

Old Music for New Generation

Junior Strings conducted by Ms. Sharon Miller

A Shaker Melody (Simple Gifts) from *American Themes*....arr. by Mike Barnard

Ode to Joy.....Ludwig v. Beethoven (1770-1827), arr. by Bruce Chase

Junior Strings and Youth Symphony

Ode to Joy excerpt from *Symphony No. 9*.....Ludwig v. Beethoven (1770-1827)

Youth Symphony conducted by Yi-Ping Chen

Spring from *Four Seasons*.....Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

I. Allegro

Kyrie Beiler, violin solo

Estrellita (Star of Love).....Manuel M. Ponce (1882-1948)

America from *West Side Story*.....Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), arr. Diego Marani

Adoration.....Florence B. Price (1887-1953), arr. Elaine Fine

Lauren Bristow, conductor

Russian Sailor Dance from *The Red Poppy*.....Reinhold Glière, arr. Merle Isaac

Junior Strings and Youth Symphony

Julianne Johnson and Fire on the Mountain medley.....

Traditional, arr. Eric Brubaker, Megan Tiller, and Kelly Wiedemann

Eric Brubaker, violin solo

Program Notes

This semester we want to introduce a much wider variety of “old” music to our “new” generation of students and audiences. Old music includes familiar repertoire from orchestral tradition and folk music from many different cultures that make up the United States of America. The Shaker Melody is an American folk song that paints the picture of people dancing “in the valley of love and delight” that is still fitting for the beautiful land we reside in today. Beethoven’s Ode to Joy describes his journey looking for happiness that is a sentiment still shared by many of us at this unusual time. The singing birds and thunder and lightning described in Vivaldi’s 300-year-old music still signal the spring’s arrival today. You do not need to have lived in Mexico in the 1900s to understand the sentiments of yearning for reciprocated love in the Ponce’s love song, Estrellita. Written in 1957, America from West Side Story speaks of immigrants’ bittersweet experiences still being lived by immigrants today. The comforting sound found in *Adoration* by African American female composer, Florence Price, came from the composer’s effort blending the best of African American church music and European art music together. The many different variations of the same melody in Russian Sailor Dance invites you to empathize with them who wear their many emotions on their sleeves. Finally, Julianne Johnson and Fire on the Mountain combine the European Orchestral sound and American Folk music styles to make orchestral music accessible because this old music will tug on your heart strings while making you tap your toes.

About the Ensembles

The **Shenandoah Valley Youth Symphony** program includes the **Junior Strings** ensemble, designed for intermediate students with little or no orchestra experience. The focus of this ensemble is on learning the skills needed to be a successful and confident orchestra member. Students join with teacher recommendation and meet for nine weeks each semester.

In its thirty-first season, the **Youth Symphony** began in 1990 as a string ensemble, in part through a grant from the Virginia Commission of the Arts. The ensemble grew to a full orchestra in its next season and is the only opportunity for instrumental students to participate in such a group this side of Charlottesville and Winchester. The ensemble is for advanced middle school and high school students of all orchestral instruments. Students are selected by audition. The focus is on developing the playing and ensemble skills needed to be a symphonic orchestra member and on performing standard orchestral repertoire. Wind/percussion and string sectionals are held at several rehearsals each semester for specialized instruction. Rising seniors are selected by audition to perform a concerto movement with the orchestra during their senior year.

A **Youth Symphony Fellowship Program** was established through a generous donation from **Bibb and Dolly Frazier**. The Fellowship Program supports students who play at a high level and are committed to the Symphony through scholarship money for private lessons and tuition for the Symphony. Priority is given to instrumentalists needed to maintain a solid orchestra. Please consider joining **Debbie Warnaar and Brian Bauer** in making a donation to ensure that the Fellowship Program continues! If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact Kim Souther for more information.

The Shenandoah Valley Youth Symphony is part of **Eastern Mennonite University's Preparatory Music Program**. The program also includes Instrumental Music Instruction (violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, flute, piano), and Musikgarten Classes (ages birth through 7 years). Kim Souther is the Administrative Director for the program, which enrolls nearly 300 students from six Virginia counties. Please call 540-432-4277 for information about the Preparatory Music Program or visit the website at www.emu.edu/prepmusic

Since 2007 the Preparatory Music Program has been contracted by **Harrisonburg City Schools** to provide after-school violin classes in the six elementary schools, two middle schools, and the high school. This year, our teachers and students experienced virtual lessons and are looking forward to returning to live after-school instruction in the Fall of 2021.

Conductors

Striving to make classical music relevant to her community, **Yi-Ping Chen's** influences in the Harrisonburg area includes teaching conducting at James Madison University, serving as executive director of JMU's Spring String Thing camp, and conducting the Shenandoah Valley Youth Orchestra. She continues to serve as founding conductor for Fargo-Moorhead Ballet Company's annual *Nutcracker* production. Chen co-founded Caravanserai, a flexible chamber group that presents classical music in approachable settings. Most recently she joined Lexington's Rockbridge Symphony as Music Director. She studied conducting from Victor Yampolsky at Northwestern University and Mark Russell Smith from University of Minnesota.

Mrs. Sharon Miller has been the conductor of the Junior Strings ensemble since its inception in 2001. She was the administrative director of the Shenandoah Valley Preparatory Music Program from 1992 - 2019. She continues to teach Suzuki violin and viola in the SVPM Program in addition to teaching after-school violin classes in Harrisonburg City Schools. A registered Suzuki Violin Teacher Trainer, she holds Suzuki pedagogy courses at EMU and online for Preparatory Music students, University students and for members of the community. She has taught at Suzuki institutes, festivals and workshops throughout the United States and Peru. Mrs. Miller received her M.Ed. (music) from Towson State University

and M.M. (Suzuki Pedagogy) from East Carolina University. As a performer, she is looking forward to returning to playing violin with the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra and other local ensembles.

Musicians

Kyrie Beiler has studied violin for the past eleven years, and applies herself in string camps, volunteer teaching, and playing for church. Kyrie is also involved in her high school by being a pit violinist every year. Kyrie furthers her activities by playing clarinet in Wind Ensemble, and auditioning for ensembles. In addition, she also has studied piano and upright bass. Kyrie will gain her bachelor's degree in music performance, at Shenandoah University, so one day she can work in a professional orchestra. This dream was sparked in her five years at SVYS.

Eric Brubaker is a member of VA based Americana Roots band The Steel Wheels, recording with the band and touring extensively since 2010. In 2013, the band helped found the Red Wing Roots Music Festival, which they host every July. Growing up with classical music and the traditional fiddle tunes of Appalachia, Eric enjoys bridging the two worlds and introducing folk styles to new generations of instrumentalists. As host of Red Wing Academy, Eric is able to bring traditional tunes and the music of The Steel Wheels into the classroom and festival setting alike.

Megan Tiller owns Tiller Strings Violin Shop in Harrisonburg, VA where she also teaches a small Suzuki studio. She has particular interest in old-time fiddle music and a passion for providing this outlet to students who come from all backgrounds. In 2015 Megan helped launch the first Red Wing Fiddle Workshop with The Steel Wheels, and in 2017 became director of the expanded Red Wing Academy. Megan is actively involved in her local music scene as well as music festivals across the country, on staff at Bonnaroo, Red Wing Roots, and Pickathon.

Kelly Wiedemann is a violinist and teacher who began her music training in Eastern Mennonite University's Preparatory Music Program at age 4. She received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Washington Adventist University and Masters in Music from James Madison University. Kelly currently serves as Orchestra and Strings Director at Shenandoah Valley Academy, String Instructor with EMU's Preparatory Music Program, and is Associate Director of Red Wing Academy, a summer fiddle program. Kelly's passion is introducing her students to alternative styles of music, especially fiddle, Celtic, jazz, and pop. When not teaching, Kelly plays with the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra, is working on a therapeutic music certification to play violin in healthcare facilities, and loves jamming with her two musical brothers, also teachers.

Shenandoah Valley Youth Symphony

Violin

Kyrie Beiler, Concertmaster
Eleanor Shank, Section Leader
Cindy Liu, Section Leader
Elsa Waidelich, Section Leader
Amara Clancey
Mina Fukumura
Jory James
Abigail Kauffman
Sophie Kauffman
Jei Kim
Ye-Jin Lee
Miriam Rhodes
Julien Steins
Micah Tongen
Leslie Yang
Sophia Yoder

Viola

Claudia Allemeier, section leader

Cello

Ezra Miller, section leader
Alexander Elliott
Mary Eleanor Hermes

Bass

Owen Tompkins, section leader

Oboe

Cindy Liu

Clarinet

Lada Dmytriyeva

Bassoon

Anna Miller

Trumpet

Nick Rizzo

Tuba

William Swatman

Junior Strings

Violin

Serenity Gordon
Phoenix Johnson
Silas King
Victoria Shulgan
Lleyton Steines
Elaina Stoltzfus
Schrock-Hurst
Lilianna Stoltzfus
Paul Tongen
Ana Valderamos Figuero
Aurora Versen

Cello

Emory Johnson
Vio Lee

Coaches

Ellen Kasiske
Caleb

Thank you for your donations this afternoon! They will be used to directly support the Youth Symphony program. Although students do pay tuition, this only covers 60% of the program's costs.

Special thanks:

...Lauren Bristow, rehearsal and concert assistance
...Erin Weldon, rehearsal and concert assistance, program preparation
...Leanne Shank, snack provider and coordinator
...Kimberly Souther, Executive Director of Prep Music Program



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Upcoming Events

Summer Instrumental Lessons - To register go to emu.edu/prepmusic

Summer Music Camps at EMU

- **Chamber Music Camp (Middle - High School); June 28-July 1**
 - Enjoy daily coaching in small ensembles and improve your artistic communication, technique, and creative interpretation. The week will conclude with a recorded performance within the community.
- **Suzuki Camp (5yrs.-Middle School); July 26-30**
 - A one week camp where you can join other elementary aged students as you play through Suzuki music ensembles, improve your technique, learn fiddle tunes, and explore playing music in a mini-movie studio

For further information or to register go to emu.edu/prepmusic

Red Wing Academy is hosted by Eric Brubaker of The Steel Wheels as a four-day intensive camp held July 4-7. This summer, we are offering a scaled-back camp in a two session format, with enrollment for each session capped at 24 students. Rising 6-12 graders + 2020 and 2021 graduating seniors are encouraged to register (deadline May 28). For more information, visit www.redwingacademy.com



