



**Woodburn's Amy Lawrence will be celebrating the holidays with the Portland Youth Philharmonic this year.**

*Photo by Michael Romanos*

## Hitting a *sweet* holiday note

■ **Woodburn woman will have busy holiday performing in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall**

PORTLAND — Amanda Lawrence, a 21-year-old from Woodburn, will be celebrating her holidays with the Portland Youth Philharmonic.

On Dec. 26, when most people are bidding their time until New Year's, Amanda will be performing in the orchestra's annual holiday tradition, the Concert-at-Christmas at 7:30 p.m. in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

Being in PYP means "Being in a fun and focused environment where I can make beautiful music with other serious musicians" said Amanda, who began playing violin 15 years ago.

She has been playing in the association's most advanced group for two years, but started with their conservatory orchestra. The youth orchestra experience must have rubbed off on her because she is majoring in music education at Portland State University.

The unique and family friendly aspect of PYP's Concert-at-Christmas is that her peers from the conservatory orchestra will also have their time on stage.

In fact, all three ensembles will perform (the Philharmonic Orchestra, the Conservatory Orchestra and the Young String Ensemble), as well as a

pickup group of alumni from the orchestra's last eight decades.

Membership in the orchestra and the fact that players like Amanda are a part of tradition that is constantly renewing itself (when PYP began 80 years ago it was the first youth orchestra in the country and players today begin as young as 7 and often stay until they are 22) is not unlike the theme of the Concert-at-Christmas program this year: Something Old, Something Borrowed, Something New.

Avoiding the typical holiday fare, the pieces on the program are a nod to the past but the theme is making something new again.

Amanda is a dedicated musician and student who, if she's not playing music, enjoys things like rock climbing and studying German and French.

Tickets to the Concert-at-Christmas range from \$10 to \$35. For more information call 503-223-5009.

The Philharmonic Orchestra presents a full concert series in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall that closely parallels that of a professional symphony orchestra. Remaining dates for the 2004-2005 Season are: March 5 and May 7.