

Keeping Tempo



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Transitions in YOBC's Back Office Staff

Beginning in June, there will be some important changes in YOBC's administrative staff. Long-time auditions coordinator and office manager, Diana Nolan, will be retiring at the end of June after 18 years at YOBC (see page 2 for more). Diana has overseen the auditions and enrollment of more than 1000 students who have participated in YOBC, which has doubled its annual membership and more than doubled the number of ensembles since she was first involved in 2000.

Stepping into the

newly named administra-

tive coordinator role will be Virginia Glatzer, a YOBC alumni parent whose two clarinetists were YOBC members from 2012 to 2017. Virginia has over 20 years of experience as an educational consultant and a strong background in technology, the use of technology in education, and database management. "After years of my own children's experience in YOBC," Virginia says, "I am excited to be involved in all of the behind-the-scenes happenings that give our children such wonderful musical opportunities."

A new position at YOBC – development director – will be filled by Beth Guerriero. Some YOBC string students may recognize Beth as a local violin and viola teacher. For the past few years Beth has been working as director of education of The Harmony Program in New York City. This El Sistema-inspired organization brings music making



Beth Guerriero, on a recent trip to Munich with her husband, will be YOBC's Development Director.

Important Dates:

- * April 21 — Spring Concerts, Maple Point MS
- * April 28 — Chamber Recital, Pennswood Village
- * April 29 — Spring Concert, Delaware Valley University
- * May 5–6 — New Student Auditions
- * June 9 — YOBC Concerto Competition
- * June 20 — Registration Deadline 2018–19 Season
- * July 8 — Tour Ensemble Bon Voyage Concert
- * July 9–19 YOBC International Tour to Andalusia, Spain



Virginia Glatzer, YOBC's new Administrative Coordinator

to children from underserved communities to allow them to explore new avenues and realize their full potential. She is looking forward to sharing her experiences with YOBC as she returns to this area next month.

"I'm really excited to begin working as the development director for the Youth Orchestra of Bucks County, an organization

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YOBC's Office Manager to Retire at the End of the Season

On July 1, the Youth Orchestra of Bucks County will experience a major shift: After approximately 18 years of service to YOBC, Diana Nolan will retire from her job as... And therein lies the question: What is Diana Nolan's job? Or perhaps more to the point, what is NOT Diana Nolan's job?

Her official role is office manager, but to the parents, student musicians, and staff of YOBC, she has earned a loftier title. "I call her the Knower of All Things," says Amy Wilkowski, whose son Ryan is in the Wind Ensemble.

Her work includes – but isn't limited to – managing the website and database; coordinating auditions; writing, editing, and publishing *Keeping Tempo*; sending out regular weekly news and information emails to the community; publicizing the concerts and other YOBC events; and handling such development work as tracking donations and sending out acknowledgments.

All this started back in 2000 when, as an innocent newbie parent, she agreed to do, ahem, a little volunteer work. First she coordinated concert volunteers, handled ticket sales, and managed sound recordings. Then she began the herculean task of coordinating auditions. "Diana is the perfect example of a volunteer who creates and performs a job so well, that when she decided to move on, the organization simply couldn't allow it to happen," says Joe Hochreiter, Jr., YOBC board member. Instead, YOBC snapped her up as a staff employee.

In those early days, the organization relied on a phone chain to get out information, recalls Eileen

Wachtman, a former board member. "We were doing postal mailings for all registration, music, and information regarding concerts," says Wachtman. "Diana was integral in bringing us out of the 'stone age.' She helped create the first website and moved the organization online for registrations and other information.

Over the years, Diana has dealt with "just about every type of issue and challenge the organization has faced," says Hochreiter. "She is our historian, a former board member, a trusted advisor, and a delightful problem solver."

And she does it all without cracking a worry line. "She just has a calming air," says Heather Menci, whose son Wyatt is in Wind Ensemble and Philharmonia. "She always makes everyone feel welcome," adds Ingrid Daubert, who has two daughters in YOBC.

What's her secret? "Diana is one of the brightest, most organized women I know," says Sue Busch, YOBC volunteer coordinator. Dori Clough, former YOBC board member, agrees wholeheartedly, calling Diana "a very well-organized, well-spoken and dedicated representative of YOBC." Her skills at keeping organized have even rubbed off on others. "She has kept me on task and on target in so many ways," says Steve Sweetsir, conductor of Fanfare Winds.

Outside of YOBC, Diana does editing work on reproductive health and girls' education issues for the Population Council in New York, and she works with professors and researchers at the International and European Forum on Migration Research in Turin, translating works from Italian to

English. (Italian is her third language after French and Spanish.)

There is one thing that Diana does not do: play an instrument. "I took a few years of piano in elementary school, but in junior high, I picked art over music," she confesses. Her favorite part of her job is going to auditions. "You see the kids at their best – sometimes they even get dressed up!" she says. She also enjoys being backstage at concerts. "I love seeing the excitement and nervous energy."

Most of all, she appreciates the sense of community at YOBC and the supportive atmosphere. "My favorite YOBC story," she says, "is when my daughter had to attend a late rehearsal but had a lot of AP physics homework. She was very stressed out but then six people from four different high schools helped her do her physics. She left rehearsal at 10 PM with it completely finished."

At YOBC's annual fundraiser this year – with the theme "Swing, Swing, Swing!" – Diana arrived in character. "While most of us showed up in our dancing threads, Diana surprised us all by coming dressed as Rosie the Riveter!" says Colleen Sweetsir, YOBC's executive director. "It was perfect type-casting, straight from Hollywood! As I watched her doing her swing dance steps, it occurred to me that the similarities between Rosie and Diana weren't limited to how they were dressed. Like the Rosie in J. Howard Miller's iconic *We Can Do It* poster, Diana's 'we can do it' attitude has been the driving force behind all of her many accomplishments. For 20 years, Diana has tackled one challenge after another to make YOBC a special place for young musicians....The *We Can Do It* poster is one of the 10 most requested images at the National Archives, but Diana is a *Rosie* original."

Best wishes, Diana, Knower of All Things!



Diana Nolan

Transitions

(...continued from p. 1)

zation where I've seen the direct impact music education is having on the young musicians of the greater Philadelphia area," says Beth. "I'm happy to join the team, and will be very active in developing our plans for increasing fundraising and donors."

Over the last dozen years or so, one of the main behind-the-scenes missions has been to make YOBC into a strong, viable organi-

zation with the infrastructure to sustain it for years – no matter who is running it. With the support of YOBC's active Board of Directors, this strong administrative team will continue to provide the groundwork that enables the artistic staff to focus on the high-quality programs and opportunities that make YOBC a special place for young musicians in Bucks and surrounding counties.



YOBC's Latest Chamber Group: Trombone Ensemble

Among the many challenges of playing in a small music ensemble, Mitchell Beatch discovered this one right away: "In a bigger group like a band, it's easier to hide. With an ensemble, you have to know your part."

Beatch, a 7th grader at William Penn Middle School, is part of YOBC's first-ever trombone ensemble, along with his colleagues, Kettner Hunter, an 8th grader at William Penn Middle School, and Dylan Waddell, an 8th grader at Unami Middle School. Coached by YOBC alumnus Bill Connors, who holds a Master of Music degree in Tuba Performance from the University of Denver, the ensemble

meets every other week, providing the three students with the chance to learn leadership skills and develop their technical playing abilities. "It brings an additional challenge," says Mitchell, "but not as big a challenge as moving up to the advanced division. It's a good opportunity."

While large groups like the Wind Symphony have conductors, ensemble players are on their own. They must learn to start together and choose a tempo and stick to it. They are responsible for dynamics, balance, phrasing, and playing the right rhythm, among other skills. Much like a sports team, if everyone doesn't carry his weight, the outcome won't be a success.

The challenges of small ensemble playing have helped the three students grow in many ways. For instance, Dylan says, "My articulation has gotten a lot better." Mitchell, on the other hand, notes that his tone has improved over the course of the year.

Besides all the learning opportunities, playing in an ensemble is an enjoyable experience. "We play fun music, and it's equal for everyone," says Kettner. "When we're done working on the music, Bill



Trombone Ensemble members (l to r): Kettner Hunter, Mitchell Beatch, and Dylan Waddell

lets us randomly play new stuff. He lets us pick what we want to play and what we all agree on. It's fun and not so serious which can be relieving."

In addition to a master's degree, Connors holds a Professional Studies Certificate from the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Music from Ithaca College. In 2015, he earned 2nd place in the Brass Division of the Pasadena Showcase House Instrumental Solo Competition, and he has been a semi-finalist and finalist in several international tuba competitions. You can hear him play tuba and bass trombone on Aaron Tindall's solo album, *This Is My House*.



Bill Connors

Student Spotlight: Kevyn DeWees

In the first issue of *Keeping Tempo*, in August 2009, we shone the first Student Spotlight on Kevyn DeWees. When auditions were held that spring for YOBC's 2009–10 season, we auditioned a number of students for our newest string ensemble, Prima Strings. Kevyn was the first Prima Strings candidate to be accepted for our new junior ensemble. Now, nine years later, Kevyn is graduating and we thought it would be fun to check back with her at the end of her time in YOBC.

Kevyn is now a senior at the Academy of the New Church. She is currently a 1st violinist in the YOBC Symphony Orchestra. She started playing violin in second grade after learning about it in an introductory music class where she got to try out different instruments. "Of course, the quality of the instrument and playing back then were sub-par, but it got me hooked somehow!" Kevyn says.

She heard about YOBC through the string program at

school at the time (Bryn Athyn Church School). Some more advanced students were already in YOBC so her teacher encouraged her to audition. "I wanted to join in order to have the opportunity to play with a larger group of people who loved to play music together," she explained. In 2009, Kevyn reported that her audition was "really easy," and she thought that the people were very welcoming and friendly.

Kevyn currently studies violin with Margaret Dziekonski at Settlement Music School. Aside from private lessons, she is also part of the William A. Loeb String Quartet (also at Settlement) coached by Jean Shook. "And I can't forget school!" she adds. "I play my violin in ANC's Instrumental Ensemble."

Kevyn plans to pursue a neuroscience major in college, "but I have yet to see where that will take me!" she admits. She also hopes to keep playing violin "in any capacity that seems fulfilling."



Joining Prima Strings, Kevyn told us that she was looking forward to beginning rehearsals at YOBC where she hoped to meet new people like her, who also love to play music. Upon leaving this spring, she says, "I would just like to thank YOBC for everything. Yes, my Sunday afternoons were always filled with rehearsals, but the memories and opportunities were worth every minute."

Executive Director's Corner: Things You Might Not Know

Did you know that a raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top, or that 40 percent of McDonalds' profits come from the sales of Happy Meals? Sometimes what you don't know about everyday things can surprise you.

If you have been involved with YOBC, chances are you know a lot about what we do. But here are five things that might surprise you:

- YOBC provides students with **70 hours** of specialized training in classical music each year.
- YOBC instructors have years of teaching experience, advanced degrees in music education, and hold other profes-

sional positions in music education, conducting, and performance.

YOBC recognizes the benefits that the study of instrumental music provides.

- YOBC's Board of Directors is active **in music advocacy** and works with school districts to encourage the inclusion of robust school music programs.
- YOBC's Board of Directors has raised over **\$18,400 in grants** this year alone, to provide access to free music lessons and instruments through our Students-in-Concert outreach pro-

gram in school districts whose music programs have been cut or eliminated.

- YOBC, along with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, and over 250 other leaders in the music industry, are signatories to the League of American Orchestras "Statement of Common Cause: Orchestras Support In-School Music Education."

YOBC recognizes the benefits that the study of instrumental music provides and works on every level to help ensure that robust music education programs are available for all students.

—Colleen Sweetsir
YOBC Executive Director

Where in the World Is Erica Cherry?

Those students who have traveled on a YOBC International Tour before, or are going to Spain this summer, already know that being involved in music can take you to great places! This June I am headed on my own musical adventure; I have been selected as one of the 2018 Teaching Artists to teach clarinet at El Sistema, El Salvador for two weeks, as part of the MusAid Teaching Artist Residency.

MusAid is a nonprofit “that connects musicians across the globe through educational exchanges designed to inspire individual and community transformations.” Basically, the MusAid team supports socially driven programs around the world by sending and training young professionals to perform and educate. Being a musician (especially a young musician!) means more than taking lessons and being able to execute your scales, exercises, and repertoire – it also means being socially and globally aware of the powers of music. Think about everything that has to happen to make you a great musician – you need access to wonderful teachers, books, bows, reeds

and materials, skilled instrument technicians, the list goes on! MusAid works to fill some of these gaps in programs around the world. Since 2008, MusAid has supported music schools and orchestras in



Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Burma, Haiti, Bolivia, and the Philippines.

In 2015, I was lucky enough to travel to Belize, where I taught private lessons, group classes, pedagogy classes, and performed alongside students in the orchestra. I

loved my time working with the National Youth Orchestra of Belize, and there were lots of similarities to YOBC, including great music-making, motivated students, and a love of snack time.

In this year’s program in El Salvador, I will be teaching, performing, and developing my group-



Erica (right) performs with other teaching artists at a MusAid residency in Belize in 2015.

teaching skills along with six other fellows (you can check out everyone’s bios at www.musaid.org/2018-teaching-artists/). Most of the other selected Teaching Artists are active performers who have experience with private teaching, private youth orchestra programs (like YOBC), or El Sistema programs.

Our host program is El Sistema, El Salvador, which provides young people with resources to become responsible musicians and citizens. I will have the chance to work with the students of this program as well as the faculty. I’ll be performing a chamber music concert with the other fellows, as well as an orchestral concert with the whole program.

In addition to teaching private lessons, I’ll be leading orchestra sectionals and teaching master classes and workshops on a variety of topics. I’ll be one of only two wind instrumentalists there, so I’m curious to see how it goes! We will have some time off to explore the city and the area, as well. I can’t wait to come home and tell our YOBC community all about it!

—Erica Cherry
YOBC Operations Manager

Erica Cherry is YOBC’s Operations Manager and Woodwinds Sectional Coach. After her trip to El Salvador, Erica will accompany the YOBC Tour Ensemble to Andalusia, Spain.





info.yobc@gmail.com
267-225-1908

yobc.org

The YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF BUCKS COUNTY, Pennsylvania (YOBC) was founded in 1991 with the sponsorship and support of Bucks County Community College. Its mission is to create opportunities for young musicians to achieve artistic excellence through enriching classical musical experiences. In 26 seasons the organization has served over 1800 young musicians.

YOBC's 2017-18 season sponsored in part by:



Master Classes Fine Tune YOBC Students' Skills

In March, a dozen YOBC students had the opportunity to perform for two world-class musicians at master classes on their instrument.

In a violin master class, David Kim, Philadelphia Orchestra concertmaster, gave students tips and routines to build confidence and help overcome nerves, explored how to slow down the tempo to improve muscle memory, and demonstrated tricks for a perfect vibrato. YOBC student performers representing Concertino, Ripieno, Philharmonia,

and Symphony Orchestra included: Aneta Sieminski, Anna Kim, Hannah Kim, Brooke Lion, Danielle Gershman, and Christian Teufel.

YOBC trombonists attended a class given by Matthew Vaughn, co-principal trombone at the Philadelphia Orchestra. Students from all three wind groups – Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, and Fanfare Winds – performed for Mr. Vaughn and received instruction on breathing, slide control, and the perfect embouchure. YOBC

trombonists who performed were: Catie Chalupa, Josif Collazo, Phoebe Child, Catie Smith, Dylan Waddell, and Noah Harrison. The trombone master class was open to the public and a dozen trombonists from local high schools and universities had the opportunity to sit in and absorb the lesson and ask questions at the end.

YOBC is continuing to developing its relationship with the Philadelphia orchestra in order to keep providing these and similar events.



David Kim (second from right) and Matthew Vaughn (third from left) pose with YOBC performers at their master classes.

