



Just a Note

October 5, 2009

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

www.nysorchestra.org

NYSO Office Contact Info:

Office Phone: (978) 986-2055

Office Manager – Sarah Perron
(978) 578-6353 --- OfficeMgr@nysorchestra.org

Executive Director – Lisa Maxwell
(781) 335-1484 --- ExecDir@nysorchestra.org

Mailing address:
NYSO, P.O. Box 195, Topsfield, MA 01983

NOTE: Sarah is only in the office on a part-time basis.

Mon: 12-4 (4-8 @ Masco) Tue: 2-5

Wed: 9-12 Thu: 2-5 Fri: 9-2

IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROGRAM ADBOOK CAMPAIGN

Important note for repeat ads.

***** Repeat ads do not come back in automatically – families must request them each year.**

Very important reminders:

Please be sure to hand in a completed form with each ad – **especially if it is sent by email! Often the ads arrive with no information about the requesting family. We want to give each family proper credit.

**Please do not put paper clips over a business card – place the card in an envelope and then clip it to the form.

**Note that if an ad is not camera ready, we will need to charge for the graphic designer to make changes. Please carefully read the information entitled "What does camera-ready mean?"

Available ads – this week we will send the available ads to you **in the text of the Just a Note email.**

Repeat notices re: ad book:

Please note that we would like **all repeat ads to be turned in by the week of October 19th to reduce the "crunch" of so many ads during the last week.

The deadline for all ads is Mon, October 26th.

**Reminder: The \$150 (per family) ad book requirement is in addition to your tuition. We offer you the opportunity of paying this through solicitation of ads. If you choose not to solicit ads, you can

always simply pay the \$150. (See the parent commitment form in your registration packet or in your handbook.) ****Any questions regarding the ads, please contact Sarah Perron.**

Remember that ads can be sent in by e-mail to NYSO.Ads@gmail.com

Available ads from former NYSO members:

Important: There are several ads available from families that are no longer with NYSO; we sent out an email this week containing the list. If you want to sign up for one of these ads, please do so at the orchestra desk, or call or email Sarah Perron.

Please do not contact the business until you have received confirmation that the ad is still available! Aside from those ads, we ask everyone to **ONLY** attempt to obtain those ads that are yours from last year or are not on the list, so that businesses do not receive more than one solicitation. **Please let us know if you are NOT planning to contact your ads from last year so someone else can do so.**

Important Photo Day Information

We offer the opportunity for individual students to have their photos taken (at reasonable prices) with their instrument; you may also order a group photo of their ensemble. To take advantage of individual photos, please plan to have your child arrive early – before rehearsal or stay late (arrive before rehearsal or stay after), as we will not want to interrupt rehearsals.

We will email out the prices and process for ordering photos over the web. If you need a paper form, we will have some available on the day of the photo sittings. Payments to the photographer may be made using Visa/MC/check.

October 19th – Photo Day schedule

3:45 - 4:30 - Individual Photos (Prelude, Overture, Intermezzo, Jr. Flute, Flute, Select Flute, Clarinet)

5:15 - Prelude String Ensemble

5:30 - Overture String Ensemble

5:45 - Intermezzo Orchestra

6:00 - Junior Flute Choir

6:10 - Flute Choir

6:20 - Select Flute Choir

6:30 - Clarinet Choir

(Additional individual photos may be taken between or after group photos)

October 26th – Photo Day schedule

4:00 - 5:45 - Individual Photos

(Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Chorale)

5:45 - NYSO Chorale

6:00 - 6:45 - Individual Photos

6:45 - Symphony Orchestra

7:00 - Wind Ensemble

(Additional individual photos may be taken between or after group photos)

All students in all ensembles should arrive in concert dress for group photos on their assigned days (and individual photos if you are planning to have one taken).

Dress Code for Photo Day and Concerts

Prelude, Overture, and Intermezzo

Girls: Long black skirts/black pants and white blouses that can be tucked in; black shoes and black tights or nylons. (No tennis shoes, sandals, flip flops, white shoes or white tights.)

Boys: Black pants, long sleeve white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes and black socks.

Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Chorale, Jr Flute/Flute/Select Flute and Clarinet Choir:

Girls: Black dress or black skirt (mid-calf or longer)/black dress pants – not tight, and black tops that cover the top of the skirt, black shoes and black tights or nylons.

(No tennis shoes, sandals, flip flops, white shoes or white tights.)

Boys: Black jacket, black pants, long sleeve white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes and black socks.

NYSO Chorale - (note – yours will be the same as Symphony Orchestra for photo day.) For the concerts, the girls in Chorale will be ordering matching tops and will wear long black skirts. The boys wear the same as Symphony Orchestra.

Remember – shoes and socks matter!

(Hint -- Photos make great holiday gifts!)

"Concert Dress" Items Exchange

It appears that many of your children grew over the summer! What to do with all their outgrown concert dress clothes? Why not bring them in to Monday rehearsals to hand along to younger (and new) orchestra members. We will have a rack up near the 'office' table from 4:45-6:15 between now and the photo days at the end of October. It will be a free exchange: bring what you have (clean and pressed) and take what you need. We will welcome white dress shirts; black trousers, skirts, bow ties, socks, and shoes, as well as black jackets and dresses for Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Flute and Clarinet Choir members.

SCHOOL BAND/ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS

Last week, we passed a sheet around in all ensembles (except for Chorale), asking students who have not already done so to give us the name of their schools, the school music ensemble they are in, and the name of the director. This is important information, as we need to send calendars to each

school music program in order to avoid scheduling conflicts where possible. Chorale students can give this information at their rehearsals. **If you have not given us this information yet, please do so today.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION PACKETS were sent home three weeks ago and **need to be turned in to Sarah Perron at the rehearsal desk as soon as possible.** These are important for our records and for the smooth operation of NYSO. **After October 5th**, families who have not returned their packets will be listed in Just a Note as a reminder. Thank you to all the families who did turn in their paperwork last week!

NEW THIS YEAR:

The NYSO board has looked carefully at the upcoming year and has determined that hard economic times call for responsible fiscal measures. Starting this year, we will be charging a small concert ticket fee of \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens, with a Family Pass available for \$20 (immediate family members only) and children under 12 admitted free. This new policy applies only at our two large concerts – winter and spring; all other concerts will continue to offer free admission.

NYSO MUGS AND T-SHIRTS

We are now taking orders for NYSO t-shirts (\$15) and mugs may be purchased at the desk for \$10. All Prelude and Overture members who do not yet have a t-shirt will need to order one, as they will be wearing them for the spring outreach concert. If this is a financial hardship for anyone, please speak with Lisa Maxwell.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

****A Photo Day Coordinator and Symphony Orchestra Rehearsal Assistant.**

LOST AND FOUND

1. A sweatshirt, found in the Overture rehearsal room two weeks ago.
2. A necklace, found on the ground near the food tables during the Retreat day at Castle Hill. If either of these items belongs to you, please come to the rehearsal desk to identify & claim them.

THANK YOU!

- A big thank you goes to Maya Molla's son Vadim (Elizabeth's brother) for helping us at the Office Desk last Monday night.
- Thanks go out to our new Clarinet Choir Rehearsal Assistant – Georgia Epstein.

CALENDAR CORNER

November 23rd Rehearsal:

Reminder – we **will** have rehearsal on Monday November 23rd (it was left off the original calendar handed out at the June auditions). Please mark your calendars accordingly. Also note that we follow Masco's school calendar and closings.

November 22nd Concert:

The November 22nd Benefit Concert will be held at First Church, Ipswich. Concert begins at 3:00pm; Students are to arrive by 2:00. Performing that day will be Prelude, Overture, Intermezzo, and one or two of the Flute Choirs (TBD).

Sectional Rehearsal Schedule for Intermezzo:

(All rehearsals occur during normal 4:30-6:00 rehearsal times unless otherwise noted)

10/5: Strings, Winds and Brass

10/12: No Rehearsal (Columbus Day)

10/19: Strings, Winds and Brass

10/26: Winds and Brass rehearse 5:30-7:00pm (only) with Orch. 5:30-6:00, then with Wind Ensemble 6:00-7:00pm. Strings 4:30-6:00.

11/2: Strings, Winds and Brass

11/9: Full rehearsal

11/16: Full rehearsal

11/22: Concert at First Church Ipswich

11/23: Sectionals (as needed)

11/30: Winds and Brass rehearse 5:30-7:00pm (only): with Orch. 5:30-6:00, then with Wind Ensemble 6:00-7:00pm. Strings 4:30-6:00.

(Full rehearsals, enrichment day and concert for the remainder of the 2009 schedule as noted on calendar)

ENSEMBLES

PRELUDE/OVERTURE

The "Winning Rhythms" book order has arrived. If your child does not yet have one, please come to the rehearsal desk to pick one up. There is a cost of \$5.00 per book.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Details coming soon about the Concerto Competition... Auditions will be held in January (date TBD). Winner will perform with the Symphony Orchestra at the May 2nd concert.

Black Music Folders - We now have more of the large black music folders. Any student who did not receive one may stop by the rehearsal desk to pick one up.

WIND ENSEMBLE

No new notices.

INTERMEZZO

Note Date Change for Auditions!

Combined auditions for November 22nd concert solos and/or Intermezzo Chamber Music Ensemble will be held on **October 26th with overflow auditions on November 2nd**.

1. Audition for solos in our November 22 concert. Each year we choose 2 or 3 students to perform a solo in the November Thanksgiving Benefit concert at First Church in Ipswich. Solos should be well prepared, memorized if possible and performed at the highest level.

2. Audition for Intermezzo Chamber Music Ensemble. Each year we choose 4-5 students to form an Intermezzo Chamber Ensemble. These students will have chamber music during the same times that Symphony Orchestra has their chamber music groups – 5:45 – 7:00 during December, January and February. There will be a fee of \$75 for each student to participate.

We will give exact times for these auditions and have a sign-up chart at the office desk in the next couple of weeks.

CLARINET CHOIR

Last week, there was a sheet passed around for students to fill in their schools and their school band/orchestra/chorus directors. **You may also send this to us by email if you have not already given us this information.**

FLUTE CHOIRS

Last week, there was a sheet passed around for students to fill in their schools and their school band/orchestra/chorus directors. **You may also send this to us by email if you have not already given us this information.**

CHORALE

The first rehearsal will be this Wednesday, October 7th at the Phillips Music Center at Gordon College 5:30-7:00 p.m. There will be a *required parents meeting* 5:30-6:00 p.m. that evening, where we will hand out the registration and ad book packets. All families are expected to have one parent present at this meeting. If you cannot attend, please let the office know as soon as possible.

The meeting includes: Ad book campaign kick-off, volunteer recruitment, an overview of the year, and a discussion of our major fundraisers for the year. **We are asking that everyone return their completed registration packets promptly, no later than the next rehearsal. Please mail your forms and tuition check, made payable to 'NYSO', to P.O. Box 195, Topsfield, MA 01983**

REPEAT INFORMATION

TUITION PAYMENTS DUE October 5, 2008

Please mail your tuition to NYSO, P.O. Box 195, Topsfield, MA 01983 or bring them to rehearsal and give them to Sarah Perron 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, Clarinet Choirs and Chorale, if your child is also a NYSO orchestra member, your rate is reduced by \$50. Please see your registration packet for details.

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.

Intermezzo: horns, trombones, tuba and flute.

Symphony: violas, cello, double bass, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, and percussion.

Wind Ensemble: clarinets, bassoon, horns, trumpets, euphonium/baritone horn, tuba and percussion.

Jr. Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir and Chorale still have a few spaces available.

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 please also let the office know. Games are excused; practices are not.

NYSO HANDBOOKS – 2009-2010

Handbooks were distributed in your registration packet at the first rehearsal. 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 your handbook home and read it carefully.

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. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding program, please contact Trudy Larson for more details. (978) 685-7844.

KUDOS

Elana Epstein, a member of NYSO's Clarinet Choir, was the recipient of a musical scholarship award from the Spofford Pond Elementary School Music Scholarship Fund in June. The award was based on her musicianship and her contributions to the Spofford Pond Music Program; she is a **member of the Concert, Marching, and Jazz Bands there.**

CONCERT CORNER

"Superb" - The New Yorker

"Rich and Romantic" - The Strad

"Breath-taking Virtuosity" - The Boston Globe

The Topsfield Library is excited to present an evening of chamber music featuring **violinist Elizabeth Larson** and **cellist Soo Bae** on **Friday, October 23rd, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.**

These young, passionate players have been performing for most of their lives, bringing joy and wonder to their audiences on no less than four continents. Elizabeth Larson first soloed with the Boston Pops at age 11; recently, Soo Bae was the winner of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, as well as winning the Canadian Council of the Arts Instrument Bank competition, which gave her the use of a c. 1696 Bonjour Stradivari cello for three years. Their musically rich program includes music from Ravel, Handel-Halverson, Kodaly, Gleire, Bartok.

When: **Friday, October 23rd, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**

Where: **Upstairs at the Topsfield Library**

1 S Common St, Topsfield, MA 01983-1496

Handicapped Accessible ~ Admission: **Free**

Seating is limited, doors open at: 7 p.m.

For further information, please contact Library Director Jackie White at (978) 887-1528