



For Immediate Release

Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia Announces...

Concert Orchestra Guest Conductors for the 2016-2017 Season

This spring, BYOV conducted a search for the position of Concert Orchestra Conductor. After carefully reviewing a number of highly qualified and exciting candidates, we have decided to invite three conductors to work with BYCO throughout the year. Each conductor will lead rehearsals in preparation for a concert performance. Under the guidance of a committee of our staff and Board of Directors, students will have the opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences and reflect on their time with each of our conductors. We are looking forward to a wonderful season with our guests and anticipate a rewarding year of growth, music making, and high level instruction and performances

***Please join us in welcoming the following conductors
to the BYOV family!***

**Mary Ann Hughes, Opening Concert (September - November)
Steven Brindle, Concerto Concert (December - March)
Silas Huff, Finale Concert (April - May)**



Mary Ann Hughes

has been selected to conduct the first Bay Youth Concert Orchestra performance of the 2016-17 season. Mrs. Hughes teaches 5th grade beginning strings and serves as the Orchestra Director and IB Music Teacher at Princess Anne High School (PAHS), an International Baccalaureate School, in Virginia Beach. During her 20-year career at PAHS, the program has expanded from one to three orchestras. PAHS is well-represented at Regional and State Orchestra events, and

the Chamber Orchestra is one of the top performing orchestras in the area.

Mrs. Hughes is a professional cellist, currently principal cellist for Symphonicity, the symphony orchestra of Virginia Beach. She also serves as cellist for various groups throughout the Tidewater area, including The Galliard Trio, the St. James String Quartet and the Encore String Quartet. She has been an adjunct cello instructor in Ohio and Virginia, and currently teaches private cello lessons from her home.

Mrs. Hughes holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master's degree in String Pedagogy from The Ohio State University. Mrs. Hughes is a Virginia Beach City Public Schools' Career Teacher, a Princess Anne High School Distinguished Educator (2007 & 2008), and received National Board Teacher Certification in 2011. She was the 2014-15 Virginia ASTA's Orchestra Director of the Year. Mrs. Hughes has extensive experience as a workshop leader, guest conductor, writing curriculum and leading alternative string groups, such as MultiCelli and Strings on Fire!



Steven Brindle will conduct the Concerto Concert in March. He studied at Christopher Newport University, earning his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with Latin honors. During his graduate studies, he served as assistant conductor to the University Orchestra and OperaCNU.

Since then, he has attended conducting workshops at the CollegeConservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and the Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University, studying with famed conductors Mark Gibson, Gustav Meier, and Markand Thakar. He has conducted Capitol Opera Richmond in performances including Gilbert & Sullivan's classic H.M.S. Pinafore, Mozart's Der Schauspieldirektor, The Stoned Guest, by P.D.Q. Bach, and Aaron Copland's The Tender Land.

As a proponent of new music, Steven regularly commissions works and collaborates with composers. In 2010 Steven conducted the world premier of David and Glass, an original opera in three acts by contemporary composer Chris Lamb. Since then, he has conducted and performed in the premier of over 10 new works.

Steven currently serves as the Music Director for the Hampton Roads Philharmonic and as the Orchestra Director for Soundscapes, an El Sistemainspired program in Newport News that teaches transformational life skills to socio-economically disadvantaged youth through music performance.

Steven lives in Hampton with his dog, Chica. He is a member of the Collegiate Music Educator's National Conference, Omicron Delta Kappa, Pi Kappa Lambda, Alpha Chi, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.



Silas Huff will conduct the Finale Concert in May. He is a conductor, composer, and U.S. Army Music Officer, currently acting as Music Director of the Astoria Symphony Orchestra (NYC), Commander of the U.S. Army School of Music (Virginia Beach), and Co-Director of the International Conducting Institute. Maestro Huff has conducted outstanding orchestral, band, choral, opera, ballet, and new music performances for 15+ years across the United States and Europe. He has conducted youth, university, and professional ensembles. As an U.S. Army Music Officer, he has conducted concerts at the White House, the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon, and at other important monuments and landmarks in Washington, D.C., for diplomats, heads of state, royalty, and audiences.

A native Texan, Maestro Huff studied classical guitar at Texas State University before moving to Los Angeles where he earned a Master of Music degree in music theory and composition from UCLA. While there, he studied conducting with Maestro Donald Neuen, and upon graduation became a full-time student of orchestral conducting under Dr. Richard Rintoul at California State University in Long Beach. Maestro Huff also spent one year in residence at the Trossingen Hochschule für Musik (Germany), six months studying privately in Berlin, and two summers at L'Institut Musical Provence-Aubagne (France).

As a composer and advocate of new music, Maestro Huff has organized and presented concerts of contemporary music and continues to compose, commission, conduct, and present new music. He has conducted dozens of world premieres, including his own. In 2011, Maestro Huff won a coveted conducting job with the U.S. Army Music Program. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, attended Basic Combat Training, Officer Candidate School, and the Basic Officer Leadership Course before taking his first post as Associate Conductor of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band (Fort Eustis, VA). Since then, Captain Huff has also served as Associate Conductor of The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" Concert Band (Washington, D.C.), Director of The U.S. Army Orchestra (D.C.), and U.S. Army Central Music Liaison Officer in the Middle East, where he provided musical support to American, NATO, and Coalition troops, and State Department personnel in six countries. Currently, Captain Huff is the Commander of the U.S. Army School of Music in Virginia Beach.

Maestro/Captain Huff loves espresso, bicycling, and his novelist wife Taylor Morris. They live in Virginia Beach with their cat Blackie.