



## YORK

# YHS alumna to perform at CASA benefit concert

By Maegan Detlefs

REGIONAL EDITOR

YORK—This Friday, CASA for York County will be hosting a fundraiser concert at the York High School Theatre featuring York native and YHS alumna Rebecca Cordes.

All money raised through ticket sales at the concert will go to benefit CASA for York County and their costs of operation.

“CASA is an ongoing thing,” said Don Keelan-White, CASA for York County board member. “We have children here in York County that have needs, and so this is not for the national or state organization, this is a local endeavor and we think it’s a good cause.”

The idea for this fundraiser originally came from Hub Foster who served on the CASA board until his passing last year. He wanted to bring in a performance



Rebecca Cordes

group that would both entertain the community and help raise funds and awareness for CASA. Bringing in Cordes was a way, “to follow through on an idea that Hub Foster had,” White added.

Cordes will be performing Friday with Jason Webb,

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## CONCERT: Fundraiser planned

a trumpet and flugel horn player from her band Plus One Jazz Group in Dallas, as well as David Hall on drums and Hans Sturm on bass who have both been contracted specifically for that evening’s performance

Cordes graduated from York High School in 1994 and went on to study music at Drake University in Des Moines, IA.

A skilled and classically trained pianist, she discovered a love for jazz music when a couple of friends in the Dallas area invited her to play in their jazz group. “I was working primarily as a classical musician at that time and that was probably my first foray into playing jazz,” Cordes said. “I had been studying jazz for many years but I hadn’t had the opportunity to play in a small combo.”

Cordes continued to dive deeper into the jazz scene, eventually collaborating with other musicians to create the Plus One Jazz Group — a Dallas based jazz band that plays “an eclectic mix of jazz that paints a broad stroke from straight ahead to jazz interpretations of classical, pop, rock, Broadway, and R&B,” according to their website.

Cordes added that her transition from classical to jazz was not always easy, but as a musician, the experience was rewarding. “Much like learning a second language, it’s incredibly difficult to

get to a place where you can speak it fluently,” Cordes continued. “But when you can, you connect far better with the people you’re communicating with. For me, that’s what I enjoy the most—it uplifts me to hear it.

In addition to her accomplishments as a musician, Cordes is a successful composer who has written the music for two original works for theatre. Her first full-length musical, “The Great White Way,” was staged at the 2007 International Dance Festival in New York and had its world premier at the 2011 Out-of-the-Loop Fringe Festival in Dallas. It was at the 2012 Out-of-the-Loop Festival that her second musical, “A Most Happy Stella,” made its own debut.

Friday’s performance for CASA will include a variety of jazz classics as well as pop songs reworked for a jazz context.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday evening. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and can be purchased through the York Chamber Office, CASA for York office, or online at [www.casaforyork.org](http://www.casaforyork.org)

“We know it’s going to be an excellent program because Rebecca is such a high caliber, professional musician,” White added. “This is our attempt to raise awareness and provide a unique opportunity for the community.”