



**The Young People's
Philharmonic of the
Lehigh Valley**

**Annual Report
2013-2014**



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Young People's Philharmonic 2013-2014

Highlights!

This year the Young People's Philharmonic served 68 students in the YPP and 50 students in the JSP, for a total of 118 talented young musicians. Our performances reached over 4,000 audience members this year, three quarters of which were school aged children. We continue to hold rehearsals at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem and are grateful for this mutually beneficial relationship. The orchestra again played a performance for the Church choir musicians and community. We are proud to demonstrate the outstanding talent of our students to the generous community of First Presbyterian Church.

In the past year, we have been able to bring in more individuals to work with our students on a regular basis. This was the second year that violinist, Ruth Zumstein joined the YPP in the role of string section coach. In addition, Natalie Trach, YPP alum and music student at Temple University joined us as JSP intern. Ruth and Natalie work with the string students during rehearsal to refine their orchestral technique.

In addition to Tuesday night rehearsals and seasonal concerts, the YPP organization continues to provide our students with musical education opportunities through special projects and events. In the fall, the JSP traveled to West Philadelphia to collaborate with "Play On, Philly!," an El Sistema-based musical education program. Our students had the opportunity to mentor and play alongside their Philadelphia peers, as they rehearsed and performed a joint concert for members of both communities. The students had a wonderful time sharing their talents with each other and growing their musical relationships.

We had a very special performance at the December Holiday concert. The JSP played the world premiere of Richard Meyer's "Who's Who: An Introduction to the String Orchestra." Following Nancy Bidlack's passing in the fall of 2012, the Board of Directors voted to use donations in her name to commission a piece in her memory. "Who's Who" functions as more than a piece to honor our co-founder. As per Nancy's wishes, we asked that the piece serve as a way to educate young students about the various instruments that make up the string orchestra. Nancy and JSP conductor, Kenny Bean had discussed the possibility of this project during her time as Artistic Director of the string orchestra, and the Board decided this would be the perfect opportunity to see it done. The piece is now a staple of the JSP repertoire for school concerts and other musical education opportunities.

This year we continued with the chamber music project by piloting a full program that supported 15 participants in three groups through coaching and performance. Chamber music strongly enhances the benefits of a music education. In addition to teaching the repertoire, coaches train the students to play together in a small group where conversation and examination of the music is encouraged and refined. It requires the development of superior listening, cooperative and nonverbal communication skills. Students engage with each other and the coach, honing their attention and focus on the nuances of exchanging musical voices. The students were excited to be able to work directly with professional musicians, Inna Eyzarovich, Sanford Kravette, and our own Kenneth Bean. After our first full year with the program we have been able to revise and refine the charter for the program such that we can regularly provide this service to interested and qualified students.

2013-2014 Young People's Philharmonic Annual Report

Our YPP and JSP Spring Concerts were once again held at Moravian College's Foy Hall and Wesley United Methodist Church, respectively. The woodwind quintet and brass quintet opened the YPP concert and the string quartet opened for the JSP concert. It was wonderful that our members were able to see the hard work of our chamber groups. The chamber groups also gave stand-alone performances at Moravian Hall Square, Wesley United Methodist Church, and Temple Beth El.

The YPP organization continued to arrange social events for our students. This year, our Events Committee organized a trip to New York City to see the New York Philharmonic perform a Sunday matinee at Avery Fischer Hall in Lincoln Center. Our group was able to take advantage of a preconcert talk, filled with musical and historical information about the concert repertoire. We have also been fortunate to maintain a good relationship with the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem, and all our orchestra members were invited to a concert on the 2013-2014 series free of charge, wherein our string quartet played the curtain raiser.

All of the above programming is made possible by the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors. We continue to secure funding grants and corporate gifts from organizations including the Charles Hoch Foundation, PA Council on the Arts and ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation. This year we had our first financial review by an independent accounting firm, which has enabled our organization to participate in securing Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) grant opportunities from many companies.

In demonstrating financial stewardship of the organization, the Board of Directors has also laid out some long term financial goals. We recognize that the stability, reputation and quality of the program rely on the forethought of those who take responsibility for the pecuniary aspects of the organization. At the Holiday concert, Jerry and Kenny announced our plans to raise a financial base for the organization. We are calling it "The Founders' Fund" in honor of co-founders, Nancy and Jerry Bidlack and also in recognition of a significant lead gift from YPP Music Director, Jerry Bidlack. We have started several initiatives to raise capital through reaching out to individuals in the YPP community and alumni. Our current goal is to establish a trust of \$100,000 by the end of 2016. At the time of this publication, we have about half the money pledged.

Even with the YPP's changes and exciting new endeavors, one thing that has not changed is our firm commitment to accomplish our core mission of "providing the youth of the greater Lehigh Valley with their own musical organization whereby they may study and perform original symphony orchestra literature, as it was written by the composers, increasing the awareness and appreciation of symphonic music throughout the area, and developing high quality musicianship." Thanks to everyone who has helped! The YPP's success depends on all the committee members and parent volunteers.

General Information

Organizational History of the Young People's Philharmonic

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley was founded in 1976 by Jerry T. and Nancy Bidlack, and incorporated in 1985. It is composed of two orchestras; one, a full symphonic orchestra made up of 85 talented high school students and the other, a string orchestra made up of 45 middle school students. These young musicians come from all over the Lehigh Valley (Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, Carbon, Bucks, and Berks counties) and Western New Jersey to audition for a seat in the orchestra. Auditions are held in May for the following school year. They rehearse for two and one-half hours weekly at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem.

Mission Statement

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley is organized for the purposes of providing the youth of the greater Lehigh Valley with their own musical organization whereby they may study and perform original symphony orchestra literature, as it was written by the composers, increasing the awareness and appreciation of symphonic music throughout the area, serving the Middle and Senior high school youth of the community, and cooperating with the schools in nourishing and developing high quality musicianship. Members of the Philharmonic will be encouraged to participate in their own school programs.

Organization

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes provided under section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit incidental or otherwise. The YPP is an approved Educational Improvement Organization in Pennsylvania. A working Board of Directors composed of the orchestras' conductors, staff, parents, and local music teachers are responsible for the organization's governance.

Board meetings are held on the first non-holiday Monday of each month September through June (excluding May). The annual meeting is held in May. Executive committee meetings are held as needed. All meetings are open to interested parties.

Public Service and Outreach

In addition to developing and educating its members, the orchestras reach out into the community to educate and inspire an interest in music. The orchestras perform three formal concerts per year. Combined these concerts draw approximately 1500 attendees. In addition to the formal concerts, the orchestras have a special relationship with area schools as a result of the school concerts they perform each year. School tours to different local districts each year enable the young players to share their music with their young contemporaries. Peers bringing music to peers is our critical difference! The orchestras also perform concerts at area nursing homes each year. In all, the YPP and JSP provide an in-depth exposure of symphonic music for about 120 young musicians and an enjoyable and educational experience for over 4,000 people in the community each year.

2013-2014 Young People's Philharmonic Annual Report

Musical Education

Young People's Philharmonic

The Young People's Philharmonic Senior Orchestra performs entirely from original symphonic scores and is under the direction of Jerry T. Bidlack, who has been a professor in the Music Department at Lehigh University since 1973 and Professor Emeritus since 1995. Our students rehearse once weekly for 2 ½ hours and have several sectional rehearsals per year with professional coaches appropriate for their instrument. Each student receives over 65 hours of instruction per year. This year we provided over 7,800 hours of musical instruction. Every year several graduating seniors go on to professional music study, and nearly all remain actively involved in music performance.

From the very beginning of the orchestra over 35 years ago, we thought including concertos in our repertoire would be a valuable addition to the program. The problem is always, who will play them? We decided to open a competition to students in our orchestra that are high school seniors to eliminate the problem of having the same person winning the competition more than once. Auditions are in January. Paid professional musicians judge the competition to ensure it is fair and that the quality of the program is superior. The students play one movement of a concerto of their choosing from memory. The winner is selected from the auditions. The attraction of a concerto has been a very successful addition to our Spring Concert program.

Junior String Philharmonic

The Junior String Philharmonic also plays original orchestral compositions. It provides intensive training in string performance under the guidance of Conductor Kenneth Bean and String Coach Connie Trach. Working in the JSP offers students an introduction to the nuances of playing in an orchestra. Students learn standard orchestral repertoire, play new music produced by living composers, including works commissioned especially for our group. This was also our first year to host an intern, Natalie Trach, who studies music education at Temple University and is also an alum of the orchestra.

Chamber Music Program

This season we put the Chamber Music pilot program into full swing. This opportunity grew out of a small project facilitated by Nancy Bidlack in the fall of 2012. Unable to play or conduct due to the symptoms of ALS, Nancy was still able to coach students in small chamber music ensembles in her home. She arranged eight YPP and JSP students into two string quartets, and met with them each for an hour a week to prepare for a performance for the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem. Sadly, Nancy passed away before the performances, however we were able to invite Inna Ezyerovich, who teaches violin students at Moravian College and privately, to work with the groups. They performed for the Chamber Music Society, on our JSP Spring concert and for Montero Violins Instrument Exhibit.

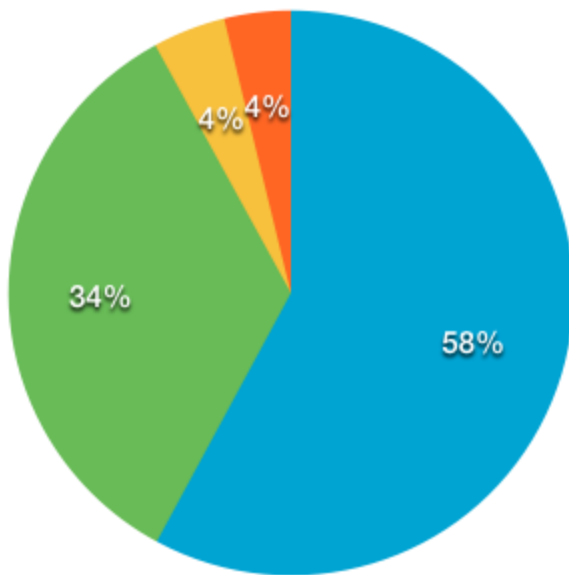
Chamber music is a new endeavour for our organization. Students must master their own parts and, by playing and listening in rehearsal, learn how their parts contribute to the composition as a whole. This provides a deeper understanding of the underlying structure of the music and the background material required for college or conservatory music study. This year we were able to host five separate groups. Each group had 10 rehearsals and at least two performing opportunities. We opened the program to our members, as well as students who are not currently in the orchestras. Those who participated gave very positive feedback on the experience of working on music in a more focused group. We are excited to continue offering this service to serious young musicians in the area.

Financial Highlights

INCOME

Income	2012-2013	2013-2014
Tuition	\$51,956.00	\$56,392.00
Contributions	\$26,083.00	\$33,269.00
Concerts	\$4,445.00	\$4,066.00
Sales	\$4,115.00	\$3,705.00
Interest & Dividends	\$6.00	\$5.00
Total Income	\$86,605.00	\$97,437.00
Founders' Fund (Restricted)	\$0.00	\$6,776.00

● Tuition
 ● Contributions
 ● Concerts
 ● Sales

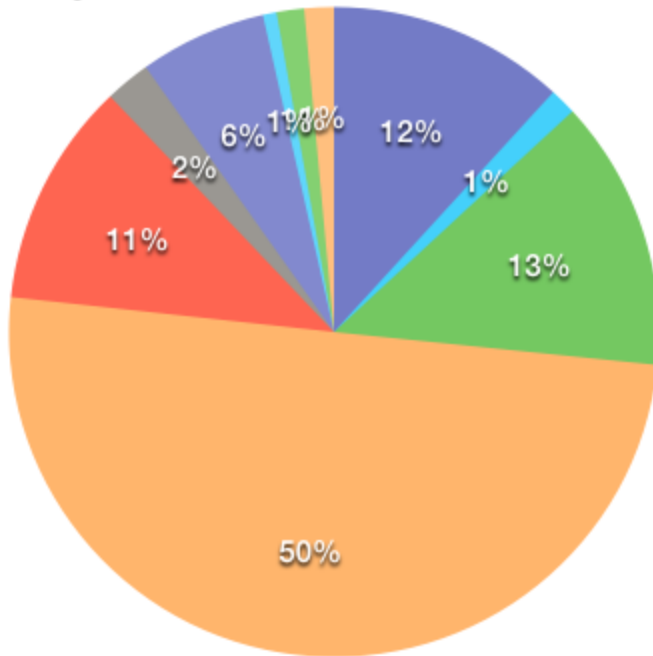


2013-2014 Young People's Philharmonic Annual Report

EXPENSES

Expenses	2012-2013	2013-2014
Concert Costs	\$11,037.00	\$12,008.00
Cost of Sales	\$1,920.00	\$1,353.00
Equipment Costs	\$2,451.00	\$13,750.00
Honoraria	\$47,910.00	\$51,031.00
Other Services	\$6,059.00	\$11,400.00
Space Rental	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00
Supplies	\$7,214.00	\$6,436.00
Insurance	\$485.00	\$694.00
Fund Raising	\$927.00	\$1,390.00
Snack and Misc.	\$1,843.00	\$1,496.00
TOTAL	\$82,146.00	\$101,858.00

- Concert Costs
- Cost of Sales
- Equipment Costs
- Honoraria
- Other Services
- Space Rental
- Supplies
- Insurance
- Fund Raising
- Snack and Misc.



2013-2014 Young People's Philharmonic Annual Report

Support from our Community 2013-2014

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley is grateful to the following corporations and organizations for their support during the 2013-2014 Concert Season

Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.	Phoebe Floral
Barnes & Noble Booksellers	PPL
ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation	Dan Schantz Farm & Greenhouses, LLC
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PA Council on the Arts/Lehigh Valley Arts Council	

Matching Gift Support has been received from

Hewlett-Packard	PPL	Synopsis
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The YPP is grateful for support received during the past year from:

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(\$250 & over)

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Nanci & Greg Funfgeld	Barbara & Sam Lee	Thompson Family
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(\$100-\$249)

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John Campion & Andrea Waxman	(In Memory: Nancy Bidlack)
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Flesher Family	(In Memory: Nancy Bidlack)
(In Memory: Nancy Bidlack)	Betty Tang
Darrell Jodock	Bill & Donna Thatcher

2013-2014 Young People's Philharmonic Annual Report

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(In Memory: Nancy Bidlack)

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Dr. Walter & Kathleen Risley
Jason Ritter
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Joan & Phillip Spiegelman

2013-2014 Young People's Philharmonic Annual Report

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Kevin & Maureen Kinney
Brian & Kim Leader
The Matulis Family

Sandy Weiner
Robert C. Williamson
Paul & Lucille Windt
The Yankovich Family
(In Memory: Nancy Bidlack)



2013-2014 YPP Board of Directors

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YPP Chamber Music Coordinator

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Vice-President

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Musician

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Volunteer Coordination

Julia Ferris, 11-13-15
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George McGraw, 13-15
Federal DOT Inspector
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Grant writing, Development

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Harry Reichelderfer, 10-12-14
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Cellist

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Michele Yenser-Gouck, 13-15
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Publicity

Student Representatives

Guinevere Conner (YPP)
Bass

Sarah Lazzaro (YPP)
Flute

Eddy Guo (YPP)
Cello

2013-2014 Young People's Philharmonic Annual Report

Staff:

Louise Arnold *YPP Librarian*

Amanda Grube *Business Manager*

Connie Trach *JSP Coach*

Ruth Zumstein *YPP String Coach*

Permanent Board Members:

Kenny Bean
JSP Conductor

Jerry Bidlack
YPP Conductor

Caroline Dawson
Administrative Assistant
JSP Manager/Librarian/YPP
YPP Office 610-868-9888

Nanci Funfgeld
YPP Manager