



2023 – 2024 Season Announcements

October 12, 2023

The Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra, (PVYO) is pleased to announce some exciting news about the 2023 – 2024 Concert Season. First, we would like to welcome **Dr. Tzu-Ching Tai** back to PVYO as the **PVYO Preparatory Orchestra Assistant Conductor**. Dr. Tai brings a wealth of experience in music education, string pedagogy, performance, and conducting. Dr. Tai will be working closely with Dr. Schuppener to provide the optimum instructional setting and rehearsal environment for our Preparatory Orchestra Students. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Tai back to the PVYO team!

Second, we welcome **Kristi Licare** as the **PVYO Wind Ensemble and Concert Band Assistant Conductor**. Ms. Licare will assist Ms. Alvey with the Wind Ensemble and Mr. Eising with the Concert Band. Ms. Licare brings her expertise as a woodwind specialist and music educator to weekly rehearsals. Ms. Alvey, Mr. Eising, and Ms. Licare will work together to create a thriving educational environment for our PVYO Bands

As we look to our upcoming concerts, we are very excited about the wealth of knowledge and experience these fine musicians and educators bring to our PVYO community! Please keep reading to find out more.



PVYO welcomes Dr. Tzu-Ching Tai, Preparatory Orchestra Assistant Conductor



Dr. Tzu-Ching Tai has established herself as a cellist, music educator, conductor, and researcher. She is a graduate of Hartt School of Music where she earned the Master of Music degrees in Cello Performance and Suzuki Pedagogy. She holds the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Curriculum and Instruction with concentration in Music Education from University of Maryland, College Park.

As a music educator and conductor, she has been involved in music teaching from elementary to collegiate levels. Currently, she is strings specialist/orchestra director at Fairfax County Public Schools. Previously, she was the orchestra director at Alexandria City Public Schools. During her time at Alexandria City High School, her orchestras received superior ratings consecutively for eight years at the State Assessment. Prior to ACHS, she was the

cello instructor at Holton-Arms School and teaching assistant of the String Methods class at University of Maryland. Her teaching career has also appeared internationally. In 2020-2022, she was the orchestra director at Taipei American School in Taipei, Taiwan where she conducted middle and high school orchestras and taught string classes in 3rd to 5th grades. Under her direction, the enrollment of lower string ensemble doubled. Dr. Tai is also dedicated to youth symphonies in the community. She served as a conductor in the Washington All-County Honors Orchestra and Potomac Valley Youth Orchestras. In addition, she was the ensemble director of the Music Buddies program in American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras.

As a cellist, Dr. Tai served as a principal cellist in Taipei Civic Symphony Orchestra and was a member of Prince George Philharmonic Orchestra. As a music researcher, Dr. Tai's research interests include music cognition, string pedagogy, and music teacher education. She has presented her research findings at conferences including: NAFME Eastern Division Biennial In-Service Conference, 11th International Conference of Music Perception and Cognition, 8th Asia-Pacific Symposium on Music Education Research, 30th ISME World Conference in Music Education in Thessaloniki, Greece. She enjoys reading research articles and understanding current trends in music education. Her professional affiliations include American String Teacher Association, Virginia Music Educator Association, and College Music Society.



*PVYO welcomes **Kristi Licare**,
Wind Ensemble & Concert Band
Assistant Conductor*



Kristi Licare is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, where she earned a Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance as a student of David Jones and a Bachelor of Music Education. Prior to her undergraduate studies, Ms. Licare earned a certificate in clarinet performance from the Juilliard School, Pre-College Division, where she studied with Laura Flax. Ms. Licare is currently in her ninth year as the Instrumental Music Director, and

second year as the Content Specialist for the Fine Arts and Technology departments at Westland Middle School. In prior years, she has conducted the MCPS East All County Band and the MCPS Sixth Grade All County Band. Ms. Licare has also served as a woodwind sectional coach for various MCPS and other youth organization ensembles, including PVYO. Ms. Licare has performed with various musical ensembles across the DMV including the Maryland Band Directors' Band and the Capital Wind Symphony. She maintains an active private clarinet studio in which her students consistently earn spots in MCPS Honors and Maryland All State ensembles. She is thrilled to be joining PVYO for her first season as Assistant Conductor for the Concert Band and Wind Ensembles.