

Gerald Dolan, Music Director and Conductor of the Advanced Wind Ensemble

Gerald Dolan joined NYSO in 1995 as Music Director, and has brought to the orchestra outstanding leadership and musicianship, which has caused significant growth in both the students and the organization. Mr. Dolan was conductor of the Symphony Orchestra for eleven years and is currently conductor of the Wind Ensemble.

He is the Director of Bands for the Ipswich Public Schools, where he conducts the concert band and jazz ensemble, and teaches jazz improvisation classes and computer music composition classes. In 2002, Mr. Dolan was awarded the prestigious Lowell Mason Award, presented by the Massachusetts Music Educators Association to a music educator in Massachusetts who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in music education and has made important contributions to music and music education. In 2003, Gerald Dolan was awarded one of the "George Olmsted, Jr. Class of 1924" prizes for excellence in secondary school teaching from Williams College; seniors from Williams College nominate a secondary school teacher who made a difference in their life.

He holds degrees from St. Michael's College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. As a recipient of a 1993 Fulbright Scholarship, Mr. Dolan served as head of music for the Speedwell School, an inner city comprehensive high school in Bristol, England.

Lisa Maxwell, Executive Director

Lisa Maxwell joins NYSO this year as Executive Director. A freelance musician on French horn and percussion covering classical, musical theatre, and more, she has been a member of the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra based at the Rogers Center in North Andover, MA, and Musique Du Bois, a wind quintet based in the NH Seacoast area, for over a dozen years.

Prior to joining NYSO, Mrs. Maxwell has held positions as Software Engineering Manager for Lucent Technologies, run her own business as a Real Estate Broker, and has worked as an administrator for the Powers Music School in Belmont, MA. Combining her wide range of professional experience - business management and computer skills - as well as her passion for making music available to all, Mrs. Maxwell will strive to keep moving the Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra forward on its path of continued growth and success.

Trudy Larson, Founder, Director of Development and Strings Director

Trudy Larson, former Executive Director and founder of NYSO, is a private Suzuki violin and viola teacher in North Andover, MA. for the past 27 years and coach of several string ensembles. Her students and ensembles have given many concerts in the community and for many years, they have performed benefit concerts to support charitable causes.

In 2001, Trudy Larson was awarded the Massachusetts "Private String Teacher of the Year" by the Massachusetts American String Teachers-National String Orchestra Association, an honor that recognizes exemplary dedication and commitment to string education outside of the schools. She is a member of the Massachusetts Suzuki Association, the Suzuki Association of the Americas and the American String Teachers Association.

Mrs. Larson is the founder and director of "Summer Strings," a summer chamber music camp for string players begun in 1996. Since 1998, she has been involved in a pilot string-teaching program in a school in Lawrence. Under the auspices of the Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra, she has been instrumental in organizing and fundraising for this program as well as conducting the Lawrence Youth String Ensemble.

Walter Pavasaris, Conductor of Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Walter Pavasaris joined NYSO in 2006 as the conductor of the Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Pavasaris graduated from Hartt College of Music, earned an M.M. in String Instruments from the University of Michigan and his Ed.D. from Boston University. He is currently the Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts in the Lexington Public Schools. Dr. Pavasaris continues to be active as an adjudicator, clinician and guest conductor throughout New England. As a conductor, he has had the distinct privilege of having conducted festival orchestras in all four districts of Massachusetts. In 1992, and from 1999-2001 he was the guest conductor of the United States Youth Ensemble String Orchestra during their European tour. In 1992 Dr. Pavasaris was the recipient of the Paul Smith "Conductor of the Year Award" from MICCA, and in 1996 the Massachusetts Educators Association acknowledged his many contributions to music and music education by bestowing on him the Lowell Mason Award. Currently, he serves on the faculty of The Boston Conservatory where he teaches String Methods; he is also the conductor of the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra.

Walter O'Keefe, Conductor of Intermezzo Orchestra

Walter "Randy" O'Keefe joined the NYSO staff in 2004 as the director for Intermezzo Orchestra. Mr. O'Keefe has been the Music Department Head and Director of Bands for the Masconomet Regional School District since 1990. During his tenure at Masconomet, his jazz ensembles and concert bands have won several state and regional awards and traveled extensively. He earned a BA in Music Education from Ohio University in 1982 and his MM in Trumpet Performance from the University of Notre Dame in 1987 with additional studies in Music Education at the Hartt School of Music. Mr. O'Keefe has been the principal trumpet of the Melrose Symphony Orchestra since 2001 and recently retired after twenty years as the principal trumpet and featured soloist for the 567th Air National Guard Concert Band of the Northeast. At the state and district level, Mr. O'Keefe has served as a trumpet adjudicator for Northeast Junior District, the Ensemble Manager for the Massachusetts All State Jazz Ensemble and the Concert Chairperson for the Massachusetts All State Music Festival.

Dr. Sandra Doneski, Conductor of NYSO Chorale

Sandra Doneski teaches music to students in Kindergarten through graduate school and conducts choral ensembles of varying ages and voicings. She is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Gordon College, where she teaches courses in music education methods, supervises student teachers and conducts the Gordon College Children's Choir. She founded the Children's Choir in 2000 to give children in the community an opportunity to grow as musicians and music education majors an opportunity to develop as teachers and conductors. Sandra has also served on the faculty of the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, where she was Associate Conductor of the Children's Choir Program. Under her guidance, NEC implemented choral programs for early elementary and middle school students that focused on vocal pedagogy and building musicianship. She is a graduate of Gordon College and received her Master's and Ph.D. in Music Education from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. Dr. Doneski's research interests include the development of children's and adolescents' singing skills, music classroom pedagogy, the acquisition of aural understanding and its relationship to music literacy, and curriculum development and assessment in music education.

Abigail Haynes, Conductor of Overture String Ensemble

Abigail Haynes is a graduate of Gordon College in Massachusetts. She holds the Bachelor of Music in vocal performance. While at Gordon, she was a member of the Gordon Symphony Orchestra and played violin in the Gordon Chamber Music Program led by James Buswell and Carol Ou. Her solo debut as a violinist was with the Salem Philharmonic Orchestra in 2001. She has been teaching violin and voice lessons privately since her time at Gordon. She was raised as a Suzuki violin student and is currently studying in a long term Suzuki teacher training program at the Hartt School of Music. Abigail has also sung with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus for the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall, Symphony Hall in Boston, and New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall. She was a soprano soloist in the Lubbock Chorale performance of Handel's Messiah in 2004 and performed a voice recital with her husband Matthew for the community of Lubbock, Texas in 2006.

Sarah Skinner, Conductor of Prelude String Ensemble

A graduate in violin performance from Gordon College, she joined NYSO for the second semester of the 2007-2008 season. Sarah has won numerous scholarships and awards for her musical accomplishments, has been a member of many symphony orchestras, and was a featured soloist in the Music in the Mountains Fall Festival concert series in Northern California. Sarah has performed in distinctive venues, including Boston's Symphony Hall. She studied with James Buswell and has been twice featured as a soloist with the Gordon College Symphony Orchestra. Now as an alumna, she plays with the Gordon Symphony Orchestra as a mentor in addition to performing in a variety of orchestras in the Boston area. Sarah also maintains an active private teaching studio.

Trisha Craig, Conductor of Flute Choir and Select Flute Choir

Trisha Craig is a founding member of the Sonrisa Trio, and as a soloist, has performed in recital throughout New England. Ms. Craig is regularly featured as a recitalist at the First Baptist Church in Hampton Falls, NH, and has been a featured performer at the Mount Washington (NH) Hotel and in the Arts Nights summer concert series in Kennebunk, ME. Ms. Craig holds the Bachelor of Music from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, and the Master of Music from Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. She won the annual Longy Honors Competition in the spring of 2005.

Trisha Craig is currently the owner and director of Music Makers in Hampton, NH, where she teaches some of the area's top young flutists. She is also a faculty member at Johnson (VT) State College, where she teaches flute.

Nalani Fujiwara, Clarinet Choir Director

Joining the NYSO staff in 2002, Nalani Fujiwara comes to us as an outstanding clarinet teacher and performer. Ms. Fujiwara is a graduate of the University of Hawaii, with a Bachelor's in Music. She is also a freelance musician in the North Shore area, playing musicals in Salem, Gloucester, Ipswich and Annisquam, as well as performing with several area orchestras. Currently, Ms. Fujiwara holds a position as Elementary Woodwind Specialist and Band Director in Salem, MA. She also teaches a clarinet choir at Ipswich High School and teaches many private clarinet students.

Robert J. Bradshaw, Composer in Residence

Robert J. Bradshaw earned his Master of Music Degree in Composition, Bachelor of Music Degree in Theory/Composition and Performance Certificate in Trumpet from the University of South Carolina. In addition to composing, he is a member of the Cape Ann Symphony, teaches composition master classes at all levels of education, and is currently Visiting Lecturer at Salem State College. Mr. Bradshaw has been commissioned to compose works for many professional ensembles, schools and organizations, and has written works for orchestra, wind ensemble, jazz band, marching band, chorus, musicals, opera, ballet and various chamber ensembles. Since 1997, Robert J. Bradshaw has composed numerous pieces for NYSO. His music has been described as "contemporary work that is accessible to a variety of audiences" and is frequently performed around the world from America to Europe and Asia. He is a member of Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI), Society of Composers Inc., National Association of Composers, American Music Center and American Composers Forum.

Marcia Lier, Director of the Lawrence String Program

Marcia Lier is the founding teacher of Community Strings, now in its eleventh year. She is a Suzuki trained teacher and teaches at both the Community Day Charter School in Lawrence and Esperanza School for Girls in Lawrence. She has formerly worked with World Relief, doing resettlement work with Vietnamese and Cambodian families and directed a Youth Center and Community Group home.