



## Cadet Orchestra Expands the CIYS Preparatory Strings Program

Since 1994, the "Prep Orchestra" has been the hallmark of CIYS's preparatory strings program. Young string students aspiring to one day play in a full orchestra have

been successfully shown the way under the steady hand of seasoned music educator Betsy Jones for over 13 years.

However, with musical instruction in local elementary and middle schools on the decline (due to decreased arts funding), demand for our Prep Orchestra has found us literally bursting at the seams. Fewer outside learning opportunities for beginning string students has also meant a decline in the average preparation level of those seeking acceptance into our program. The solution? In this our 44th season, CIYS has created the "Cadet Orchestra", our new entry-level string program. Working with a smaller group of students, Betsy Jones personally guides Cadet students in developing the basic rhythm and listening skills they need to successfully play their instrument with others in an orchestra.

Research shows that young children who receive just one year of musical training exhibit superior memory when compared to those children with no musical training. Students involved in music generally outperform other students on standardized tests. We'd like to think Betsy's efforts have a much greater impact on these young lives than just making beautiful music!

The Cadet orchestra rounds out the musical training offered by the Central Illinois Youth Symphony; we are now able to accommodate the needs of students at every level of musical training, from beginner through college-prep. The Cadet Orchestra lays the solid foundation to help young students become the best they can be.

Nineteen students, age 9 to 13, nervously sat on the stage before their debut as the Cadet Orchestra at last November's concert. The standing ovation they received at the conclusion of their performance was all the confirmation they needed to inspire them to reach for the stars! ■

CENTRAL  
ILLINOIS  
YOUTH  
SYMPHONY

### UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

April 16, 2010  
SMALL ENSEMBLE  
CONCERT  
2pm  
Metamora High School  
Metamora, IL

April 18, 2010  
YOUTHFUL FUSION  
PEORIA BALLET  
COLLABORATION  
7pm  
Metamora High School  
Metamora, IL

April 25, 2010  
SPRING  
ORCHESTRAL  
CONCERT  
2pm  
Metamora High School  
Metamora, IL

May 1, 2010  
CIYS BARN DANCE  
7pm  
Shore Acres Park  
Chillicothe, IL

## Youthful Fusion:

### A Collaboration between Central Illinois Youth Symphony and Peoria Ballet Students

Marking a first in the history of CIYS, our 67 member Youth Symphony will accompany the Peoria Ballet in a "Youthful Fusion" dance production. To be held at Metamora High School on April 18th, this collaboration gives Symphony students the enriching and challenging experience of providing music for a live dance performance.

The Peoria Ballet, now in its 45th season, has over 230 students, age 3 through adult, enrolled in their academy. Fifty dancers with an average of 8-10 years of academy instruction will take part in this collaboration.

Providing orchestral accompaniment for a live performance requires both skill and flexibility on the part of musician and conductor. This opportunity does not frequently avail itself of the high school musician, so

we are excited to provide this challenge for our students. The music covers a broad spectrum of pieces not only from the concert repertoire but also the ballet repertoire.



Dances from several different ballets will be presented, including:

*Hoedown* from *Rodeo* by Copland, *Sleeping Beauty Waltz* by Tchaikovsky, *Jupiter* from the *Planets* by Holst, and *Bacchanale*

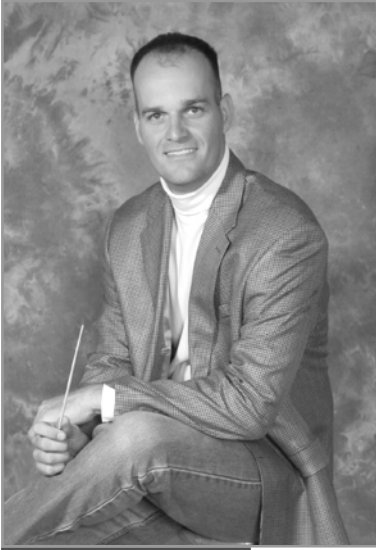
from *Samson and Delilah* by Saint-Saens.

Original choreography by Rebekah von Rathonyi, Academy Director, and Lauren Terice will be premiered.

Tickets are available at the door or on-line at [www.ArtsPartners.net](http://www.ArtsPartners.net). \$8 adults; \$4 children; \$20 family package. Seniors \$4 each.

Hope to see you there! ■

# CIYS Welcomes Brian Dollinger



Newly appointed conductor of the Central Illinois Youth Symphony, Brian Dollinger, has been praised here and abroad by audiences and musicians alike. Mr. Dollinger is an alumnus of CIYS, having performed for many years in both the Central Illinois Concert Orchestra and the CIYS ensembles as a double bassist.

Mr. Dollinger graduated from the Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Music degree in Double Bass Performance and a Master of Music Degree in Orchestral Conducting and Double Bass Performance. During his doctoral studies at Ball State University, he was inducted into the Phi Kappa Lambda Honor Society. He also received the “Outstanding Graduate Student” award from the School of Music, and a “Certificate of Achievement” from the Graduate School.

Mr. Dollinger has guest conducted orchestras throughout Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. His passion for conducting, teaching and mentoring has led to Music Director and Conductor (in his fourth season) of the Bradley Symphony Orchestra at Bradley University. At Bradley, he teaches conducting students as well as double bass. Mr. Dollinger is also the Conductor and Music Director of the Muscatine Symphony Orchestra and Clinton Symphony (IA).

As CIYS music director, Mr. Dollinger would like to expand concert offerings and outreach into community through collaborations with other arts organizations such as, the Peoria Symphony Orchestra, Heritage Ensemble and area high school music programs. He would also like to expose the students to standard symphonic repertoire from all time periods and genres including jazz, pops, and dance. Mr. Dollinger would also like to explore the possibility of touring trips with the orchestra and ensembles throughout the state, region, and nationally. ■

## No Rest for the Weary

### Busy Spring Ahead

It seems that as the CIYS organization continues to evolve, the calendar just continues to fill up with activities – both on the stage and off. After opening the semester with the wonderful Senior Solo Recital held at Bradley University, our CIYS families have been on the go . . . and making beautiful music along the way!

April is the key month for events with three major concerts for the organization’s four orchestras and seven small ensembles. Besides the normal spring Small Ensemble and Orchestral concerts, the Youth Symphony will be featured in an amazing collaboration with the Peoria Ballet – “Youthful Fusion.” This unique

experience will pair the two organizations as the students in Youth Symphony provide the live music for the ballet’s performance.

After all of this work, everyone will have a reason to celebrate – which makes the 2nd Annual Barn Dance fundraiser a perfect end to the semester! Last year was a huge amount of fun for the entire family, and this year looks to be even better! So put on your dancing shoes and join CIYS for a night of fiddling, square dancing, and good memories!

Please see the cover page for dates and locations of all of these events. We look forward to seeing you there! ■

## Cadenza The Alumni Spotlight



Alumnus Ben Jones ('99) grew up in Peoria playing both cello and French Horn with CIYS. Combining his love for music and theatre, Ben received a BA with high distinction in Cinema Studies from the University of Illinois and an MM from the San

Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he studied voice with tenor Cesar Ulloa and conducting with Michael Morgan.

Today Ben enjoys a healthy performing schedule. His voice and charisma on stage has garnered critical praise, including nominations for Best Actor in a Musical by the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle. His versatile voice can be heard

on numerous recordings, including a recent release on Albany Records.

Ben has also devoted much time to working with young musicians—conducting orchestras in the San Francisco Public and Charter Schools, and spending 2 seasons conducting the San Jose Youth Symphony Concert Orchestra, an ensemble he developed from twenty-five students in the first rehearsal to more than seventy-five.

In August, 2009, Jones joined “Chanticleer,” the Grammy Award-winning “Orchestra of Voices” based in San Francisco, touring in the US and abroad, and conducting workshops with choral singers, young and old.

You can find much more on his web site: [www.benjaminsandavidjones.com](http://www.benjaminsandavidjones.com). ■

### ALUMNI: WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Please share news about yourself so we can include it in the next issue of *The Score*. Photos are always welcome and every attempt will be made to return them.

Send information to:  
CIYS  
PO Box 908  
Morton, IL 61550 or  
Email us at  
[info@ciys.org](mailto:info@ciys.org)

# A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

**A message from CIYS Treasurer, Dana King and Board President, Janice Lukich**

From the opening musical lines played by the young Cadet Orchestra, to the closing dramatic rendition of "Fanfare for the Common Man" offered by the Youth Symphony, our fall concerts read like a good book: an enchanting prologue, a journey filled with twists and turns, and a spectacular conclusion.

That is what CIYS is all about: students who have a love for music and want to share it with others. They dream big. We help them. Our conductors pour themselves into growing the student and the dream. Of course it takes more than just showing up at a rehearsal to make the "magic" happen. Simply put, it entails dedication.

Besides mastering the challenges given them by CIYS, our students are required to be members of their own school music programs. On Thursday nights, they travel to Morton, IL from 27 different communities to spend up to 2 or more hours immersed in music education. Nearly 1/2 of our students also participate in one of our seven Small Ensembles, where they are further challenged by our professional conducting staff to deepen their musicality, become better listeners, and take on leadership roles.

We're fortunate in Central Illinois that some schools still

have orchestral programs. However, no one is escaping the economic pinch, especially the arts. CIYS firmly planted its roots 44 years ago when it established the Youth Symphony, providing a level of challenge that both compliments and goes beyond that offered in schools. Because of the dedication of our board, our staff and our conductors, CIYS has been able to make a difference in the lives of nearly 3,000 children.

However, without the on-going generous support of our patrons, we might have the same sad ending seen repeated across the country by many non-profit arts organizations. Indeed, CIYS funding from grants is down by 60%. Student tuition has increased. But demand for our programs is an ever present reminder of our

mission: to serve the student.

We simply can't sit back and wait for the economy to improve. So as we thank you for your past support, we still need to extend our hand. Won't you consider making a gift at this time? A donation form is found on the back of this newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you. And so would our students. Next time you're around, stop by one of our rehearsals or concerts. There, you can witness the "magic" happening! ■

*"CIYS has been able to make a difference in the lives of nearly 3,000 children"*

## Your donation today can buy:

\$25 - String Quartet Gig Music

\$40 - New Snare Drum heads

\$50 - Brass Quintet concert music

\$90 - New CIYS Banner

\$120 - Conductor's Music Stand

\$300 - Suspended Cymbal & Stand

\$400 - New Xylophone Stand

\$800 - DLP Projector for Parent/Student Orientations

\$4000 - Marimbas

*CIYS is a tax deductible 501C3 organization.*

## Congratulations 2010 Senior Solo Winner

Congratulations to Ellen Shinogle, winner of the 2009 - 2010 Senior Solo Competition! She will be performing Aruntunian's Trumpet Concerto with the Central Illinois Youth Symphony on our April 25th concert at Metamora High School.

Ellen Marie Shinogle is a senior at Richwoods High School and participates in the symphonic, marching, and pep bands under the direction of Mr. Mark Jirousek. In the fall of 2006, Ellen began studying under the direction of Dr. Todd Kelly, the trumpet professor at Bradley University. She is also a member of the Peoria Jazz All Stars, placed 1st chair in the 2009 IMEA Honors All-State Concert Band and was a featured soloist in the 2009 IMEA commissioned piece, "Illinois."

Ellen has been a member of the Central Illinois Youth Symphony for the past three years. She serves as principal chair and is also a member of the Central Illinois Brass Ensemble and the Brass Quintet.

Ellen plans to continue to study the trumpet in college in hopes of receiving her Bachelor of Music degree in trumpet performance. ■



## OUR CONDUCTORS THROUGH THE YEARS . . .

### YOUTH SYMPHONY

Donald Miller  
(1965-1966)

David Daniels  
(1966-1968)

J. Elmer Szepessy  
(1968-1978)

William Wilsen  
(1978-1982)

Jack Ranney  
(1982-1991)

Steven W. Eggleston  
(1991-1999)

Steven Huang  
(1999-2003)

David Commanday  
(2003-2009)

Brian Dollinger  
(2009-present)

### CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Glenn Sanderson  
(1971-1981)

Peter Wessler  
(1981-1998)

Carmen Diagostine  
(1997-1999)

Todd Schifeling  
(1999)

Melissa Siebenthal  
(1999-2008)

Phillip Rudd  
(2008-present)

### PREP ORCHESTRA

Betsy Jones  
(Fall 1995)

Carmen Diagostine  
(Spring 1996)

Betsy Jones  
(1996-present)

### CADET ORCHESTRA

Betsy Jones  
(2009-present)

**Special giving opportunities for alumni and friends.**

The Central Illinois Youth Symphony Organization is grateful to those alumni and friends who make donations to support and enhance the educational and musical experience for our students. All gifts are welcome. Please use this form if you would like to make a donation at this time. You may be able to double the value of your gift to the CIYS. Contact your employer for details and the appropriate matching gift form. ■

As an expression of my commitment to The Central Illinois Youth Symphony I would like to donate at the following level:

- Conductor's Circle \$1000 and above
- Underwriter \$500 - \$999
- Grand Benefactor \$250 - \$499
- Benefactor \$100 - \$249
- Century \$50 - \$99
- Sponsor \$25 - \$49
- Patron \$10 - \$24
- An amount of your choice \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to CIYS and mail to:  
 Central Illinois Youth Symphony  
 P.O. Box 908  
 Morton, Illinois 61550

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS YOUTH SYMPHONY

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Central Illinois Youth Symphony (CIYS) is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to fulfilling the need for a superior musical organization which will challenge, educate and stimulate the advanced students of music in the central Illinois area.*

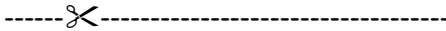
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

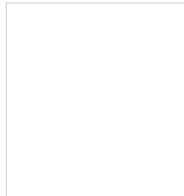
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Alumni \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) of Membership \_\_\_\_\_



**The Central Illinois Youth Symphony**

**PO Box 908  
 Morton, IL  
 61550**



Would you rather receive our newsletter electronically? Let us know at [info@ciys.org](mailto:info@ciys.org)



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council