

PYP P N O T E S

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

September/October 2008

The Hatt Rack

by David Hattner

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First I want to remind everyone about a special, generous offer being made by the Oregon Symphony for PYP members and families. If you call the Oregon Symphony ticket office (503-228-1353) and tell them that you are a PYP member, you can get a \$10 ticket for concerts where our repertoire is being played. Hopefully many of you will have gone to see Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony by the time you read this.

I want to write a little bit about practicing. An important thing to remember when preparing for PYP is that you won't always be able to prepare everything to perfection in a week. It would be unreasonable for me or anyone else to expect that. That's why we take many weeks to prepare a concert. What is important to me is that the practice time you spend on PYP material is used efficiently, so that you are as prepared as possible for each rehearsal.

When you come across passages in our repertoire that you are not yet able to perform up to the rehearsal tempos, there are several things you should do. The first one is to relax because it is normal. The second thing to do is to learn the passage at whatever tempo you can actually play it so that it is perfectly in rhythm (no rushing and all rhythms square and exact) and sounds good. It may be that this tempo is far slower than what we play as an orchestra, but that's ok. As long as you can play beautifully every passage in our repertoire in **SOME** tempo, you are off to a good start. You should use a metronome.



If you can spend time every day on all of the difficult passages, you will find that the tempo at which you can play them will speed up over time. It is still possible that there will be some spots that you are struggling with all the way to concert time. For those spots, what is most important is playing the rhythms correctly and staying with the ensemble.



Slow, **GOOD** practicing builds confidence as well as technique. The same will be true of your continuing scale practice. Just because auditions are over doesn't mean you can stop playing your scales every day until August rolls around!

Finally, let me speak about your incredible

workloads with academics, college applications, and life in general. You earned your way into PYP with your talent and hard work and nothing will change that. What I ask from each of you is 150% commitment during the time when we are together. If you commit yourself to everything I ask for during rehearsals, never letting your mind or body quit even for 30 seconds, and if you practice well during the week, the music we make will be more exciting and meaningful.

Johnson's Java

by Larry Johnson

Hello everyone and welcome to PYP's 2008-09 season. We now have the first week of rehearsals under our belts and I am truly excited about what we can accomplish in PYCO and PYWE this season. At the outset I felt, both groups, potentially would be terrific and, if the first rehearsal is a good indicator, we are off and running.

For both groups, the music is challenging and asks a great deal of each of you technically and musically. Please save a portion of your practice day to clean up what you have not mastered yet - using the METRONOME for rhythm and technical problems; and the tuner, or tone generator, for intonation issues. If you do this I can guarantee that rehearsals then will be used for honing each group into a fabulous performing ensemble and, of course, great music making! Thank you again for sharing your energy, talent, and passion for music making with PYP and best wishes for the new season.

Carol's Capers

by Carol Sindell

YSE has proved to be everything I had hoped, and more than I expected. This group is overflowing with talent, enthusiasm, and dedication, nurtured by an incredibly efficient PYP staff, parents, and mentors. Thanks to this support system and the efforts of my predecessor, John Hubbard, I am able to focus my energy on making music with 47 of the most delightful young people imaginable. We are taking on some serious musical challenges with Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" and Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto #3". I am confident that we are up to the task, and I am looking forward to an exhilarating year filled with music, joy, and laughter.

Read & Heeds

PYP

**Extra Rehearsal with Tito Muñoz
Glencoe Elementary School
Saturday, September 27, 2008**

Time: 4:30-7:00 pm

PYP strings already have a rehearsal on this day. We would like to ask the winds, brass, percussion and harp to also attend. This rehearsal is not required but is strongly encouraged. If you aren't able to attend, you must talk to Ann Cockerham and be prepared to tell her why you are unable to attend. If you have a previous engagement, that is certainly understandable.

That said – This is an event you won't want to miss. Mr. Muñoz is an assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra. (You can read his bio on the Cleveland Orchestra web site.) He is young and has a reputation for being very high energy and a fun conductor to work with. It's an honor for PYP that he has agreed to come and do this rehearsal with us.



Read & Heeds, Cont.

PYP Mini-Tour

La Grande, Oregon & Walla Walla, Washington

October 18 & 19, 2008

Call Time: 9:30 am on Saturday, October 18
Meet at Glencoe Elementary School

Please don't leave your car in the school parking lot. You may leave it parked on the street at your own risk. PYP nor the school will be responsible for any loss or damage.

Time Line:

Saturday, October 18

9:30 am Call Time at Glencoe Elementary

10:00 am Buses leave for La Grande

Please pack a lunch to eat on the way

7:30 pm Concert at McKenzie Theater (\$5 Tickets)

Sunday, October 19

8:30 am Host families will drop you off at the bus

9:00 am Buses leave for Walla Walla

11-12:45 Rehearsal at Walla Walla University Church

1:00 pm Lunch will be provided for you

2:00 pm Free Concert at the Walla Walla University Church

Bring \$\$ for a fast food stop in The Dalles

ca. 9:00 pm Buses arrive back at Glencoe Elementary School

See full Read and Heed for more details

What You Need to Bring

Your instrument.

Concert dress (See handbook pg. 18 for dress code).

A sack lunch to eat on the bus on the way to La Grande on Saturday.

\$\$ Bring money for a fast food supper on Sunday.

Anything you will need for an overnight stay. Some of you may need to bring sleeping bags and pillows.

Cellos – Bring “donuts”

If you have any special dietary needs you may want to bring some extra food with you just in case your homestay family is not prepared.

A small hostess gift for your host family would be a nice gesture.

All of you are required to ride on the buses, unless you have made previous arrangements with Ann. Those arrangements need to be made by Monday, October 13 and need to be in writing.

A note to parents:

If you need to contact your child...

You can call Ann on her cell phone, 503/984-9220.

If you will be able to attend the concert...

The Saturday concert will be at McKenzie Theater, Loso Hall, 6th St., La Grande, OR
Tickets required. \$5

The Sunday concert will be at:
The Walla Walla University Church
212 SW 4th St. College Place, WA
Concert is free and open to the public

PYCO Rehearsal

Alternative Location, Oct. 23rd Only
Lake Oswego High School
2501 Country Club Rd. Lake Oswego, OR
Thursday, October 23, 2008

Call Time: 5:15 pm

Time Line (same as other rehearsals):

5:30-7:00 pm Full Rehearsal

7:05-9:00 pm Sectionals

Note: No theory classes on this date

This is a good opportunity to play in another venue, so please allow extra time in traveling to this alternative location. See you there!

Soloist Competition: Sunday, October 26

It's time again for PYP's Annual Soloist Competition! Orchestra members who have been in the Philharmonic Orchestra for two full seasons or have been in the organization for three full seasons, (including one season in the Philharmonic Orchestra) are eligible to apply for the competition. The winner of the competition will solo with the Philharmonic Orchestra at the Winter Concert on March 7th and the runner-up will perform at the Postlude Concert with the Conservatory Orchestra on May 31st. To enter the competition you must complete an application form and return it to the PYP office no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, October 13th. Candidates will receive their audition times at rehearsal on October 20th.

Carpooling

A good resource for carpooling is the Orchestra Roster which contains contact information for those in your child's ensemble. Rosters will be handed out at rehearsals in the near future.

Events Calendar

October 18 & 19
PYP Mini Tour

November 3
PYP Preview Concert

November 8
PYP Fall Concert & YSE Lobby Concert

November 16
PYCO, PYWE, YSE Prelude Concert



Concert Dress

As the 2008-09 Season gets underway, it is important to make sure parents and students are familiar with our Concert Dress Code. PYP, PYWE and PYCO gentlemen must wear a black suit or tuxedo and black bow tie. A white dress shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes are also required. Ladies in PYP, PYWE, and PYCO must wear an all black, nice, dressy outfit. This includes dress pants or a skirt with a nice black top, or a full dress. The outfit must be long-sleeved and ankle length (see page 18 in the handbook for further details).

YSE gentlemen must wear black dress pants, black socks and dress shoes with a white, open collar, long-sleeve dress shirt, tucked in. YSE ladies must wear long a long black skirt, or nice dress pants with black socks and shoes and a white long-sleeved dress shirt.

VISTING CONSERVATORIES

A representative from Colburn Conservatory will be at Glencoe on Monday, September 29. San Francisco Conservatory will have a representative at Glencoe on Monday, October 6. Please feel free to come and ask questions about their program.