



212 Ninth Street, Suite 601
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
412.391.0526 • staff@trypo.org • trypo.org

Wednesday, January 29, 2020
PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact:
Rachel Howard, Marketing and Communications Manager
Rachel@trypoandpyc.org
412-391-1984 (w)
814-934-8385 (c)

Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras Announces Symphonette Conductor Departure

Pittsburgh, PA – After seven years working with Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras to provide music education programs and performance opportunities for young people, Andrew Wickesberg has announced he will be departing from his role as Symphonette Conductor at the end of the 2019-20 season.

Symphonette is a string ensemble of students from the greater Pittsburgh area, and some come from as far as West Virginia and Ohio. Most students are between seventh and tenth grades with some younger and some older students.

During his tenure, Wickesberg focused on teaching the musicians in Symphonette to love music and to have fun making it.

"I love thinking of the hundreds of young musicians who have learned that from him," said Executive Director Lindsey Nova. "One of my favorite things has been sitting with Andrew in new member auditions. I saw time and time again when a child would be nervous and shaking, and within a few minutes using some combination of a joke, perhaps a funny accent or impromptu dance move, he quickly put the student at ease. Andrew brings out the best in students."

The orchestra's young musicians, as well as the staff, Board, alumni, and musical partners, will miss Wickesberg's musicianship and leadership.

"Andrew has been a passionate advocate for Symphonette and TRYPO since his appointment as its conductor," said the organization's Music Director Brian Worsdale. "His enthusiasm for the work he has done to raise the level of this ensemble is evident in every rehearsal he is in with those young people. His artistic partnership and openness made my first year here a great start to my tenure."

Wickesberg's fondest memories of Symphonette are the personalities he has encountered over the years.

TRYPO – CONDUCTOR DEPARTURE – PAGE 2

"Each student brings a different perspective to Symphonette that I have deeply enjoyed and appreciated as I have gotten to know them," Wickesberg said. "I look forward to watching the organization continue to grow and develop. I wish Brian, Lindsey, and the rest of the team, the best, and know that under their leadership, both Symphonette and Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras will flourish."

Over the next few months, the Board will be conducting a thorough search to find Symphonette's next conductor. They will prioritize finding a vibrant leader with a true passion for Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras' mission: providing well-rounded music education programs and performance opportunities for young people to foster lifelong passion, appreciation, and support of music.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank Andrew Wickesberg for his considerable dedication and musical leadership as Symphonette's conductor," said Board President Paul Doerksen. "Always sensitive to the musical growth and joy of music-making for all, Andrew is a consummate educator who consistently created engaging rehearsals for ensemble members and superb performances for audience members."

Applications will be accepted for the Symphonette Conductor position until March 2, 2020. For more details about the job announcement, visit trypo.org.

About TRYPO: Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras was founded in 1974 to provide music education and performance opportunities for young people to foster lifelong passion, appreciation, and support of music. TRYPO will serve more than 250 students during the 2019-2020 season, through enrollment in numerous programs, including YPO (a full symphonic orchestra), Wind Symphony (an ensemble of woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments), Percussion Ensemble (an ensemble of just percussion instruments), Symphonette (a string ensemble), the Youth Chamber Connection (YC₂ coordinates students into small ensembles such as quartets and quintets), and YC₂ in CHAUTAUQUA (a summer program with a chamber music focus).

About ANDREW WICKESBERG: Andrew Wickesberg began conducting Symphonette with the 2012-13 season. Mr. Wickesberg came to Pittsburgh in 2008 to join the viola section of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, having previously held a viola fellowship at the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, FL. Mr. Wickesberg received Bachelor's degrees in Violin and Viola Performance from Indiana University and a Master's Degree in Viola Performance from the New England Conservatory. He is an active faculty member of City Music Center at Duquesne University. A resident of Pittsburgh's historic Mexican War Streets neighborhood, Mr. Wickesberg is a board member of the Allegheny City Central Association, the Community Development Corporation for Pittsburgh's Central Northside neighborhood. Mr. Wickesberg enjoys teaching, renovating his home, and exploring the many icons of Pittsburgh.