

# PYP P N O T E S

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

April 2011

## The Hatt Rack

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I have talked before about the “basement” of our playing as musicians. In other words, when everything is going badly, just how bad is it? That’s your basement or our basement. If you play enough, you will find yourself testing these levels on occasion. The fact is, you can’t always be at your best. On the other hand, there are things that you can’t allow to collapse on you. You might have a day where your higher range feels like a foreign land, but that can’t affect your sense of rhythm or cause you to miss an entrance you have always made confidently.

As an individual, you raise your basement over time by building all of your fundamentals. You must solidify your knowledge of all scale patterns in all keys (and other patterns like whole-tones, etc) so that they are drilled into your body. You’ll no longer have to “think out” certain passages because you will recognize them as basic scale patterns and your body will play them for you. Rhythm is the same way and it has to be practiced just as diligently. It is amazing to me how much better the rhythm is in all of our ensembles at the beginning of a rehearsal than it is at the end. We need to raise our basement dramatically when it comes to rhythm. Your sense of rhythm should be the LAST thing that deserts you before you collapse from exhaustion.



so many; making music with excited, committed and motivated fellow students, building self-esteem by overcoming real obstacles, the list goes on and on.

Your progress as a player will not be a seamless arc. I can recall many times after weeks or months of hard work, I only seemed to be getting worse! Times like these were demoralizing to say the least. It was harder to practice when everything always seemed to sound awful. Then one day I would just snap to a new level. Everything that seemed too difficult one day earlier was now easy and life was good. And then the cycle would start over again.

Steady, organized practice is like a good investment. It won’t create progress every day, but if you keep putting hours in practicing the right things you will find at the end of each six-month period you will have made significant progress. You will still have awful days or maybe even weeks, but they will be less awful than before.

Finally, a word for our PYP musicians: The PYCO/PYWE musicians will receive their orchestral excerpts in a week. Those packets are going to be difficult! If any of you would like copies to work on, please request them. You might consider making a YouTube instructional video on different ways to prepare each excerpt. We’ll be happy to put well-made videos on the PYP YouTube channel. Being a mentor to our younger musicians will help our program become stronger and it will help you organize your own methods of preparation in anticipation of the PYP packets. Those packets, I can assure you, will be large and very difficult this year!



Being a musician means being in a constant state of transition. You are never just playing at a certain level. You are always transitioning between levels. If you are following the guidelines and practicing the way our PYP faculty instructs, you are improving. If you are blowing off your practicing, you are going the opposite direction. Being a musician in the PYP organization is a commitment to improving yourself in every way as a musician. The rewards are

## • Re-Audition Information

- Sign-up sheets will be available on April 4, 6, and 7 for you to sign up for your re-audition. For those of you new to the organization, every musician in YSE, PYCO and PYWE will re-audition in May for the purpose of placement in the organization, either moving up to the next group or seating in current ensemble. There are no forms to fill out for this process and no payment is required.

Each of you in PYCO and PYWE will receive a packet of orchestral excerpts that you will prepare for the re-audition. This packet of excerpts will be handed out on April 6 and 7. If you aren't at that rehearsal, the excerpts will be mailed to you. YSE does not receive an excerpt packet.

Here's a recap of requirements for the re-auditions:

### YSE:

- major and minor scale and corresponding arpeggios (conductors will choose the key for you when you arrive)
- a short solo piece
- sight-reading (provided for you in the audition by conductors)

### PYCO:

- major and minor scale and corresponding arpeggios (conductors will choose the key for you when you arrive)
- orchestral excerpts (handed out on April 7)
- a short solo piece (90 seconds maximum) -- winds, brass and percussion: your audition will NOT include this solo piece
- sight-reading (provided for you in the audition by conductors)

### PYWE:

- same as PYCO except your audition will NOT include a solo piece (excerpts will be handed out on April 6)

## • PYWE School Run-Out

Estacada Jr. High School  
Wednesday April 13, 2011

Call Time: **7:00 am** Meet at Jackson Middle School in the upper parking lot.

Dress: Concert Dress. Arrive at the bus in concert dress. You may bring clothes to change into after the concerts.

### Time Line:

7:00 am	Meet at Jackson and load bus
7:15 am	Bus leaves
8:30 am	Arrive in Estacada and set up
9:30 am	Concert 1
10:45 am	Concert 2
11:30 am	Concert ends. Load truck and bus.
12:15 pm	Pizza at Hitchin' Post Pizza (PYP pays for this)
c.2:30 pm	Arrive back at Jackson <b>Please don't go inside Jackson when we arrive. School will be in session.</b>

Notes: Call Ann's cell phone if you are sick the day of concerts or have other difficulties that might make you late for the bus. 503.984.9220

### **No evening rehearsal on April 13th.**

Parents are welcome to attend this event but must provide their own transportation and lunch. **All PYWE musicians must ride on the bus. Any exceptions to this must be requested in writing by Wednesday, March 30th.**

Below is the concert location and address.

Estacada Jr. High School  
500 NE Main St.  
Estacada, OR

# •••PYP Children's Concert

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall  
Wednesday, April 20, 2011

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.

## Timeline:

8:15 am	Call time (on stage warming up)
8:30-9:30 am	Acoustic Rehearsal
10:00 am	First Concert begins
10:45 am	First Concert ends
11:30 am	Second Concert begins
12:15 pm	Second Concert ends

## Concert Repertoire:

Ives: Variations on America

Brahms: Tragic Overture

Tchaikovsky: Variations on a Rococo Theme

Stravinsky: "Danse Russe" from Petrushka

## Section Leaders:

Each section will do a 45-second-or-less demo on their instruments. Recognizable tunes, such as music from movies, cartoons or pop-songs, are always popular with the kids. Section leaders are responsible to get their sections together to practice these. Keep it simple so it doesn't require too much practice time to play well.

## 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.



Registration is now open for 2011!



**YMA**

Young Musicians & Artists

Oregon's premier residential arts program for youth since 1965.

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# EVENTS CALENDAR

## April 10

Chamber Music at Mary's Woods, 4pm

## April 13

PYWE Run-Out to Estacada  
(No PYWE rehearsal)

## April 20

PYP Children's Concerts, 10 & 11:30am

## May 1

Chamber Orchestra Concert at  
Wieden+Kennedy, 4pm

## May 2

PYP Spring Preview Concert at  
Pacific University,  
Forest Grove, 7:30pm

## May 15

YSE Lobby Concert, 3:30pm  
PYP Spring Concert, 4pm  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

## May 16-23

Rehearsals at Lewis & Clark College

## May 22

PYCO, PYWE, YSE Postlude Concert  
at Skyview HS, 4pm

## May 29

PYP Concert Showcase,  
4pm at Lewis & Clark College  
Graduation from approximately 6-8pm  
Location TBA

**PYP** PORTLAND YOUTH PHILHARMONIC

## WE ARE MOVING ...

OUR NEW ADDRESS,  
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1:

520 SW SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 820  
PORTLAND, OR 97204

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
MARCH 30 -31 FOR THE MOVE.

AMERICA'S FIRST YOUTH ORCHESTRA.  
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## THEY SAY CHANGE IS GOOD...

The PYP Spring Preview Concert at Pacific University in Forest Grove previously scheduled for May 9 will now be held on May 2 at 7:30pm.

Rehearsals from May 16 onward will be held at Lewis & Clark College (these rehearsals were designated "location TBA" in the musician handbook).