

# Concert Orchestra Performs in Cape Charles on the Eastern Shore

by Helen Martell

For the entire season, the Bay Youth Concert Orchestra members prepared for their big solo debut at the Palace Theater in Cape Charles, Virginia. Music was selected from every concert that the ensemble performed to be displayed at this concert. At the dress rehearsal at Lafayette-Winona Middle School, notes were corrected, dynamics exaggerated, tempos were put into perspective, endurance was challenged and music was created. Bob Spaeth, our wonderful manager, corresponded with the Palace Theater people, set up bus transportation, printed itineraries, booked Kevin Genus and the stage crew, hired the recording engineer and made sure things ran smoothly. And the trip was a success!

Before driving into Cape Charles we had the feeling that we were in the middle of nowhere. In fact, there was a sign set up in a cornfield that publicized our concert. Seeing the Bay Youth Orchestra on the marquee in front of the theater made the reality of the whole event sink in. What a wonderful little hall! Congratulations to Clelia Shepherd and Arts Enter. The Palace Theater has gone through extensive renovation and is much improved since the Bay Youth



String Orchestra played there a few years ago. All 58 members fit snugly on an extended stage in front of a welcoming and friendly audience. We brought about 75 people from the Southside to hear us perform. I was so proud of the musicians. I love to work with this orchestra. They have accomplished so much and I enjoy

seeing them give 100% into the music.

Thank you, Noel Diehl, for conducting and rehearsing the Mozart, Bob Deal and Jan Bjorklund for filling in on tuba and bassoon and all the BYSO Wind, Brass and Percussionists – we couldn't have done it without you.



## Ambition and Experience Side-By-Side

*Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra percussionists Melissa Bjorklund, Christian Hyunh, and Brenden Barco share the mallets and drumsticks with Scott Jackson, percussionist with the Virginia Symphony (the VSO's principal percussionist Rob Cross is partially visible behind a music stand). The Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra performed Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade with the Virginia Symphony at the annual Side-by-Side concert in March.*

# A Tribute to the Guiding Force Behind the Scenes

After five years, BYOV Board President Muriel Evory is stepping down in July.



*Musings*  
from the Music Director

by Leslie Stewart

When most people think about an orchestra, they imagine the various instrumentalists on stage in concert attire, led by their conductor. Less visible is the staff that makes the orchestra's concerts possible – manager, librarian, marketing and development directors, stage crew, etc.

Nearly invisible is the orchestra's board of directors. Other than seeing the board member's names listed in the concert program, most people don't realize that the board's functions are as important to an orchestra as that of its musicians and staff.

The Board of the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia is comprised of thirteen people who meet nearly every month to help guide and support the activities of

this organization. Our present board includes three public school music teachers, four professional musicians, a music store manager, and a lawyer. Nine members are either current or former Bay Youth parents and two are Bay Youth alumni. Various members bring their expertise in web-site management, financial record-keeping, non-profit organizations and education advocacy to the board.

For the last five years the board has been led by Muriel Evory – the Orchestra Director at Oscar Smith Middle School and mother of two Bay Youth students. Ms. Evory assumed the presidency at the same time that I came to Bay Youth. The previous music director, Gregory Barnes, had handled virtually all of the administrative tasks during his tenure. But it was clear to everyone that the organization had grown to the point where it needed professional staff to support the work of the conductors.

Ms. Evory worked (as a volunteer) tirelessly that first summer – helping us develop a budget, job descriptions, and

contracts for new as well as existing staff. She interviewed our first manager and arranged for Bay Youth letterhead. For the first two years, she hosted board meetings in her home. In the past five years, she has attended every Bay Youth concert and virtually every Bay Youth rehearsal. As we have become more organized, she has been able to devote more time to her family and her profession – but I will never forget her selfless dedication to Bay Youth, especially at the beginning of my tenure.

I have relied on her wisdom and integrity countless times. And appreciated her calm manner during periodic “storms”. She is extraordinarily generous and fair – and a passionate advocate for children having access to quality music education.

After five years of service, Ms. Evory is stepping down from the presidency in July. Fortunately, she has agreed to remain on the board to share her experience with us.

It has been an honor to work with her – and for her.

## Fifteen Bay Youth Students Chosen for All-State

A record number of Bay Youth Symphony musicians participated in this year's Virginia All-State Band and Orchestra program held in Winchester on April 3-5. Most performed in the All-State Orchestra, which was conducted by Wes Kenney, Bay Youth

Advisory Board member. We were especially proud that two of our members held principal chair positions: Jeff McLaughlin and Ben Ringer.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to these students:

**Elizabeth Beck** (clarinet, Concert Band)  
**Allison Faulkenberry** (bassoon, Orchestra)  
**Brandon Harris** (bass, Orchestra)  
**Matthew Kumjiam** (viola, Orchestra)  
**Kristina Levins** (violin, Orchestra)  
**Shirley Luu** (viola, Orchestra)  
**Jeff McLaughlin** (viola, Orchestra)  
**Ben Ringer** (clarinet, Orchestra)  
**Alex Serio** (trumpet, Concert Band)  
**Daniel Shuster** (clarinet, Symphonic Band)  
**Stuart (Jamie) Smith** (cello, Orchestra)  
**Christian Thomas** (trumpet, Orchestra)  
**Ryan Thomas** (saxophone, Symphonic Band)  
**Josh Van Davier** (flute, Concert Band)  
**Susan Watkins** (timpani, Orchestra)

