

Sustaining Notes

The Newsletter for Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra for Strings

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SJO News

To all of our SJO Members, Families and Friends, we are thinking of you more than ever at this time of year. Last year we were enjoying music, our spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Cambria Tour, our extended families, and holiday cards, gifts, and foods.

Our families have, over the years, represented many religious traditions. In whatever ways you celebrate, we hope this is a time of love, good health, fellowship, and renewal. It is our greatest wish to be together again, and hopefully we will be soon!

This month, in addition to the winter holidays, we honor the birthdays of Shantell G. on Dec. 12, Monique V. on Dec. 20, Emily G. on Dec. 23 and Lizeth M. on Dec. 31. Happy Birthday and Happy New Year to all!

Vivo Vocabulary

animando ~ (Italian) becoming animated; lively

calando ~ (Italian) getting softer, dying away, sometimes slower

incalzando ~ (Italian) getting quicker

leggiero ~ (Italian) light, nimble

maestoso ~ (Italian) majestic

segue ~ (Italian) go straight on

Where Are They Now?

SJO Alumni Update

Ms. Erica Polley

Violinist and Founding Member

Hello, SJO 2020! My name is Erica Polley and I began my study of the violin in fourth grade at Palm Avenue Elementary School with Mrs. Tacchia. By the time I got to middle school, there was no orchestra or strings class for me, even though I had already had three years of violin, played 3 years in Elementary Magnet Schools Honor Orchestra, 3 years of All-County Honor Orchestra and a youth orchestra out of my district. I kept playing anyway! (continued)

By the time I was 15 years old, Mrs. "T" created SJO and I became a founding member. There were 12 high school kids who auditioned and got accepted. One was hospitalized and by our first concert in November, we played to a full house with 11 very gifted kids! I was so inspired in music that I majored in violin performance in college. Following that, I received my Masters of Science in Nursing at California Baptist College. I am an Emergency Room nurse at a hospital in Southern California. In my spare time, I teach young violin students and enjoy outdoor activities.

I look forward to seeing how SJO has grown over the years. My advice to current members: Don't worry too much, enjoy the little moments and have fun!

Mrs. T.'s Listening List

"Winter" from the Four Seasons

by Antonio Vivaldi

(Mar. 4, 1676 ~ Jul. 28, 1741)

Vivaldi wrote the Four Seasons in either 1717 or 1718 as four violin concertos, the inspiration of which probably came from his time in the countryside of Mantua, in the northwest of Italy. I suggest the recording, Anne Sophie-Mutter Trondheim Soloist, *Die vier Jahreszeiten, Der Winter*. In this recording, be sure to listen for the shivering and iciness of the winter scene that Vivaldi depicts and the interpretation of that scene in the playing by the chamber orchestra and soloist.

Another interesting tie in is that when our guest SJO Alumna, Erica Polley graduated from sixth grade, she chose to play "Spring" from the Four Seasons on her violin for the graduating class. For that performance both Mr. and Mrs. Tacchia accompanied her on piano and cello.



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Accent On

Notes from Mrs. Tacchia

It seems hard to believe that just one year ago, we were playing our first concert of Season 12 together at the Fontana Senior Center to honor a beloved educator, Dr. Wayne Ruble. Dr. Ruble taught special education for many, many years in the Fontana Unified School District and then became the administrator in charge of Special Education where he met my mother who was his secretary in that department for several years. A middle school in Fontana was named for him and some of our SJO members have attended Wayne Ruble Middle School. Dr. Ruble passed away on November 24, 2020, just two days before Thanksgiving. I am so glad that we could bring music to the Senior Center and honor his great life's work. It made him very happy to hear you play. My own musical life is tied to Fontana and the school system there. When I was in the fifth grade (1965), at Maple Elementary, my music teacher, (a violinist) introduced me to the cello. End of story. I LOVED the cello and have never stopped playing. Fast forward to 2008 when a young violinist in middle school told me that there was no orchestra or strings class at her school. One day she asked me, "Mrs. T...do you think you might ever start an orchestra for kids like me...?" That year, Symphonie Jeunesse was established through a grant proposal, for "kids like all of you." I look forward to continuing with "Season 12.5?" as soon as possible. Never stop playing, no matter what. Also, it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to Erica Polley in the "Where Are They Now?" section of this newsletter. She was the "kid" who asked me all those years ago if I could create an orchestra for "kids like her."

~ Coda ~

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

~ Edith Sitwell (1887-1964)