McKenzie Cope – *OVERTURE, BARITONE*

Adrian Cryan – *AYS, CELLO*

Minghan Dai – *AYS, CELLO*

Margo DuFort – *PRELUDE, VIOLIN 1*

Aubree Cummings England – *PRELUDE, VIOLIN 2*

Aubree Cummings England – *PRELUDE, VIOLIN 2*

Sam Erickson – *OVERTURE, TRUMPET*

Nina Geist – *AYS, VIOLA*

Nicholas Goetz – *AYS, VIOLIN 2*

Naomi GreenRose – *PRELUDE, VIOLIN 3*

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Alaina Hansen – AYS, VIOLIN 1  
Eirene Hansen – AYS, VIOLA  
Ileah Hansen – OVERTURE, VIOLIN 1  
Hendrik Hansen – OVERTURE, CELLO  
Caedmon Johnson – AYS, CELLO  
Kendrew Liu – AYS, CELLO  
Luciana Liu – AYS, CELLO  
Adria Myers – AYS, OBOE  
Lawrence Pennino – OVERTURE, HORN  
Sofia Amalia Pennino – AYS, VIOLIN 2  
Isabella Schirard – OVERTURE, VIOLIN 1  
Udith Senevirathne – AYS, VIOLIN 1

William Siebert – AYS, VIOLIN 1  
Malachi Temiz – AYS, TRUMPET  
Samuel Temiz – AYS, BASS  
Kylie Walton – OVERTURE, VIOLIN 2  
Kylie Walton – OVERTURE, VIOLIN 2  
Joshua Warren – OVERTURE, FLUTE  
Maria Witmer – OVERTURE, OBOE  
Rienzi Witmer – AYS, BASS  
Helen Wood – AYS, FLUTE

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**The Hansen Family**  
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**Sasha Ringgenberg**  
**Michele Liu**  
**Michele Liu**  
**Jeromee and Eileen Myers**  
**Mary Pennino**  
**Mary Pennino**  
**Clint & Sang Schirard**  
**Deepa, Thisal, Sidath, Anu,**  
**Nishantha, Suneetha,**  
**Deepasika & Indunil**  
**Senevirathne**  
**Cheryl Graves**  
**Kevin Kwan**  
**Kevin Kwan**  
**Pat Coller**  
**Mary Ellen McGlothlin**  
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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 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.

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.

AYO's education and performance programs now serve over 160 youth musicians each year in three ensembles. The Anchorage Youth Symphony provides a professional performance experience for high school and college age musicians. Symphony School provides progressive teaching ensembles for musicians grades 4-12.

AYO is currently conducting a search for its next Music Director, with a tenure to begin in Fall 2026. We are delighted this season to continue to work with Dr. Bruce Wood and Music Director Emeritus Linn Weeda, as we celebrate AYO's 60th anniversary and continue building a community where music education and performance are valued and shared.



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