



Music For Life

LA JEUNESSE YOUTH ORCHESTRA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011



Music Director Michael Lyons leads LJYO in rehearsal for the 13th annual 'Home For The Holidays' concert, Sunday December 4.

Scarborough choir joins LJYO for 'Home For The Holidays'

La Jeunesse Youth Orchestra welcomes St. Cecilia Youth Choir of Scarborough for 'Home For The Holidays', a seasonal celebration of symphony and song. The concert takes place at Port Hope United Church, Sunday December 4, 3 pm.

St. Cecilia Youth Choir combines 72 student voices from three different Catholic elementary schools. The three schools, Cardinal Leger, St. Martin de Porres, and St. Ursula, are a family of schools from the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Cobourg resident Maureen Murphy, itinerant vocal music teacher assigned to each school, is the choral director.

St. Cecilia Youth Choir originated from separate choirs representing each individual school. Eventually they blended into one choir combining their talents into a "Performance Choir" from the Scarborough area.

The students, who range in age from 8 to 13 years, have demonstrated a tremendous work ethic and a

commitment to performance. They have been mastering choral skills and repertoire with eager anticipation of the opportunity to perform with a full symphony orchestra.

LJYO continues to grow, with a current membership of 38. The Orchestra is led by Music Director Michael Lyons and Director of Strings Laurie Mitchell, assisted by six adult coaches who play in the various sections.

The December concert repertoire includes Variations on a Korean Folk Song, Bells of Christmas, and a medley of classics titled "Christmas at the Movies."

LJYO will be joined by the Choir for South African folk tune Siyahamba, the Leroy Anderson medley Christmas Festival, and Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song).

Tickets for 'Home For The Holidays' are \$20 adult, \$15 student, and \$50 family.

Tickets are available at 1-866-460-LJYO (5596), at the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope, at the door on concert day, and online at www.ljyo.ca.

Jesse Solway returns to LJYO as Orchestra Manager



There's a new face in LJYO this season – but that face might look very familiar to long-time followers of LJYO.

Bassist Jesse Solway was a member of the string section of the very first LJYO for the 1999–2000 season. He returns this year as a coach and Orchestra Manager.

The Orchestra Manager handles a multitude of duties, including weekly communications with LJYO members, opening and closing the rehearsal space, and making travel arrangements for orchestra members and their equipment for public concerts and school concerts.

Jesse joined LJYO as a violinist but switched to bass as he grew more proficient on that instrument. In addition to performing with LJYO for four seasons, he also played with the National Youth Orchestra for three seasons and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra for three seasons.

Jesse says that LJYO played a big role in his development as a musician. “It was a big commitment, coming to rehearsals with LJYO throughout the season.”

“Coming back now has made me realize how much I learned here about being prepared for rehearsals and performance,” he says.

In the spring of 2011 Jesse completed his courses at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory in Toronto. He currently performs with a variety of professional ensembles.

Next year Jesse hopes to begin studies in the Netherlands for a Master's Degree in orchestral performance, en route to a career as a professional classical musician.

LJYO CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

'Home For The Holidays' concert, 3 pm
Port Hope United Church

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

Christmas concert with choirs of Cambridge Street United Church, Lindsay, 3 pm

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4

Second annual Soup & Symphony fundraiser, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, at Calvary Pentecostal Church, Port Hope. Mugs donated by local potters, soup provided by local caterers. Tickets are \$20, at 1-866-460-LJYO.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26

'In The Spotlight' concert, 3 pm
Port Hope United Church

SUNDAY MAY 6

'Sonic Bloom' concert, 3 pm
Port Hope United Church

THURS JUNE 7 – SAT JUNE 9

Auditions for our 2012–13 season. Email ljomanager@gmail.com to set up an audition or visit www.ljyo.ca for more information.