



The Hatt Rack

by David Hattner

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PYCO and PYWE Re-auditions

(see note at end about YSE re-auditions)

Yes, it's that time of year to start getting serious about your upcoming auditions. These auditions will determine your ensemble placement for next season in the PYP organization. It's worth stretching yourself to your maximum ability in your preparation. Some aspects of the audition will be different this year, so please read the following carefully.

The audition for PYCO Strings will consist of four major parts:

- Scales and arpeggios, chosen for you by conducting staff when you arrive for your audition,
- Orchestral Excerpts * (provided by PYP ahead of time.)
- Concerto/solo work (90 seconds maximum) and
- Sight-reading

For Winds, Brass and Percussion in PYCO and PYWE the audition will be similar but will NOT include a concerto or solo piece.

*Around the first of April, all members of PYCO and PYWE will receive a package of orchestral excerpts. They will be from the standard orchestral repertoire of your instrument. You will be responsible for all aspects of preparation of this music.

Scales and sight-reading will be just as important as the excerpts (and solo, for strings). I would strongly suggest that you begin serious work on all scale patterns in all keys in preparation for your audition. Always use a metronome and choose a tempo that enables you to perform your scales cleanly, evenly and perfectly in tune. Record yourself playing scales and examine carefully all of the difficult spots: register changes, shifts, string crossings, etc.

The only way to improve your sight-reading is to work on it every day. Sight-reading is not just reading notes – it is also reading rhythms simultaneously. Musicians who sight-read convincingly will find their time in any ensemble more enjoyable. It is my expectation that every member of every PYP ensemble will become a competent sight-reader. When working on sight-reading, don't stop when you make a mistake. Frankly, reading all of the rhythms correctly and maintaining the pulse is more important than hitting all of the right notes.

Preparing an orchestral excerpt is a multi-part process. The first step is to listen to multiple recordings of the work in question to determine the approximate tempo, style and context of the excerpt. Then you must work out the technical issues presented slowly and carefully. Usually, a passage from an orchestra work becomes an excerpt for a specific reason. Try to determine what that reason is (spiccato bowing, string crossings, etc.) and find additional studies on your instrument to address that technique. Then make it musical and practice a convincing interpretation.

For some of you, some passages will be a struggle. Simply prepare them at a slower tempo. It is most important that you play them steadily than fast.

Between now and May there is a great deal of time to prepare for auditions. I encourage every one of you to try your best and to work hard preparing. We enjoy hearing your progress year to year!

Note to YSE – Your re-auditions will remain the same as they were last year with scales & arpeggios (conductors choose the key for you when you arrive for your audition), a solo piece of your choice, and sight-reading.

I am expecting greater sight-reading proficiency from all YSE members.

Johnson's Java

By Lary Johnson

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a terrific, and restful holiday break. I want to congratulate all the groups for your performances at the concert at Christmas. Great playing all around! Now the big part of our season is at hand. Both PYCO and PYWE had wonderful first rehearsals last week. Let us keep that level of commitment and energy going forward. Both groups also are welcoming new players to their ranks right now. Please make them feel welcome and help them to be full partners in the way we go about music making. Joining any group in mid-season can be stressful so I encourage you to assimilate your new colleagues into your friendships. It is a great privilege to share music with one another - many voices striving to become one. Always remember that. Let's have a fabulous 2010!

Gavotte News?

by Carol Sindell

Y-E-S, YSE!! A big round of applause for the Concert-at-Christmas. I was really proud to be at the helm of such a talented group of musicians! Also, congratulations to all members of the PYP family for their outstanding achievements!

Our first rehearsal of 2010 was extremely auspicious. We sight-read some music to choose repertoire for upcoming concerts and were quite taken with a transcription of the Overture to Rossini's opera, *The Barber of Seville*. What a fun piece, filled with great melodies and brilliant feats of virtuosity! I'm also delighted to report that YSE is going green with Gustav Holst's, *Brook Green Suite*. We're really gonna rock next year with, *The Planets*!

All joking aside, it's time to hunker down and practice the Rossini – and that goes for you too, YSE!



Concert at Mary's Woods

The first PYP Chamber Music Concert of the season will be held on Sunday, January 24th, at Mary's Woods. The Concert will begin at 4:00 pm. The concert is free to all. No tickets required. However, parking may prove to be a challenge. The lot by the highway at the Heritage Center will probably be your best bet.. You will have to walk down to Mary's Woods once you've parked in that lot. Call times for musicians involved in the concert vary from 1:20-3:00 pm, depending on what ensemble they are in. Mary's Woods is located at:

17400 Holy Names Drive
Lake Oswego, OR



••• PYCO Children's Concerts

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Enter: Stage Door on SW Salmon St.

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)
8:30-9:30 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:

Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition

Note: You may not leave the building during breaks so plan ahead! Bring any snacks you might need. You can take your breaks in the upstairs dressing rooms or the downstairs lounge.

Tickets: If you have family or friends interested in hearing the concert they can volunteer as ushers. Call the PYP office 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 St.

Parking: 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.

••• Cadenza Concert

Skyview High School
1300 NW 139th St
Vancouver, WA 98685
Sunday, February 28, 2010

Enter: Main Entrance by the flag poles

Dress: Concert dress (See the Musician's Handbook)

PYWE Call Time: 1:45 pm

PYCO Call Time: 2:30 pm

PYWE Time Line:

1:45 pm	Call time
2:00-2:30 pm	Acoustic Rehearsal
3:30 pm	Concert Call Time
4:00 pm	Concert

PYCO Time Line:

2:30 pm	Call Time
2:45-3:30 pm	Acoustic Rehearsal
4:00 pm	Concert

Concert Order:

PYWE
Intermission
PYCO

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.

“Sampling the Finer Things” An exclusive fundraising event for PYP

January 31, 2010 -- 3:00-5:30 PM

Wieden and Kennedy, 224 NW 13th

PYP presents an elegant afternoon sampling the finer things in life — chocolate, wine, and chamber music. Bernard C of Lake Oswego will provide a truffle making demonstration as you sample wines from Oregon wineries. Rivers Edge Catering and Mio Sushi will provide hors d'oeuvres.

The feature of the afternoon, however, will be chamber music provided by members of various PYP ensembles and the newly formed PYP Chamber Orchestra. The purpose of the event is to raise funds to support financial aid and musician training.

Cost : \$75 per couple or \$40 per person. Our fundraising goal is \$50,000. If you would like to attend, know people who should attend, or would like to help with the event please contact dianeomalley@portlandyouthphil.org

Events Calendar

January 24

PYP Chamber Music Concert

February 17

PYCO Children's Concert

February 28

PYCO & PYWE Cadenza Concert

March 8

PYP Preview Concert

March 13

PYP Spring Concert YSE Lobby Concert

Check out our rehearsal blog with weekly updates that will give you a behind the scenes glimpse of what goes on in our various ensembles. Go to <http://portlandyouthphil.org/musicblog/index.php>. Also, be sure to let everyone know you are a fan of PYP! Go to our fan page on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Youth-Philharmonic/58368939237>

