



## We Want You ...

Bay Youth Orchestras is more than just weekly rehearsals with highly trained conductors and performances in the area's best concert halls. It is the BYO-Graph newsletter, flowers at concerts, snacks during breaks and much more. Unfortunately, these 'extras' don't come cheap. BYO has only 1 conductor per orchestra, an executive director/orchestra manager, an assistant manager for Chesapeake and a librarian on staff. We could really use your help to make the 'extras' happen. The good news is most of our volunteer work takes place at rehearsals or concerts you're attending anyway.

Some kinds of volunteer help we need are:

- Labeling newsletters
- Taking attendance/helping during seating auditions
- Selling flowers at concerts
- Ushering at concerts

- Ticket sales
- Concessions

Oftentimes, I'll set up a table with a sign asking for help with a specific project, such as putting labels on pieces of mail. We mail almost 1,000 newsletters 3 or 4 times a year. Your help can really make a difference in getting them out in a timely manner, while not interfering with other BYO business. Several weeks prior to each concert, I'll have a sign-up list at my table, where you can volunteer to help us at a concert. Last year, due to fire marshal requirements, we had to hire ushers for the Regent University concert. This amounted to almost \$ 250 from the BYO budget.

We try to keep costs down and have members who are here because they can play, not because they can pay. Your help lets us spend the money we have on providing the best musical training available, not on office help. Please consider volunteering and talk to a board member or an orchestra manager, so we can call you when we need a little help.

*"Message" continued from cover*

to his BYO and VCU Music Director duties, Dr. Montès coaches Chamber Music, String Master Class and teaches string pedagogy and conducting.

As the Music Director for the Bay Youth Orchestras organization, Dr. Montès is the artistic supervisor of all the BYO youth orchestras, with a primary responsibility for training and artistic development of the orchestras, while conducting the BYO Symphony Orchestra at rehearsals and performances and working closely with the other conductors, Helen Martell, Chris Morton and Beth Argiro. In addition, Dr. Montès is responsible for developing close relations with local area schools music directors, private instructors, and carrying out public relations on behalf of the BYO organization.

Watching Dr. Montès during Monday night rehearsals at Northside Middle School is truly amazing. It must have been nerve-racking for Dr. Montès to step up on the podium the first night of rehearsals and look into a sea of unknown faces that were equally curious to meet their new Music Director. Dr. Montès's calm, amiable demeanor and ease in working with the members of the BYO Symphony orchestra shines through each and every rehearsal night. From the very first

rehearsal he has taken the time to associate names with faces – and believe me, with 81 Symphony members, there are a lot of faces to remember. During rehearsals, Dr. Montès will work a passage of music with the performers getting them to feel the underlying power and passion of the dynamics that the composer put in every measure of the piece.

Truly an artist, musician and conductor who embraces the cultural and artistic diversity of the world, Dr. Montès brings the highest level of dedication and enthusiasm to his life profession and all those he serves. Dr. Montès has brought to the Bay Youth organization a dedicated energy, passion, and zeal that will help Bay Youth continue to thrive as the premier performing and music education organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For those of you who haven't had the chance to introduce themselves to Dr. Montès, please feel free to stop by and say hello, and I guarantee that you will be greeted by one of the world's most warmest and friendly smiles.

In conclusion, I personally believe that we are currently witnessing a literal renaissance in our schools in support for the performing arts. Many of the region's middle and high school orchestras have seen the ranks of its membership swell in recent years. Basically, our children are rediscovering an appreciation of music and music performance and have been expressing their appreciation and love of music through participation in orchestral organizations such as Bay Youth. Dr. Montès and I strongly believe that participation in cultural activities connects people to one another, and those connections then become pathways to other civic forms of participation for the members of Bay Youth.

Finally, to our friends, sponsors and patrons, thank you for your continued support of Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia.

Sincerely;

**Ray Amoruso**  
President



Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Post-Concert photo from Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh, Scotland. Seated, left to right: Former Bay Youth Directors Greg Barnes and Leslie Stewart, Wes Kenny.

# Bay Youth Conductors in the Community

by Christina Morton

One of the biggest honors for a conductor is to be asked to guest conduct for another group. This signifies that others admire our skills and that our expertise is of a high caliber. Bay Youth has status in this community as an organization that provides solid education in the study of classical music and helps students develop the skills needed to be successful, which is evident in the concerts we produce. It is also evident in the number of guest appearances our conductors have had the privilege and honor to participate in this past year.

Our Chesapeake Junior String Orchestra conductor, Mrs. Beth Argiro, was asked by Norfolk Public Schools to conduct the Middle School All City Festival Orchestra on May 13. She said, "It was a very enjoyable time for me due to the students being very well prepared. We worked on listening across the orchestra, developing spiccato bowing and improving vibrato skills. It was the first time for me to conduct such a large group of students. I had a great time coming off the podium and interacting with the various sections."

She was also the co-chair of the District IV Orchestra Festival in March (Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Suffolk

schools) planning and coordinating the event. Her reaction to the experience was that, "It was a great opportunity to listen to all the students perform at their highest level."

The Norfolk Junior String and String Orchestra conductor, Mrs. Christina Morton, was excited to be invited this year to conduct the 6th Grade Orchestra at the Middle School All-City Program for the City of Chesapeake in April. She was delighted to have several BYO members in her group and to recognize many in the 7th grade group as well. "Helping this group refine their ensemble skills was a major focus of the weekend rehearsal time, so they could perform together, which proved very successful at the concert. The eagerness of the students to learn was exciting despite the long sessions of rehearsal," she noted. Also, Mrs. Argiro was one of the participating teachers, which made the weekend extra special.

Concert Orchestra conductor Mrs. Helen Martell conducted the Newport News All-City Middle School Orchestra March 31-April 1, 2006. She commented, "The students were very respectful and open to new ideas for the many hours of rehearsal. The performance even turned out better than the rehearsals. The students were focused and motivated to do their best."

Mrs. Martell was also a clinician for a visiting orchestra from Northern Virginia. The Marshall High School Orchestra was on a mini-vacation in Virginia Beach. "I got the pleasure of working with this orchestra on their final concert music. It was nice to focus completely on musical ideas, creating the proper style and dynamics for a piece already prepared. They also enjoyed sight-reading a few pieces from my library during the clinic."

As a teacher mentor through her teaching at Meadowbrook Middle School in Norfolk, Mrs. Martell worked with several

student teachers from Leslie Stewart's string program at ODU. You may recognize their names because they were also interns for Bay Youth. Jennifer Scott now works at Lafayette Winona Middle School in Norfolk and has a full studio of violin students. Cris Pelausa is on the brink of getting a teaching job and has a full studio of guitar students. "I love working with beginning teachers. I always learn something new" said Mrs. Martell.

Our new Music Director and Symphony Orchestra director, Dr. Jean Montès is in high demand as a guest conductor. His guest conducting appearances are too numerous to list. Some of his appearances for 2006-2007 include:

## September

- Guest Conductor, Charlottesville Youth Orchestra

## October

- Guest Conductor, Henrico All County Orchestra

## December

- Guest Conductor, Artistic Youth Ensembles of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

## January

- Guest Conductor, Artistic Youth Ensembles of Minnesota during their Florida tour
- Guest Conductor, Florida Young Artists Orchestra Orlando, FL

## March

- Guest Conductor, for Suffolk All City Orchestra

## April

- Guest Conductor, for Hanover All County Symphony Orchestra

## June

- Guest Conductor, for the Kaukauna High School String Camp, WI

## July

- Guest Conductor, in Haiti at the Holy Trinity String Camp

We are truly lucky to have such a talented musical staff and are doubly blessed that they love to share their talents with children. Look for them as you attend honors orchestras or travel around the country.

