

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**WFMT Broadcasts Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert  
A Musical Tribute to the Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln**

**Elgin, IL June, 2009** – On Saturday, July 4, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 10:00 p.m., WFMT (98.7 FM) will broadcast a recording of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra's (EYSO) March 15, 2009 Lincoln Portrait Concert - A Bicentennial Musical Tribute. The recording will also be broadcast via live streaming at [www.wfmt.org](http://www.wfmt.org).

On Sunday, March 15th, 2009, the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) and EYSO Music Director and Youth Symphony conductor Randal Swiggum, performed "*Lincoln Portrait – A Bicentennial Musical Tribute: 1809-2009*".

Illinois Circuit Court Chief Judge F. Keith Brown narrated the performance. *Lincoln Portrait* is the classic American musical tribute to Lincoln, with stirring words by Lincoln himself. Tom Moroz, Flute soloist and 2008-09 EYSO Philharmonia Young Artists Concerto Award winner, performed Stamitz's *G Major* flute concerto the concert.

Head Kane County Judge F. Keith Brown, the first black judge in the Northwest suburbs, will close the concert as the narrator for the performance of *Lincoln Portrait*. His parents are Floyd and Betty Brown from Elgin. Judge Brown played string bass and piano in high school under Maestro Douglas Steensland, founding conductor of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra.

Selections from the concert include:

"Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*: although it was not written specifically about Lincoln, its noble and heroic theme captures Lincoln's mythic status, and his humble origins.

Verdi: Overture to *La Forza del Destino* (The Power of Fate): the only opera Lincoln ever saw was by Verdi. This dramatic overture transports the listener to the 1860s, when it was written.

Jerry Bilik's *American Civil War Fantasy*: this piece combines more than a dozen melodies from the Civil War and Antebellum South into a tone poem about the Civil War itself.

Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*: the classic American musical tribute to our 16th President, with stirring words by Lincoln himself."

### **EYSO Announces New Prelude Orchestra Conductor**

It is with great pleasure that EYSO announces the selection of a new conductor for its Prelude Orchestra, Mr. Daniel Beder. "I am personally very excited about Daniel and our entire staff and board is thrilled to have a teacher and musician of his caliber joining our organization. I know you will join me in welcoming him to the EYSO," stated Randal Swiggum, Music Director, EYSO.

Daniel currently teaches orchestra at Gregory Middle School in Naperville, plays cello in the Jan Sobieski String Quartet, and maintains a private cello studio. Originally from the Milwaukee suburb of Shorewood, Wisconsin, he played in the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, the largest youth orchestra program in the country.

Daniel is a graduate of Oberlin College, where his degrees are in music history and theory, and mathematics. At Oberlin, he studied cello with Catharina Meints and conducting with Steven Smith. He received his music education certification at UW-Milwaukee, where he also studied conducting with Margery Deutsch. At Oberlin, Daniel was a participant in a Conductor's Showcase, and as a graduate student in music education at New York University, he was named the Assistant Conductor for the NYU

### **2009-10 Season Auditions Continue**

The EYSO still has a few instrument openings for the 2009-10 season. Auditions will continue by appointment until all openings are filled. Interested string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players should call the EYSO office at (847) 841-7700 to learn about possible openings for their instrument. Video auditions will also be accepted. Audition requirements as well as an application may be found on the EYSO website at [www.eyso.org](http://www.eyso.org), or you may request an application by calling the EYSO office. There is a \$45 audition fee.

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

### **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 four orchestras and a brass choir with nearly 300 students from over 60 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 Palmer Foundation.