

P	President	2
	Gail Eagleburger	
H	1st Vice President	0
O	2nd Vice President	0
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E	Recording Secretary	4
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N	Treasurer	2
	Dick Gardner	
I	Music Memory	0
	Sharon Amrein	
X	Corresponding Secretary	0
	Anita Anderson	
	Membership	5
	Lori Atwater	
S	Grants	E
	Pat MacGillivray	
Y	Promotion	X
	Lisa Kneller	
M	Orchestral Training	E
	Jane P. Evans	
P	Competition/Scholarship	C
	JoNell Hargrave	
H	Dan Sagramoso	U
O	Ways and Means	T
	Judy Peel	
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	Patsy Kelly	
Y	Hospitality	V
	Marilyn Berry	
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	Dana Faris	
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	Jessie Tanner Smith	
U	Member-At-Large	O
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L	Debbie Davis	R
	Greg Eagleburger	
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Phoenix Symphony Guild



July 2004

Grace Notes

President's Message

Amazing China! And PSG was there!

Eighty-three student musicians, 2 conductors (who also played percussion) and 13 chaperons followed by 13 "shadow groupies" will never forget the Terracotta Warriors and Horses, the Forbidden City, The Summer Palace, the dumplings and roast duck, but most of all the Royal Welcome in Xi'an and the concert on the Great Wall.

PSG seized the opportunity of a lifetime and made the most of it. Thanks to Jane Evans' vision, faith and tireless work, two conductors who blended parts of two orchestras into one, the students' parents, grandparents and sponsors, working chaperons who did double duty from chair movers, to librarians, to nurse, to lock pickers and to the students themselves for their perseverance over all obstacles.

Special thanks to Dr. Ron Borg who made "house calls" on our trip. We had our own Dr. Ron "Hawkeye" Borg!

On a personal note, this is my second time at being PSG's President and it will be hard to fill the shoes of Jessie Smith. Thank you Jessie for your hard work and dedication.

I want to concentrate on two things this year (1) Funding PSG and (2) getting PSG and it's programs known by the general public. The two problems are their own solutions. More publicity helps funding and more funding helps publicity. Lisa Kneller has already started, with the article in the Arizona Republic when we left on our trip to China, but she will need help. Please let her know of any contacts or opportunities you know for promotion of PSG and its programs.

Soon our season begins. Stacey Page and Dana Faris have been hard at work readying the orchestras for their year. It will start with parents night August 25 then rehearsals starting September 1.

Our Social Calendar begins with the Presidents' Open House on October 17 at 5:00 p.m. The Prelude Luncheon and Fashion Show will be December 14 at the Phoenician Resort. February 22nd is the date of our very special Concerto Competition Winners Luncheon. We will on May 10, 2005 end our year with "A PSG Celebration" dinner. In between, we are going to be looking at a few new events, so watch the Grace Notes!

Please remember that if every one takes part a lot can be accomplished.

Gail Eagleburger

Gail Eagleburger
President



ORCHESTRAL TRAINING

We mailed 450 notices on June 30th to young musicians who auditioned in April and May for the various PSG ensembles. Our first meeting with the students and their parents is set for August 25th, with the first rehearsal starting the following Wednesday, on September 1st. The 2004-2005 season is going to be exciting with new opportunities. Please mark your calendars so you don't miss any of our upcoming concerts:

November 6 – Youth Orchestra Concert with The Phoenix Symphony Chorus at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale

November 7 - Youth Orchestra Concert with The Phoenix Symphony Chorus at ASU West

November 21 – PSG Fall Concert at Central H.S. Auditorium, 3:00 p.m. featuring all four PSG Ensembles

February 6 – Youth Orchestra Side-by-Side Concert with The Phoenix Symphony, featuring the Winners of the PSG Young Musicians Competition

February 27 – Teacher Appreciation Concert at Central H.S. Auditorium, 3:00 p.m. featuring the PSG String Orchestra, the PSG Symphonic Winds, and the PSG Symphonette Orchestra

March 1st – Symphonette Orchestra performs two concerts for school children at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church

March 14 – Music Memory Concert #1, PSG Youth Orchestra at the Orpheum Theatre

May 8 – Season Finale, featuring all PSG Ensembles, at 4 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre

May 16 – Music Memory Concert #2, PSG Youth Orchestra at the Orpheum Theatre

WELCOME, STACEY PAGE!

Stacey has accepted the job as Orchestral Training Manager, beginning July 1, 2004. After five years in the position, Dana Faris passed the baton to Stacey's very capable hands.

For the past 16 years Stacey has had a variety of jobs related to working with students, parents, teachers, school boards and school administrators in the Washington Elementary School District – being President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of several P.T.O.'s in her children's schools, and working as an Assistant in the Washington Elementary School District Gifted Services. She got her education at Brigham Young University, and was an elementary school teacher early in her career.

She and her husband, Randy, and their three children live in central Phoenix. Daughter, Erica, plays cello in the Youth Orchestra.

We welcome this talented young woman and look forward to an exciting year.

PSG AUDITIONS

We want to thank each of you who volunteered to work at the May Auditions this year. It was truly a success, and we heard so many talented young musicians from all over the valley.

Over the past five years the audition process has evolved to the very efficient process we experienced this year. We thank Sandy Rutledge for organizing the auditions and sharing her computer program.

A BIG thank you goes to PSG member, Peggy Hagan, and her son Kevin, for facilitating a network between three computers. Kevin is getting his degree in computer networking and set up a program for the PSG auditions when his mom explained our process. It worked beautifully. Data could be entered simultaneously with a computer printer going, too. So, Sandy was able to leave the building the last night of auditions with a completed product, and didn't have to spend several days inputting additional data. Sandy was thrilled!

IN MEMORIAM

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Jean Rehfeld's husband, Robert, on June 30, 2004. Jean has been a longtime member of PSG, is a Life Member, and was President from 1965-1967. If you care to drop Jean a note, please send it to 7090 E. Mescal St., #9, Scottsdale, AZ 85254.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Membership Chairman, Lori Atwater, sent out the 2004-2005 applications the end of June. Please remember to fill it out and return it soon so you can continue to get your *Grace Notes*, and all PSG announcements and invitations. If you know of someone who would like to become a PSG member, please call Lori (623) 846-8347.

MUSIC MEMORY - 2004

Music memory concerts were held on Tuesday, March 9 and again on Monday, April 26 this year. It was an experimental year for the Phoenix Symphony Guild in that our Youth Orchestra did not go to Showlow as it had for many years. Our waiting list for Maricopa County had grown to almost 5000 students that were unable to get reservations for the one day of concerts we usually give each year at Phoenix Symphony Hall. In order to accommodate more children, three concerts were given on the March 9th date, and two were given on April 26th. Two of the five concerts were definitely lacking the number of students for which we had planned. Our estimates indicate about 10,000 people attended Music Memory this year.

Next year the situation is even more difficult, as Phoenix Civic Plaza (including Symphony Hall) is under construction. Our concerts have been moved to the Orpheum Theater, and again we'll have two dates for performances. These dates for which contracts have been signed are Monday, March 14, 2005 and Monday, May 16, 2005. Both concerts will have three performances each. So again we will be experimenting with something new.

This is a perfect opportunity for me to thank all of the dedicated people on my Music Memory Committee. As soon as our concerts have been given, members of the committee are already working on the next year's set. Thanks to Jeanne Gilbert, Cleta Sagramoso, and Hazel Thomas who have already complete the work for the study guides for 2005. In a later newsletter, I will list the selections that will be performed. Liz Helfinstine produced a wonderful document for our grant request, and that has been turned in as of late May. Than you, Liz. Janet Wilson was my ever dedicated bus person who handles not only buses, but bus drivers, policemen, security personnel and sees to it that they have snacks while they wait for each concert to be completed. Bonnie York has the tireless duty of working with the schools to schedule students for each concert. Computer skills make her job easier, but she spends hours working out numbers for each concert set. Again, I thank each of you-you make my directorship much more pleasant.

Each year as part of my final report in Gracenotes, I try to include thank-you letters from students and teachers who took the time to write to us. Please read these as they are very clever and are written with such sincerity. Of the more than 300 responses, I will just mention two that I found to be really "cute."

And I quote -- "I think the kids did a good job. It shows kids my age could do stuff like that."
"How did you get those high-school students to like music?"

The first quote was from a third-grader; the second, from an eight-year-old student also in the third grade who directed his question to Mr. Moody. What an insightful question his is!

When February gets here, I will be thinking of volunteers for the Orpheum concerts. Please consider helping us. My thanks to all of you who have assisted us in the past.

Sharon Amrein
M. M. Chair

STUDENT NEWS

Jake Grossman, 2004 Chaparral H.S. graduate and PSG Youth Orchestra Bassist, was featured in a May article in the "Arizona Republic", Scottsdale Section. This is quoted from that article, "Yesterday was my final concert with the Phoenix Symphony Guild Youth Orchestra. ...I experienced both relief and sorrow as I played the final note (a b-flat) of the Prokofiev *Fifth Symphony*, our season masterwork. PSG can sometimes be a burden: we rehearse from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m. every Wednesday, give several concerts a year, and are responsible for rather difficult orchestral repertoire. Besides, you try hauling a string bass everywhere you go! But PSG, and my participation in the Youth Orchestra, has been such a great experience. I have truly been stimulated to new levels by the degree of dedication that is inherent in every piece we practice and perform."

Wayne Shen, 2004 Desert Vista H.S. graduate and PSG Youth Orchestra Concertmaster, was one of the 13 valley students receiving a 2004 Flinn Foundation Scholarship. He will receive full tuition, housing and books at a public Arizona university and travel valued at more than \$40,000. Congratulations, Wayne!

CHINA TRIP

Ellis Friedman



During my recent eleven-day trip to China, I played a concert on the Great Wall and savored a view that comparatively few others have the privilege to digest. On top of the wall, I felt free and worldly; yet only a day and a half later, I was back home, in familiar surroundings that haven't changed a whole lot since I was born and aren't as spectacular. There are stark contrasts and striking similarities between Phoenix and Beijing or Xi'an, creating at once a feeling of familiarity and confusion.

Transporting an 80-member orchestra to China was not easy. The Phoenix Symphony Guild Symphonette and Youth Orchestras combined to make a powerhouse China Orchestra, and everywhere we went throughout Beijing and Xi'an, a red banner that read "Warmly Welcome Phoenix Symphony Guild Symphonette and Youth Orchestras, U.S.A." greeted or announced us. Our music tour, put together and lead by Music Celebrations International, not only allowed us to play for and with the Chinese, it introduced us to a new way of life.

As Western concerts as we know them are relatively new to China, audience etiquette was quite different from that of the U.S. No matter the audience size, they were incredibly enthusiastic and responsive. I and the other musicians could tell that they appreciated our music.

We also had the privilege to meet and socialize with members of two Chinese student orchestras. In Xi'an, we had dinner with the members of the Number One Railway High School orchestra. Although sometimes the students were hard to understand, their English was infinitely better than our Chinese. During dinner we talked about movies we had seen, what we wanted to study in college, and what it was like in different countries. I know that many people exchanged email addresses and phone numbers with newly-made friends.

The food was terrific. Although every meal was typically the same, the rice, chicken, fish, soup, duck and noodles were heavenly, though sea cucumber or frog dumplings made up some of the dishes that went relatively untouched.

Xi'an is a city of 7 million people; Beijing has a population of 13 million. The concentration of people is staggering, and yet in both cities that we visited, every place we went felt like more like a small, close-knit community than it did an over-populated metropolis. In both cities, hundreds of stores sold American-style clothing, McDonald's and KFC dominate the fast food market, and the downtown areas are reminiscent of New York. People were extraordinarily friendly and enthusiastic about meeting us. We received numerous discounts at markets and honored numerous requests for pictures with us.

While on the tour buses that shuttled us around China, we listened to numerous history lessons, Chinese lessons, and morning jokes. By far the most rewarding and exciting experiences were visiting places mentioned in history textbooks. When learned about in school, the Terra Cotta Warriors and Great Wall seem intangible and surreal. Visiting such landmarks up close evokes a whole new perspective of the world and sheds light on a totally different history and culture than that of America. The most important part of the trip was learning that people are different and yet the same, that there is a world outside of Scottsdale or Phoenix or Mesa, or Glendale, and that as large as the world is, it is out there and accessible for us to see; and when we exchange pieces of the world, we gain a better understanding of life outside our own.

This was written by Ellis Friedman, PSG Youth Orchestra Principal Violist. She is a 2004 Chaparral H.S. graduate and lives in Phoenix with her parents and brother, Isaac, a trumpeter in the PSG Symphonette Orchestra. In the fall Ellis will be entering Wellesley College where she will major in English.

IN REMEMBRANCE

It is with sadness that we report the loss of Kristen Leah Hooker, on July 10, 2004. She was a bassoonist in the Youth Orchestra for three years, graduating in 2002. She also performed at Carnegie Hall as 1st Chair in the Fifth Annual National Wind Ensemble in May 2002. She attended the U of A for two years in the bassoon performance program, was on the Dean's list each semester, and recently transferred to ASU to pursue a double major in Music Therapy and Bassoon Performance. Her funeral was held on July 15th in Gilbert. A PSG scholarship has been set up in Kristen's name. Please send your donations to Gail Eagleburger, 10637 N. 22nd Pl., Phoenix, AZ 85028.