

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Matthews, (847) 841-7700
Executive Director, EYSO

**EYSO Brass Choir Performs with Iowa Brass Quintet
Concert Follows Free Brass Master Class**

Elgin, IL April, 2010 – On Saturday, April 17th, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Brass Choir, led by Jason Flaks, Brass Choir Conductor, will perform with the Iowa Brass Quintet (IBQ).

The concert will take place at the First Congregational Church, 256 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL. In addition to the concert, a free Master Class (also at the First Congregational Church) will be offered at 12:00 p.m. The Master Class features a discussion on what it means to be a music student at the college level between the EYSO Brass Choir, the IBQ and EYSO conductors. Topics include majoring in music, what colleges look for in a music student, and what characteristics successful music students possess.

Iowa Brass Quintet members will offer valuable insights not only on what it means to be a music student in college but what it means to be a professional musician after college. The IBQ was first formed as a resident faculty ensemble at the University of Iowa in the early 1960s. The group performs on the UI campus each semester and for schools, universities, and community concert associations throughout the Midwest. Each year, the IBQ presents concerts for many elementary and junior high schools in Iowa and Illinois, considering this outreach an important part of their mission. In addition, the IBQ has performed at many of the leading regional and national music educators' and composers' conferences.

The IBQ has been committed since its inception to the performance and promotion of new music for brass quintet. In its early years the group recorded for CRI and Trilogy Records, and it has premiered works by Charles Wuorinen, Allan Blank, Paul Turok, and James Dowdy, among others. The IBQ's most recent CD is entitled "Americana: A University of Iowa Celebration." The recording celebrates the University of Iowa Sesquicentennial by presenting music composed by faculty and students who have been associated with the UI School of Music.

"I'm most excited to play the Gabrieli Sonate Pian' e Forte in the sanctuary at FCC. The balcony will be lined with the brass of the EYSO and the Iowa Brass Quintet, The room will be illuminated by the beautiful stained glass windows. It will be the perfect marriage of sound and architecture," said Jason Flaks, Brass Choir Conductor.

Performing with professional groups is just one of the many benefits of being a member of the EYSO. The concert and Master Class are a great introduction to the EYSO organization for parents or teachers who have students interested in music performance. EYSO students have the opportunity to travel as well as study and perform with professional musicians.

The EYSO is an in-residence ensemble at Elgin Community College (ECC). Young musicians with a desire to grow, play better and to think and feel more deeply about music are invited to audition for the 2009-10 season. The annual, open auditions are private and held at ECC. Since 1976, the EYSO has been challenging and inspiring an ever-widening circle of young musicians with rich, deep musical experiences. Today, the EYSO is the largest and oldest youth orchestra in northwest Illinois.

Annual auditions will be held from May 20th-23rd, 2010. Students who will begin 4th grade in the fall to college students may audition for a seat in one of the five ensembles. Applications and audition requirements may be found at www.eysso.org, or by calling the EYSO office at (847) 841-7700.

Tickets for the 2:30 p.m. Brass Concert with IBQ can be purchased at the ECC box office located in the Arts Center, by phone (847) 622-0300, or online at <http://tickets.elgin.edu>: \$23, \$18 for seniors, and \$12 for students. Tickets should be purchased in advance since concerts often sell out. Box office hours are noon to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and noon to 5:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and cash are accepted for payment.

EYSO is more than great concerts. It's a life-changing opportunity.

About Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Conductors

EYSO Conductors are dedicated to helping young musicians appreciate and enjoy music while helping them understand the rich history of music around the world. Each conductor has an extensive history of music appreciation, education and performance. Detailed conductor information can be obtained by calling the EYSO office. Interviews are available: Randal Swiggum, Music Director and Youth Symphony Conductor; David Anderson, Philharmonia Conductor and Chamber Music Institute Director; Daniel Beder, Prelude Orchestra Conductor; Jason Flaks, Brass Choir Conductor; and Beth Mazur Wood, Primo Conductor.

About Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra

The Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO), an In-Residence Ensemble in the Arts Center at Elgin Community College, is home to five orchestras with nearly 300 students from over 65 communities. Founded in 1976, the mission of the EYSO is to create a community of young musicians, enriching their lives and the lives of their families, schools, communities and beyond, through the study and performance of excellent music. This program is partially supported by grants from the Palmer Foundation, the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, the Illinois Arts Council, and the JP Morgan Chase Foundation.