



MEMORANDUM

TO: Albuquerque Youth Symphony Parents and Students

FROM: Gabriel Gordon, Albuquerque Youth Symphony Conductor
Dale Kempter, AYS Program Music Director

Congratulations and welcome to what I hope will be a WONDERFUL year as members of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony. The first order of business is to prepare for camp and our first concert. We were very impressed with the quality of the auditions and look forward to some great performances. **This may be the only mailing you will receive this summer so it is important that you mark dates on your calendar and read the enclosed information carefully. Updates during the season will be sent by e-mail, so please send an address confirmation e-mail (along with your name) to ays@aysmusic.org so we can compile an accurate e-mail list.**

Hummingbird Camp for AYS

For the 32nd year this summer, our music camp will be held at the Hummingbird Music Camp in Jemez, New Mexico on July 29 – August 1, 2009. The camps have been tremendously successful in upholding the musical standards of the groups as well as providing the opportunity to make new acquaintances and improve individual musical abilities. The AYS has our first concert scheduled on September 20, so your attendance at camp is required. If you are not able to attend camp, you must contact the AYS Program office and ask to be excused.

This summer's camp will provide us the opportunity to prepare many of our year's activities. In addition to preparing the September concert music, we will elect student officers, organize various ensembles, prepare fund-raising activities, fold luminaria bags, become well acquainted, and in general, get as ready as possible for a wonderful and exciting year. We all need to make the positive kind of commitment to each other and ourselves that will make for another great orchestra.

In order to make definite plans for camp, we will need a commitment by receiving the "Permission to Participate" form and tuition deposit from each student by **July 10, 2009** (If you are applying for financial aid, the deadline is also **July 10, 2009**).

Music for the first concert is traditionally available to be picked up at **Robertson & Sons Violin Shop (3201 Carlisle NE) between July 7 - 11, 2009**. You will be e-mailed a link to download all available recordings of the music for this concert. Again, **PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE A GOOD E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR YOU NOW!**

It is expected that as a part of the honor and commitment to the standards of AYS that your individual part has been prepared before the first rehearsal. Camp is for rehearsing—while there will be professional coaches to help you, **LEARNING THE NOTES IS EXPECTED BEFORE CAMP**. In summary, what this means is that you bring to the first rehearsal the music prepared up to tempo with right notes, correct rhythms, key signatures, clef and transposition changes, where applicable, and attention to all editings such as bowings, articulations and dynamics.

AYS CAMP/GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Wednesday, July 29 - Report to **Sandia High School** (7801 Candelaria NE) by 11:15 a.m. You will be provided free bus transportation to Hummingbird (NO lunch is served on arrival so bring sack lunch if you wish). IF you are going to arrive at Hummingbird by other means of transportation please let me know by calling the AYS office (875-1319) by July 20.
2. Saturday, August 1 - Camp is over after lunch and the concert. You are responsible for arranging your own transportation back to Albuquerque. The Albuquerque Youth Symphony Parents Association will be inviting parents to bring a picnic lunch to eat with us at noon. Following lunch we will play a short concert for the parents, providing an opportunity for everyone to get acquainted. We will depart for home around 1:30 p.m.
3. The following students will appear on informal solo recitals during camp: Carolyn Peck, Katherine Mellon, April Benlein, Scott Shaw, Michael Sandoval, Daniel Villanueva, Paul Christodoulou, Brian Massey, Joshua Pedersen, Lauren Harness, Lauren Kemme, Tyler Kemme, Mary Harner and the percussion ensemble.
The AYS Program will provide an accompanist for the recitals. Please bring your accompaniment part to the AYS Program office no later than July 15.
4. Be sure to take these supplies to Hummingbird Camp:
Sleeping bag and pillow, soap, shampoo and wash cloth, light jacket or sweater, flashlight, extra strings and rosin, reeds and valve oil (as applicable). **REMEMBER** to bring a folding stand and pencil to camp! For more information, please check the Hummingbird website at www.hummingbirdmusiccamp.org.

Eligibility

All students accepted into the AYS program must make sure they meet the eligibility requirements. The AYS Program is an enhancement to, and not a substitute for, existing school music programs, each of which has independent rules and policies. AYS Program will coordinate activities with school programs as appropriate, but will neither interfere with, nor participate in establishing the rules or policies of, any school music program. Dismissal from any public or independent school will be viewed as a failure to participate in school band or orchestra and will result in dismissal from the AYS Program.

Students must be enrolled as regular members of their school band or orchestra, if offered. Students accepted into the Program on a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass and harp) must be enrolled in their school orchestra. Students who are accepted into the Program on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument must be enrolled in their school band. Home School students who also elect to attend a public school are subject to the same AYS Program membership requirements as public school students. High school students may not participate in the AYS Program for more than four years, or after their 19th birthday, whichever comes first.

A list of students will be sent to all Music Directors, Orchestra Directors and Band Directors verifying appropriate participation according to AYS Program policy in your school instrumental music program. If your school has no instrumental program, the school principal must sign this sheet, indicating that no instrumental program is offered.

All students must meet the grade point requirements for extracurricular eligibility. If you have just graduated from the 8th grade, you may not be aware that at the end of this year you must have at least a 2.0 grade point and cannot have failed two (2) classes. Other AYS Program regulations are listed in the AYS Program Handbook which is available on our website at

www.aysmusic.org. If you have any questions about this, please call the office as soon as possible and definitely before camp.

P.O. Box 30961, Albuquerque, NM 87190505.875.1319 FAX 505.875.9014 www.aysmusic.org EMAIL ays@aysmusic.org
AYS Welcome Letter - Page 3

Behavior Expectations for all AYS Program Students

Reasonable standards of behavior and dress are expected while rehearsing, performing, or participating in any event or activity associated with the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program.

1. Demonstrate appropriate, respectful behavior toward AYS Program staff, fellow students and at all performance and rehearsal venues.
2. Listen to instruction from your conductor. Do not talk while your conductor is speaking. **All electronic devices, including cell phones, should be turned off and put away during rehearsals and concerts.**
3. Use facilities properly, remaining only in the areas assigned to your orchestra (i.e., please do not wander the halls), keeping the buildings clean and displaying mature, appropriate behavior at all times.
4. All forms of tobacco, alcohol and controlled substances are strictly forbidden at all AYS Program events and activities.

DRESS REHEARSAL & CONCERT DATES FOR 2009-2010:

Sept. 19, 2009 - Dress rehearsal — 8:00 – noon at Popejoy Hall
September 20, 2009 - Concert –3:00 p.m. at Popejoy Hall
Saturday, December 5 – ALL DAY – Luminaria Day – **REQUIRED FOR ALL AYS FAMILIES!**
January 30, 2010 - Dress rehearsal – 8:00 – noon at Popejoy Hall
January 30, 2010 – (Saturday) Concert – 7:30 p.m. at Popejoy Hall
February 6, 2010 – Playathon - 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
February 13, 2010 – AYS/NMSO Combined Concert – TBA – in afternoon
April 10, 2010 - Dress rehearsal — 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Popejoy Hall
Apr. 11, 2010 - Concert – 6:00 p.m. Popejoy Hall

ACT/SAT CONFLICTS - ATTENTION JUNIORS AND SENIORS:

Please check your schedule prior to signing up for your SAT OR ACT on rehearsal or concert dates. **NOTE THE CONFLICTS – DO NOT PLAN TO TAKE THE TEST ON AYS REHEARSAL OR CONCERT DAYS!**

The ACT dates in 2009 - 2010 are Sept. 12, Oct. 24, Dec. 12, Feb. 6 (Playathon – do not take test on this day!), April 10 (Dress rehearsal – do not take test on this day!), and June 12.

The SAT dates in 2009-2010 are Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5 (Luminaria Day – do not take test on this day!), Jan. 23, March 13, May 1 and June 5

QUESTIONS?

Please call the AYS Program office at 875-1319 or send us an email at ays@aysmusic.org.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!!