



The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras (TCSYO)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joshua Lewis: *Dedicated Tubist Who Goes the Distance for TCSYO*



“Without music I feel like I’m missing something,” says Joshua Lewis, tuba player for TCSYO’s Symphonic Orchestra. A junior at La Plata High School, Joshua started out playing the trumpet in fifth grade, then switched to the tuba to be different. “I just sort of fell in love with it! I love setting the foundation for the ensemble.”

Artistic Music Director and Principal Conductor Dr. Cheri Collins says Joshua, who’s 17, showed incredible musicianship and maturity during his TCSYO entrance audition in 2014. “He was able to execute some of the most difficult dynamic markings for the tuba in the Holst Jupiter and Mars pieces. It was phenomenal for a high school student. I was thrilled that he wanted to be part of TCSYO. Every brass sectional coach has made it a point to tell me what an amazing tuba player Joshua is. I have no doubt we’ll be seeing him in a major symphony one day.”

Joshua says a lot of people think the tuba is an oompah instrument but “it can make very beautiful music.” He compares the tuba to the cello. Joshua says great tuba players, like the Chicago Symphony’s principal tubist Gene Pokorny or the late Arnold Jacobs “can really make the tuba sing and sound like YoYo Ma or Rostropovich” on cello.

Joshua’s weekly trek from La Plata in Charles County, MD to Monday rehearsal at Lanier Middle School in Fairfax can take up to an hour and a half. He’s never missed a rehearsal. “Because I love the orchestra! I’ve never had a conductor like Dr. Collins. She’s very spirited, very passionate and always makes me laugh during rehearsals. I love the way she teaches and the way she conducts.” Joshua says the music is very challenging and exciting because “in the pieces that we’re playing I have a lot of great moments to let the tuba shine!” His musical tastes also include country and gospel.

Joshua says he’s looking at colleges that have superior tuba instructors, including the University of Maryland, the Curtis Institute of Music, the New England Conservatory and the Colburn School. He would like to play with a professional orchestra. “I play music for myself, but I also play music for the audience because they deserve to experience what music can do to the soul. You are at peace.”

TCSYO is a Fairfax County based non-profit organization. Its mission is to provide a creative environment where young musicians from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia come together to rehearse and perform. Now in its fourth year, TCSYO offers young musicians an opportunity to take their skills to a higher level with the Symphonic and Chamber orchestras for the more advanced and the new Prelude orchestra for elementary-aged musicians.

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