



September 14, 2009

(Note our web address and be sure to visit.)

www.nysorchestra.org

To Contact:

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NYSO, P.O. Box 195, Topsfield, MA 01983

Welcome to our many new students and welcome back to our returning students – we hope you had a wonderful summer!

Please carefully read our entire Just a Note (JaN) for important information.

POLICY FOR JUST A NOTE

Every week during the NYSO season, we produce a newsletter called “Just a Note” and email this to all families. We will print a limited number of Just a Notes and have them available at the office table during Monday’s rehearsal. If a family does not have access to email, students should pick up printed copies, before or after rehearsal. We will also send (through a student) a limited number to the ensembles that meet on other days. Prelude and Overture Strings will still receive paper notices for the first two weeks.

Just a Note is our most effective method of communicating changes in our schedule and announcing upcoming events and reminders. We are asking parents to regularly and promptly review Just a Note and contact the office with any questions. We normally send Just a Note electronically within one day of the Monday rehearsal. We expect that families will check their emails on a weekly basis to receive this information. Just a Note is also always posted on the NYSO web site.

FORMAT FOR NEWSLETTER:

This year we will again maintain a consistent format, which will include the following:

- **Important Meetings and Announcements
- **General Information
- **Calendar Corner for any changes
- **Ensemble Boxes - specific information
- **Concert Information
- **“Thank you” column

**Repeat corner – We often put information in Just a Note for two or three weeks. If you are one of the people who always read your newsletter the first time and record all the information, then you may skip the “repeat” section. However, should you need to refresh your memory about an item, you will find it there.

**Concert Corner - wonderful concerts for families to attend

**Student kudos

REGISTRATION PACKETS will be handed out this week to all families at rehearsals.

We have simplified the packet so there are fewer items to fill in and we are asking that everyone return the completed packets promptly by the next rehearsal. For the orchestral ensembles, this date is September 21. Flute Choirs - Sept. 27. Clarinet Choir - September 30. Chorale - by the first rehearsal. After October 5, families who have not returned their packets will be listed in Just a Note as a reminder.

Please mail your tuition, made payable to 'NYSO', P.O. Box 195, Topsfield, MA 01983 or bring to rehearsal and give to Sarah Perron, our Office Manager, at the desk.

Payment or approved written payment plans are due by October 5, 2008. Scholarship forms are available upon request and must also be in the office by October 5.

As noted in your packet and in the handbook, late payments will be assessed as follows:

October 5 – November 2 - \$25

After November 2 - \$50

See packets for fees.

For Flute and Clarinet Choirs and Chorale, if your child is also an orchestra member, your rate is reduced by \$50. Please see your registration packet for details.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the following parent volunteers who helped us over the summer and who helped at the retreat.

Summer volunteers:

Music and assembling packets: Kathleen August, Karen Broderick, Jane and Rachel Costa, Alyssa Dumas, Nick Goodwin, Jillian Griffin, Linda Leahy, Maya Molla, and Kim and Min Nguyen.

Retreat:

Kathy Joyce, Karl and Elaine Geffken, Erica Fuller, Janice Goodwin, Robin Wilcox, Joanne Sanford, Terry Myers and Jim Conner, Jennifer Wood, Scott and Karen Dow, Bob Stoneham, Jennifer Wright, Kate and Lee Garth, Jim Cahaly, Dave Bongiorno, Adam Schaller, and Betsy

Johnson. A very special thank you to Jennifer Wood's mother, who served as our lifeguard! If we missed your name, we apologize! Please let us know and we will put your name in the next Just a Note.

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Music Director of NYSO: Gerald Dolan
Rehearsal Desk Manager: Sarah Perron, our Office Manager, will manage the desk on Mondays at Masconomet. Sarah's desk assistants will be Robin Willcox and Maya Molla.
We are still in need of a Volunteer Coordinator, as well as a rehearsal assistant for Symphony Orchestra. Contact Lisa Maxwell if you have any questions or to volunteer.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two important meetings on Mon. Sept. 21st

1) 5:00 p.m. New members' parent meeting

Prelude, Overture, Intermezzo, Symphony and Wind Ensemble. (NOTE: *Wind Ensemble new parent meeting* at 6:00 p.m. to accommodate the later rehearsal time.)

All new parents are requested to attend this meeting, which will take place in the Cafeteria just behind the office desk in the hall. This meeting will present important information, help you to become acquainted with our NYSO family and answer any questions you may have.

2) 5:20 p.m. All parents required meeting

All families are expected to have one parent present at these meetings. If you cannot attend, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Prelude, Overture, Intermezzo, Symphony (Wind Ensemble will come at 6:00 for the same information.)

The meeting includes:

Ad book campaign kick-off; volunteer sign –up and a short report from last year. This is a very important meeting, which includes recruiting volunteers, giving an overall view of the year, and launching the ad book campaign, as well as discussing our major fundraisers for the year.

NYSO Chorale parents will meet at their first rehearsal at Gordon College.
All parents meet at 5:15 p.m.

Junior Flute, Flute and Select Flute Choir parents will have their parent meetings on Sunday, September 20th at Trinity Episcopal Church where they rehearse. Jr. Flutes @ 3:15pm; Flutes/Select Flutes @ 5:25pm.

Clarinet Choir parents will have their parent meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 5:30 p.m. All family ad packets will be available at these parent meetings. If you are unable to attend this very important meeting, we will arrange for your child to bring home your packet. There will also be packets available at the rehearsal desk. Remember that all families are responsible for \$150 of ad sales. (Check your handbook and commitment form in your registration packet.) We will have extra ad forms and information sheets – and also last year's ad book. You can also copy your own extra ad forms.

GENERAL INFORMATION

NYSO AUDITIONS

NYSO STILL HAS OPENINGS FOR NEW STUDENTS IN SOME ENSEMBLES AND POSITIONS. Do you have any friends who would like to play/sing? Please let them know that we will audition students until October 5 and they should call the office at one of the phone numbers above.

NYSO CHORALE

NYSO Chorale is for advanced vocalists. We are still holding auditions for students grade 8-12 during the month of September. The Chorale is conducted by Dr. Sandra Doneski, assisted by Elizabeth Varno, both outstanding and experienced choral directors. Dr. Doneski is currently an Assistant Professor of Music at Gordon College, where she teaches courses in music education methods, supervises student teachers and conducts the Gordon College Children's Choir, which she founded in 2000. NYSO Chorale meets on Wednesdays at Gordon College in the Phillips music building 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

CALENDARS AND EMAILS

Web Calendar

At our NYSO website, you will find an electronic calendar. (To be completed this week.) This is also printable in calendar format. We will be updating this as needed.

Calendar: We will send out the newest calendar this week. As needed, we will issue a revised calendar; especially after all of the concert dates have been finalized. Please remember to revise your own calendars as these come out.

Emails: *PLEASE* let us know ANY time your email changes.

HEALTH FORMS AND ISSUES : It is especially important that we receive the health form in your registration package as soon as possible. We must have emergency numbers for each student.

If your child has any serious health issue, please send Sarah Perron an email so that we can be prepared at rehearsals. Conditions to especially consider: diabetes, allergies, asthma, seizures etc.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Please review the attendance policy in your packet and in your handbook for this year. Note that coming late equals ½ of an unexcused absence and that students are allowed only 2 unexcused absences during each semester. Any sports excuse and other conflicts that you know about ahead of time must be cleared with the conductor of your ensemble and the office should also be notified. Games are excused; practices are not.

NYSO'S SCHOOL MUSIC POLICY

Just a reminder that all NYSO students are expected to participate in their own school music program. Please read this page in your registration packet. If you have any questions, please talk to Mrs. Maxwell or Mr. Dolan.

NYSO HANDBOOKS – 2009-2010

Handbooks will be distributed in your registration packet at the first rehearsals. We have worked very hard to provide a Handbook containing most of the information you will need for the year. Be sure and check that your student brought home your handbook and read it carefully.

PHONE TREES

Phone Trees are on the way. We will have phone trees available at the desk for viewing by September 21st or 30th. Those needing to put car pools together can email or call Sarah Perron (see information at the top of the JaN).

STUDENT KUDOS: If any student receives a special honor or participates in a special event (music or otherwise) we would like to share that information with the NYSO family. Please type up a small paragraph and email it to Lisa Maxwell, or give to Sarah Perron at rehearsals. We will do our best to print it.

PHOTO DAYS please note!! – October 19 and October 26.

October 19: Prelude, Overture, Intermezzo, and Junior Flute Choir, Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir
October 26: Select Flute Choir, Chorale, Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. All students in all ensembles should arrive in concert dress for group photos (and individual photos if you would like them.)

For concert dress: please check your handbook

LAWRENCE STRING PROGRAM – great opportunity for community service!

NYSO student mentors needed.

Student mentors are needed on Friday or Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. for NYSO's string program in Lawrence. NYSO students will work with a group of young, beginning and intermediate violinists from a wonderful program that NYSO has sponsored for ten years. Many of our mentors graduated last year, leaving a number of openings. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding program, please contact Trudy Larson for more details. (978) 685-7844.

The first Lawrence group class will take place in early October.

Classes take place at the Community Day Charter School in Lawrence. **All new students planning on being mentors will be given an orientation to acquaint them with the program and expectations.**

An additional benefit from helping in this program is that this can meet a student's school service requirements for the year.

CALENDAR CORNER

We will update the calendar in this box whenever there is a change.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Several important notes:

- 1) Dr. David Rox and Assistant Corey Seapy will be conducting the Wind Ensemble this year.
- 2) There is only one fee of \$550 for students who are members of both Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble.
- 3) For Wind Ensemble parents only: The parent meeting on September 21st will be held at 6:00 p.m. so you are able to come with your child.

PRELUDE AND OVERTURE

Prelude/Overture will be a part of Enrichment Days – once each semester. Please see your calendars for dates and times.

We will be using the rhythm-training book "Winning Rhythms" that each new NYSO student will need to purchase. The book will be available in the office starting this week at a cost of \$5.00, and this amount should be given to the office desk. (Paid to NYSO)

INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA:

We are asking that students who still have their Winning Rhythms books consider donating them to Prelude and Overture students for their use. Please turn them in at the desk.

CLARINET CHOIR

Clarinet Choir Calendar will be sent out this week.
First rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 23rd
at Masconomet from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

CONCERT CORNER

We will keep you posted on opportunities to attend professional concerts. Often NYSO members receive considerable discounts. We will also email separate concert announcements as they are sent to us. **Please take advantage of these wonderful concerts!** Students grow more quickly as they listen to the outstanding artists who perform in our area.

REPEAT NOTICES

Repeated announcements will appear here!