

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2009

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**Discover: Bernstein – Final EYSO Performance of 33rd Season
Enjoy popular compositions celebrating what it means to be an American.**

Elgin, IL April, 2009 – On Sunday, May 3rd, 2009, the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra will perform its final concert of its 33rd season: *Discover: Bernstein*. Two performances are scheduled: 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Blizzard Theatre in the Elgin Community College Arts Center located at 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, Illinois.

“Bernstein was the conductor who really championed the symphonies of Gustav Mahler at a time when most people didn't know them. Prelude will bring to life the rollicking scherzo from Mahler's Symphony No. 1.

“The Philharmonia, Youth Symphony, and Prelude will each perform music from *West Side Story*, including the famous Quintet (*Tonight*) that closes Act 1, arranged for orchestra, and a new arrangement of *America*, complete with Latin percussion, created especially for the Prelude Orchestra,” stated Randal Swiggum, Conductor of the Prelude Orchestra and the Youth Symphony.

“In addition to his *West Side Story Overture*, we will be performing Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol*. Bernstein's dazzling 1959 recording of this piece with the New York Philharmonic shows why it remains as one of the standard pieces in the orchestral repertoire,” said David Anderson, EYSO Philharmonia Conductor.

And, it's not just the popular *West Side Story Overture* that will be featured at both performances. Bernstein's music was influential throughout society during his time and it continues to please music lovers worldwide.

“One can only imagine the wild reverberations that echoed throughout the Metropolitan Museum of Art as Bernstein's *Shivaree* was played to commemorate its Centenary. The *Shivaree* can be thought of as a type of mock serenade and Bernstein achieves this by playing two different tunes at the same time creating a situation where there is a battle for the attention of the listener,” Jason Flaks, Brass Choir Conductor.

“The 2009 Young Artists Concerto Winner Sarah Campbell, of Naperville, will perform Charles T. Griffes' mysterious and colorful Poem for flute and orchestra. A colorful example of American impressionism, it is evocative of Debussy, Ravel, and Scriabin. Sarah is a junior at Neuqua Valley High School. She currently studies with Mrs. Brady in her Naperville studio,” said Swiggum.

In addition to the concert repertoire, attendants at the 7:00 p.m. concert will have the honor of observing Susan Thorne receive the annual EYSO Music Educator of the Year award. The award recognizes Mrs. Thorne's contributions to music education and support of the EYSO in her 33 years as orchestra director at Kimball Middle School, Elgin, IL.

"I was totally surprised when I found out. I don't really feel like I deserve an award for just doing my job. All school music educators and orchestra directors work very hard to get and keep kids involved in music. I haven't done anything special. I just get the honor of standing up and accepting this award on behalf of everyone who works in music education," said Mrs. Thorne.

Mrs. Thorne retired from Kimball Middle School last year but she continues her work as a music educator. This year she directed the orchestra program at Huntley Middle School in DeKalb for the first semester of the year; provided coaching for the EYSO Chamber Music Institute; and provides private lessons at St. Charles North High School. Mrs. Thorne also plays violin with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra.

Mrs. Thorne has loved music her entire life: "As a kid, I really enjoyed playing. As a teacher my goal was to have one special musical moment for each child I taught. I enjoyed seeing kids get excited about a piece we were playing."

"Music educators pride ourselves on getting as many kids as possible involved in music. The EYSO is an extension of any school program. It gives kids the chance to play more challenging music and they are surrounded with other kids who are as passionate about music and their instruments as they are."

Mrs. Thorne's dedication to bringing music to children for 33 years has been recognized by the EYSO. The organization looks forward to honoring her work and bringing recognition to the hard work of all music educators during the 7:00 p.m. concert on May 3rd.

Tickets for the concerts can be purchased at the ECC box office located in the Arts Center, by phone (847) 622-0300, or online at www.elgin.edu/arts: \$21, \$16 for seniors, and \$12 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance or on the day of the event.

4:00 p.m. – Prelude Orchestra, Primo, and the Philharmonia with the Youth Symphony

The concert will open with the Prelude Orchestra performing Vivaldi *"La Tempesta di Mar"* Concerto with Primo (which is the first performance of the season for Primo, the youngest EYSO ensemble); arrangements from Mahler *Symphony No. 1* and Bernstein: *America from West Side Story* will also be performed.

The Philharmonia will play Bernstein: *West Side Story Overture* and the complete Rimsky-Korsakov *Capriccio Espagnole*. The Youth Symphony will end the afternoon performance with Bernstein: *Overture to Candide*.

7:00 p.m. – Brass Choir and Youth Symphony

"The Youth Symphony will open the 7:00 pm concert with a new arrangement of the Fillmore march, "Americans We," created for them by Music Director Randal Swiggum. This patriotic

classic has served as the theme of the 2008-09 EYSO Season, and was premiered at their March concert,” said Randal Swiggum

The concert will open with the Brass Choir performing Bernstein’s *Shivaree* and Eric Whitacre’s *Sleep*. The Youth Symphony will follow performing *Americans We March*, an original arrangement by Randal Swiggum, EYSO Music Director and Youth Symphony Conductor.

The Youth Symphony will also perform Bernstein’s *Overture to Candide*; Griffes’ *Poem* with Sarah Campbell on flute; Sterling Brass Quintet (honors brass ensemble); Bernstein’s *West Side Story Overture*; and *Traditional*, arranged by G. Winston Cassler: Turtle Dove – the EYSO traditional season closing piece

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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.

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