
Rappahannock Youth Symphony

Monthly Newsletter

October 2009

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Fall: The Season for Change?

By Thomas Holland, RYS President

Although the change of seasons is fairly predictable, many changes in life aren't. It is regrettable that I must tell you that Dr. Kevin Bartram has resigned as conductor of the Symphonic Orchestra. Although this was a rather unexpected change, Dr. Bartram has asked that everyone understand that his decision was not made lightly and that he very much supports and encourages the efforts of RYS. As many of you know, Dr. Bartram is the orchestra and music education coordinator for the University of Mary Washington, and he has been recently directed to build a band program at the University. His University responsibilities, other civic board responsibilities, and extensive efforts at RYS left him with precious little time for his young family.

Dr. Bartram's leaving will be missed but we are fortunate to have other very capable conductors available to us. Many of you are already familiar with Mrs. Veronica Johnson (see her biography in the September newsletter) who has graciously agreed to step up to the platform as conductor of the Symphonic Orchestra. Taking the Primo Orchestra is Mrs. Ioana Weathers who was one of the excellent conductors interviewed this past summer. I'm sure you will be impressed with her extensive experience in

performance, conducting, and music education. Please see her biography in this newsletter and welcome Mrs. Weathers to RYS.

In the upcoming weeks the RYS Board of Directors will be developing our near and long-term plans for the organization and I will keep you informed by the website and this newsletter. I encourage each of you to continue to be involved as best as you can by helping out on committees, workgroups, and offering your observations and insights. As I stated at last month's kick-off meeting, I truly believe that RYS is poised to become a major regional youth orchestra. Our numbers are increased from this time last year and even more growth is visible on the horizon. The heart-felt intent of the RYS Board and Staff is to achieve that growth in a way that continuously invigorates the young musician's performance experience.

See you at the Italian Dinner!

Thomas Holland

Introducing Mrs. Ioana Weathers

Ioana Paula Boca Weathers is a native of Romania and graduated from the Conservatory in Bucharest with a major in Violin Pedagogy and a minor in Conducting. While in Europe she has been a guest conductor at music festivals in Germany, Holland, France and Italy and was invited to participate in the National Young Conductors Festival in Craiova, Romania where she won first place two years in a row.

Mrs. Weathers moved to Los Angeles, California in 1997 where she performed in orchestras for theater productions such as "Fiddler On the Roof" and "Oklahoma!". In 1999 Mrs. Weathers became a member of the "International Who's Who in Professional Management."

Since moving to Virginia nearly ten years ago, Mrs. Weathers has taught strings at Godwin Middle School in Prince William County where her orchestras have received

“superior” ratings at County Festivals and at the Hershey Park Music Festival. She helped establish the Prince William County Youth Orchestra and had previously conducted with RYS. Mrs. Weathers has served as a guest conductor for Stafford’s All County, a judge for the All County Festival in Stafford County and an invited adviser reviewing the strings curriculum for Prince William County.

Last year Mrs. Weathers completed her Masters in Conducting from the University of Music in Bucharest. She presently teaches 5th grade strings in Prince William County and performs with quartets in the area. She is a member of the Music Educators’ National Conference and loves to keep up with all new strings teaching techniques. In the July edition of “Making Music” magazine, Mrs. Weathers’ strings techniques were highlighted by Eve Carr.

Her husband Anthony Weathers and her two kids Emilia and Ronnie are the greatest gifts in life for Mrs. Weathers.

Italian Dinner Family Night / Painted Violin Project

This year’s Italian Dinner will be catered by **Olive Garden**. The meal will consist of spaghetti, salad, breadsticks, and dessert. The dinner will begin at 6pm. Students will eat prior to rehearsal. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, and \$5 for children 4 and under. Be sure to check out the first showing of the **Painted Violin Project**. Artists paint donated violins, which are later auctioned off as a fundraiser for RYS.

Please plan on attending. The Italian Dinner is an important fundraiser for RYS. Bring your family and friends to enjoy Olive Garden’s famous pasta, salad, and breadsticks!

THE DATE OF ITALIAN DINNER IS TBA.

Concert Attire

Please order concert attire ASAP directly from Formal Fashions to ensure prompt delivery before the December 6th concert.

Formal Fashions Web Address is
<http://formalfashionsinc.com/>

Primo Orchestra

Boys:

White long sleeve collared dress shirt

Black neck tie (not a bow tie)

Black dress pants, **black** dress shoes & **black** socks

Girls:

White Short Sleeve no-collar blouse/shell
(Style 970D5AA Cap Sleeve in **White** from Formal Fashions)

Long **black** dress pants or **black** palazzo pants

(Style 516AA **black** palazzo pants from Formal Fashions)

Black hosiery/**Black** socks

Black closed toe shoes with low or flat heel

Repertory Orchestra

Boys:

White long sleeve tuxedo shirt

(Style 2181 white tuxedo shirt with wing tip collar from Formal Fashions)

Black bow tie

Black dress pants, **black** dress shoes & **black** socks

Girls:

White Short Sleeve no-collar blouse/shell
(Style 970D5AA Cap Sleeve in **White** from Formal Fashions)

Black palazzo pants or long **black** skirt

(Style 516AA **black** palazzo pants from Formal Fashions)

(Style 504FAA **black** A-Line Floor Length Skirt from Formal Fashions)

Black hosiery (required)

Black closed toe shoes with low or flat heel

Symphony Orchestra

Boys:

Black Tuxedo Coat (may be purchased from formal fashions or locally)

White Tuxedo Shirt with wing tip collar

Black Tuxedo Pants with black satin side stripe

Black Bow tie & **Black** Cummerbund

Black dress shoes & **black** socks

5-piece Tuxedo Package from Formal Fashions includes:

Black Tuxedo Coat Style 4501 with notched lapel

White Tuxedo Shirt Style 2181 with wing tip collar

Black Tuxedo Pants Style 6503 non-adjustable with satin side stripe, unhemmed or Style 6502 adjustable with satin side stripe, unhemmed

Black Satin Bow Tie and **Black** Satin Cummerbund

Style 8250RA **Black** Bow Tie
Style 8450RA **Black** Satin Cummerbund regular size or
Style 8451RA **Black** Satin Cummerbund small size

Girls:

Black Knit Gown/Dress Floor Length
(Style 3762AA **Black** Knit Express Gown in Stock for
Quick Delivery)
Black hosiery
Black closed toe shoes with low or flat heel

Schedule

The rehearsal on October 26th is TBA. Battlefield Middle School is unavailable due to the Flu Clinic.

The rehearsal on November 2nd is CANCELLED.

Upcoming Community Event

The University of Mary Washington Community Symphony Orchestra is having a concert on Friday, October 23, 2009 at 7:30pm. It will take place in Dodd Auditorium located in George Washington Hall on campus. The concert will feature a rediscovered Haydn symphony, a Mozart piece featuring two violinists from Fairfax, and Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. The concert is free and open to the public. For more details visit www.umw.edu/music or email Megan Bevill at megan.bevill@gmail.com.

Contact Information

Rappahannock Youth Symphony
P.O. Box 41252,
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

<http://www.rysymphony.org>
info@rysymphony.org
treasurer@rysymphony.org



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Professional Staff

Ms. Megan Bevill, Executive Director

Mrs. Veronica Johnson, Conductor, Symphony Orchestra
Mr. Brandon Bangle, Conductor, Repertory Orchestra
Mrs. Ioana Weathers, Conductor, Primo Orchestra

RYS Executive Board

Mr. Thomas Holland, President
Mrs. Rosemary Hendley, Vice President
Mrs. Julie McAdam, Treasurer
Mrs. Vicky Hepperle, Secretary

Board Members/Committees

Mr. Steve Marple, Property Manager
Mrs. Theresa Halliburton, Grant Writing
Fundraising
Historian
Set-up/Breakdown

Special Committees

Mrs. Michele Coffman, Chair, Painted Violin Project
Mrs. Vicki Ashby, Chair, Symphony and Tea