



Youth Symphony Notes

May 2006

From Your Board President

Impossible to believe we're already in the home stretch, though the season is far from over. The month of May finishes with a bang, beginning with the Academy and Prep Strings school concerts at Pacheco and Bishops Peak, respectively, then the spectacular Season Finale Concert at the PAC on May 12th, and finally, the fabulous 'Pops on Broadway' brunch, auction and concert at the Embassy Suites on May 21st. Please look elsewhere for details, mark your calendars, and don't forget to buy your tickets.

As mentioned at the January parent meeting, in the March newsletter, and again noted elsewhere in this newsletter, there is a possibility that our Youth Symphony will merge with the SLO Symphony. In March, the YS board of directors authorized a detailed exploration of what such a merger might look like, and this is now in progress. If anyone has questions or comments, please feel free to contact any of the board task force members, including myself, Vice President Mike Zigelman, Past President Pam Dassenko, and board member Karen Kolba. We would all be happy to discuss this momentous process with you.

As the season begins to wrap up, I'd like to take a moment to thank the board of directors for their hard work and support in helping make possible yet another successful season. Thanks also to the fantastic administrative staff of Jaime Lewis, Sandi Sigurdson, Kristin McCluskey and Patty Thayer who work mostly behind the scenes, attending professionally to thousands of details in support of our growing and ever changing organization, as well as to rehearsal manager Katherine Kirby, who's on the front line every week with your kids. And finally, our eternal gratitude to the music wizards, including an ever expanding staff of coaches, and the three grand high wizards who pull the most incredible music out of our budding musicians - Bruce Knowlton, Carol Kersten and Nancy Nagano.

With deep admiration, appreciation and gratitude for all you do,

Minke WinklerPrins
President, SLOCYS

COMING UP...

Academy Concert at Pacheco

Event Date: Friday, May 5

(12:30p rehearsal / 1:45p concert)

Location: Pacheco Elementary School,
261 Cuesta Drive, SLO

Questions: Lisa Wearda 544-2990

Please note that Academy musicians **already received an important informational flyer, a permission slip** for early school dismissal and **a request for party donations** on Monday the 24th. Please check your musician's rehearsal folder for this information! An email copy of the flyer will also be sent, so please check your email boxes.

Prep Strings at Bishop

Event Date: Monday, May 8

(12:30p rehearsal / 1:30p concert)

Location: Bishop Peak Elementary School,
451 Jaycee Dr, SLO

Questions: Kathryn Rogers 801-9045

Pops on Broadway

MUSICIAN INFORMATION

Even Date: Sunday, May 21

Embassy Suites Hotel

Musician arrival time: 1:00p

Concert time: 1:30p

For earlier arrival, see below

Pops on Broadway

PARENT INFORMATION

Don't let the logistics of childcare or transporting your musician stop you from attending the *Pops on Broadway* Brunch! If you are a parent of a performing YS musician and will be attending the brunch, there will be a room with adult supervision, adjacent to the Grand Ball Room where the musicians can relax, eat a light lunch, play card/board games (they bring), watch a video and hang-out (11am-1pm) until it's time to perform (1:30p). In order to adequately prepare for this, we need to know in advance how many musicians plan on using this service. Please call 544-2990 or send an e-mail to lisawearda@charter.net to let us know ASAP if your musician will be part of the pre-concert festivities.

SEASON FINALE CONCERT INFO

Thursday, May 11

Dress Rehearsal, SLO High School
(standard rehearsal times)

Prep Strings: 4-4:45pm

Academy Orchestra: 4:30-7pm

Symphonic Winds: 5-6:45pm

Orchestra: 5-7pm

Friday, May 12

Season Finale, Performing Arts Center

Group

Arrival

On Stage

Orchestra

4:10pm

4:20-5:15pm

Academy Orchestra

4:50pm

5pm-5:45pm

Symphonic Winds

5:35pm

5:45-6:15pm

Prep Strings

6:05pm

6:15-6:30pm

NOTE: Food will NOT be provided for students. Please see options below.

ORCHESTRA AND ACADEMY ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS ONLY:

Feel free to leave for dinner after your rehearsal, **but you must return by 6:45pm.**

Sitting in the audience for the 1st half of the concert is *not optional*. You are expected to sit in the audience and support your fellow players!

Merger with SLO Symphony?

A committee composed of all three Youth Symphony conductors, and Sandi Sigurdson and Jaime Lewis, staff from the adult Symphony, are meeting to explore the actual form a merged organization might take. This committee was established by both the YS and SLOCYS Boards, so that each organization could make a reasoned and informed decision as to whether or not a merger is the most viable, sustainable option. The establishment of the committee is, in no way, an endorsement of a merger, but rather a vehicle to obtain information and look at structure.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact Sharon Young at 595-7674, or email sgyconsulting@hotmail.com.

SEASON FINALE CONCERT INFO CONTINUED...

Young Musician Drop-off:

On concert day, please drop your young musician off at the PAC loading dock. To reach this area, take Grand Avenue past the PAC, make a left on South Perimeter Rd. and another left on Tahoe Rd. Drive to the end of the street until you reach the loading dock and follow the signs. Any cars parked in the loading dock will be towed.

Please remember: Parents are NOT allowed backstage.

Food:

Dinner will not be provided for musicians on the night of the concert, but there are many options available:

- parents can take musicians out for a quick bite to eat between rehearsal and 6:45pm

- musicians can bring food to eat between rehearsal and 6:45pm

- older musicians can walk down to

Backstage Pizza in the University Union on the Cal Poly campus (parents can organize to chaperone, too)

Directions to the Performing Arts Center (PAC):

From the north: Take 101 to Monterey St. and follow the signs to Cal Poly. *From the south:* Take Highway 101 to the Grand Avenue exit. Turn left on Grand Ave. *From Morro Bay, Cambria, etc.,* we suggest that you enter campus from the Highland Drive entrance.

Parking:

There is a \$4.00 event parking fee per vehicle.

Tickets/Seats Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do parents need to buy tickets? What about parent volunteers working backstage?

A: Everyone attending the Season Finale concert needs to have a ticket, including volunteers.

Q: Do musicians need tickets?

A: Musicians do not need tickets. They get the star treatment!

Q: When should I buy tickets?

A: At rehearsals. In order to give our young musicians a full house on Friday night, we need all Youth Symphony families to purchase 6 tickets (\$8 each) for the performance. Tickets for each family are held for sale at rehearsals. Please buy your tickets from the Youth Symphony first, as tickets purchased at the PAC don't count toward the 6-ticket purchase. If you need more than six, the Youth Symphony will have extras available for purchase.

Please remember it is the responsibility to each family to buy six tickets in order to ensure that the house is full on Friday night!

Q: Can't I buy tickets the day of the concert? Why the rush?

A: Historically, Youth Symphony

performances tend to begin very late, due to long lines of people (many of whom showed up early) waiting to buy tickets at the box office.

Q: When my musician isn't on stage, can he/she sit with me?

A: The front three rows of the hall will be saved for Youth Symphony musicians when they are not playing. All Prep Strings, Academy Orchestra and Symphonic Winds musicians must sit in this section for the first half of the performance. Orchestra musicians may sit here as well, but are welcome to sit with their families during the first half. For the second half of the performance, Prep Strings, Academy Orchestra, and Symphonic Winds musicians may sit in this section, or they are welcome to sit with their families.

From Carol Kersten...

ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

What a wonderful first year we have had! This is the best Academy Orchestra ever. The group has accomplished a lot through hard work and demanding rehearsals. We had an inspiring trip to Disney Hall, and a wonderful weekend camp to make the season extra special. Now it is time for the end of the year whirl of activities. We have three concerts this month! Yikes! So please check the times and locations (listed elsewhere in the newsletter) carefully and remember the added 30 minutes of rehearsal times on May 8 and May 11 (4:30-7:00pm).

Thank you to the parents for your generous support. Music is a gift that focuses our minds, challenges our cooperation in working together, demands us to listen and gives us the opportunity to express a beautiful idea together and thus enrich our souls.

PREPARATORY STRINGS

We are rapidly approaching the final concert of the season. Actually our group will have two concerts. First, we are doing a school concert on Monday, May 8 at Bishops Peak School (arrival and concert times are listed elsewhere in the newsletter). Our last concert, on May 12, will be at the Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly. The Preparatory Strings will start the concert and then join with the Academy to end the first half of the concert. Please see rehearsal and concert times listed in the newsletter.

Congratulations to the Preparatory Strings musicians for your big accomplishments this year. You are learning complicated musical skills very quickly. With your work at home and just 45 minutes together each week, you have improved your note reading, rhythmic reading, and listening to the group as well as following a conductor. These skills will help you as you advance in your musical training. There is an enormous amount of talent and energy in our group and I hope to see you next year. If you are interested in joining the Academy Orchestra, please look at the audition requirements online and plan for that now. Thanks to the parents for the support and for giving your children the opportunity to grow musically.

Carol Kersten
Conductor, Prep Strings and Academy Orchestra

Don't miss the...

SLOCYS

Pops on Broadway,

with a

Champagne Brunch, "not-so-silent" Auction and Pops Concert

Sunday, May 21, 11a-2:30p

**Embassy Suites Hotel Grand
Ballroom, SLO**

Tickets available at Monday rehearsals (sales table located in main entrance of the SLOHS music building) or by contacting Kelly Stella (kelstel@aol.com or 995-3394) Brunch/concert tickets are: \$55/individual ticket, \$500/table for 10 people
Concert only tickets are: \$10 (only 60 available and must be purchased in advance)

Concert time: 1:30p
Concert only seating: 1:15p

Still Seeking Your Pops Auction Item Donations

Please contact auction chairperson Lisa Wearda (lisawearda@charter.net or 544-2990) with questions or to make specific arrangements for donation pick-up. Detailed information and a downloadable auction donation are available on the web site at www.sloyouthsymphony.org. See 'Current Season', then 'Events'.

From Bruce Knowlton...

Symphonic Winds are finishing up our best year ever! The musicianship and dedication keep getting better and better. It's not too early to start thinking about next year. If you have friends that might like to join us, invite them to our concert at the PAC and have them contact us so that we can give them information about auditions in September.

A reminder to all Symphonic Winds members that we will be having our pizza and ice cream float party before our concert on Friday, May 12, so come hungry.

Finally, thanks again to the great parents who help each week to set up and take down our rehearsal room. We appreciate you more than you know!

Bruce Knowlton
Conductor, Symphonic Winds