

**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 March, 2009** – On Sunday, April 5th, 2009, the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) will perform three free Chamber Music Institute Concerts for the public in the ATC Auditorium at Elgin Community College. The concerts will be held at 2:00 p.m., 3:15 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.

The concerts will feature nearly 100 students from the EYSO organization which provides comprehensive music education for its students. Focused music education provides 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 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:30 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 5<sup>th</sup>. Guests are invited to join the rehearsal at any point to watch the musicians as they rehearse for their May 3<sup>rd</sup> concert: *Discover: Bernstein – Celebrating America’s Musical Genius*.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see how the musicians get ready 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.

Visitors may be called upon to participate in the open rehearsal by sharing their answers to practical questions, such as how certain instruments are projecting or the emotional effect of the music they are hearing.

The free concerts and open auditions 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.

This past fall featured an in-residence program with renowned violinist Midori; in March the older orchestra traveled to Springfield to perform a salute to Abraham Lincoln; and on April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Brass Choir will perform with fulcrumpoint.

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.

Auditions will be held from May 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Students who will begin 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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**

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.