



**YOUNG PEOPLE'S
PHILHARMONIC**
of the Lehigh Valley
www.ypp-jsp.org

Annual Report

2016-2017

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 was originally 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 (YPP) is organized for the purposes of providing the youth of the greater Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas with a musical organization where they may study and perform symphony orchestra literature. Our goal is to serve the fifth through twelfth grade youth of the community, and cooperate with the schools in nurturing and developing high quality musicianship. Members of the Philharmonic will be encouraged to participate in their own school music programs. Our goal is also to increase the awareness and appreciation of symphonic music throughout the area.

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 parents, alumni, local music teachers and community members are responsible for the organization's governance.

Board meetings are held on the second 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 of the membership.

Public Service and Outreach

In addition to developing and educating its members, our programs reach out into the community to educate and inspire an interest in classical music. The orchestras each perform a formal concert every semester, which combined, 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. Annual school tours to different local districts enable the young players to share their talents with their young contemporaries. Peers bringing music to peers is our critical difference! The orchestras and chamber groups also perform concerts at area nursing homes and other musical events. In all, the YPP programs provide in-depth exposure of classical music to about 100 young musicians and bring an enjoyable and educational experience to several thousand people in the community.

Musical Education

Young People's Philharmonic (YPP)

The Young People's Philharmonic Senior Orchestra performs entirely from original symphonic scores and is under the direction of Kenneth T. Bean, professional trumpeter and youth music educator. Our students rehearse once weekly for 2 ½ hours and have at least two sectional rehearsals per year with professional coaches appropriate for their instrument. Each student receives over 65 hours of instruction per year. Every year, several graduating seniors go on to professional music study and nearly all remain actively involved in music.

From the very beginning of the orchestra over 40 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 (JSP)

The Junior String Philharmonic plays both original orchestral compositions and arrangements. It provides intensive training in string performance under the guidance of Conductor Domenick Fiore, bass teacher and acclaimed Suzuki teacher. 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.

Chamber Music Program

This program offering began in the 2013-2014 Season. The opportunity grew out of a small project facilitated by co-founder, 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 Eyzarovich, violin teacher at Moravian College, 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 still 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. Each year the number of groups we can host grows and we are now able to admit string, woodwind and brass players. The program includes 15 rehearsals with a coach and at least two performing opportunities. Those who have participated give very positive feedback on the experience of working on music in a more focused way and they make close friends, too. We are excited to continue offering this service to serious young musicians in the area.

Summary & Highlights of 2016-17

Overall we had good participation this year, however recruitment is always a priority. We enrolled 63 members in the YPP, 54 members in the JSP and 16 students in the chamber music program. Most students who participate in the chamber groups are also orchestra members. Orchestra rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem. We are grateful to them for hosting us in such a welcoming and suitable space.

We have had significant shifts in personnel within the past few years. This year was Kenneth Bean's first full year as the Music Director of the YPP. Mr. Bean has been part of the organization since 2010, when co-founder Nancy Bidlack asked him to take on the responsibilities of JSP conductor. In spring of 2016 Mr. Bean was appointed YPP Music Director by co-founder Jerry Bidlack, when it became clear his health concerns were too great to continue conducting. Lehigh Valley performance flutist and teacher, Robin Kani took over the position of YPP Orchestra Manager from Nanci Funfgeld, who had served the organization as the manager of the senior orchestra for over 25 years and retired at the close of the 2015-16 season.

We welcomed Dr. Michael Jorgensen, violinist, back again for a second year as the YPP string section coach. Dr. Jorgensen is a Professor of Practice with Lehigh University's music department and we are so glad he is able to work with our students.

Similarly, Domenick Fiore, bass teacher and prominent Suzuki pedagog, also completed his first full season as JSP conductor this year. Mr. Fiore joined the organization in spring of 2016 when Kenny Bean moved to the YPP. Brianna Bortz also joined our team this year as the Junior String Philharmonic orchestra manager and librarian. Ms. Bortz is an alum of the orchestra, violist, and music education teacher in Reading PA. She has taken over for Caroline Dawson, who served as JSP manager and librarian for many years. Ms. Dawson continues to be indispensable as our office administrator.

Finally, a significant event from the 2016-17 season is that in late September, our co-founder and YPP Music Director emeritus, Jerry Bidlack passed away at the age of 85. Jerry and his wife Nancy founded the orchestra over 40 years ago and Jerry continued to conduct to within 18 months of his passing.

Both the YPP and the JSP have seen several structural changes as well. The students in the YPP will now be accessing their music online so that they may have parts at home to practice and we may keep the original parts safely at the rehearsal space or in our library. The YPP string students will partake in seating auditions to determine their place in the section several weeks into the season. These are distinct from entry auditions, which determine students' skill level; seating auditions demonstrate students' ability to engage with the programmed repertoire.

Similarly Mr. Fiore has made some changes to the Junior String Philharmonic. Students are not seated according to ability from the front of the section to the back, rather students of different levels are intermingled within the section and rotated around more frequently. By

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changing seats, students are given the opportunity to play with different stand partners and in different positions in their section. This increases their aural awareness of others and themselves. Students were also divided into two separate smaller string orchestras, each one focusing on different repertoire for the season.

The responsibilities of Chamber Group Coordinator were taken on by Sharon Fischer, YPP alum, viola teacher and Board Member. Ms. Fischer worked with returning coaches Michael Jorgensen (string quartet) and Dr. Nancy Beitler (woodwind quintet) and welcomed trumpet performer and teacher, Lawrence Wright to coach the brass quintet.

During the summer of 2016, we moved the YPP office from the Bidlack house where it had been for 41 years, to The Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Rm. 302, in Bethlehem. The space also now houses our music library, which had previously been at Lehigh University.

The YPP performed one school tour as well as the Holiday Concert and Spring Concert which is part of the regular programming. On the Holiday concert they played *Patrie*, Op. 19 by Georges Bizet; *Academic Festival Overture*, Op. 80 by Johannes Brahms; *Sleigh Ride* and *A Christmas Festival Overture* by LeRoy Anderson. It was a special treat to include the *Violin Concerto in A minor*, Op. 82, III, *Allegro* by Alexander Glazunov with our own Dr. Michael Jorgensen performing the concerto. The YPP's Spring Concert was held at Empie Theater on May 7th. The Concerto Competition winner was Guinevere Conner, playing "Concerto No. 2 in A minor for double bass" by Giovanni Bottesini.

The JSP undertook two school tours this year, as well as the usual Holiday and Spring Concert. They also performed at a retirement community and for a Barnes & Noble Book Fair, which is a community fundraiser. The JSP Spring Concert was also held at Empie Theater on May 7th. They played works by Mozart, Bernstein, and "St. Paul's Suite, I. Jig II, Ostinato and IV, Finale" by Gustav Holst with student Ryujin Jensen playing the violin solos.

Concert hall space was donated this year by Muhlenberg College.

Finally, the Chamber Music Program consisted of two string quartets, a brass quintet, and woodwind quintet. They played for many audiences this year including Westminster Village, Luther Crest Retirement Community and St. John's UCC in Coopersburg, Barnes & Noble. We also continue to maintain a relationship with the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem and our woodwind quintet played a preamble to the Borealis Wind Quintet at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. It is a great opportunity for our students to meet and speak with professional chamber musicians.

This was the first year we were able to have a string quartet made up entirely of junior string players, coached by Ms. Fisher. They performed with their older peers at the All Chamber Concert in the spring at the Egner Memorial Chapel at Muhlenberg College.

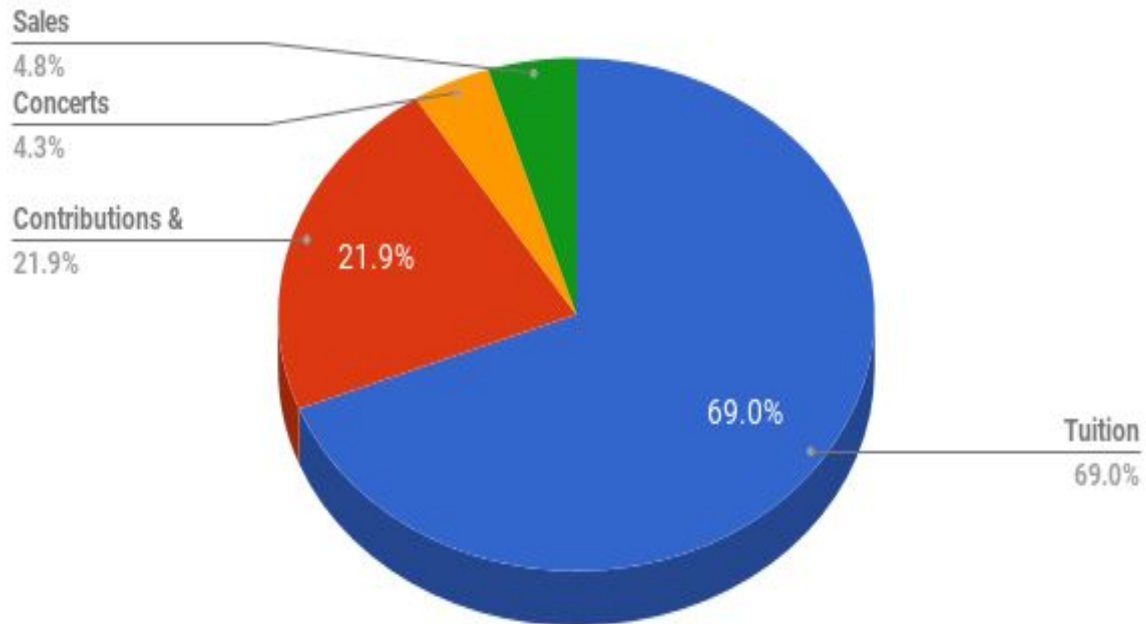
All told, students of the YPP organization performed for approximately 3000 audience members this year.

Financial Summary

INCOME

INCOME	2015-2016	2016-2017
Tuition	\$57,173.32	\$60,523.44
Contributions & Fundraisers	\$24,254.42	\$19,239.11
Concerts	\$4,421.00	\$3,738.00
Sales	\$3,565.00	\$4,205.00
Interest & Dividends	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$89,413.74	\$87,705.55

2016-2017 Income

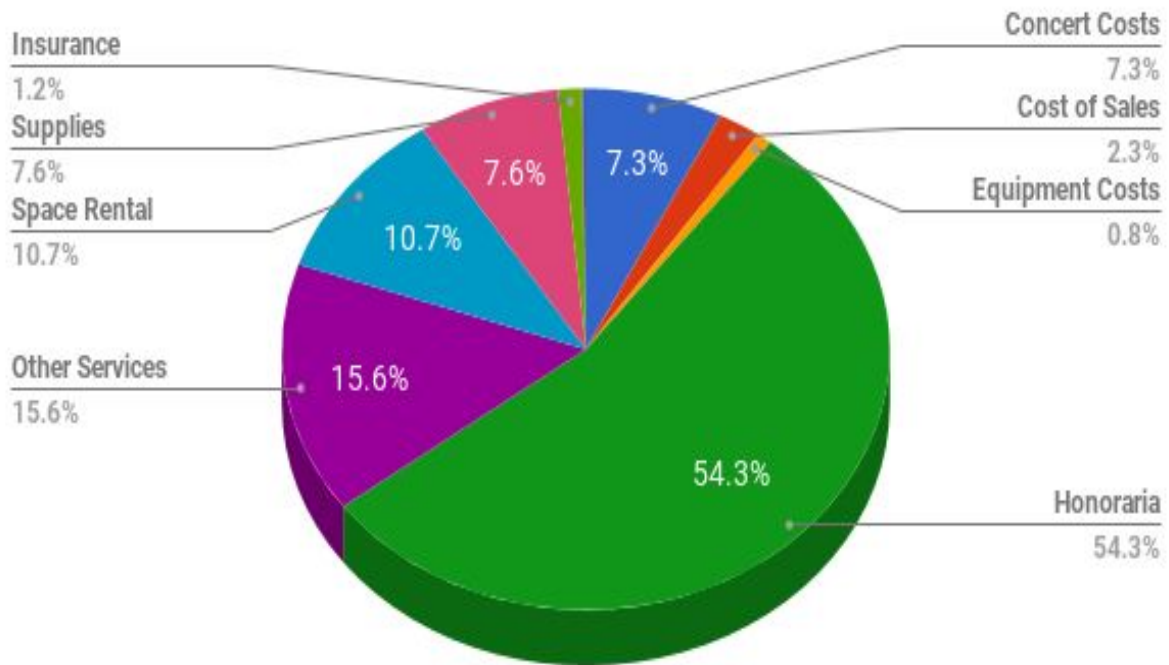


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EXPENSES

EXPENSES	2015-2016	2016-2017
Concert Costs	\$11,102.96	\$5,535.76
Cost of Sales	\$1,228.01	\$1,736.99
Equipment Costs	\$171.43	\$612.01
Honoraria	\$48,322.00	\$41,150.00
Other Services	\$11,875.00	\$11,799.28
Space Rental	\$2,967.00	\$8,084.00
Supplies	\$6,900.14	\$5,743.17
Insurance	\$888.00	\$924.00
Fund Raising	\$684.94	\$60.00
Snack and Misc	\$434.80	\$128.63
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$84,574.28	\$75,773.84

2016-2017 Expenses



Community Support

March 2016 - March 2017

Foundations, Corporations and Organizations

AmazonSmile Foundation
Barnes & Noble
Embassy Bank
Giant Foods
Charles H. Hoch Foundation
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation
PA Council on the Arts/LV Arts Council
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