

GREEN MOUNTAIN YOUTH SYMPHONY

"the music is just the beginning . . ."

NOTES FROM GMYS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 8, 2009

NOTES FROM THE MAESTRO

Another exciting season is upon us, and the Green Mountain Youth Symphony is really thriving. Last summer we held two summer camps, at which almost 60 kids participated; that's more than half of the GMYS! One of the big things we're doing this year is having a spectacular Waltz Night in February, 2010. We will have all the orchestras playing at this gala event, food, dancing, and wonderful music by Johann Strauss and others. It will be an evening to remember, and I'm looking forward to it.

Another notable development for the GMYS is that a satellite orchestra has been formed in Lebanon, NH. For many kids in that area, there are no orchestras for 60 miles, so your intrepid Artistic Director (that's me!) is holding rehearsals at the Upper Valley Music Center on Friday evenings. There are about twenty-five young musicians participating, and they are having a wonderful time; if any of you (especially non-violinists) would like to join them on Friday evenings, please let me know. I hope that in the next couple of years we can have a concert with both groups together, and we can play a concert here, and down in the Upper Valley region. Until then, catch their concert on December 5th in Lebanon at the Methodist Church.

Recently, an audience member asked me an interesting question: What is it like to conduct an orchestra? The question gave me pause, but then I thought of a simile. Conducting an orchestra is like flying an airplane! Pilots don't cause airplanes to fly, but they are responsible for what the airplane does; conductors of orchestras don't make any noise, yet they are responsible for the sound that is produced. As a conductor, I'm constantly monitoring the entire orchestra, just like a pilot would be observing the plane's gauges. When I notice something amiss – a violin section out of tune (hydraulic pressure a little off), a clarinetist dragging (air speed is too low), a percussionist forgetting to come in (hmm, that landing gear seems to be a little sticky...) – I adjust very subtly in order to fix the problem. In some cases, as with an airplane, more urgent action is needed. The really wonderful thing about music is that if something goes really wrong, we don't crash! We just try to do a better job next time...

Now, go practice!

Bob

Save the Date
WALTZ NIGHT
March 13, 2010

FALL 2009 CONCERT Sunday, December 13

Robert Blais, *Artistic Director*
Paul Perley, *Conductor*
Arthur DeRienzo, *oboe*

Program Includes:

Johann Strauss: *The Blue Danube*
Smetana: *The Moldau*
Tchaikovsky: *Marche Slave*

2:00pm

Barre Opera House
Tickets: \$5 suggested
donation, students free

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THIS SUMMER	2
GMYS @ UVMC	2
VPO YOUTH CONCERT	3
iSEARCHiGIVE	3
ANNUAL APPEAL	4
2009-10 CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4



Campers: John Rahill, Liam O'Connor-Genereaux, Dani Leblanc, Luke Farley, Walter Weaver, Siena Facciolo, Josephina Sances, Eli Gould



An informal performance: Lynne McConnell, violin; David Fickes, violin; Ben Strange, viola; Joseph Fiorillo, cello



Making dorm room signs: Lily Russo-Savage, Abbey Jermyn, Madison Dunn, Amy Koch

THIS SUMMER

This summer's GMYS music camps were a tremendous success! In fact, one cellist, Luna Larkin liked the overnight camp at Johnson State College so much she says, "I'm totally going to do it again. It needs to be longer, though. Preferably all summer long. Or it could be an all-year musical school and we could stay there all the time." Well, that might not happen (!), but Luna's enthusiasm is indicative of how great this summer's session was.

During the camps, participants are immersed in diverse musical studies – from eurhythmics, to chamber ensembles, to orchestra – each of which requires a different set of skills. In addition, the variety of outstanding professional instructors exposes them to new ways of thinking about both the fundamental technical aspects of written music and their instruments, as well as the different ways of approaching a piece of music and giving it meaning through practice and performance. Students are encouraged to come up with their own interpretations, particularly in chamber ensembles, and to make musical decisions together as a group.

Abby Mihaly, violinist, says, "The music was challenging but very fun to decipher and it was an amazing experience to be completely independent for a week."

When they weren't playing music, the 37 participants were having a great time swimming, hiking, playing games and generally having a fun hanging out with their fellow musicians.

The 22 musicians at this summer's GMYS day camp also had an outstanding week of music and camaraderie. One camper's parent remarked that her daughter's playing had "improved as much in the camp week as it had in several previous months of lessons."

We also enjoyed welcoming back several former GMYS members as counselors: Tori Chapin, Leah Desroches, Andrew Hodgdon, and Benjamin Muller.

Woodwind instructor Joni McCraw had this to say about her experience at the summer music camps: "I have been maintaining my own private studio since 1975 and have taught thousands of young people. The students at the GMYS camps were some of the most polite and eager to learn students I have ever had the pleasure to work with."

All the hard work paid off, and participants put together beautiful and varied concerts at the end of each camp, playing marches, folk songs, waltzes, and chamber pieces.

We're already beginning to plan for GMYS 2010 summer camps! Watch for more information about them in the coming months!

GMYS AT UPPER VALLEY MUSIC CENTER

The Green Mountain Youth Symphony now has a presence in the Upper Valley region of Vermont and New Hampshire. In its efforts to expand and meet the growing music education needs of the region, the Upper Valley Music Center (UVMC), founded in 1995 in Lebanon, has partnered with GMYS to start two new ensembles conducted by our very own Bob Blais. Conductor Bob now travels every Friday to New Hampshire to direct two ensembles at UVMC. The Harmonic Ensemble is a small intermediate string group which rehearses from 5 to 6 P.M. The advanced ensemble, known as "GMYS at UVMC," consists of 25 young musicians, mostly violins with a few cellists and violists, a few winds and brass, and a timpanist. This group rehearses from 6:25 to 8:25 P.M. on Fridays.

Ella Williams, senior orchestra member, is principal cellist for the GMYS at UVMC. The group is playing music by Bach, Ford, Offenbach, Del Borgo, and Charpentier. Bob notes that it's a challenging program for their premier concert, which will be on December 5th at the Methodist Church in Lebanon.

Conductor Bob says that rehearsals at UVMC differ from GMYS rehearsals "mostly in that I have to drive an hour to get there, and that I get back home after 10 P.M. every Friday night. So I sympathize with the early-morning woes of the VT GMYS musicians."

At this time, current members of GMYS are welcome to join either of the ensembles at UVMC tuition-free. Bob anticipates collaboration on musical events between the two GMYS orchestras in future years.

VPO YOUTH CONCERT

Once again the Green Mountain Youth Symphony's Senior Orchestra will make a guest appearance at the Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra's Youth Concert on **Sunday, March 28, 2010**.

Last year's youth concert was a great success, and VPO expects the 2010 concert to be a hit as well. Although the musical program has not yet been finalized for this concert, we do know that one of the highlights will be a performance by Cecilia Brauer, of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, on the Armonica (or glass harmonica), an instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin. The concert will also include Tchiakovsky's powerful 1812 Overture (complete with exploding paper bags)!



Piper French rehearsing for last year's Youth Concert with members of the Vermont Philharmonic. *Photo Credit: Jeb Wallace-Brodeur*

iSEARCHiGIVE



iSearchiGive is a free service which enables you to earn money for the Green Mountain Youth Symphony whenever you make an online purchase or search the web. At home or work, it's that simple...

For example, how can you make searching and shopping for that perfect gift this holiday season even more perfect? Use iGive, where with every transaction a portion goes to benefit the Green Mountain Youth Symphony. Raise a penny (or more) per search and generate donations from any of the 730+ stores listed with iGive, ranging up to 26%. Also, check out the new searchable coupons and deals, where you will find all available, up to the minute offers and specials.

Visit the GMYS website at www.gmys-vt.org and follow the link at the top of the page to begin searching and shopping in support of your favorite cause!



GREEN MOUNTAIN YOUTH SYMPHONY
"the music is just the beginning . . ."

Green Mountain Youth Symphony
PO Box 384
Montpelier, VT 05601-0384
www.gmys-vt.org

Phone: (802) 454-0188
E-mail: info@gmys-vt.org

stamp

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL CONCERT

Featuring all 3 GMYS Orchestras

Sunday, December 13, 2009, 2:00pm at the Barre Opera House
Tickets: \$5 suggested donation; students free

2009 ANNUAL APPEAL

Please consider making a gift this year in support of the Green Mountain Youth Symphony. Your generosity will help GMYS accomplish the following on behalf of our young musicians:

- **Encourage their musical growth** in a positive, encouraging, and non-competitive environment;
- **Create healthy alternate peer groups and provide important mentoring relationships** with musical adults;
- **Instill in them a lifelong love of music**, whether as future professional musicians and music teachers, as audience members, or as casual listeners.

Each and every contribution to the Green Mountain Youth Symphony makes it possible for us to continue to make this outstanding musical program available to all children by offering scholarships to those with financial need and maintaining affordable tuition rates.

To make a gift, please send your check payable to *Green Mountain Youth Symphony* to: **GMYS, P.O. Box 384, Montpelier, VT 05602.**

Or **donate online** by clicking on the Donate button on our website, www.gmys-vt.org.

Thank you for supporting our mission of creating a community of young musicians from Central and Northern Vermont through the performance of great music.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

It's a busy season for the Green Mountain Youth Symphony, and we know you won't want to miss any of these terrific performances!

Fall Concert

Sunday, December 13, 2009
2:00pm at the Barre Opera House

First Night Montpelier

Thursday, December 31, 2009
4:00pm at City Hall Auditorium

Walt Night

Saturday, March 13, 2010
7:00-10:00pm at Montpelier's City Hall

Vermont Philharmonic Children's Concert

Featuring the Green Mountain Youth Symphony
Sunday, March 28, 2010; *time TBA*
at the Barre Opera House

Spring Concert

Sunday, April 11, 2010
2:00pm at the Barre Opera House

We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our performances!