

noteworthy



This issue:

- From the Podium
- Elizabeth Pitcarin and Her Red Violin
- Reach Out and Read Benefit Concert
- Bravo Brass Tree Lighting
- PYO 70th Anniversary Gala
- Upcoming Concerts

From the Podium



Maestro Louis Scaglione in concert with Philadelphia Youth Orchestra.

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

As we enter a new decade, staying connected with your favorite activities and events are even easier with the help of technology. Philadelphia Youth Orchestra is proud to announce that we will be rolling out a series of social media platforms so you can stay up-to-date with us and be a part of an online community of alumni, friends and current students.

Our participation in social media will allow parents, students and friends to share photos and music quickly and efficiently. Recent photos captured by our resident photographer Mark Garvin will be uploaded after each show and media hits will be posted. We encourage you to share your photos, feedback and upcoming events with us, too.

Be sure to add us as a friend, become a fan or follow us at the addresses below: (HYPERTEXT LINKS (row of icons/save space))

Twitter: @PYOmusic

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/pyomusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Philadelphia-Youth-Orchestra/252125361697?ref=ts

MySpace: www.myspace.com/phlyouthorchestra

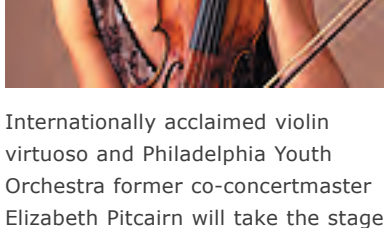
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/pyomusic

We invite you to continue to check each account as many exciting changes will be taking place in the next few months.

Looking forward to another successful year ahead and continuing to celebrate our 70th anniversary together in person and on the Web!

Louis Scaglione, *President & Music Director*
Philadelphia Youth Orchestra

Special Valentine's Day Concert with Elizabeth Pitcairn and Her Red Violin



Christina Steiner

Internationally acclaimed violin virtuoso and Philadelphia Youth Orchestra former co-concertmaster Elizabeth Pitcairn will take the stage at the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall with her legendary Red Violin for the first time with PYO students this Valentine's Day at 7:30 p.m.

Don't miss a special Valentine's Day concert as Philadelphia Youth Orchestra kicks off a three-concert series at the **Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall** in celebration of its 70th Anniversary Season on Sunday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. This concert welcomes back violin virtuoso and PYO alumna who plays in partnership with the legendary 1720 "Red" Stradivarius **Elizabeth Pitcairn** for an unforgettable collaboration.

"Elizabeth has always been a wonderful friend to the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and the students are extremely excited for the chance to perform with her," said Louis Scaglione, President and Music Director of Philadelphia Youth Orchestra. "We're overjoyed with the success Elizabeth has achieved and proud that she is a PYO alumna."

"Some of my fondest memories playing music took place with Philadelphia Youth Orchestra," said Elizabeth Pitcairn. "I'm a lucky girl to be sharing Valentine's Day with so many others who love music. What better way to express your love than through music?"

This will be Pitcairn's Verizon Hall debut and she is thrilled to be sharing the experience with the young musicians of Philadelphia Youth Orchestra.

During a recent interview she recounts her experience as a member of PYO. At the age of 14, Pitcairn joined the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra as a violinist. The daughter of a cello teacher, she and her brother both performed in PYO, where she later became co-concertmaster. She remembers many weekends of her four years of high school practicing and the joy of performing.

Notably, she remembers going to Berlin - the location where her violin once surfaced after centuries of mystery ownership - in the summer of 1989 with her fellow musicians on Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's tour of Germany. "We were there in East Berlin right before the Wall came down. It was a really special experience that I'll never forget."

Led by Maestro Louis Scaglione, Philadelphia Youth Orchestra will perform Strauss's light-hearted "Till Eulenspiegels Lustige Streiche" and Dvorak's romantic "Symphony No. 7." The concert's centerpiece will feature Pitcairn accompanied by Philadelphia Youth Orchestra in Bruch's "Violin Concerto No. 1." "Violin Concerto No. 1" is a very special composition to me," mentioned Pitcairn. "I won my first major composition on this song at the age of 14; I have a deep connection to this performance and I'm thrilled to accompany a young PYO to perform it on the most romantic day of the year."

Famously, Pitcairn plays the real-life instrument said to have inspired the 1999 Academy Award-winning film *The Red Violin*. She received the venerable instrument her senior year in high school when she was co-concertmaster of PYO.

The historic violin was crafted in 1720 by Antonio Stradivari, who lovingly made his instruments in his small shop in Cremona, Italy centuries ago, and remains the most famous violin maker of all time. Not long after its creation, the instrument appeared to vanish from the radar screen; no one knows where or to whom the violin belonged for more than 200 years, spawning any number of historians, writers, journalists, critics, as well as Canadian filmmaker Francois Girard to speculate on the violin's mysterious history. Girard's imaginative speculations became the narrative for *The Red Violin*.

The 1720 "Red" Stradivarius would eventually surface in during 1930s in Berlin. It had been purchased by an heir to the great composer, Felix Mendelssohn. In 1945, the violin was purchased by a New York industrialist who kept the instrument in impeccable performance condition. Much of its original burnished red varnish remains on the violin today, and it is thought to be one of the best sounding and most beautiful of Stradivari's remaining violins. Then on Thanksgiving Day in 1990, the instrument's fate would once again be triggered when the industrialist opted to put the Red Violin on the auction block anonymously at Christie's of London.

While some of the world's most powerful sought to win the coveted instrument, it landed in the hands of a then sixteen-year-old American solo violinist, Elizabeth Pitcairn - while she was concertmaster for Philadelphia Youth Orchestra. Pitcairn would remain silent about owning the violin until her rapidly burgeoning solo career brought her into the public eye on international concert stages after nearly three decades of rigorous training by the world's most esteemed violin teachers.

Pitcairn would come to view the violin as her life's most inspiring mentor and friend. Many have said that the violin has finally found its true soul mate in the gifted hands of the young violinist who is the first known solo artist to ever bring it to the great concert halls of the world, and who has made it her goal to share the violin's magical beauty of sound with people of all ages, professions and cultures. Today, Pitcairn and the "Red" Stradivarius continue to foster one of classical music's most compelling partnerships.

"I can remember going on family vacations and staying inside to practice instead of swimming," Pitcairn continued. "My hard work paid off in the end, though."

Admission is \$16-30 and subject to change. For more information, please call 215-893-1999 or visit pyos.org. To follow Elizabeth Pitcairn and learn about her upcoming concert, go to theredviolin.net.

Another Successful Holiday Benefit Concert for CHOP's Reach Out and Read Program



(From left to right) Jeremy Cohen, Philadelphia, PYAO musician; Dr. Trude Haecker, Bryn Mawr, Chairman of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Board of Trustees and Medical Director of Quality Improvement at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Dana Cullen, Reading, PYAO musician; Gregory Green, Philadelphia, PYAO musician; and Louis Scaglione, Philadelphia, President and Music Director of Philadelphia Youth Orchestra at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Reach Out & Read holiday benefit concert hosted by PYO at St. Mark's Church in Philadelphia.

Under the direction of Maestro Louis Scaglione, PYAO performed a series of holiday classics for full house at **St. Mark's Church** on December 22. The concert served as a benefit for The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's **Reach Out and Read Program**.

Since 2004, Philadelphia Youth Orchestra has collected both monetary and book donations, which enabled CHOP ROR to provide nearly 5,000 books to Philadelphia area children and their families. This year proved to be another successful year with donations that will assist hundreds of families in the Greater Philadelphia region.

"The partnership between Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and CHOP's Reach Out and Read Program is really wonderful because it is kids helping other kids," said Dr. Trude Haecker, Chairman of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Board of Directors and Medical Director of Quality Improvement at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "Philadelphia Youth Orchestra students are learning at a young age the importance of helping others, particularly in literacy development."

Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms nationwide. ROR doctors and nurses give new books to children, ages 6 months through 5 years, and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud. CHOP ROR takes place at six Pediatric & Adolescent Care practices in the CHOP Care Network and reaches 18,700 children in need each year. Research has shown that CHOP ROR provides 50 percent of books to households that typically have less than 25 books.

PYAO performed holiday favorites such as "Sleigh Ride," "The Twelve Days of Christmas," "We Wish You A Merry Christmas," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," among others. The young musicians, ages 10-18, were accompanied by special guests including Choral Society of Montgomery County; Upper Darby High School Encore Singers; Jackie Dunleavy Boyle, soprano; Sandra Carney, mezzo soprano; Alyssa Blackstone, violin; Mary Loftus, violin; Nicholas Bollinger, cello; and William dePasquale, guest conductor and former co-concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Bravo Brass Participates in City Hall Tree Lighting



Tree Lighting 2009: Led by Paul Bryan, Bravo Brass was invited by Mayor Michael A. Nutter to perform at the City of Philadelphia Tree Lighting Ceremony in December.

This past holiday season Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's **Bravo Brass** ensemble was invited by Mayor Michael A. Nutter to perform at the annual **Tree Lighting Ceremony** at City Hall. Despite some wet weather, the young musicians made spirits bright by opening the ceremony with "Sleigh Ride" and later performed "O Christmas Tree" when Mayor and Mrs. Nutter lit the tree as the official start of the holiday season.

"Educating Philadelphia's youth about arts and culture contributes to shaping their interests, goals and leadership skills," said Mayor Michael A. Nutter in a statement. "I applaud the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's students, faculty and alumni for 70 years of excellence in music education."

Led by Artistic Coordinator and Conductor **Paul Bryan**, members of Bravo Brass joined Mayor Michael A. Nutter, City Representative Melanie Johnson, Miss Philadelphia 2009 Ryann Richardson, and the Department of Recreation's Performing Arts Troupe on stage.

"We were honored to participate in such a wonderful tradition of the holiday season for the City of Philadelphia," said Philadelphia Youth Orchestra President and Music Director Maestro Louis Scaglione.

While the December performance is the first time PYO has been invited to participate in the City's Tree Lighting Ceremony, it surely will not be the last.

Studio Incamminati To Participate in PYO's 70th Anniversary Gala



Philadelphia Orchestra Chief Conductor Charles Dutoit provides insight into the career of a professional musician at the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Gala in 2009.

Our 70th Anniversary Season Gala and Concert are just a few weeks away! Making this year bigger and better than ever, Philadelphia Youth Orchestra has partnered with **Studio Incamminati** for a private display of fine art which will be available for purchase during our reception at the **Union League on Friday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m.** A percentage of the sales will benefit PYO's programs and services.

The selection of fine art will include portraits and studies of color and shading crafted by local artists. Each artist was trained at **Studio Incamminati** in the style of Nelson Shanks, founder of the school and an internationally renowned painter, art historian, teacher, connoisseur and collector.

Studio Incamminati exists to meet the express needs of students eager to learn the aesthetic and philosophical principles of humanist realism and the techniques espoused by Nelson Shanks.

Modeled on the traditional Italian academia and French atelier, Studio Incamminati provides a dynamic teaching program to produce highly skilled artists who can call upon their abilities to create art with depth of purpose. It teaches artists whose art and teaching will in turn inspire others.

This partnership will be one of the first of its kind in the Greater Philadelphia region and it was created especially for Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's 70th Anniversary Gala and Concert.

To request an invitation to the event, please call the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra office at 215-545-0502.

Upcoming Concerts

PYO
Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Elizabeth Pitcairn, Soloist

Verizon Hall
The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
Philadelphia, Pa.
[More information >](#)

PYAO
Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010
3:00 p.m.
Benefit Concert for Youth Work Foundation

Lincoln Hall
The Union League of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pa.
[More information >](#)

Bravo Brass
Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010
8:00 p.m.
Voices of Brass

Saint Francis de Sales Church
Philadelphia, Pa.
[More information >](#)

Performance schedules for the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra, Bravo Brass, PRYSM and Musicopia, may be viewed on our website at www.pyos.org



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