



Music For Life

LA JEUNESSE YOUTH ORCHESTRA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009



PHOTO BY COLYN CRAWLEY

Jaclyn Jeans, Ellen Mead, and Erin Mieke in LJYO's violin section. The Orchestra has grown in size again this year, with 36 members along with 9 adult coaches.

Renowned jazz vocalist joins LJYO for 'Home for the Holidays'

LJYO rings in the festive season with symphonic jazz, as vocalist Michael Danso joins the orchestra for 'Home for the Holidays' on November 29.

"Danso's remarkable voice combines the warmth and silky soulfulness of Nat King Cole with the panache of Sammy Davis Jr.," wrote Andy Cooper in the Regina Leader Post.

Known around the world for his stage roles in Riverdance and Jesus Christ Superstar, Danso has also performed as the vocal soloist with many symphony orchestras.

LJYO woodwind coach David Tanner has written new arrangements of six holiday standards for Danso and LJYO, including Baby It's Cold Outside, Winter Wonderland, and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

The Orchestra will also perform symphonic favourites including Carol of the Bells and selections from The



Michael Danso is "a singer not to be missed!" – Sid Adilman, Toronto Star

Nutcracker Suite.

'Home for the Holidays' takes place at 7 pm on November 29 at the Port Hope United Church. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students, \$50 for a family, available at 1-866-460-LJYO, at the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope and at Victoria Hall in Cobourg.

LJYO begins season of new challenges, new opportunities

Another LJYO season is off to an exciting start.

Plans are already underway for a variety of new ventures for the youth orchestra, including the upcoming performance-collaboration with jazz vocalist Michael Danso.

LJYO will undoubtedly be positively affected by this incredibly seasoned performer, who has appeared with orchestras all over the world. I cannot thank David Tanner enough for his willingness to share his talent as a composer/arranger once again with the organization. David has written all six arrangements that Michael will perform at 'Home for the Holidays'.

I am excited about the make-up of this year's group – we have a pretty good balance and a really positive attitude in rehearsals so far. Congratulations to our new concert master Sarah McCabe and to this year's orchestra leader Jake Nesbitt, two very capable and musical leaders. And to all of the members on their successful auditions. And last but not least, let me welcome our brand new French Horn section – Lucy and Autumn. Way to go.

– MICHAEL LYONS, MUSIC DIRECTOR



MEMBER FOCUS

Tiffani Dakers is one of the Orchestra's younger members – but she's also a veteran, now in her fourth season with the Orchestra. Currently a grade 7 student at The Pines Senior Public School in Newcastle, Tiffani spends a lot of her free time mastering the wide range of percussion instruments used in orchestral music, while also studying piano, bass guitar and alto sax.

Her contributions to the Orchestra also extend to computer work. This past summer, while her father Dave Dakers worked on a redesign of the LJYO website, Tiffani was assigned the task of searching the internet for images to be used on the site. Her summer homework also included reading a manual of website design, and writing style sheets for the new site.

Looking ahead: a series of wonderful concerts

The season-opener 'Home for the Holidays' is just a few weeks away, but LJYO is already making plans for three more public concerts this year.

On Sunday December 6, LJYO hits the road to visit the Cambridge Street United Church in Lindsay. Every second year LJYO is invited to perform in Lindsay, and the concerts have proven just as popular in Lindsay as in Port Hope.

On Sunday February 21, some of the Orchestra's most accomplished soloists take their turn 'In The Spotlight', backed by the full Orches-

tra. This year's featured performers are Anna Karpazis (marimba), Kate Louws (flute), Colleen Jenish (violin), Sarah McCabe (violin), and Jane Cook (French horn).

The season ends with 'Sonic Bloom' on May 16. This symphonic welcome to spring is always a stirring season finale. This year we will be joined by violinist Nathaniel Anderson-Frank, currently a Masters candidate at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England.

'Playing Without Pain': a wellness workshop for musicians

The unique physical demands placed on musicians can lead to repetitive stress injuries. LJYO hopes to sponsor a workshop on preventing and curing such pain, and this workshop will be open to LJYO members as well as to other musicians throughout our area.

The workshop will be lead by Barbara Paull, Physiotherapist, and Christine Harrison, Violinist, who are co-authors of "The Athletic Musician:

Playing Without Pain".

The first workshop is tentatively scheduled for Saturday December 12, 11 am to 4:30 pm. The workshop will be free to LJYO members, with a nominal fee for other community members.

For further information or to sign up for this workshop please contact Tracy Sachdeva, ljyomanager@hotmail.com, 1-866-460-5596.

COMING SOON: AN ALL-NEW LJYO.CA
Check our website for a complete redesign, online in the coming weeks

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday November 29

'Home for the Holidays' concert, Port Hope United Church, 7 pm

Sunday December 6

Christmas concert at Cambridge Street United Church, Lindsay, 3 pm

Sunday, February 21

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

Sunday, May 16

'Sonic Bloom' concert, Port Hope United Church, 7 pm

Support the Orchestra with your order for holiday flowers

LJYO parents are selling flowers from Vandermeer Nursery in Ajax for our holiday fundraising program. You can place a paid order by Saturday, November 14, and orders will be available for pick up at rehearsal on Saturday morning, November 28. As a bonus, every purchase includes a \$5.00 Off coupon redeemable at Vandermeer Nursery. If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Davison at 905-377-1581 or Virginia Dakers at 905-987-9828.