

# PYP NOTES

A newsletter for musicians, parents, friends, and family of the Portland Youth Philharmonic Association

April 2008

## Hubbard's Cupboard

by John Hubbard  
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As I write this today, it has been less than a week since our YSE "road trip" out to Yamhill and Carlton. Of all the travels we have done over the years, this was one of the very prettiest as we rolled along farm roads of the Oregon wine country. It was a beautiful day, and even though there was not a specific fun event planned along with the concerts, I just want to say how much I enjoy our little YSE hikes. It's great watching all of you getting to know each other better, beginning friendships that may continue for many years at PYP.

Our audiences last week seemed more dazzled and impressed by our presentation than I can remember, and I especially enjoyed the group of string players at the school in Carlton that were both proud of their own accomplishments, and inspired by the the music that we played. I will never forget the little boy who ran to get a paper towel and pen so he could ask for autographs from YSE players. Thank you YSE for giving such a fine gift to the students of Yamhill and Carlton!

I would also like to encourage all YSE players to read Mr. Johnson's column today, and remind you all that re-auditions are coming up. Prepare carefully, choose a piece that shows you off the best, and make sure your scales and arpeggios are clean.



## Johnson's Java

by Larry Johnson  
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First of all, I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to PYP for their stirring performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony #5. What a terrific accomplishment and I commend you all for your efforts. This music, and this performance, will live in your hearts for the rest of your lives.

Since re-auditions are rapidly approaching I thought it would be beneficial to discuss the PYP audition format and how best to prepare for it. From auditions that I have taken, and audition committee panels that I have served on, there are two very critical elements that seem to be universal to your preparation for any audition. The first, and most important, is RHYTHM. When one practices consistently with a metronome they develop over time the ability to feel time inside the pulse. This single discipline allows the musician to not only play with consistent rhythmic flow but allows one to feel musical line and musical structure more coherently as well. "Sub-divide and Conquer."

The next element is to play with a consistent tone quality and to play in tune with oneself. Professional orchestra audition committee practice often includes a tuner, or a number of tuners, being monitored while one performs. Be sure that you practice your scales and your solo with a good tuner - I like the strobe tuner but it is more expensive - or a tone generator that will give you a drone of tonic of whatever key you happen to be playing in. This discipline, over time, will train the ear to be very alert to relationships within key, relationships between keys, har-

mony, and melodic tendencies. These two concepts really separate musicians from each other in auditions.

The PYP audition process is in three parts.

**Part I** | *Scales and arpeggios*: one in the major mode and one in the minor. The conducting staff always listens to these first. You are introducing yourselves to us with these and I guarantee that if you play them evenly, in rhythm, and in tune you will have our full attention.

**Part II** | *your solo*. We conductors are listening for all of the above plus the technical and musical mastery you bring to your chosen piece.

**Part III** | *Sight-reading*: the staff is interested in your ability to process musical information on the spot. The best way to practice for this is to simply spend a few minutes each day reading some music that you have never seen before. Before you start scan the piece in front of you. Check the time and key signatures. Check also for any written

instructions (usually in Italian)

for clues on the speed and character of the piece.

Then look carefully for any challenging rhythmic patterns and ac-

cidental throughout the manuscript. Now

is the time to dive in and play with cour-

age—from beginning to end, missed notes and

all. The more you practice sight-reading your abilities in

being able to process music quickly and efficiently will skyrocket.

An orchestra (band or choir) is a finely crafted musical team.

The demonstration of the aforementioned skills shows the conducting staff what you are able to do to enhance and improve the team.

Best Wishes!

Larry Johnson



## Read & Heeds

### PYP Children's Concert Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall Wednesday, April 9, 2008

**Enter:** Stage Door on SW Salmon

**Call Time:** 8:15 AM on stage warming up

**Dress:** Concert dress (you must arrive in concert dress, there is no time to change before the concert.)

**Cases:** Downstairs in the Green Room, Celli and Basses backstage left.

**Time Line:**

8:15 am	Call time (on stage warming up)
8:30-9:00 am	Acoustic Rehearsal
9:25 am	First Concert begins
10:10 am	First Concert ends
11:00 am	Second Concert begins
11:45 pm	Second Concert ends

**Concert Repertoire:**

*Selections from:*

BRUCKNER: Symphony No. 4

ELGAR: Pomp & Circumstance March No. 4

BRITTEN: Sinfonia da Requiem

FALLA: Three-Cornered Hat

And possibly other pieces. We'll let you know.

**Tickets:** If you have family or friends interested in hearing the concert they can volunteer as ushers. Call the PYP office at 503-223-5939 for details. There are no tickets available for this concert.

**Transit:** You may be dropped off and picked up outside the stage door. Parking is available at several lots and garages along 10th Avenue and on SW Salmon.

You will not have time to feed meters. Please allow yourself time for traffic and parking considerations, you will be marked tardy if you are not checked in by 8:15 am.

### PYP Spring Preview Concert George Fox University, Bauman Auditorium, Newberg, OR Monday, April 28, 2008

**Call Time:** 5:00 PM on stage warming up

**Dress:** Concert dress  
(You may change into your concert dress there, if you like.)

**Time Line:**

5:00 pm	Call time
5:15-6:30 pm	Acoustical Rehearsal
6:30 pm	Rehearsal ends, Dinner break begins
7:15 pm	Call Time
7:30-9:30 pm	Concert

**CONCERT ORDER:**

ELGAR

BRITTEN

*Intermission*

BRUCKNER

**Note:** Please allow yourself plenty of time for the drive to Newberg. Bring a sack supper because you probably won't have time to get any food during the dinner break.

**Tickets:** This is a free concert and tickets are not required. Bring all your friends and family. This hall has great acoustics.

**Directions:** Take 99W to Newberg. Turn right on Villa St. and then left on Fulton St. The parking lot for Bauman Auditorium is on your left just past the running track. Or you may check the George Fox website for directions.

**YSE Lobby Concert**  
**Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall**  
**Saturday, May 3, 2008**

**Enter:** Stage Door on SW Salmon

**Call Time:** 5:45 PM in room 316, warming up

**Dress:** Concert dress (Please arrive in concert dress. There will not be time to change.)

**Cases:** Upstairs dressing room 316, where you will have rehearsal

**Time Line:**

5:45 pm	Call time
6:00-6:45 pm	Dress Rehearsal
7:00-7:20 pm	Lobby concert
7:20-7:30 pm	Transition
	Put instruments away in 316, meet parents out side stage door on SW Salmon.
7:30 pm	PYP concert begins
9:30 pm	PYP concert ends. Return to 316 to collect belongings.

**Note:** **\*\* Bring a music stand \*\***.

Parents and friends are not allowed past the stage door please make arrangements to meet parents outside.

**Tickets:** Available for advance purchase, call the PYP office 503-223-5939. Parents can't get into the lobby without a ticket to the PYP concert. If your parents are not attending the concert they may meet you outside the stage door when you are done.

**Transitions:** In order to make transitions go smoothly please have your parents meet you outside the stage door just after the lobby concert to take you to your seat for the PYP concert. You may leave your things in room 316 until after the concert. You will need to get your things after the concert by yourself, orchestra Mums and Dads will be there to help you but your parents must wait for you outside the stage door on SW Salmon.

**Reception:** In the main lobby of the Schnitz immediately following the PYP concert. All are welcome.

**PYP Spring Concert**  
**Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall**  
**Saturday, May 3, 2008**

**Enter:** Stage Door on SW Salmon

**Call Time:** 3:45 PM on stage warming up

**Dress:** Concert dress—See Musician's Handbook  
You can change into concert dress after the rehearsal.

**Cases:** Downstairs in the lounge, Celli and Basses backstage left.

**Time Line:**

3:45 pm	Call time
4:00-6:00 pm	Acoustic Rehearsal
6:00 pm	Rehearsal ends
Dinner break	
7:00 pm	Call Time
7:30-9:30 pm	Concert

**Concert Order:**

ELGAR

BRITTEN

*Intermission*

BRUCKNER

**Note:** The backstage is dark from 6-7 pm. No one is permitted on the stage during this time. Only PYP musicians and authorized PYP volunteers and staff are permitted past the stage door area. Family members and friends should meet you outside the stage door during breaks and after the concert.

**Tickets:** Available for advance purchase, call the PYP office 503-223-5939. A limited number of comp tickets will be available at rehearsal.

**Reception:** In main lobby of the Schnitz immediately following the concert. All are welcome.



## Events Calendar

**April 9**

PYP Children's Concert

**April 20**

Chamber Music Concert

**April 28**

PYP Spring Preview Concert

**May 3**

YSE Lobby Concert

**May 3**

PYP Spring Concert

**May 19**

PYP Concert at  
St. Mary's Cathedral

**May 25**

PYP Concert & Graduation  
in Forest Grove

**June 1**

Postlude Concert

## Resort at the Mountain Update

PYP would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to the former owners of the Resort at the Mountain Ed and Jan Hopper who graciously hosted PYP's Resort at the Mountain for twelve years. Not only did the Hoppers provide a venue for us, they hosted our overnight stay and our graduation banquet. Our time at the Resort was a wonderful experience for all who participated. Ed and Jan sold the Resort and it is now under construction.

Thanks to the generous support of former PYP Board Presidents Gudrun Granholm and her husband Dave Dorman, Bruce Samson and Carol Mangan PYP will have the Graduation Concert and Banquet this year at Pacific University in Forest Grove on May 25. The concert will begin at 3:00 PM at the Taylor Meade Concert Hall at Pacific University. The Graduation Banquet will be held at McMennamin's Grand Lodge directly following the concert. The banquet is a musicians-only event, however, there are lots of places for family members to hang out and enjoy the scenery at the Grand Lodge. The Banquet will end at 8 PM.

The concert, in memory of Sterling Dorman, is free and open to the public.

**A great resource for young musicians in Portland:**

### **OLD LIBRARY STUDIO**

"inspiring creative youth with music technology"

Old Library Studio is Portland's nonprofit music recording studio, where teens ages 14-19 learn to compose and record their own music.

A fantastic, totally hands-on, program for creative teen musicians. Spring music-making classes start in April and May, and

**Details** at <http://www.OldLibraryStudio.org> or call 503.528.2828

Need to create an audition recording for a college, conservatory, or ensemble application? Old Library Studio now offers professional quality audition recording services for K-12 music students. Audition recording packages run \$25-\$75 financial assistance is available.

## Re-Audition Reminder:

**Re-Auditions** will be held on  
May 9, 10, 11, 23 and 27  
from 4-9 PM at Glencoe.

**Sign up** sheets will be available  
at rehearsals in April.