

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Announces 2010-11 Season Auditions
Introduce your student to the classical music world and reap benefits for years to come

Elgin, IL – From May 21st to May 23rd, 2010, the **Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, an In-Residence Ensemble in the Arts Center at Elgin Community College**, will be auditioning students for its 35th season.

Auditions will be held on the main campus of Elgin Community College (ECC). Students who will begin 4th grade in the fall through college-age students may audition for a seat in one of the five orchestras and Brass Choir. Applications and audition requirements may be found at www.eyso.org, or by calling the EYSO office at (847) 841-7700.

This year, an option to schedule auditions directly on the website has been added to make the scheduling process easier for parents and students alike. There is a \$45 audition fee per instrument.

EYSO Celebrates its 35th Year

The 2010-11 season will be a year-long celebration of EYSO achieving a significant milestone: 35 years of educating students and entertaining audiences. This is a truly great year to get involved with the orchestra as there are many activities being planned in addition to the regular season.

The EYSO regular season includes six concert performances at the Blizzard Theatre on the main campus of ECC . In addition, the Chamber Music Institute performs each semester, the Brass Choir performs with a professional brass ensemble every spring, and the EYSO honors chamber ensembles - the Maud Powell String Quartet and the Sterling Brass Quintet perform throughout the year.

The EYSO has five orchestras and a Brass Choir with opportunities such as auditioning to be a member of the Maud Powell String Quartet or Sterling Brass Quintet, an elite group of string / brass musicians. In addition to concerts, students interact and play with world-renown musicians, bands and groups. Last year, students played in Springfield as part of Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday celebration, and the year before students performed with the internationally known violinist Midori.

EYSO is committed to making participation accessible to any qualified student regardless of financial need. Students have opportunities each year to earn part or all of their EYSO tuition. Since the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra is an In-Residence Ensemble at the Elgin Community College Arts Center, EYSO members who are 16 years of age at the beginning of a semester are eligible to earn college credit while playing in the EYSO.

In past years, EYSO musicians have been coached by Yo Yo Ma, the Pacifica String Quartet, percussionist Ted Atkatz, and others of Chicago's finest professional musicians. They have performed with NYCO, the Illinois Brass Quintet and mezzo-soprano opera performer Ms. Kitt Reuter-Foss.

What makes Participation in the EYSO Program Unique?

- Focused comprehensive learning environment
- Performances at many different venues and locations (Springfield, Ravinia, Park West, Scotland)
- World-class conductors who truly care about the entire musical experience
- Many alumni who have gone on to have successful music careers
- Opportunities to work with and perform with world-renown musicians
- Form life-long friends with musicians from over 65 communities in the Chicago-land area
- Yearly concert programs created around a central theme
- Maud Powell String Quartet
- Sterling Brass Quintet
- Brass Choir
- Chamber Music Institute Coachings and Concerts
- Masterclasses with Midori, Yo Yo Ma and others

Since 1976, the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra has been challenging and inspiring an ever-widening circle of young musicians with rich and deep musical experiences. The focus is on a comprehensive learning environment, exploring the music beyond just performance skills, and wonderful concerts. This begins in the weekly rehearsal where the emphasis is on how the music is put together, and how it is a reflection of where and when it was written. Concert programs are imaginative, challenging and diverse, and are often created around a theme.

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, and the Illinois Arts Council.

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