



YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
PHILHARMONIC  
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

# Annual Report

## 2020-2021

### *The critical difference...*

Students who choose to participate in the Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley programs have a deep interest and desire to focus on their instrumental and musical education. Our outreach programs to area schools, which include educational performances for student audiences during the school day, allow our students to showcase their talents for peers and act as musical leaders in their home school ensembles. We expect our students to return to their school ensembles with a sense of pride and a sense of responsibility to role model high quality musicianship for their musical peers.

# THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PHILHARMONIC OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Vision Statement

Investing in a world where students find joy, value and pride in their musical endeavours, form quality relationships with mentors and establish lasting friendships with peers.

### Mission Statement

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley provides a supportive environment for young musicians to develop quality musicianship through studying and performing music with their peers.

### History

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley was founded in 1976 by Jerry T. and Nancy S. 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 continue to 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. Since its founding, the Young People's Philharmonic organization has grown to include a chamber music program for intermediate and advanced players and, most recently, a wind symphony for 6th-9th graders.

### Structure

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 and does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise. The YPP is also 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 finances and governance. This body collectively works on infrastructure, policies, and contracts for professionals to develop and administer programs. Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, September through June. The Annual Meeting of the Membership is held in May.

### Covid-19: Organizational Response

In the spring of 2020, the YPPLV organization faced the same uncertainty that other arts organizations did, in terms of whether and how to deliver programming. It was decided to suspend programming for the fall 2020 semester and to resume virtually in the spring of 2021 if the prevalence of covid-19 had not subsided. With the semester suspension and resumption of a virtual curriculum for part of the season, combined with governmental subsidy and our financial reserves, we were able to weather the worst of the financial fallout. As the pandemic continues, many families are cautious about sending their students to in-person activities, however there are no future plans to suspend programs or return to a virtual curriculum. We are optimistic about boosting enrollment beyond even our pre-covid numbers.

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## PROGRAM OFFERINGS

### COVID-19: Programmatic Response

The COVID-19 pandemic caused serious disruptions for all music and educational organizations and the YPPLV was not spared from the challenges of holding an educational program that is based on students playing instrumental music in close proximity. We suspended programming in the fall 2020 semester in hopes that there would be solutions by spring of 2021.

It was determined that it was imperative to offer programming for the spring 2021 semester but not yet safe enough to meet in person. So each Music Director was asked to develop a quality, interactive online program that would engage students and ideally add value to their musical ensemble education. Enrollment was lower than it customarily is, however, the students who participated showed enthusiastic engagement in the programs and were happy to be involved in music during the uncertainty of the pandemic.

### Young People's Philharmonic (YPP)

*For symphonic instrument players, grades 9-12*

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. Maestro Bean is assisted by a stringed instrument coach, Dr. Michael Jorgensen, who holds the positions of Violin Professor and Professor of Practice at Lehigh University.

The virtual curriculum included three weeks devoted to the study of each piece of music. Week one would be devoted to score study, followed by a week of instrument specific coachings, and culminating in mock auditions. Dr. Eugene Albulescu, celebrated pianist and an Associate Professor of Orchestral Studies at Lehigh University, was invited to conduct the score study for Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.

### Junior String Philharmonic (JSP)

*For stringed instrument players, grades 5-9*

The Junior String Philharmonic plays both original orchestral compositions and advanced arrangements. It provides focused training in string performance under the guidance of Conductor Domenick Fiore, bass teacher and acclaimed Suzuki teacher. In addition, Ms. Connie Trach, violinist, has been working as the stringed instrument coach for this group for over 20 years, helping the students learn technical and musical elements. Usually, like the YPP, the JSP holds two concerts a year and engages on a school tour to perform for local school audiences. The students also perform at community venues like retirement communities and Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

This year, JSP is on "tour," joining forces with groups from Scotland, Quebec, and Puerto Rico in forming an ensemble of about 100 students. The virtual curriculum included full group meetings, break out sessions and special sessions. Special sessions include score reading sessions devoted to looking at and playing from a score, string quartets formed from the full orchestra meeting twice during the semester, and links to videos on various musical topics. Students will be asked to submit a short commentary.

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### **YPP Wind Symphony (WS)**

*For woodwind, brass and percussion instrumentalists, grades 6-9.*

Performing contemporary wind literature as well as works from the traditional American Band era, the Wind Symphony promotes high quality musicianship, excellence in performance and strong leadership skills. Dr. Nancy Beitler, who taught in the public schools for 32 years and currently supervises music education students at Moravian College employs a warm, encouraging style and works to facilitate a most enjoyable educational and musical experience for young Wind Symphony students. Students receive instruction in the full ensemble as well as in sectional rehearsals with coaches for their instrument group. They also receive guidance in rehearsal from Mentors, advanced student instrumentalists from the Young People's Philharmonic orchestra.

The virtual curriculum consists of three basic elements: Play, Analyze, Create. Students break down the compositional, historical and biographical elements of a new piece and its composer. Analysis begins as the ensemble rehearses the piece. Creation of their own original piece continues initially through improvisation and then is extended through composition. The students use a virtual classroom and digital internet-based notation application to finish their work. Nationally known composer and arranger from State College, PA, Rick Hirsch, was invited to give a clinic, where students listened to examples and discussed techniques useful for improvising, arranging and composing as well as shared thoughts on how to develop their creative skills.

### **Young People's Chamber Players (YPCP)**

*For intermediate and advanced string players; advanced wind players*

Chamber music is a form of small ensemble, where each musician plays a unique musical part. Started in 2012, this program is still a new endeavour for the YPP organization. Students must audition and are accepted based on skill, interest and availability of space. Because only one player plays each part, it is necessary to have a high level of commitment, as the group cannot rehearse or perform without all the players present. Chamber music takes learning in a group setting one step further by placing the responsibility of musical management, interpretation and direction in the hands of the players, guided by a coach, who is not present in the performance. Learning these skills builds confidence, technique and musicianship, which our students bring back into their large ensemble experience as outstanding leaders and overall performers.

Each group holds at least 15 rehearsals with a professional coach and has at least two performing opportunities each year. Auditions take place in the spring to form groups for the following season. The Chamber Players have performed all over the Lehigh Valley in retirement communities, fundraisers, for school and public audiences and more. Each year the number of groups we can host grows, and in a typical year, we host 5 to 6 chamber groups. We were delighted that our string coach, Dr. Michael Jorgensen was able to work with a group of students throughout quarantine to help them to navigate the technology that makes recording an ensemble piece from remote locations possible. Visit the [www.ypplv.org](http://www.ypplv.org) homepage, and scroll down to see an excerpt of this string quartet's performance.

# THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PHILHARMONIC OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S PHILHARMONIC

Kenneth Bean, Music Director ❖ Dr. Michael Jorgensen, String Coach  
27 students

Long before the pandemic, I always tell the students to listen to recordings of the music, so they can have a better idea of how their parts fit together. Despite the challenges of working in musical groups online, I welcomed the opportunity to demonstrate how to do this kind of active listening with the students. I took this opportunity to choose pieces the students could immerse themselves in, identifying excerpts that interest them, even without having the chance to perform. We not only listen for musical aspects, but I also try to weave in historical components that will give each piece some historical context. It was great to share this with the students this year.

~Kenny Bean

#### Repertoire

Mendelssohn Symphony No 4  
Brahms Symphony No 4  
Beethoven Symphony No 9  
Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue

#### Virtual Curriculum

Three weeks are devoted to the study of each piece of music. While there will be no culminating performance, the study will culminate in mock auditions for interested students.

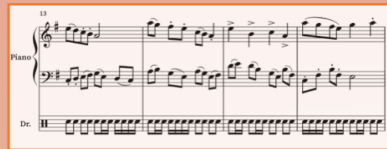
*Week One* - Score study

*Week Two* - Instrument specific coachings on excerpts

*Week Three* - Mock auditions



We were excited to invite Eugene Albulescu to conduct the score study for Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. Dr. Albulescu is a celebrated pianist and an Associate Professor of Orchestral Studies at Lehigh University.



*Sarah H., alto saxophone player*

The YPP Wind Symphony has taken some creative turns this semester in order to make meaningful music in a virtual format. During the weekly rehearsals, the ensemble splits their time between playing music, analyzing music and creating music. The members break down the compositional, historical and biographical elements of a new piece and its composer. Analysis begins as the ensemble rehearses the piece. Creation of their own original piece continues initially through improvisation and then is extended through composition. The students use a virtual classroom and digital internet-based notation application

to finish their work. Featured here are two examples of student compositions resulting from the Wind Symphony program – Play. Analyze. Create.

~ Dr. Nancy Beitler



*Savannah G., percussionist*

### YPP WIND SYMPHONY

Dr. Nancy Beitler, Music Director  
6 students

In March the Wind Symphony students also participated in a clinic with Rick Hirsch, nationally known composer and arranger from State College, PA. During the session with Rick, the students heard examples and discussed techniques useful for improvising, arranging and composing as well as thoughts about how to develop their creative skills. Look for more compositions and audio files created by the Wind Symphony students in May at the



YPP Wind Symphony Sound Gallery posted on the YPPLV web site.



# THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PHILHARMONIC OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

## JUNIOR STRING PHILHARMONIC

Domenick Fiore, Music Director ♦ Connie Trach, String Coach

17 JSP students, 22 from Scotland, 21 Quebec, 17 Puerto Rico

### Repertoire

May It Be - Bhraonain/arr. Moore  
Allegro For Strings - Vivaldi  
La Danse a St. Dilon (from Quebec)  
En Mi Viejo San Juan (from Puerto Rico)  
Tzena

### Virtual Curriculum

Full group meetings  
Break out sessions  
Special sessions

### Special sessions include

*Score Reading sessions* will be devoted to looking at and playing from a score.

*String Quartets* will be formed from the full orchestra and will meet once or twice during the semester to read a string quartet.

*Links to videos* on various musical topics. Students will be asked to submit a short commentary.



This year, JSP is on "tour" and joining forces with groups from Scotland, Quebec, and Puerto Rico in forming an ensemble of about 100 students. We are also sharing our hobbies, lifestyles and surroundings via student-made videos. All of this will culminate in a virtual "concert," using our performances as a soundtrack to many of the videos submitted.

This is a cultural as well as musical exchange with the goal of having students communicate in each other's languages and meeting students their own age and discovering the similarities and differences in their lives. Indeed, they have been chatting back and forth during lulls in the rehearsals. For example, students from Puerto Rico complaining about the heat found little sympathy from our students and the Quebec students who were all knee-deep in snow!

This Cultural Exchange Orchestra Project was enthusiastically supported by the foreign teachers since we are all having to deal with Covid-19 isolation and it seems to have been a welcome relief for the students. The Scottish students in particular live in a very isolated area around Castle Douglas in the southwestern part of the country and have been living with a very stringent shut-down policy.

Kudos to Taylor Galassi, our tech guru, who has been shepherding us all safely through the minefields of Zoom. His expertise will enable this project to succeed.

~Domenick Fiore

## CHAMBER PLAYERS

Violin Quartet

Dr. Michael Jorgensen, Coach

The string players of the YPP Chamber Players have been cooking up a virtual project since January 2021. Over Zoom and using the video app, Acapella, violinists Ben Amidon, Elizabeth Hutchinson, Ben Pfefer, and Carson Mesics have rehearsed and recorded Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins in b minor. Stay tuned to the YPP social media accounts for the forthcoming video! ~Dr. Jorgensen

### A note about music education technology

While we are used to music recordings being almost all digital, learning and creating music in groups over the internet remains a challenge. The need for music education organizations to persist during this pandemic has given rise to ingenuity across the board when it comes to creating curricula. To date, there are no programs that will allow an ensemble to have synchronized rehearsal from remote locations. Timing is too great a barrier, as is sound quality, and often connectivity. In this newsletter you will read that our teachers have embraced many different technologies to give the students a fulfilling musical experience. Learning to use programs that help distance recording, musical notation, engaged listening, and collaboration will only help them in the future. We will be grateful to play together again soon, but this time apart has been educational for all of us.

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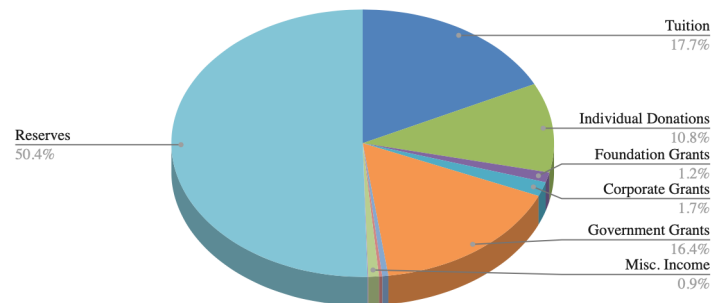
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



### Revenue

Revenue	
Tuition	\$14,725
Financial Aid Granted	-\$550
Individual Donations	\$8,994
Foundation Grants	\$1,000
Corporate Grants	\$1,438
Government Grants	\$13,638
Community Fundraisers	\$431
Sales	\$230
Misc. Income	\$744
Interest & Dividends	\$57
Reserves	\$41,897
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$82,602</b>

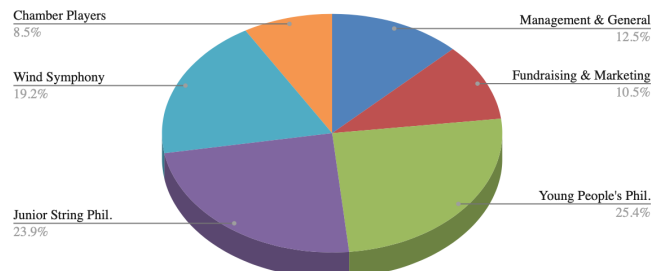
FY2021 REVENUE



### Expenditures

Expenditures	
Management & General	\$10,363
Fundraising & Marketing	\$8,681
Young People's Phil.	\$20,941
Junior String Phil.	\$19,741
Wind Symphony	\$15,847
Chamber Players	\$7,029
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$82,602</b>

FY2021 EXPENDITURES



**THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PHILHARMONIC OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY**  
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Strategic Planning, Marketing, Fundraising

**Sharon Fischer**  
Strategic Planning  
Jr. String Quartet Coach

**Maggie Minneman, *Secretary***  
Marketing, Fundraising

**Leonard Navitsky**  
Fundraising, Corporate Liaison

**Emily A. Zettlemoyer, Esq., *Vice President***  
Outreach, Strategic Planning

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Wind Symphony Director

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Junior String Philharmonic Director

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**Cheryl Hutchinson**  
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Young People's Philharmonic String Coach  
String Quartet Coach

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**Connie Trach**  
Junior String Philharmonic String Coach

**Larry Wright**  
Brass Quintet Coach



# THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PHILHARMONIC OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

*April 2020-March 2021*

***The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley is grateful to the following corporations and organizations for their support of our ensembles:***

Air Products (Matching Gift)  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
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***The YPP is grateful for individual support received during the past year from:***

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