



Youth Symphony Notes

October 2005

From Your Board President

Welcome to all new and returning musicians and families as we begin a new season of making great music together. This year unveils the inaugural season for the newly formed Academy Orchestra, a new viola class taught by Peggy Whitson, and a change in the Concerto Competition which will, for the first time be held in a small house concert setting, allowing musicians to truly experience solo performance.

We were heartbroken to have to cancel the April Japan tour, but are already thinking about and exploring other options – so stay tuned.

We are definitely planning a fun road trip in March to the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles to tour this spectacular hall and hear the Julliard Orchestra perform. This road trip will include the Symphonic Winds, the Academy Orchestra, and possibly The Orchestra as well. I encourage you all to check out the Disney Hall web site: www.musiccenter.org/wdch/, especially the Photo Gallery. It's truly amazing architecture, and the acoustics are incredible.

And on that note.....let's make music!

Minke Winkler Prins
YS Board President

Orchestra News

Thank you all for great auditions - I'm looking forward to a new season. I realize there are some new "ways" we are trying out this season and I'm optimistic that they will contribute to a successful year. I've been to conferences the past 4 years talking to other

Dates to Remember:

Please also check the Youth Symphony on-line calendar at:

<http://calendar.yahoo.com/slocountyyouthsymphony>

October 31 – No Rehearsal

November 2 – Wednesday – Regular Rehearsal, SLOHS

November 14 – Orchestra Clinic, 5-7pm. Location TBA

December 9 – Friday – Dress Rehearsal, regular rehearsal times. SLOHS

December 11 – Sunday – Holiday Concerts, Clark Center

successful Youth Symphony directors and hearing how they have become so successful. Taking into consideration the strength of our orchestra, I thought this would be a good year to try out some new ideas. One of the first changes is that we have a "set" seating roster for all of you. I'm hoping (especially in the string section) that you will learn to play together with your stand partner; help each other out and enjoy each other's companionship. And, if you feel you deserve to be higher in the section, we will hold a "challenge" day in January.

Another change is the sectionals. I am hoping we will have more concentrated sessions by having the sectionals be the full time. In November, we will also have a Clinic for every instrument. Our Annual Concerto Competition is January 15th and will be held in a recital setting so the adjudicators can really hear a "performance" of your piece. If you are thinking of competing, please begin NOW with planning (your piece, your accompaniment, memorization etc.). January comes around fast. I don't want any of you saying in January that you wanted to try out but you didn't know about it.... OK???? Although the Japan Tour fell through, we can still look ahead and work towards a fun and successful season!

Nancy Nagano
Orchestra Conductor

To the Academy Orchestra

Congratulations to all members of the Academy Orchestra. We are starting the year with a new name and an outstanding group of musicians.

Some highlights of the year will be playing baroque music featuring players from the Orchestra as soloists. The first concert will feature trumpeter Andrew Lehmer. We will be forming chamber music groups soon and having a special concert in March. Also in March we will be going to Disney Hall in Los Angeles for a concert by the Julliard Orchestra.

We would like to build our viola and bass sections. If you are interested in being part of this program, please let me know, as we are forming special classes.

The coaches and I want to challenge each of you to advance your individual and ensemble skills. Home practice is key to your success in improving. We are playing difficult music and off to a great start. I am proud to be part of this group and look forward to a year of great music making.

Carol Kersten
Academy Orchestra Conductor

For Preparatory Strings

Thanks for all the work that you did to have a successful audition. Because the music level is so high this year, we are playing some very challenging music. Remember that it is possible to hear the music that you have in your folders by going to jwpepper.com. The homework sheet that was given out last week had details on how to listen. After listening, start practicing slowly and only a small part at a time.

Some highlights this year will be focusing on improving our note reading and rhythm reading skills. We will be combining with the Academy Strings for a special piece later in the year. And we will have some more social events.

Parents, please drop in to rehearsals from time to time and see the growth that takes place in the ensemble from concert to concert.

I believe this will be the most advanced Preparatory Strings ever. See you at rehearsals!

Carol Kersten
Academy Orchestra Conductor

Applause

...For Heidi Butterfield, Sarah Bridge, Sonya Pappas, Katya Goodman and Danielle Barnette (and especially parent Laurie Butterfield) for washing cars at the Sunset North Carwash on October 2nd and raising \$600 toward the Orchestra tour fund. Great initiative, and we heard you also advertised your Youth Symphony. Way to go ladies!

From the Administrator

Dear YS families,

Thanks to all of you who sent in your tuition payments by October 1st! As we grow and become more complex, your support and cooperation in this area is invaluable. As always, please feel free to contact me if you want to know the status of your musician's tuition.

Also, thanks to those of you who have taken the attendance policy and roll call seriously. We are in the process of refining these processes to better suit our organizational needs (which reminds me of the phrase "The only thing that never changes is that things change!"). I'll keep you posted, but until then, please continue to show up early at rehearsal and send your anticipated absences/tardies to the Rehearsal Manager.

The YS Board has just recently approved the new website upgrade, so keep an eye out for changes on our website (www.sloyouthsymphony.org). I'm really excited about this, and once you see how much info you can get off the site, you'll understand why. I'll let you know how the site is progressing soon. Until then,

Jaime Lewis
YS Administrator

Youth Symphony Rosters for all four ensembles were emailed to all families by Jaime Lewis on October 12th. Please check your emails from that date and be sure to download and save a copy of your musician's ensemble.

Need for YS Supporters/ Donors

Parents! At the Parent Meeting we asked you to contribute names and addresses of people who might be interested in helping support the Youth Symphony. Grandparents? Neighbors? Colleagues? The people in your life who are proud of your child's Youth Symphony education and performance opportunities! Be sure to remind them that tuition only pays for 40% of the annual budget. Please contribute names to this donor list for our annual mailing, which provides an additional 25-30% of the budget. You can email their complete info to Kristin@sloyouthsymphony.com, or you can turn the list of names and addresses to Katherine Kirby at rehearsal. The deadline for this year's donor mailing is **Monday, October 31st**. (Boo!). Thank you.

Is Viola the Perfect Match for You?

You won't know unless you explore the possibility. YS musicians are strongly encouraged to take advantage of a special **VIOLA CLASS** that the YS Board just approved for this season. There is a critical need for violas in all three orchestra levels.

SLO Symphony violist, Peggy Whitson will teach the class on Mondays 4:15-5pm, beginning October 24th. It will cover basic viola playing skills, how to read alto clef and transitional coaching into orchestra levels.

Openings for the Preparatory Strings level are nearly full.

Openings are still available in Academy & Orchestra levels. Contact Peggy Whitson for more information at 595-1085.