

#1

Christine Belt

For her work on this painted violin, Ms. Belt focused on national birds of the countries to where PYSO will be traveling: Swallows are the Estonian national bird, the White Wagtail is Latvia's, the Common Blackbird is for Sweden. The Swan, as the national bird of Finland, is intentionally missing on the image on the back of violin. It is represented merely by the white feather (on the back of the violin) as an allusion to the Finnish mythological epic The Kalevala, in which the Swan of Death is killed on Lake Tuonela by the mis-guided hero of the cycle. Finnish composer Jean Sibelius used this story as a focal point for his 1895 tone poem The Swan of Tuonela.



#2

Leila Fanien

A PYSO member since 2016, Leila Fanien has served as Co-concertmaster for the past 2 seasons. She aspires to be a performing artist and plans to major in music performance in college. On her spare time, Leila also enjoys art and has contributed three of her painted violins for the past 3 years to PYSO's fundraisers. This year her painted violin inspiration is the "Aurore Boréale" taken from the PYSO's upcoming summer tour to Scandinavia covering 4 countries bordering the Baltic Sea.



#3

Alberto J. Almarza

Alberto J. Almarza is a Chilean artist and teacher residing in Pittsburgh. Almarza currently teaches painting at CAPA 6-12. He graduated with honors from Carnegie Mellon University with a major in communication design and minors in fine art and photography. While having extensive experience and training in traditional and representational art forms such as drawing and painting, Almarza's focus for many years has been the use of experimental and invented media, giving priority to the creative imagination, aesthetic experience, and mixed use of materials. His work emerges in service of a unique and personal vision of art, one which fosters its subversive role and imaginative potential capable of transcending the confines and limitations of consensual reality.



#4

Dave Klug

Since graduating from The Art Institute of Pittsburgh in the 80's, he has worked on some great projects with wonderful people in publishing and beyond. Along with the famous murals at the Primanti Brothers Restaurants, Dave also has murals in the Consol Arena and the Pittsburgh International Airport. His talents have also spread out to the pet lover and veterinarian community with his limited edition prints and stationery.

Dave's illustrations can be seen in such publications as Forbes, Reader's Digest, Wall Street Journal, and in the kids' magazine Highlights. He has been working with the National Parks Service and their Jr. Ranger program. He was also recently awarded a Rueben Award from the National Cartoonist Society.

He resides in Carnegie, PA with his lovely wife and their two dogs, where they are converting a 100 year old church rectory into their studio and home.

In describing his work on this violin titled 'Songs of Nature' Dave says, "I really love the early folk art quality of eastern Europe and was influenced to create this scene of foliage, flourishes and birds who are making their own music."

www.daveklug.com
www.doubledogstudio.com



#5

Camerin “Camo” Nesbit

Camo is the founder/painter of CamoCustomz. Born in the Homewood neighborhood of Pittsburgh he graduated from Schenley High School in 2010 and attended Mercyhurst University. Five years ago Camo started painting custom designing canvas sneakers. Now Camo has broadened his talents with canvas work, murals, motor vehicles, and almost anything else you can or should paint. His eye-popping work can be seen not just around Pittsburgh but also in urban areas of Miami, New York, and Los Angeles!



#6

Ginnie Smoliar

Ginnie began her professional life playing oboe and English horn with a number of ensembles in the Pittsburgh region, including the Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble and substituting with the Pittsburgh Symphony. In 1992 she earned a graphic design degree, after which she free-lanced as both musician and graphic designer. In 2001 she was hired as PPG's corporate in-house graphic designer. Retiring from PPG as Manager of Visual Communications in 2016, she now runs Smoliar Design.

Visit www.smoliardesign.com to view her variety of artwork, which includes paintings, collages and creative repurposing of various objects.



#7

Baron Batch

Baron Batch is a Pittsburgh based visual artist and poet. He is known for his “Free” Art drops, where art is hidden in various places with clues as to where to find the work, creating an interactive art scavenger hunt where the person who discovers the art gets to take it for free. Over the past five years he has done hundreds of art drops all over the world. Often animals are used as subject matter within his artwork as well as bright vivid colors accompanied with mantras or various poems. His artwork is signed with various symbols one of which being an eye or the word “FREE”.



#8

T. Wesley Snead

T. Wesley Snead is a Pittsburgh-based artist. He primarily draws animal-head people because “he can’t draw human faces very well.” His work has been featured in the iconic Pavement Licker street art zine and has been shown in London alongside works of Ralph Steadman, Stanley Donwood, and Sir Antony Gormley. Snead’s work has also been heavily featured in the Run for Your Lives Zombie 5k, Hunt a Killer, and Empty Faces promotional campaigns.

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