



## AYS Alumni Newsletter

### Message from the AYS Alumni Association President

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#### AYS Alumni Association:

**President:**  
Jeff Brody (1976 Violin)  
**Vice President:**  
Jae Lee (1982 Viola)  
**Secretary Treasurer:**  
Lori Randall Morrow  
(1982 Cello)

#### How to Reach Us:

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You may be holding a historical document in your hands. Not only is this the first newsletter from what may be the first Youth Symphony alumni association in the country, but this is the first time I've ever written an article as the president of anything. And, of course, the newsletter is about our first Alumni Reunion Concert and the first meeting of the Alumni Association. If you'd like a laminated copy of the first page, let us know.

I think everyone who was here for the reunion will agree that it was a spectacular success. The recital was wonderful; finding old friends and meeting new ones at the dinner was wonderful; the rehearsals and the concert were especially wonderful. And yes, we still are at least as good as we thought we were, even if half of us might not have played in an orchestra (or at all) in years. Just sight-reading the first three chords of the Bach took my breath away.

Of course, the reunion wasn't all nostalgia. One of the reasons for having it was to officially establish the Alumni Association and talk about why we need one. We talked about trying to find addresses for "missing" alumni and gathering news

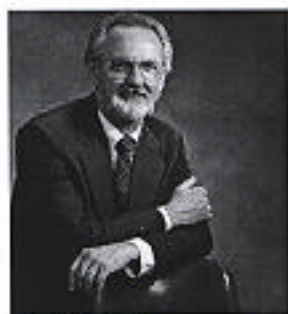
(just like your college Alumni magazine), but we especially talked about the need to support the AYS program so it remains the wonderful experience for kids that we all remember. This means (yes, you guessed it) FUNDRAISING. The Board of the AYS Program has raised \$67,000 towards a \$300,000 endowment fund goal, and I proposed at the meeting that we alumni should try to raise the remaining amount in the next 5 years. Believe it or not, we've already raised \$11,000.00 – only \$222,000 to go! That's about \$45,000 each year. Every newsletter will update our progress toward this goal.

So read our news and send us yours – where are you, what are you doing, and when are you going to come out and listen to a Youth Symphony concert? And if you haven't already, turn to the back, join the Association, and buy a video of the reunion or a CD of our concert – quick, before EMI buys the rights and it gets expensive!

Jeff Brody  
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*Celebrating 45 Years of Musical Excellence*



Dale Kempter

*...Each of you, because of your participation, are shining examples of why a life-long relationship with such a beautiful art form can always provide moments of magic and joy that we need not understand or explain...*

Photo: Paula Higgins, Dale Kempter, and Frank Anthony at Registration



## Letter from Mr. Kempter

As I write this, it has been almost five months since "THE REUNION," and very few days go by that a piece of music, a conversation, a board meeting, a rehearsal, a picture, or attending a concert at Popejoy Hall doesn't stimulate some wonderful memories of those three incredible days. I am so lucky because I know that now these memories will forever continue to reappear as the time together will always be one of the biggest thrills and highlights of my life. I truly believe that music was invented so that men and women could express feelings and emotion in a more profound and creative way than is possible in words. So while I so sincerely appreciate the kind words that came my way, and while I tried to express my thanks to each of you, I believe the proof of our relationship and feelings toward each other came out in the concert. For a brief moment in our lives, hundreds of hours of practice and personal sacrifices stood frozen in time and through music, we shared a time of other years, other friends and other concerts that made the reunion so special.

In briefing the AYS Board of Directors after the reunion, I attempted to point out why the success of the Reunion validates one of the goals of the AYS Program. I truly believe that any student who achieves acceptance into the Albuquerque Youth Symphony will, in some

positive way, carry the musical experience into adulthood. Unlike math, where  $2 \times 2$  is always the same, we are often at a loss to explain or understand how performing a Beethoven or Ives Symphony can be life changing. Each of you, because of your participation, are shining examples of why a life-long relationship with such a beautiful art form can always provide moments of magic and joy that we need not understand or explain.

Each of you are very special. Thanks for being you and sharing a part of your wonderful life with me and music.

Stay in touch and much love,

Dale Kempter

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## Elizabeth Drotning (1995 Cello)

Elizabeth recreates her AYS experience for other young musicians in her position as Artistic Administrator for the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies. The operations and marketing manager for eight orchestras, she is also busy planning the Symphony's tour to China in June. Liz has a degree in English and

women's studies from St. Olaf College, where she also played the cello in the renowned St. Olaf Orchestra. She lives in St. Paul and sings in the semi-professional choral ensemble Magnum Chorum. ~



### Jeff Brody (1976 Violin)

Jeff earned his BA in Anthropology from the University of Chicago, where he was Principal Second Violin in the orchestra. He studied Social Systems Science at the Wharton School. Jeff is currently developing Credit Management software at American Software. He is a Black Belt in Aikido, which he has studied since 1982. Occasionally, he rides his bike to work (35 miles)! He is also a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT in the Edgewood fire department. Jeff has two spectacularly wonderful children and an equally wonderful wife who runs marathons. ¥

*Photo: Jeff Bernstein and Linda & Jeff Brody at El Pinto*

### Quentin Baca (2000 Viola)

This year I am going off to Stanford University where I plan to major in Biochemistry and play as much music as possible. I will play in the symphony on the viola and in the school's Mariachi band on the violin and probably take more lessons. I also hope to take classes in business and maybe minor in it. \*



*Photo: Quentin Baca, Brook Brown, and Charity Kipp at El Pinto*

### Paul Howes (1968 tympani)



Friends say my resume shows I can't hold a job: After a senior trip to S.E. Asia with the Marine Corps, undergraduate work at UNM and law school in Virginia, I was a Special Assistant to the Director of the FBI, an ABC

news correspondent, and then, in what my law-enforcement friends say was the damnest evolution possible - returning from the "dark side of journalism" - an Assistant U.S. Attorney prosecuting complex drug-organization murders for 11 years, giving up network television for cops and felons in the District of Columbia, and those same friends say my epitaph will read "just one more big case." In 1995 I did two things I thought I would never do - leave government service and move to California - when I joined Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach, the country's leading shareholders' class-action law firm. When your XYZ Widget Corp. stock falls from \$28 to \$4 overnight, we ask why. "

*Photo: Laura Snyder Dickenson, Julia Vertrees, and Paul Howes at El Pinto*

### Joel Beckett (1981 Cello)

Joel is currently Principal Cellist with the Austin Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra and Dallas and Austin Chamber Orchestras, as well as the Moveable Feast chamber ensemble and the Terra Incognita Cello Duo. He is also co-owner of Beckett-Blackerby, a violin shop in Austin. Joel has enjoyed side careers as a photographer, writer, and radio producer and announcer. He and his wife Susan live in Austin with their two cats, and raise exotic birds as a hobby. ~



*Photo: Joel Beckett and Pat Moulds*

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
OF  
ALBUQUERQUE YOUTH SYMPHONY**

**Welcome to the newly formed Alumni Association of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony!**

Membership. The Alumni Association will consist of all graduate students of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony. Continued involvement in musical performance is not a criteria for membership. All members will receive the AYS Alumni Association newsletter.

**Why be an active member of the AYS Alumni Association?**

- Keep in touch with old friends, relive AYS traditions
- To revitalize your musical talent through alumni music performances
- Give back to the AYS Program through contributing to the AYS Alumni Association. Your contribution will support the students of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony!

**AYS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUGGESTED  
CONTRIBUTION LEVELS AND RECOGNITION**

***DONOR \$25 / CURRENT STUDENT \$10***

- Invitation to AYS Alumni annual event
- Listing in AYS Program books for entire season
- Tickets to AYS concerts
- Invitation to an annual alumni event
- Receive an informative newsletter to be mailed two times per year to participating alumni.
- Receive an updated AYS Alumni directory to help you keep in touch with fellow AYS graduates

***FRIEND \$125***

All Donor benefits listed above, plus

- Free admission to AYS Alumni annual social event

***PATRON \$500***

All Donor & Friend benefits listed above, plus

- 3 dozen luminarias delivered to you (out of towners will receive *instant* luminarias – just add sand!)

***BENEFACTOR \$1,000***

All Donor, Friend & Patron benefits listed above, plus

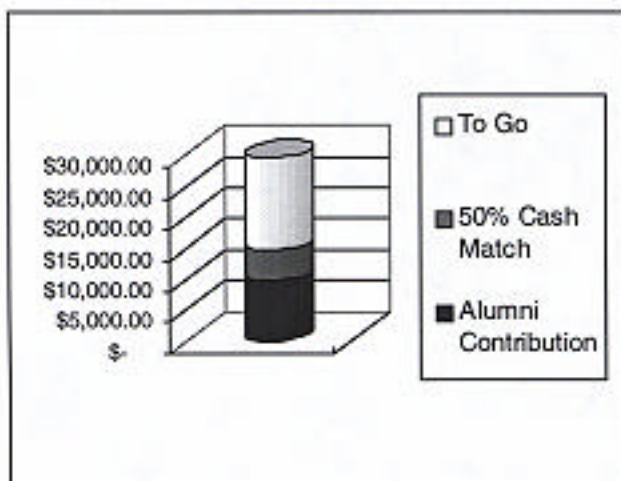
- May engage an AYS quartet for an event (Albuquerque area only, per students' availability)

***CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE \$2,500***

All Donor, Friend, Patron & Benefactor benefits listed above, plus

- A commemorative engraved gift plaque acknowledging your generosity to the AYS Program

**HELP OUR ENDOWMENT FUND GROW!  
CASH MATCH BY DECEMBER 31, 2000!**



- At the AYS Reunion, a challenge was made: to raise \$30,000 by the end of December, 2000.
- If the AYS Alumni can raise \$20,000, a generous donor will match that amount by 50%.

One of the great things that came out of the Reunion was the formation of the AYS Alumni Association. The initial goal of the AYSAA is to assist the AYS Program Board in meeting their Endowment Fund goals. Many of the Alumni donated to this effort right away. One impressive lead gift came from Sharon Fligner Lindquist (Oboe, 1972), Denise Fligner (Clarinet, 1972) and Denise's husband, Terry Edwards (1973 Percussion). This family contribution of \$2,500 will truly help us reach our goals.

We also had an anonymous donor who will match all of the Alumni gifts by 50% up to \$10,000 by December 31, 2000. So the Alumni Association has the potential to give \$30,000 to the AYS Endowment Fund by the end of the year!

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION PRIOR TO  
DECEMBER 31  
TO RECEIVE A 50% MATCH!**

.....  
**YES!** I want to help the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program  
build their Endowment Fund and continue to provide  
a quality educational experience for students and great music for the community .

I have enclosed my tax-deductible check made payable to Albuquerque Youth Symphony in the amount of:  
\$1000\_\_\_\_\_ \$500\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_I would like to learn more about how I can leave a legacy through a gift to the AYS Program in my will.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail to: AYSP, Inc. P.O. Box 30961, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0961*

*Thank you for your generous support of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program Endowment Fund*

## The AYS Program Celebrates 45 Years!

### Calendar of Events

- December 9, 2000 Albuquerque Junior Orchestra Concert  
Cibola High School, 7:30 p.m. FREE
- December 10, 2000 Albuquerque Junior String Orchestra &  
Albuquerque Junior Symphony Concert  
Cibola High School AJSO at 1:45, AJS at 3:00  
FREE
- January 27, 2001 AYS Program Playathon  
Winrock Mall, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. FREE  
Albuquerque Junior String Orchestra  
Albuquerque Junior Orchestra  
Albuquerque Junior Symphony  
Albuquerque Youth Orchestra  
Albuquerque Youth Symphony
- January 27, 2001 Albuquerque Youth Symphony Concert  
Popejoy Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$7.00  
AYS Concerto soloist: Michelle Morgan, Violin
- January 28, 2001 Albuquerque Youth Symphony Concert  
Sandia High School, 2:00 p.m. FREE

The AYS Program is in the middle of a celebration of our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have many events and concerts planned, and the season will wrap up with the AYS embarking on a concert tour of Spain! As you can probably guess, the Luminaria Fund Drive was a big success – with sales around 10,000 dozen! To place your (local) order, please call the AYS Office at 875-1319. The AYS students and parents also sold programs and calendars at the Balloon Fiesta.

Please join us in January for a very busy weekend. On Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., all five of the AYS Program orchestras will be performing at the third annual Playathon at Winrock Mall. Last year, the students raised \$18,000 to benefit the AYS Program. Later that evening, at 7:30, the AYS will perform at Popejoy Hall. Michelle Morgan, violin, will be the AYS Concerto soloist. The next day, Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., the AYO will perform at Sandia High School.

The AYS trip to Spain will be held May 30 – June 10, 2001. The students will visit the cities of Madrid, Burgos, Seville, Cordoba and Granada.

Please call the AYS Office at 875-1319 for details

### Special thanks to:

Anais Chakerian (1990 Violin) for volunteering to be the AYS Program webmaster! Please check out our new website at [www.rt66.com/~ays](http://www.rt66.com/~ays). What a valuable and generous contribution of time and talent!

Diane Fullerton Petring (1989 Cello) for putting together the first AYS Alumni Association newsletter. We appreciate you!

### AYS PROGRAM, INC.

Albuquerque Public Schools  
P.O. Box 25704  
Albuquerque NM 87125-0704

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Parents of AYS Alumni:  
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web!  
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com/~ays](http://www.rt66.com/~ays)**