

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Free Chamber Music Institute Concerts
Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Announces
Chamber Music Institute Concerts and Annual Open Rehearsals**

Elgin, IL April, 2010 – On Sunday, April 18th, 2010, the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) will perform four free Chamber Music Institute Concerts for the public in the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) Auditorium at Elgin Community College : 1700 Spartan Drive , Elgin , IL 60123 . The concerts will begin at 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, and 4:45 p.m.

Nearly 100 students from the EYSO organization will play throughout the afternoon. The EYSO provides comprehensive music education for its students providing a lens through which students learn to critically engage the world around them.

“Playing chamber music teaches great musicianship,” said David Anderson, director of the Chamber Music Program. “In a chamber music setting, each member of the ensemble is both soloist and team member at the same time. It teaches vital listening skills and provides invaluable ensemble and musicianship experience.”

The program allows students to work in small groups of 3, 4 or 5 with a professional coach. They also rehearse independently. Annual Open Rehearsals will also be held on April 18th starting at 3:30-8:00 p.m. Students, music teachers, music educators, parents and the community may attend the open rehearsals being held in the Elgin Community College Visual and Performing Arts Center for free as well.

All four EYSO orchestras and the EYSO Brass Choir will conduct their regular weekly rehearsals on the 18th. Guests are invited to join the rehearsal at any point to watch the musicians as they rehearse for their May 9th concert: *Spires, Pillars, Arches – The Composer as Architect*.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see how musicians prepare for a performance. EYSO conductors use a variety of strategies to help the young musicians understand and perform the music they are rehearsing: including playing, singing, movement, writing or group discussion.

The free concerts and open rehearsals 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 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.eyso.org, or by calling the EYSO office at (847) 841-7700

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.

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