



# A Tempo

TACOMA  
youth  
SYMPHONY

Volume 57 No. 1

October, 2019

## Welcome to the first online edition of the A Tempo!

This year TYSA is moving to an online newsletter only. Why are we doing this? Well, there are multiple reasons.

- We strive to provide quality music education for our students. To achieve that goal we must be good stewards of our funds. Printing is expensive. We will be sending out postcards to let people know when the A Tempo is available on the website and to remind everyone about upcoming concerts.
- Putting the A Tempo on our website makes it available to more people. In the past the A Tempo has only gone to current parents, current donors, local music teachers and alumni for whom we have addresses. Anyone can access the TYSA website.
- There are limitations to print that we no longer have. Our newsletters in the past have been strictly black and white to save on printing costs. We have been limited to a certain number of pages. Those limitations don't exist online.

We hope you take a few minutes to look through this first ever online edition. Below you will meet Jeffery Lund, the guest conductor this season for Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra, hear from all the TYSA conductors on why they chose to go into music and advice they would give to young musicians and find information on upcoming concerts and runouts. Enjoy!

## A Night at the Movies Costume Concert!

Saturday • October 26 • 7:00 P.M. • Urban Grace Church

The Tacoma Youth Symphony and Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra

will perform music from Star Wars, Phantom of the Opera, Pirates of the Caribbean, What's Up with the Symphony? (Bugs Bunny's greatest hits), Harry Potter and the Fellowship of the Ring!

Get your costumes ready and purchase your tickets today by calling (253) 627-2792 or ordering online, [www.tysamusic.org](http://www.tysamusic.org). Main level tickets are \$19, family packs of 4 main level tickets are \$70 and balcony tickets are \$27.



# Choosing a Career in Music

I remember sitting in a meeting with the head of the Music Department at Freshman Orientation at PLU. I was a Music Education Major but he spoke to those who were considering majoring in performance whose parents might not be quite on board with their decision. He told them, "If your parents are wondering why they need to spend so much money on a college education so that you can get a job selling underwear at Macy's when you can get a job selling underwear at Macy's without a degree, have them come talk to me." Choosing a career in music is a difficult choice and the expectation by many is that it cannot be a successful choice. Why would anyone choose such a life? We asked our conductors the following questions. Why did you go into music? Who was your greatest supporter on that journey and why? What was the biggest challenge you faced on that journey and how did you work through that challenge? What advice would you give young musicians who wish to make music a career? There are some common threads to what all of them had to say. All talk about their families being their greatest supporters. They all also talk about not really having a choice; music is their passion and they couldn't do anything else. What they had to say is below.

Dr. Anna Jensen conducts the Tacoma String Symphony and Tacoma String Philharmonia. She grew up in a musical household and says there was never a time when she can point to as deciding to go into music. Music was something they were all a part of from day one. Her parents were both teachers and gave her amazing support through the gift of time. When she was in high school they drove her three hours each way across the mountains so that she could have access to private lessons and participate in youth symphony every Saturday. Dr. Jensen says that when she joined youth symphony she "knew she had 'found my people' and that music would forever be in my life." Her greatest challenge on her journey was being told at times that she couldn't do something: "things like 'the bass is not a solo instrument' or 'oh, a girl bass player?'" Thank goodness the times have changed and I had amazing private teachers who never let me hang onto these negative thoughts for too long. They always had me put my energy and time into practice as opposed to wasting my time on negative thoughts." Her advice to young musicians? "Lead with your heart, work hard, and accept failure as one of your greatest teachers."

Elizabeth Ward conducts the Tacoma Youth Brass Ensemble and she is the Assistant Conductor of the Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony. She decided to go into music because music is her passion. Her parents were her greatest supporter on that journey; they saw how much she enjoyed music and the difference it made in her attitude. She struggled with making herself practice her French horn and she is still working through that struggle. Her advice to young musicians: "Be sure that music is your passion."

Mr. Jeffery Lund is the Guest Conductor for Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra this season. He never really considered doing anything else besides music until he was an adult trying to find a footing in his musical career. He excelled in music and it always seemed like an obvious choice for him. His mother has been his greatest supporter, although both of his parents have been incredibly supportive. His mother always encouraged him, drove him to rehearsals and lessons, and never let him waiver when he started to doubt his abilities. He says his biggest challenge has been the "imposter syndrome" and carving a career out in a very competitive industry. "To combat that, you have to believe in yourself, and also believe other people when they express appreciation for your art/ability/talent; and, you have to keep moving forward towards the career you want. There will be hurdles, part-time jobs in your 30's, a lack of students/gigs, but you keep moving forward and paying your dues. I now teach at 2 colleges, have 2 orchestras that I conduct, and a private studio of 15. I am finally at a point where I have to say no to almost everything, which is very opposite of myself from 10 years ago, when I said yes to absolutely every opportunity, even when it didn't pay." He advises young musicians to view every experience as a learning experience. You can learn as much from a negative experience as a positive experience if you choose to. "Also, indecision is almost a guarantee for failure. Even the wrong decision is a choice in a direction - the trick is trying to navigate things towards the right direction."

Music Director Dr. Paul-Elliott Cobbs describes being mesmerized by his mother's Beethoven recordings when he was only 4. He heard the Detroit Symphony for the first time when he was 9 and fell in love with the sound. By the time he was 14 music was his life's passion. His family has always given him the greatest support and continues to do so. He has had many wonderful mentors, both in the United States and Europe, but "win or lose, successful or disappointed, family will always be in your corner." His greatest challenge is score study. It never ends! The more he studies, the more he realizes how much there is to learn. He notes, "however, with learning comes joy." The advice he would give to young musicians is, "The goal is not to be perfect, rather to be better today than you were yesterday and better tomorrow than you are today, both as a musician and a person."

## Welcome to Guest Conductor, Jeffery Lund

Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra Conductor, Dale Johnson, is on sabbatical for eighteen months and is planning on returning for the Evergreen Music Festival in the summer of 2020. Last season TYAO had two wonderful guest conductors, Elizabeth Ward and John Falskow. This year we are excited to have Mr. Jeffery Lund for the full 2019-2020 Season. Mr. Lund is a TYSA alumnist who was a part of the first Carnegie Hall Orchestra in 2000. He has been a percussion coach for TYSA, both during the season and at EMF, filled in conductors as needed, taught music theory and he directed the TYSA Percussion Ensemble. Jeff is on the faculty at the University of Puget Sound and Tacoma Community College and he directs the Rainier Symphony. Welcome, Mr. Lund!



## Ensemble Run Out Dates - TYSA in the Community

### **TYAO School Tour**

Friday, October 25, 2019

### **TJYS at Victorian Country Christmas**

Friday, December 6, 2019

### **TYS Education Concert**

Friday, January 24, 2020

### **TSS Runout**

Saturday, April 18, 2020

### **TSP Runout**

Friday, April 24, 2020

*Join us for an evening of chamber music,  
Saturday, January 18, 2020 7:00 P.M.  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
901 N. J St, Tacoma, 98403  
Admission is Free*

The Tacoma Youth Symphony Association is proud to be a part of Tacoma Arts Month. Tacoma Arts Month is dedicated to showcasing the very best about our community. October is brimming with hundreds of arts and culture events, exhibits, and workshops for all ages. There is something for everyone to enjoy: music, dance and theater performances; hands-on experiences; visual art exhibits; literary readings; lectures; workshops; film screenings and cultural events. And, while you are out enjoying arts and culture in Tacoma this October, share your experiences on social media using [#TacomaArtsMonth!](#)

Celebrate art. Create community.

Find out more at [www.TacomaArtsMonth.com](http://www.TacomaArtsMonth.com)



# Mark Your Calendars

2019-2020 Season

Saturday, October 26, 2019 7:00 P.M.

“A Night at the Movies” Costume Concert

Tacoma Youth Symphony and Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra

Sponsored by: An Anonymous Donor



Saturday, November 16, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Youth Symphony

Sponsored by: The City of Tacoma

Sunday, November 23, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra

Sponsored by: The Twice Blessed Fund of  
InFaith Community Foundation



Saturday, December 14, 2019 1:00 P.M.

Tacoma String Symphony and Tacoma String Philharmonia

Sponsored by: An Anonymous Donor

Saturday, December 14, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony and Tacoma Youth Brass Ensemble

Sponsored by: Hsushi Yeh Family Foundation



Saturday, January 18, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Chamber Ensemble Concert

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Sponsored by: An Anonymous Donor through the  
Tacoma Greater Community Foundation



Saturday, February 22, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Youth Symphony

Sunday, February 29, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra

Saturday, April 25, 2020 1:00 P.M.

Tacoma String Symphony and Tacoma String Philharmonia

Saturday, April 25, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony and  
South Sound Strings Harp Ensemble

Saturday, May 9, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra and Tacoma Youth Brass Ensemble

Sunday, May 16, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Tacoma Youth Symphony

Concerts are at Urban Grace Church unless otherwise listed. Tickets can be purchased by calling (253) 627-2792 or through the TYSA website, [www.tysamusic.org](http://www.tysamusic.org).



Season support has been provided by:



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