

September 29, 2007

## Minutes of the JYO Parent Meeting of the CSYOPA

Meeting opened by Kevin Andrews, President of the CSYOPA, who introduced Chris Rydel, Manager of the Youth Orchestras. We are reminded to **use the website** to check for announcements and rehearsal order: [www.csyopa.net](http://www.csyopa.net). Sometimes strings only will rehearse last, meaning other instruments may be released from rehearsal early and thus could be picked up earlier. **PLEASE** be on time for pick-up after rehearsals. Dr. Pereira releases the musicians on time. Do not have your child wait anywhere for you other than in the foyer of the church. A maximum of five rehearsal absences (includes sickness, etc) are allowed - cannot be used for dress rehearsals or performances! Share the schedule with your children's band or orchestra director. If there any unavoidable conflicts, they must be discussed with Ms. Rydel first and early! Substitute musicians must be contracted. Please use the absence form on the website to submit rehearsal absences ahead of time to Ms. Rydel. You may also use the phone number on the website to leave a message for Ms. Rydel. Please do not call her at home! Note concert dress requirements. Please, long skirts or dress pants for girls. Regarding music - music in black folders should never leave St. Luke's - if it is accidentally brought home, be sure it is returned at the next rehearsal. Check website for inclement weather situations - rehearsal info will be on the website.

Joan Foley, Sales Manager for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, was introduced and described the Family Pass, which gives families of youth orchestra members the opportunity to purchase a pass for up to four family members to attend each of the up to ten Classics concerts for a total of \$80. Attendance at CSO concerts gives students the opportunity to hear their orchestra conductor, coaches, and teachers perform. After purchasing your Family Pass, you will need to call the Symphony box office to request your tickets on the Monday preceding each Classics concert. These tickets are for your student and your family only, and are non-transferable. Ms. Foley took orders for the Family Pass after the meeting.

Ms. Rydel is looking for two parent assistants to help with JYO rehearsals and sectionals, monitoring the door, etc. Upcoming events: fundraiser is under way, fall concert November 19 at the Halton Theatre at CPCC. Seating audition dates are noted on the website schedule: how they are conducted is at the discretion of each sectional coach. Encourage your child to make note of sections Dr. Pereira rehearses over and over, as these passages will likely be required for seating auditions. Parents confirmed their names, addresses and contact information on a JYO roster at the end of the meeting.

Kevin Andrews, CSYOPA President, introduced fellow officers and Executive Committee members present, including Gino Cassano, Vice President, Kit Ramage, Symphony Guild representative and member of the Executive committee, Grace Rathkamp Danello, Executive Committee. Additional Officers and Executive Committee members are: Miranda Honeyman and Louise Frumkin, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, and Beth Garges, Symphony Guild representative.

Kit Ramage read the mission statement of the Symphony Guild, emphasizing its commitment to

funding the activities of the youth orchestras, including all costs related to the summer residential camp of the CSYO, and the Mini-Camp of the JYO. Guild members also assist the CSO as ushers for the free school concerts, and occasionally with visiting artists in hotel accommodations and transportation. The Guild also organizes and presents the Musical Petting Zoo, which introduces children to orchestral instruments at the CSO Lollipops Concerts and ImaginOn, and sponsors the Young Artists Competition early each year. The most exciting event of all is Youth Festival, when, at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, the CSYO performs first, then the winner of the Concerto Competition solos with the CSO, followed by a performance from the JYO. The evening ends in a side-by-side performance of the CSYO with the CSO. All activities are funded with money raised by the Guild through the Symphony Designer Showhouse and other fundraisers conducted throughout the year.

The Guild also offers a variety of need and merit-based (CSYO) scholarships to defray the costs of music education. Some scholarships are awarded after actual auditions, while others are based on need alone, generally based on a four person family income of \$50,000 or below.

Please support all activities of the Guild!

Kevin Andrews reviewed budgetary issues related to the CSYOPA. The CSYOPA covers the cost of parent and student assistants, instruments, (and cases used to transport instruments safely to concert venues), scholarships, as well as any other needs of the youth orchestras.

Annual dues paid for our children's participation in the youth orchestras go directly to the CSO. The parent's association is funded through the Virginia Diner annual fundraiser, and through the payment of CSYOPA dues. Please check the website for details on how you can assist the parent's association.

Discussion of proposed change to By-Laws. Please read current By-Laws on the website. A change in the By-Laws to ensure we have open parent participation in the organization is under discussion. We would appreciate everyone's input. The CSYOPA seeks greater representation on the Board and/or Executive Committee from parents of the JYO. We want to be sure all decisions are being made with input from both orchestras. PLEASE consider being involved on the Board or Executive committee. Leslie Cooper has already volunteered to take on organizing the upcoming JYO Mini-Camp. Please see her after the meeting to determine how you can help. If you are a returning parent, you especially should be considering this request! All Board and Executive Committee members are listed on the website with our names and e-mail addresses - please contact us with any questions or suggestions.

Gino Cassano, Vice President, discussed the fundraiser, Virginia Diner. When your child accepted his/her position in the orchestra, he/she agreed to participate in the annual fundraiser. Each participant must sell \$100 worth of product, or donate \$50 to the CSYOPA. Please do not bring in ANY cash or coins! JYO October 14 - all forms must be turned in before the JYO rehearsal. Make a photocopy of your orders to keep at home for your own records. Products will be delivered to your child at the November 17 rehearsal for delivery prior to Thanksgiving. There will be awards given to the three top sellers in each orchestra.

Kit Ramage shared a story about a 35 year friendship between two CSO musicians performing at the Showhouse today, who met at CSYO camp and are still close friends today. This is just one of many wonderful benefits your child can look forward to through his/her participation in the youth orchestras!

CSYOPA Board meetings are held on Saturdays during JYO rehearsals in a conference room at St. Luke's. There may be two meetings at the home of Beth Garges, conveniently located across the street from St. Luke's.

The schedule of CSYOPA meetings for this year are:

CSYOPA October 13, 2 p.m.

CSYOPA November 17, 2 p.m.

Membership Meeting at November 19 Concert @ CPCC

CSYO Parent Meeting January 7, 2008, 5:30 p.m.

CSYOPA February 2, 2008

NO March meeting

CSYOPA April 12, 2008, 2 p.m.

JYO Parent Meeting April 27, 2008 1 p.m.

Membership Meeting at May 10 Concert @ CPCC

Parents are encouraged to attend all meetings of the CSYOPA. Please come to our meetings and let us know your thoughts. Make this your orchestra. We would love to add you to our Executive Committee!

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Rathkamp Danello for Miranda Honeyman  
CSYOPA Executive Committee