On Saturday, March 7, 2020, the seventh Philharmonic Invitational High School Orchestra Festival will be center stage at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Orchestras who participated in the inaugural festival seven years ago are still loving it and coming back year after year. The opportunity to perform in a world-class concert hall is an unforgettable experience for students, music directors, and family members alike. The festival is considered by many as the “crowning glory” of our K-12 youth music education programs.

This long and involved day requires many Committees volunteers to assure the afternoon and evening runs smoothly. The hard working 2020 Festival Steering Committee includes: Sandi-Wright Cordes, Arden Dombrowski, Jean Felder, Joanne Fernbach, Jan Lawrence, Judy Michel, Karen Ridout, Toni Sobel, Mary Chelius, Kim Weddon, Chairman Marlene Nielsen, and VP Education and Community Engagement Sarah Little. Our festival adjudicators are Ulli Reiner, orchestra director of Poway Unified School District, and Johannes Muller Stosch, recently appointed Orange County Youth Symphony Music Director.

A young musician shared his gratitude for the opportunity of performing on stage in the concert hall, saying, “Performing at Segerstrom made me realize how much work has to be put in to actually make a good performance. It made me realize that hard work and dedication are necessary not only in orchestra, but also in life.”

Contact Kim Weddon if you know of anyone who would consider being a festival sponsor. One $15 ticket gives you a whole day full of music enjoyment from 11:00 AM–9:00 PM—and you can come and go throughout the day. We are encouraging Committee members to join us to support seventeen fine Orange County high school orchestras. Your $15 ticket contribution will also help to defray the cost of the event.

- Buy tickets online at www.Philharmonicsociety.org.
- Buy tickets at the Concert Hall door at the March 7 festival.

Come support your local high school, if you wish. Let us know which school you are supporting and that school will get credit for the sale. A special code has been assigned to each school to get credit for each ticket sold. Each orchestra gets 50% of the total tickets sold by their school. This includes tickets sold at their school, online, and at the door.

Please help us attain our goal of filling the concert hall with an exuberant audience to provide grand applause for the students!

2020 High School Participants:

- Aliso Niguel High School
- Beckman High School
- Capistrano Valley High School
- El Toro High School
- Esperanza High School
- Garden Grove High School
- Huntington Beach High School
- Irvine High School
- Los Alamitos High School
- Marina High School
- Mission Viejo High School
- Oxford Academy
- Rancho Alamitos High School
- San Juan Hills High School
- Santa Ana High School
- Tesoro High School
- Trabuco High School
Musical Instrument Scavenger Hunt

The Committees Musical Instrument Scavenger Hunt is simple; members and neighbors are asked to find serviceable, but no-longer-used instruments. Donors will receive a tax receipt for their largesse. The instruments will then be donated to students in Orange County schools. It is a Win-Win.

"Many thanks to those who have contributed well- loved instruments to our Musical Instrument Scavenger Hunt!" Karyn Rashoff said appreciatively. She has so far received three violins and one cello from Coto Committee; one clarinet, one violin, a keyboard, one soprano saxophone, and an Indian harmonium from Town and Country; and one cello donated from Marina Windjammer. Contact karyn.rashoff@gmail.com to help find instruments a good home.

A donation of a flute and violin, then a friendly neighbor-to-neighbor chat asking what to do with an old piano started Louise Dubos, President of the Seal Beach Group, on the path to place instruments. Aware that The Youth Center offers music lessons to all Los Alamitos Unified School District elementary students, she called the center about three donated instruments they had received. The Youth Center plans on donating the instruments to elementary school children in their music program who are on scholarships. The donated piano is now in the main room of The Youth Center and available to after school program children.

Music crosses all boundaries … It reaches into the soul of us all,” said Louise Dubos, President of the Seal Beach Group, on the path to place instruments. Aware that The Youth Center offers music lessons to all Los Alamitos Unified School District elementary students, she called the center about three donated instruments they had received. The Youth Center plans on donating the instruments to elementary school children in their music program who are on scholarships. The donated piano is now in the main room of The Youth Center and available to after school program children.

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Sarah Little Little moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the arts after graduating from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with a degree in Contemporary Theatre Practice. She has since been the director of the Echo Theater Company’s Playtime, was elected to the board of Emerging Leaders/Los Angeles, developed new music events with Produced by Bear and most recently was a Project Manager at the Los Angeles Philharmonic where she inspired minds young and old by developing innovative programming inside and outside of the classroom.

Sarah has a long history with music and credits most of her discipline to her high school marching band in Indiana where she played the mellophone. After her recent marriage, she and her husband Alex moved to Orange County accompanied by their cat, Nacho. She is greatly looking forward to working with the Committees members.
Saddleback member, Elizabeth Mead recently donated a handmade native American Indian drum to John-patrick Yeiser, who presents our wonderful California Journeys programs at Heritage Hill Historical Part, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Bowers Museum. This drum has a deep, resonant sound that is the “heart beat” of the tribe. As a former Saddleback School District music teacher, she used the drum for dance movements with her students.

California Journeys Workshop
by Jean Felder

The workshop for the California Journeys program at the Mission was a wonderful success. Twenty-four Committees members (and even prospective new members) interested in becoming a program docent attended the fun and informative day. After a session in the soldier’s barracks, the group took a tour led by Jessica Crossman, Mission Education and Interpretive Program Director. Receiving updated information and learning more about the history of the Mission, the Acjachemen, and the Spanish padres gives our members ways to make their time with the students an even more enriching experience. We thank the Mission staff for this extraordinary partnership.

“Heart Beat” Drum Donated
by Beth Ruegger

Saddleback member, Elizabeth Mead recently donated a handmade native American Indian drum to John-patrick Yeiser, who presents our wonderful California Journeys programs at Heritage Hill Historical Part, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Bowers Museum. This drum has a deep, resonant sound that is the “heart beat” of the tribe. As a former Saddleback School District music teacher, she used the drum for dance movements with her students.

President’s Corner
by Kim Weddon, President of The Committees

Playing a beautiful flute was pure joy. I lived out in the country north of Detroit and my parents frequently found me practicing in the barn for my horse. I reluctantly pawned my flute in college to fund a trip for a Chicago wedding, but I know it continued to make beautiful music for someone else. Thanks to Karyn Rashoff and the Musical Instrument Scavenger Hunt, we hope to find instruments to put in the hands of needy students.

We welcome all donations to match the Jelinek family’s generous $25,000 Music4Kids challenge. Committees and Groups are encouraged to donate extra funds by the end of the fiscal year to Music4Kids. You can make a difference!

Challenge yourself to observe a program you’ve never seen. Schedules are available for our Musicians on Campus groups and California Journeys, which continues with Heritage Hill and Bowers Museum. These are amazing programs supported by your fundraising efforts.

Special thanks to Jan Lawrence for writing several grants totaling a potential $87,500, including a much needed award for $30,000 to develop a 2nd grade pilot. Please keep your eyes out for opportunities for donations, grants and matching volunteer hours.

As a result of our Brainstormers, we have two new Committee-wide fundraisers in the works: an online peer-to-peer campaign will kick off this spring and a Golf Tournament is in development for September 2020. All Committees are encouraged to find creative ways to raise money, even raising the bar on a signature event. You’re sure to have fun while supporting our Committees.

Celebrate OCYS’s 50th anniversary by attending their March 15 and May 17 concerts. OCYS will also perform March 29 in the 3rd Family Concert “Rhythm, Music and Dance.” Bring your family and support these talented musicians.

The 7th annual High School Invitational Orchestra Festival will be a display of phenomenal talent on March 7. Support a local school by buying a ticket and expand the audience with friends and family. Be sure to join us for Committees Night, Tuesday, March 24 for the Rotterdam Philharmonic & Lahav Shani, the young Israeli conductor taking the musical world by storm. It's called Committees Night to honor YOU!

“Embrace Your Inner Super Hero!” Everyone has a version of a super power that makes you extraordinary. Whatever your power, you are a hero to our students for your tireless volunteering. Thank you to all our extraordinary heroes for your giving and all that you accomplish, both for the Philharmonic Society and in all others areas of your life!

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Sail into Spring!
The Saddleback Valley Committee cordially invites you

Lunch and Floral Design with Marsha Hively

Thursday, February 27, 2020 - 11am@ Dana Point Yacht Club
Silent Auction - Opportunity Prizes - No-Host Bar - $70 per guest
Contact: Kathy Wopschall wopschall22@cox.net
Patty Reilly, Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee Chairman, and three of her favorite golfer friends participated in the Roosters Foundation Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Thursday, October 10. Her participation was in appreciation to Roosters for their support over the past years in honoring HHPC with grant funding to support the Philharmonic youth music education programs. After the tournament, it was announced that Roosters again selected the HHPC organization to receive a $5,000 grant.

Committee members Karyn Rashoff, Agnes Szekeres, Marlene Nielsen and her sister Lisa enjoyed their Philharmonic Society excursion to the Tanglewood Summer Festival. “We had a wonderful trip listening to amazing music and met some lovely music-loving people. The weather was perfect and the food and wine were fantastic,” said Rashoff.

They were able to enjoy the Venice Baroque Orchestra playing many of Vivaldi’s works, featuring Avi Avital on mandolin. The Boston Symphony Orchestra also performed Grieg and Copland concertos, with Verdi’s Requiem the final evening’s performance. It was a trip to remember!

How lucky can we be? For the eighth year in a row, Dr. Burton Karson welcomed Upper Bay Committee members into his elegant home. As usual, he had arranged a stellar musical program which started with J. S. Bach’s Violin Sonata No.1 in G Minor. Members and guests were awed by the virtuosity of 26 years old artist Nathan Lewis. They were truly surprised, to say the least, when Lewis sat at the piano to perform Scriabin Valse, Opus 38, followed by a breathtaking rendition of Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante by Chopin. A roaring standing ovation followed. A lively lunch at Bistango with our host and virtuoso was the best way to end the meeting and start our new year.
Music Changes Lives
by Lara Anderson HHPC Public Relations

As my kids went back to school in September, I was reminded of how important is the work we do. The Parent Teacher Organization of the elementary school my youngest daughter attends included a letter in their membership packet saying, “Did you know the school district provides music instruction for 4th and 5th graders only...[and does] not provide art instruction, field trips, or assemblies for any elementary grades?”

Thanks to the P.T.O. or P.T.A.’s of each school raising funds and our work with the Philharmonic to provide youth music education programs, we are able to have local second graders attend a concert as a field trip, often their first exposure to an orchestra. Third grade students are also introduced to a variety of instruments up close when our volunteers bring the Music Mobile to the schools. Exposing kids to music is more than just a diversion; we are enriching and changing lives.

A wonderful testament to this came from Ellie Winterfeld who recently lost her granddaughter, Beth Leann Winterfeld and held an event with live music called “Beth Fest” in her memory. Ellie writes, “Beth was a lovely and precious soul. She always filled the room with her love and presence. Beth attended Eastwood Elementary, Stacey Middle School and graduated from Marina High School in 2009. Shortly after graduation she attended Goldenwest College. She enjoyed playing soccer and attending concerts. She had a love for music and many of her friends played in a variety of bands. She was a wonderful granddaughter, daughter and sister and loved by all whose lives she touched. She will forever be remembered in music and song.”

Ellie presented a check to Kim Weddon, President of the Committees, for over $2400 that was raised at the event to keep the gift of music going in Beth’s name.

HHPC Holiday Boutique Recap
by Lara Anderson

The 13th annual Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee’s Holiday Boutique on October 18 &19 at the Huntington Harbour Mall was a fabulous shopping extravaganza with a fantastic variety of items this year. Thanks to the over 30 vendors who participated, prize donors, volunteers, and all who attended and bought opportunity drawing tickets. Co-chairs Kelly Haynes and Karen Ridout did an outstanding job putting it together. We are looking forward to next year already!

Investing in Kids
by Marilynn Manderscheid

When the fourth period bell rings at Talbert Middle School in Fountain Valley, no one is lined up outside the band room. Rather, 32 quiet students are already seated inside, each with a ukulele in hand, watching teacher Sean Adamiak as he begins to direct tuning of strings. These young musicians are demonstrating their desire of not wanting to waste any time when they come to ukulele class. It gives evidence of the value of the Philharmonic’s Musical Reinvestment program. It also delights the members of Huntington Valley West Committee, who awarded the $500 grant that helped the school to purchase the instruments.

Recently, HVW Chair Perle Tropp and I visited the class, introduced ourselves, and were delighted by the “Oh, yeah!” responses as we described— and they remembered— playing instruments from the Music Mobile when they were third graders. For several students, it was the only time that they had played a musical instrument until this year. Now they expertly play chord progressions to “Stand By Me” as they accompany a recording of the song.

While gathering for a group photo during our visit, one student told us that she already had begun singing along with her instrument. Mr. Adamiak assured us there is more of that ahead. Hm. Singing, listening to each other, demonstrating self-discipline, cooperating in ensemble, making music! Our Musical Reinvestment grant was well spent, don’t you think?
Tribute Fund

Donations to the Philharmonic Society’s Tribute Fund are lasting, caring and generous ways to honor an individual’s accomplishments, mark special occasions or memorialize a member, relative or friend. Funds are used as needed for youth programs and scholarships to assist highly qualified music students with their studies. Donations made to the Tribute Fund from July 16 through December 5, 2019, were:

Special Tribute to:
Judith Longyear
Ellie Yates
Varla and Curtis Knauss

In Loving Memory of:
Robert Lee Abbey
Father of Carol Mounedji
La Casa Committee

Dorothy Kiger
Celeste and Carl Benninger

Penny Lewallen
Member of La Casa
Mary Blundell
Arline Burgmeier
Allison Chavarria
Sally Chavarria
Fredericka Cleary
Rosemary Connor
Barbara Desforges
Cathy Kim
Bill and Shirley Kincaid
La Casa Committee
Sharon Moore
Jim Murphy

Don Murray
Patrick and Alice Napier
James Oslund
Carol Wilcox

Michael Ridout
Son of Karen and Phil Ridout
Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee
La Casa Committee

Penny Tyron
Member of Capistrano
Capistrano Committee

A Career to Remember
by Beth Ruegger

Phyllis Berenbeim, Saddleback Committee’s current chairman of their Scholarship Fund/Special Projects, has been an active Committee member since 2015. Her background makes her uniquely qualified as a member of an arts organization. Phyllis recently retired from the Orange County Department of Education on October 31, 2019, after serving for 42 years as the Coordinator of the Arts Program for the Disabled (VSA Orange County, a part of the Very Special Arts national organization.)

Phyllis was born and raised in Texas where she began playing the piano at 6 years. She attended East Texas State University, while also learning the flute and cello. Her first job was in Colorado where she taught first grade and kindergarten while earning a Masters degree in Music Education. She and her band director husband moved to California where she began a job in the Pasadena Unified School District teaching music. She later became Program Director, creating and implementing programs for teachers learning to teach music. She then received her teaching credential from USC.

Her interest in working with disabled children became apparent one day during a music class when a little girl kept pulling her chair closer and closer to Phyllis’s piano. She noticed how the girl experienced the musical sounds and immediately realized her career should focus on music and arts programs for the disabled.

In November 1977, Phyllis was hired as the coordinator for the Arts Programs for the Disabled by the Orange County Department of Education. Soon after receiving a grant and later a contract from the Kennedy Center for a special program (VSA Orange County), she met Jean Kennedy Smith, the founder of the Very Special Arts educational affiliate of the Kennedy Center that provides opportunities in the creative arts for persons with disabilities. Under Phyllis’s direction, a multitude of programs and events have been offered to Orange County school districts at little or no cost by coordinating with advisory, community, and school committees that serve the disabled to enrich and create new opportunities for the disabled.

Among her many awards and recognitions, she received The Committee’s Golden Lyre Award in 1998 for her “Generous Support of Youth Programs of the Philharmonic Society.” Phyllis is also the proud mother of the current Disneyland Band Director, Kurt Curtis, who was a special part of our previous second grade youth music program for many years.

We are so fortunate to have Phyllis as a member of The Committees, bringing her many talents and abilities, and wish her well in her retirement.
Donations 7/16/19 - 12/5/19 - We would like to thank you again!

Music4Kids is a fund specifically designated for the support and expansion of The Committees youth music education programs.

Judith Jelinek
($25,000 Matching Pledge)

Strings ($1,000 +)
Michelle H. Brenner
Elizabeth (Sue) Jones
Barbara Kilponen
Karyn Rashoff
Karen and Phil Ridout
Barbara Roberts
Seal Beach Performing Arts Academy
Mr. and Mrs. Lee F. Sandahl
Agnes Szekeres

Brass ($500-999)
Linda Axel
Veronica and Gerald DeVries

Woodwinds ($250-499)
Barbara Howland
Varla and Curt Knauss
PJ & Georgia Smith

Percussion ($100-249)
HH Admiralty
Eleanor Anderson
Carolyn Biller
Margaret and James Brumm
Irene Chu

Patricia Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Cummings
Marie Fries
Franklin and Sandra Gibson
Iva Green
Dr. Lani and Mr. David Martin
Evelyn Pohlmann
Carole and Stanley Reiner
Linda Schuerman
Patricia and Bruce Spongberg
Sandra Steffens
Kathryn Wopschall
Sandi Wright-Cordes
Bob and Ellie Yates
Upper Bay Committee

Friends (up to $99)
Annette Aviani-Baum
Celeste and Carl Benninger
Alice Hood
Randi Kraemer
Krietzman
Eleanor Mathews
Ethel D. Reynolds
James and Harriet Selna
Barbara Stirrat
Elisabeth Varo
Marie Wong

ALTA BAHIA COMMITTEE PROUDLY PRESENTS
The Music of Mardi Gras
Luncheon, Silent Auction, Opportunity Prizes, OC Dixieland All Stars

Thursday, February 20, 2020 • 11am - 2:30pm
Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
1601 Bayside Dr., Corona del Mar
$85.00 per person + complimentary parking
RSVP by February 7, 2020
CONTACT: Kitty Kerr @ Kitykerr@hotmail.com

Monday, January 13, 2020 - 11am to 10pm
BJ’s - 13130 Jamboree Road, Irvine - 714-665-8595
Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along with friends & family while earning funds!

Bring this newsletter and BJ’s will donate 20% of food and beverage sales

PRESENTED BY THE LA CASA COMMITTEE
2019 – 2020 Committees Event Calendar

Monday, January 13 — La Casa | “BJs Restaurant 20% Philharmonic donation w/flyer” @ BJ’s 13130 Jamboree Rd., Irvine | CONTACT: tomibaker504@gmail.com

Monday, January 20 — Literary Luncheon – Santa Ana & Town and Country | “Murder, Madness and Laughter” guest author Sue Ann Jaffarian @ Costa Mesa Country Club | CONTACT: ecordesca@aol.com

Friday, February 20 — Alta Bahia | “The Music of Mardi Gras” @ Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club | CONTACT: kitykerr@hotmail.com

Thursday, February 27 — Saddleback | “Sail into Spring Luncheon and Speaker” @ Dana Point Yacht Club | CONTACT: wopschall22@cox.net

Saturday, March 7 — Invitational High School Orchestra Festival | 11AM – 9PM @ Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall | CONTACT: philharmonicsociety.org

March – May — Committees-wide “Peer-to-Peer” online fundraiser | CONTACT: marlenenielsen@me.com

Thursday, March 12 — Huntington Valley West | “Bunco Bash” @ Assistance League of Huntington Beach | CONTACT: wilsonjeri@yahoo.com

Tuesday, March 24 — Committees Night, Rotterdam Philharmonic @ Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

Sunday, March 29 — Huntington Harbour Juniors | “Sail Away Fashion Show” @ Seacliff Country Club | CONTACT: HHPCJuniors@gmail.com, eevanshenry@yahoo.com

May 1-3 — Committees-wide “Spring Boutique” @ home of Marlene Nielsen | CONTACT: marlenenielsen@me.com

Wednesday, May 20 — Annual Meeting and Installation @ Tustin Ranch Golf Club

7th Annual High School Orchestra Festival
Saturday, March 7, 2020 | 11pm-9pm
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

Tickets are only $15 for the whole day! Share the Music! Share the Joy!