



**Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia**

P.O. Box 8158  
Norfolk, VA 23503

757-618-1800

<http://www.bayyouth.org>

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*For the Musicians, Families and Friends of the*



# **BAY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS OF VIRGINIA**

Volume 11 No 1

The BYO-GRAPH

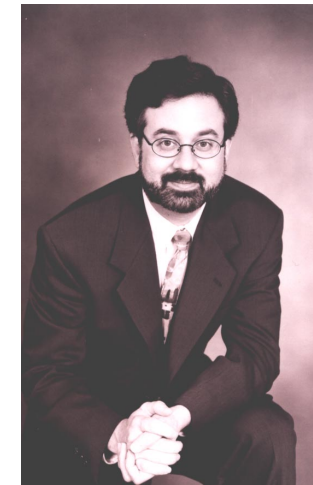
November 2003

## **ROB CROSS JOINS US ON A "TOUR DE FRANCE"**

By Robert Spaeth

On Tuesday, December 2, at 7:30 PM the Concert and Symphony Orchestras of the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia will present 'A Tour de France' at the Virginia Beach Pavilion. The concert will feature the music of French composers, including Ravel, Bizet, St. Saens, Faure and Dukas. Also featured on the program will be alumni soloist Rob Cross performing the Milhaud 'Percussion Concerto'.

Robert W. Cross is Executive Director of the Virginia Arts Festival and Principal Percussionist with the Virginia Symphony. A native of Norfolk, he participated in the Bay Youth Orchestras (then called the Tidewater Youth Orchestra) for four years. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied percussion with Vic Firth, tympanist of the Boston Symphony. Cross has worked with such prestigious conductors as Klaus Tennstedt, Colin Davis, Leonard Bernstein, Lucas Foss and JoAnn Falletta. While a student at Tanglewood, he performed with the Boston Symphony, under the direction of Seiji Ozawa. He has also performed at the Leonard Bernstein Festival of American Music, the Skaneateles Festival, Brevard and the Eastern Music Festival. In the pit of the world's most prestigious ballet companies, Mr. Cross has accompanied the Bolshoi Ballet, Kirov Ballet, New York



City Ballet, the Boston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet and the Martha Graham Dance Company. Mr. Cross has performed with the American Repertory Theatre and in recital with Bob Becker, Richard Stoltzman, André-Michel Schub and Nathaniel Rosen. In addition, Mr. Cross has recorded for Northeastern Records, New Albion, NPR Classics and CD Review. Mr. Cross who joined the Virginia Symphony in 1980. He and his wife Debra, Principal Flutist of the Virginia Symphony, make their home in Norfolk along with their black Labs, Sam and Abby.

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The BYO-GRAPH is published by the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia. Articles, comments and suggestions are welcome.

Deadline for the Winter issue is 15 January 2003.

Don't be late!

### **We gratefully acknowledge these major supporters of The Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia**

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## SEASON AT A GLANCE

### DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, TOUR DE FRANCE

Virginia Beach Pavilion 7:30 p.m.  
Concert and Symphony Orchestras  
Helen Martell and Leslie Stewart,  
Conductors  
Rob Cross, Alumni Soloist

### DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, CONCERTO COMPETITION

Chandler Recital Hall, ODU 5 - 9 PM  
Bay Youth musicians compete to be  
featured on the February 17<sup>th</sup> program.

### FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>, THE ART OF SONG AND STRING!

Roper Performing Arts Center 7:30 p.m.  
String and Jr. String Orchestras  
Christina Morton, Conductor  
Featuring the Virginia Children's Chorus  
directed by Carol Thomas Downing

### FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>, CONCERTO CONCERT

Roper Performing Arts Center 7:30 p.m.  
Concert and Symphony Orchestras  
Helen Martell and Leslie Stewart,  
Conductors  
Featuring winners of the Bay Youth  
Concerto Competition

### MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>, EXCHANGE CONCERT WITH THE RICHMOND SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Thomas Dale High School in Chesterfield  
3:00 p.m.  
Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra  
and Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra  
Eckart Preu and Leslie Stewart  
Conductors

### APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>, SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE VIRGINIA SYMPHONY

Deep Creek High School in Chesapeake  
7:30 p.m.  
Virginia Symphony and  
Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra  
Shizuo Kuwahara, Conductor

### MAY 4<sup>th</sup>, SEASON FINALE

Virginia Beach Pavilion 7:00 p.m.  
Featuring all ensembles and conductors  
of the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia

## MUSINGS FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

By Leslie Stewart



No one forgets their first trip to France – a country that is a feast for all of the senses. For me, my first visit was with a youth orchestra at age 15. No one in my family had ever been to Europe and I felt incredibly lucky to be in Paris for a few days at the end of a 6-week concert tour.

This was in the Age Before Starbucks – when American coffee resembled dirty dishwasher. During those few days in France I developed a taste for real coffee – with lots of “au lait,” of course!

But it wasn't just the coffee that tasted better. It was everything else on the table – fresh (rather than frozen) vegetables, cheeses (something other than American, Jack or Cheddar!), meats I'd never heard of before (and perhaps it was better not to know exactly what they were...), fruits shipped in from Africa or South America if they were not in season in Europe, and chocolate that made American confections taste like wax. Fifteen years later I had the extraordinary opportunity to live in Paris for six months. This was the year I learned to appreciate the “good things in life” – not just good food. The French learn this early in life because the society breeds a taste for culture in all its citizens, not just the educated, wealthy class.

In those days, it was common for French workers to have a two-hour lunch in the middle of the day, giving them time to go home to their spouse, or visit a museum, or go to the park and read a book in the sunshine. There was a broad appreciation of classical music, too, and performances of amateur groups were as widely attended as those by professionals.

Concert posters were everywhere – on kiosks lining the busy boulevards as well as throughout the Metro. But they were quite different than the ones I'd seen in the States. Instead of advertising celebrity soloists, most posters had the names of the COMPOSERS in big letters and the performers in small type. It was heavenly to live in a country that appreciated and enjoyed classical music.

My most recent trip to France was last summer. My husband and I were guests of my in-laws for a week in the countryside near Fountainbleu. We briefly considered canceling the trip because of the political tension between our two countries. But this family reunion had been planned for too long – and as it turned out, we needn't have worried. We were warmly welcomed everywhere and politics was never mentioned.

The house where we stayed could have been a set for a movie starring Emma Thompson and Jeremy Irons. A recently renovated farmhouse built over a creek, it included a huge waterwheel and an inner courtyard. It was so idyllic we chose to forgo the temptations of Paris some days and stayed “a la maison.”

As I wandered the gardens filled with lavender, the “film score” in my head played some of my favorite French music – including pieces you will hear on our December concert. These composers brought a “joie de vivre” to classical music and a wide palette of colors to their orchestrations.

Indeed France was a mecca for composers in the 1920's – particularly the teacher Nadia Boulanger who counted Aaron Copland, Jean Francaix and Walter Piston among her distinguished students at the Fountainbleu Music School.

Even George Gershwin, whose love affair with France is memorialized in his orchestral masterpiece, *An American in Paris*, thought he could learn something from one of the country's finest composers. He wrote Maurice Ravel to see if he might study orchestration with him. When Ravel replied that he would be delighted to have Gershwin as a student, Gershwin asked what Ravel's fee would be. Ravel told him that he charged on a sliding scale according to a student's ability to pay. When the highly successful Gershwin disclosed his annual income, Ravel replied, “Maybe I should be studying with YOU!”

I hope everyone will enjoy our “Tour de France” program. Instead of bringing back slides from my summer vacation, I want to share with you the sounds (which should evoke the sights, smells, and tastes) of this extraordinary country!

## Who's Who in Junior and String Orchestras this Year!

by Christina Morton



The Junior String Orchestra held its fall auditions on September 29. The performance from these young string players was quite impressive. Not only their sound quality, but their high level note reading ability were evidence of solid music training. Bay Youth is excited to be attracting such qualified musicians (as young as age seven) who are eager to play in an ensemble. ( We actually have a need for a few smaller chairs because several of our members have trouble getting their feet to touch the floor when they play!) We also have a great group of 13 seasoned members who have returned from last year, giving us strength and leadership. In addition, we have an assistant in the cello section, Concert Orchestra member Chelsea Morton. String Orchestra bassist, Nicole McIntyre( Emilys sister), has volunteered to be our bass section. And our parents are part of our awesome team as well. Mrs. Jenkins (Annika's mom) is our Attendance Monitor and Mrs. Etheridge (William's mom) provides snacks. Our set-up crew is Lindsey and David Crook, both violinists in the String Orchestra.

The String Orchestra has already formed into a powerful force this year. With 39 violins (at last count) we probably have the biggest violin section in this ensemble's history. In addition, we have a great viola section of 7 players, 9 strong celli plus our bassist, Nicole. We have 15 returning members, 18 former Junior String members, and 21 new members. Again, the Bay Youth is pleased to be attracting such well trained and motivated young musicians. Parents are battling traffic from all corners of Hampton Roads on Monday nights to get their students to rehearsals. We know that they are sacrificing their sanity because this experience is valuable to their children. We are excited about being able to work with this awesome group of musicians. We are privileged to have Ms. Jennifer Scott, a violin major from ODU, as our Music Education intern this semester. We also have some special guests performing with us on our first concert -- Youth Symphony harpist Kristina Finch and the Choristers from the Virginia Children's Chorus, directed by Carol Thomas Downing. (Junior String violinist Josh Kritz's brother Jacob sings with this group) We have already begun rehearsing with Kristina and we will start with the Choristers in January. Many parents have been very helpful getting us going this season -- especially Mr. Lee (Parker's dad), Mrs. Jenkins (Annika's mom), Mrs. D'Angelo (Leigh's mom), and Mr. Ramos (David's Dad). Mrs. White (Zachary's Mom) is our Attendance Monitor. String Orchestra violinist Kirsten Atkinson and her family are our clean-up crew. Look for us at our first concert on Tuesday February 3, 2004 at the TCC George and Jeanne Roper Performing Arts Center in Norfolk!

## I want you to Volunteer



By Robert Spaeth

One of the first things that impressed me when I first came to Bay Youth was the volunteers that helped out. From the snacks at break-time, to attendance takers at rehearsal, to the Bay Youth merchandise, to the roses at performances, these extras made Bay Youth different than other organizations I'd been a member of or been associated with. Later, I began to really appreciate the help with mailings, selling tickets or ushering at performances and having 'runners' at seating auditions. Parent volunteers were the reason so many things went smoothly, and we were able to do some of the extras for the student performers. I was lucky that when I first started as manager, there were parents involved who had been Bay Youth parents for a number of years and most things happened without my involvement.

Unfortunately, when students graduate, they're parents do too. So far this year, I've had a number of parents step up and volunteer. Thank you very much! But, we still have a few areas where we could use some help. Particularly at concert time. If you are able to donate a little time collecting/selling tickets, handing out programs or arranging roses, please let me know. Mrs. Teri Lipps has volunteered to be the volunteer coordinator and she will contact you before an event to ask if you can perform a specific task. We have 4 concerts a season where we need volunteers and it doesn't take an alot of time, but it does make a great difference in the quality of our program. Thank you to all who have already volunteered and I hope to hear from more of you soon.

## TICKETS ON SALE

Advance sale tickets for  
the Dec 2nd concert,  
‘A Tour de France’  
will be available at  
Rehearsals beginning  
November 17th

