



## The Hatt Rack

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### Moving Up

At the recent parent meetings, questions were raised on how students advance from one ensemble to another in the PYP program. I want to talk about this subject a little bit. Ensemble placement balances the needs of our musicians with the needs of the ensembles. We have more demand for positions in the organization on some instruments than others. If you are a violinist, you already know that you are a performer on our most competitive instrument. Expect to have to work harder to attain your placement goals!

When we hear auditions at the end of the year, we are listening for several things. One is general musical and technical maturity. In other words, do your skills match the level that will be required in the next ensemble? The other major one is preparedness and following the instructions of the PYP faculty. In other words, scale preparation and proper practice techniques in either solo work (YSE) or orchestral excerpts (PYCO/PYWE).

Each of you should already be aware that you are expected to know and reliably execute all of your major and minor scales with arpeggios at the end of this season. I am confident that many of you have already achieved this and are spending your scale practice time further refining your performance of these all-important exercises. I have been practicing scales for decades, but I still work on them every time I practice. There is no better way to prepare for the rest of your musical day than to play scales, arpeggios and other patterns in all keys. **DO NOT NEGLECT THIS.** We will instantly know whether you know your scales or not. We are far too experienced to be fooled.

When you are preparing the other materials required for your Spring re-audition, you should prepare thoroughly and carefully. I just heard Itzhak Pearlman say on a YouTube video: "The slower you learn something, the slower you forget it." In other words, practice everything slowly and repeatedly over a long period of time. This way, you will not be practicing mistakes into your routine. There are very few passages that you cannot execute correctly if you play them slowly enough.

It may take weeks of slow practice, but eventually you will be able to increase the tempo of whatever you are learning.

In the case of an orchestral excerpt assigned to your instrument that goes too fast for you to reliably play, work on it slowly and don't worry about its actual tempo. At your audition, play it at whatever tempo you can manage reliably. We will know whether you have worked on it or not. However, if you attempt to play something faster than you know it will go well, we might NOT be able to tell that you actually put in a lot of work on it.

Most importantly, try not to make the results of these auditions take on greater importance than is really needed. What is important is for you to set goals for yourself as a musician and then actually commit to doing the work that is necessary to achieve those goals. Your success within our program will follow naturally from that.



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# Wind Ensemble

## **PYWE School Run-Out**

Highland Park Middle School  
Wednesday February 15, 2012

**ENTER:** Stage Door on SW Salmon St.

**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.

### **TIME LINE:**

<b>7:00 am</b>	Meet at Jackson and load bus
<b>7:15 am</b>	Bus leaves
<b>8:00 am</b>	Arrive at Highland Park
<b>9:30 am</b>	Concert 1 at Highland Park Middle School
<b>11:00 am</b>	Pizza at a location TBD (PYP pays for this)
<b>1:00 pm</b>	Concert 2 at Fir Grove Elementary
<b>1:45 pm</b>	Concert ends. Load truck and bus.
<b>c.3:00 pm</b>	Arrive back at Jackson Please don't go inside Jackson when we arrive. School will be in session.

**NOTE:** Call Kevin's cell phone if you are sick the day of concerts or have other difficulties that might make you late for the bus. 971.322.7714

### **No evening rehearsal on February 15th.**

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, February 8th.

### **Below are the concert locations and addresses.**

Highland Park Middle School  
7000 SW Wilson Ave.  
Beaverton, OR 97008

Fir Grove Elementary School  
6300 SW Wilson Ave.  
Beaverton, OR 97008



- Conservatory Orchestra &  
• Wind Ensemble

**Cadenza Concert**

Skyview High School  
1300 NW 139th St  
Vancouver, WA 98685  
Sunday, February 26, 2012

**ENTER:** Main Entrance by the flag poles.

**DRESS:** Concert dress (See the Musician's Handbook)

**PYCO Call Time: 1:45 pm**

**PYWE Call Time: 2:45 pm**

**PYCO Time Line:**

<b>1:45 pm</b>	<b>Call time</b>
<b>2:00-2:45 pm</b>	<b>Acoustic Rehearsal</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Concert</b>

**PYWE Time Line:**

<b>2:45 pm</b>	<b>Call Time</b>
<b>3:00-3:30 pm</b>	<b>Acoustic Rehearsal</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Concert</b>

**Concert Order:**

**PYWE**

TBA

**Intermission**

**PYCO**

TBA

**Note: All Musicians** will be seated together in a group during the parts of the program in which they do not participate. Musicians don't need tickets. You may bring snacks and drinks to be eaten between the rehearsal and concert. These may be eaten in the assigned rooms ONLY.

**Tickets:** Available for advance purchase, call the PYP office 503-223-5939. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. This price includes the handling fee.



## NOMINATE YOUR TEACHER

**Deadline March 2, 2012**

PYP invites students to nominate their school music teachers and their outstanding programs for the public recognition they deserve. Does your school music teacher inspire students? Do they build community? Do they encourage and instill excellence and dedication? Then nominate your school music teacher for the Mary V. Dodge Award for Outstanding School Music Program. This award is named after PYP's founder, a music teacher from Portland's Irvington School, who created the forerunner of today's PYP with the most advanced students in her orchestra class. Just as it did then, it all starts in the schools. The winning school will receive 100 free tickets for the winning teacher and their students to PYP's Spring Concert on May 6, 2012 in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall at 4:00 p.m. Submissions must be received no later than Friday, March 2, 2012.

Please submit your nomination to:  
[information@portlandyouthphil.org](mailto:information@portlandyouthphil.org).

**Required information:** your name, your phone number (for prize notification), your school name, and teacher name. Why do you want to nominate your teacher for this award? (Things to consider: what is your classroom environment like? What creative, unique, or valuable things does your teacher incorporate into their teaching? Do they involve others in teaching? How do they encourage learning from all students?)

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## February 15

PYWE School Run Out to Beaverton  
\*you will need to miss school for this event

## February 26

PYCO & PYWE Cadenza Concert,  
4:00 pm Skyview High School

## March 4

YSE Cushion Concert, 2:30 & 4:30 pm  
World Forestry Center

## March 7

PYP Winter Preview Concert, 7:30 pm  
Skyview High School

## March 10

PYP Winter Concert, 7:30 pm  
YSE Lobby Concert, 7:00 pm

## DVD Orders

See your concert captured with broadcast quality high definition camcorders. Asparro Video order forms were sent with your enrollment packet. Mail completed form to: Asparro Video, 14293 Amberwood Circle, Lake Oswego, OR 97035 or call us at 347-6659 or order on line at: [www.asparrovideo.com](http://www.asparrovideo.com) (order tab) American Express, VISA, Master Card, and Discover accepted.

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[www.ChamberMusicCampofPortland.com](http://www.ChamberMusicCampofPortland.com)