

EYSO Artistic Staff 2010-11 Season

RANDAL SWIGGUM



Now in his thirteenth season with the EYSO, Randal Swiggum has helped raise the profile of the EYSO as one of the premier regional youth orchestras in the country. Under his tenure, the EYSO has more than tripled in size, drawing students from a wide geographical range of over sixty communities in Illinois and Wisconsin, with five orchestras, a brass choir, a vibrant chamber music program and performances at Ravinia, on NPR's From the Top, and with superstars Midori and Yo Yo Ma, as well as headlining the Aberdeen Scotland International Festival. Swiggum also serves as Education Conductor for the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, and Associate Conductor of The Florida Orchestra in Tampa/St. Petersburg, where he writes and conducts twenty concerts a year aimed at introducing young people to the magic of symphonic music. He is also conductor of the Madison Boychoir and has taught at UW-Madison, UW- Milwaukee, and Lawrence University. Widely

travelled as guest conductor, recent seasons have seen him conduct the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, the APAC Festival Orchestra in Seoul, Korea, and the Georgia All-State Orchestra. In 2007, he was named Youth Orchestra Conductor of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras. He makes his home in Madison where he is a PhD candidate in musicology at the University of Wisconsin. Besides travel, biking, reading, and trying new food, he likes to ponder things.

DAVID ANDERSON

David Anderson is in his fourth year as conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra and Director of the Chamber Music Institute. With the 2010-11 season, he begins his tenure as Music Director of the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra. In addition, David is currently a member of the music faculty at Beloit College, where he teaches private and class piano, coaches piano ensembles, and accompanies the Chamber Singers. A native of Clovis, New Mexico, David received his initial musical instruction at the piano. He attended Baylor University, where he earned two degrees in piano performance (BM, summa cum laude and MM, with distinction) studying piano with Krassimira Jordan and conducting with Stephen Heyde. At the University of Illinois, David earned an MM in orchestral conducting with Donald Schleicher; while there he served as ensemble manager for the University of Illinois orchestra program and as Assistant Conductor for the Quad City Symphony.



DANIEL BEDER

Daniel Beder joined the EYSO staff in 2009 as the Prelude Orchestra conductor and will conduct Sinfonia this fall. Daniel currently teaches orchestra, plays cello in the Jan Sobieski String Quartet, and maintains a private cello studio. Originally from the Milwaukee suburb of Shorewood, Wisconsin, he played in the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, the largest youth orchestra program in the country. Daniel is a graduate of Oberlin College, where his degrees are in music history and theory, and mathematics. At Oberlin, he studied cello with Catharina Meints and conducting with Steven Smith, and was a participant in a Conductor's Showcase. Later, as a graduate student in music education at New York University, he was named the Assistant Conductor for the NYU Symphony Orchestra. Daniel received his music education certification at UW-Milwaukee, where he also studied conducting with Margery Deutsch. Although no longer a Wisconsin resident, he remains a faithful follower of the Brewers and Packers. An avid baseball and softball player, he is first baseman for the Chiefs in the Midwest Suburban League and is an umpire for a number of youth baseball leagues. His other interests include reading, teaching himself website programming languages, baking, and working in his vegetable garden.

Daniel currently
Originally from



BETH MAZUR WOOD



Beth Mazur Wood was welcomed as the conductor of the Prelude Orchestra in 2004. This fall, she returns to conduct Prelude Orchestra after leading Primo, EYSO's string ensemble for beginning musicians. Beth is well known in the Elgin area – indeed, she herself is an alumna of the EYSO, having played under previous conductors Elizabeth Prielozny, Colin Holman, and Robert Hanson. Beth studied violin at the Betty Haag Suzuki Academy and was a student of Cyrus Forough. In addition to playing with the EYSO, she also sang with the Elgin Children's Chorus, and later was selected for the Elgin Community College Apprentice Program with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. She went on to receive degrees from ECC and Roosevelt University, where she was awarded the B.M. in Music Education. She recently completed a Master of Arts Degree in School Leadership. Beth's passion is working with young string players, and she has served as Orchestra Director at Carpentersville Middle School and Lakewood School for the last seven years.

JASON FLAKS

Jason Flaks begins his thirteenth season as Associate Conductor of the EYSO and conductor of the EYSO Brass Choir. Flaks, a native of Elgin, began playing trumpet at age ten and has been involved with youth orchestras since his high school days as a trumpet player with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and the McHenry County Youth Orchestra. In high school and college, Flaks toured the U.S. and Europe with groups ranging in musical style from classical to punk rock and ska. He received his Bachelor's Degree in music education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and earned his Master's Degree in music education at Northwestern University in the summer of 2003. Flaks serves as Director of Bands at both Geneva Middle Schools and continues to perform throughout the Chicago area as a free lance trumpet player, and as a member of the Illinois Brass Band. His previous teachers have included John Aley, Bruce Daugherty, William Scarlett, and James Thompson.

