



# Youth Symphony Notes

October 2007

## From the Chairs

Welcome to the 2007-2008 season! We are delighted to have increased participation in all four performing ensembles this year. **WOW!** We hope this is a trend that continues, as our music education programs across all ages become more cohesive. We have a variety of "feeder programs" and are delighted to welcome 47 new performers, several of whom came up through the SLO Symphony sponsored music education programs.

October 13th is the date for this year's Orchestra retreat. Wonderful clinicians are looking forward to working with our musicians, and our own Michael Nowak will conduct the Orchestra in the afternoon. This is a great opportunity, and we hope everyone will be able to participate.

We have a large, enthusiastic Music Education Committee this year, and we hope to involve many parents and others as volunteers in many different capacities - all supporting our Youth Symphony musicians. We look forward to working with you during the year, and would love to hear your ideas.

*Linda Ashworth and Paul Kwong*  
Co-chairs,  
Music Education Committee

## Conductors' Corner

*Dear Preparatory Strings,*

Wow! What a great start! Congratulations on being ready to go so quickly. Reading music for the first time is always a challenge and everyone makes mistakes. It is home practice where you learn the notes, rhythm and bowing. Remember, if you get lost while we are playing at rehearsal, keep your instrument up and be ready to join in. At home, please practice both of the songs: Symphony #8 and Postcards from Russia. If you would like to hear the pieces that we are working on, you can go to [JWPepper.com](http://JWPepper.com) and click on orchestra - string orchestra, then type in the title for Symphony #8 and Postcards from Russia.

Looking forward to a wonderful season of music.

*Dear Academy String Orchestra,*

Hi everyone! Welcome to an exciting new season. We have an outstanding group of musicians this year. I am so proud of the effort that you have put in to come to this level of playing. Thank you for your cooperation at the first rehearsal. You all got a chair, music stand and music. That is saying a lot, considering we have less than 15 minutes to get the room set up, get tuned and be ready to start rehearsal after the high school choir is dismissed.

On Wednesday, October 10, we will have sectionals. Please check the white board on arrival, to find out which room your section will be in for the first hour.

I hope you have saved November 2-4 for the retreat at Camp Ocean Pines. This is the 3rd annual Academy in the Pines. It is a wonderful opportunity to grow together musically, to have fun and get to know each other. Camp Ocean Pines, in Cambria, is a beautiful site. The musical progress we make as a group is inspiring, and, as a musician, I know the time I spent at events like this had a big impact.

There is barely any room, but parents are encouraged to drop by and listen to rehearsals. Please introduce yourself if I have a blank look on my face. Also, if you have any questions, it is probably better to keep them away from rehearsals and to e-mail me at [carolsnote@aol.com](mailto:carolsnote@aol.com) instead. Looking forward to a great year!

**Carol Kersten, Conductor**  
Preparatory Strings &  
Academy String Orchestra

## DATES TO REMEMBER

For a full calendar and more details go the YS web site at:  
[www.sloyouthsymphony.org](http://www.sloyouthsymphony.org)

### **Monday, October 1:**

Academy in the Pines  
first payments, scholarship applications  
and registration forms due

### **Monday, October 8:**

NO REHEARSAL

### **Wednesday, October 10:**

Regular Rehearsal, SLOHS

### **Wednesday, October 10:**

Concert Orchestra Clinic \$50 due

### **Saturday, October 13:**

Concert Orchestra Clinic

### **Monday, October 15:**

Academy in the Pines  
second payment due

### **November 2-4:**

Academy in the Pines Retreat,  
Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria

## Conductors' Corner continued...

*Dear Concert Orchestra  
Members,*

I think we got off to a very good start at the first rehearsal! I also want to mention how proud I was of you on our tour to Vancouver. You guys shined! I think our performances were "eye openers" to the Richmond and McGee orchestras! Anyway, it was a lot of fun!

Coming up, we have a lot of hard music, so I just want to remind you to practice, practice, practice!!

**Nancy Nagano,**  
Concert Orchestra Conductor

## From the Administration

Scholarship applicants will receive notice of their scholarship amounts by Monday, October 8th. The first tuition payment is due on Wednesday, October 10th. You can drop it in the tuition box at rehearsal, send a check to the office or pay with credit card over the phone. October 10th is also the deadline for returning registration forms. Musicians will not be allowed to participate with the YS after that date, until their form is completed and returned to administration. It's also very important that we have your correct contact information for communication. If you would like a copy of the roster or car pool list please e-mail requests to [Issy@slosymphony.com](mailto:Issy@slosymphony.com).

## Academy in the Pines Retreat

The Academy in the Pines Retreat, Nov. 2-4, 2007 at Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria, is a wonderful experience for musicians new to the Academy Strings and for those who have attended in the past. As always, there will be lots of music, plus games, a bonfire, story-telling, and lively entertainment! Your first payment is due October 1, and your second is due on October 15th. If you would like to apply for a scholarship, look for an application, which every Academy musician received in his/her parent packet. You can also request a form from Issy Roberts at the Symphony office.

We still need chaperones for the Academy Retreat - **especially dads!** Chaperones pay \$100 for the weekend, and help supervise musicians when they're not playing music. Please let Issy know if you're interested in helping out the Youth Symphony in a charming setting!

## "My Summer Vacation"

Many Youth Symphony students attended music camps over the summer. Some of their experiences are shared below.

David attended a 12 day music camp at the **Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp** in Michigan for the first time this summer. Said he had a blast. Played music for 5-6 hours/day in 3 different settings: full orchestra / sectional / and 'tech' class. Learned a lot. Performed Brahms 3rd Symphony, but the best part appeared to be hanging with his cabin mates and making new friends. Though Blue Lake is a bit off the beaten path for Californians, northern Michigan is beautiful in the summer. [www.bluelake.org](http://www.bluelake.org)  
- **Minke WinklerPrins, mother of David Gealy, Violin, Concert Orchestra**

## Concert Orchestra Clinic

**The Concert Orchestra clinic is coming right up Saturday, October 13 at Grace Church in San Luis Obispo (corner of Osos and Pismo). The clinic fee is \$50, due October 10, and scholarships are available. Here is the schedule:**

### 10-10:30am

Musicians check-in at Grace Church Courtyard

### 10:30-12pm

Sectionals  
Chris Swanson, strings  
David Arrivée, winds and brass  
Darrell Voss, percussion

### 12pm

Lunch in Mitchell Park (lunch provided)

### 1-3pm

Full orchestra clinic with Michael Nowak

### 3:15pm

Musicians and chaperones board bus and depart for Santa Barbara

### 5:15pm

Dinner on your own in downtown Santa Barbara (bring \$10-15)

### 6:45pm

Meet outside Arlington Theater for pre-concert lecture

### 8pm

Santa Barbara Symphony Opening Night Concert, Arlington Theatre

### 10:30pm

Board bus for return to SLO

### 12:30am

Arrive SLO

**The Intermezzo Workshop** (held here in San Luis Obispo) was really fun. I've done it two times and enjoyed both times a lot. It was fun doing the small chamber groups. I really liked pretending to be a professional musician. My favorite part was the concert at the end of the week.

- **Chelsea Munster, Violin, Preparatory Strings**

Max Eisendrath attended the Piano Performance program at **Interlochen Music Camp** in Michigan this summer. During the three weeks there Max had daily practice sessions as well as group lessons and twice weekly private lessons. A highlight of his camp experience was the opportunity to perform on the piano with the orchestra.  
- **Kathryn Rogers, mother of Max Eisendrath, Alto Saxophone and Piano, Symphonic Winds**

## Concert Orchestra Tour to British Columbia Re-Cap

I think we can safely say that Victoria and Vancouver have been officially "SLO Youth Symphonied." The Concert Orchestra's tour to British Columbia this June was a big success, with lots of music, sightseeing, and friends. Check out <http://slocountyouthsymphonytour2007.blogspot.com/> for the blog with photos and videos. A few musicians share their experience below.

The Youth Symphony's tour to British Columbia was a wonderful experience in the way of music, and getting to know our fellow musicians. Even though I saw them every Monday, I never really got to talk to many of them until the tour. Boy, did that change! I had a great time, met new people, played great music; it can't get much better than that.

- **Caitlin Christianson, trumpet**

I have to say, of all the places I've traveled to with any musical group, Vancouver with the Youth Symphony trumps them all. The scenery was beautiful, and the music sounded great. Though, I'm a little ashamed to say, my favorite part of the trip was finally learning everybody's name after a year of playing with them.

- **J.T. Knox, percussion**

I felt that Canada was one of the best events the Symphony had done. I really enjoyed socializing with my friends and being able to escape from the hustle of life and all of its many complications. I also very much enjoyed meeting new people in the Symphony and becoming more acquainted with them. The conjoined concerts were certainly a great experience as well. In terms of sightseeing, my favorite place was definitely the Butchart Gardens, hands down; I only wish I had brought my camera instead of "stealing" Sabina's. Over all, the Canada tour was truly an amazing experience.

- **Chris Burkhardt-Snelling, violin**

Over the summer, I attended the **Timpanogos String Camp** in Utah. It was an amazing, one week experience. We had six hours of rehearsal a day, and learned very difficult pieces by Friday, when we had our final concert. Every day after lunch, the senior group had a guest speaker come and give us a presentation. During one of these seminars, Peter Prier's son came and spoke to us about the value of a good instrument. He brought with him a \$30,000 Prier cello, and the \$6.6 million Firebird Stradivarius violin. Then, he let each of us step up and play the instruments. The cello had a rich, aged tone and the Stradivarius was amazing to hold! The conductors, Louis and Kathy, and all of the coaches were extremely kind and welcoming, and the kids were very friendly. It was an incredible camp and I encourage all of you to make the trek to Utah and participate.

- **Mariah Bunting, Cello, Concert Orch.**