



Welcome to Vermont Youth Orchestra (VYO)!

Please print out this packet & read this important information carefully.

IMPORTANT VYO DATES

Conductor: Ronald Braunstein

Director of Operations: Art DeQuasie

Email: art@vyo.org

Phone: 655-5030 ext 108

Please contact [Art DeQuasie](mailto:art@vyo.org) with any questions you may have regarding participation in VYO. The best form of communication will be via email as Art does not hold regular office hours. If you would like to call please be prepared to leave a message on his voicemail.

Reveille! Music Festival: Sunday, August 1 – Sunday, August 8 on St. Michael's College Main Campus. Please see attached information. *Attendance is expected* of all VYO members.

Rehearsals: Sundays; 12:45 – 3:45p.m. (except where noted) at Elley-Long Music Center

Fall 2010

Aug. 16, 23, 30 [3:00 – 6:00pm] **these are MONDAYS**

Sept. 12, 19

Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31 (no rehearsal Oct. 3)

Nov. 7, 14, 21 (no rehearsal Nov. 28)

Dec. 12, 19 (no rehearsal Dec. 26)

Dec. 29, 30 **First Night rehearsals**

Spring 2011

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23

Feb. 13, 20, 27 (no rehearsal Feb. 6)

Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27

Apr. 3, 10, 17 (no rehearsal Apr. 24)

Please mark these dates on your calendar! See below for Concert Dates.

Attendance Policy: VYO students are allowed no more than **3** absences in each set of rehearsals leading up to a major concert & also no more than **1** absence between *Reveille!* & the Fall Concert. Students / parents must contact [Art DeQuasie](mailto:art@vyo.org) regarding any rehearsals that must be missed. The success of VYO is dependent upon the full participation of all members.

Concert Dates: **Friday, Sept 24, 2010;** 8pm [Location TBD]

Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010; 3pm [Flynn Center, Burlington]

Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010; 4pm Orchestrapalooza [Flynn Center, Burlington]

Friday, Dec. 31, 2010; First Night time TBD [Flynn Center, Burlington]

Friday, Jan. 28, 2011; 8pm [Location TBD]

Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011; 3pm [Flynn Center, Burlington]

Friday, Apr. 29, 2011; 8pm [Location TBD]

Sunday, May 1, 2011; 3pm [Flynn Center, Burlington]

Please note that for all of these concert dates the students will need to arrive early for a dress rehearsal. More detailed information will be sent out in regards to timing prior to the concerts.

A complete list of VYO's rehearsal & concert schedule will be listed on www.vyo.org by late August

VYO REGISTRATION

Registration Deadline: July 9, 2010

How to complete your VYO Registration: Print out both this Info Packet & the Registration Packet. You must return the Tuition, *Reveille!* Music Festival, Media Consent, & Medical forms to the VYOA office along with your tuition payment or Financial Aid paperwork **by July 9**. There are no tuition refunds after the first rehearsal of the season. *Please contact [Art DeQuasie](#) (at the above email) as soon as possible if you are not going to participate this year or if you have any questions regarding the rehearsal schedule or concert dates.*

Tuition: The \$1,313 tuition for VYO covers the entire 2010-2011 season, including the *Reveille!* Music Festival. If you have any questions regarding tuition or Financial Aid please contact [Art DeQuasie](#).

What is the Media Consent Form: Due to the nature of publicizing and advertising Vermont Youth Orchestra Association concerts, activities and special events, the VYOA interacts frequently with media representatives from television, radio and print publications. Students may be invited to speak with a member of the media for the sole purpose of promoting a specific concert or event. A student is never permitted speak to a member of the media without supervision from Marketing Director, Lisamarie Charlesworth. Please mark whether or not you approve of your child being included the VYOA's media & public relations practices.

What is the Medical Form: The VYOA is obligated to have on hand signed Medical Forms for all VYOA students in the event that we need to seek medical assistance for your child during any rehearsal, camp, or off-campus event (such as a concert at the Flynn) when a parent is not present. It is also very helpful to the VYOA Staff to be aware of any medical conditions that might affect a students' behavior or ability to participate in other activities. Information on Medical Forms is kept confidential & shared only with necessary VYOA staff.

Communication between the VYOA & students: The bulk of our communication with all VYOA families is via email. Often times this means mass emails which sometimes end up in spam / junk email folders. We urge all VYOA families to keep us updated with their email addresses & to check their spam / junk folder regularly for any VYOA emails.

Carpool Lists: Once we have a final roster of students we will send out carpool lists via email.

www.vyo.org: 2010-2011 information will not be posted until late August, but you will find a wealth of important information on this website, including the Student Handbook, Absence forms, Rehearsal schedules, Concert dates & other special events. All students & parents should read the online Student Handbook thoroughly once it has been updated for the current season.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About VYOA Auditions

Who hears the auditions and makes placement decisions?

Auditions are heard by the VYOA Artistic Staff — [Asiat Ali](#), [Berta Frank](#), [David Gusakov](#), [Anne Decker](#), & new Music Director [Ronald Braunstein](#). Although different conductors hear auditions at different times, they all work with the same evaluation system, developed during thousands of auditions over the last 14 years. The VYOA Conducting Staff works together to make the placement decisions.

What are the placement decisions based on?

In placing each student, the VYOA always strives to do two things:

- (1) to place each student where he or she can learn and benefit the most from the experience, and
- (2) to place each student where the orchestra or ensemble can benefit the most from the student's skills.

Based on what we learn from the auditions (and to a lesser degree on what we know about students from previous interaction), the VYOA Conducting Staff tries to find the perfect placement for nearly 400 students. We want to offer every student a placement which will promise a challenging and appropriate experience in our program.

For some instruments, placements can be heavily influenced by the number of available positions — flute, oboe, clarinet, and trumpet, for example, often have more qualified candidates than there are available orchestral spaces. The Vermont Youth Chamber Winds program exists to help us provide placements to every qualified student, even if we do not have room in an orchestra.

What's my "chair"? Where will I be sitting?

In most cases, we don't know yet. In an effort to deliver audition placements as quickly as possible, the VYOA Conducting Staff does not choose section leaders or make detailed seating decisions until after the placement letters are sent out. The conductors then spend a great deal of time over the summer choosing appropriate stand partners in the strings, deciding on the best way to assign wind and brass parts, or putting together chamber music groups that will work well together.

Is there any chance that my placement will change?

All placement decisions are final, having been very carefully considered by the VYOA Conducting Staff. In a few cases, however, because students decide not to participate in the orchestra in which they have been placed, other students may be offered a new placement to replace the departing student. (For students who are thinking about quitting and then auditioning again in the future, remember that students who are already playing in our groups are given preference for promotion in close placement decisions.)

Can I call to discuss my placement?

Since all placements are final, we do not encourage students or parents to call to discuss their placements. Students who are seeking feedback about their playing should request this information in writing to Music Director [Ronald Braunstein](#) or by speaking with their conductor when programs start up at the end of the summer.

2010-2011 VYOA Music Theory Classes

Each level of VYOA Music Theory Classes consists of ten one-hour sessions taught by composer [Erik Nielsen](#). The classes are informative and engaging, containing both history and humor. Not only are the materials helpful to students in understanding more about the music they perform, they are essential to those who have any thoughts of further musical study after high school. Enrollment costs \$50 for each ten-week session (i.e. only \$5 per class), and students are welcome and encouraged to sign up for more than one. Sign up by checking the appropriate boxes on the enclosed registration form. Students or parents who have questions about the classes can contact Erik Nielsen at nielsen@sover.net.

IMPORTANT NOTE

*These music theory classes meet only ten times, which means that a great deal of material must be presented in a short time and the amount of work required is fairly substantial. The classes are geared toward getting older students ready for further study in music. **Parents who are considering theory classes for a child who is 12 years of age or under must contact Mr. Nielsen first.***

IF YOU SIGN UP FOR THEORY CLASSES PLEASE MARK THE BELOW DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Fall 2010 Sessions

(September 12, 19; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21)

2:45-3:45 **Theory Level III** (harmonic principles of four-part writing)

Open to VYCW, Sinfonia, VYP, Concert Chorale & VYO Chorus

Students must have already taken Theory II in a previous year or have spoken with Mr. Nielsen about taking this class.

4:00-5:00 **Theory Level I** (scales, keys & key signatures, rhythmic notation & intervals)

Open to VYStrings, VYCW, VYO, Concert Chorale & VYO Chorus

Spring 2011 Sessions

(January 2, 9, 16, 23; February 6, 13, 20; March 6, 13, 20)

2:45-3:45 **Theory Level I** (scales, keys & key signatures, rhythmic notation & intervals)

Open to VYStrings, VYCW, Sinfonia, VYP, Concert Chorale & VYO Chorus

4:00-5:00 **Theory Level II** (triads and the fundamentals of harmony)

Open to VYStrings, VYO, VYCW, Concert Chorale & VYO Chorus



***Reveille!* Music Festival — August 1-8, 2010
St. Michael's College – Colchester, Vermont**

Dear VYO & VYP Members & Parents,

This year's *Reveille!* (pronounced REV-uh-lee) Music Festival will take place August 1 – 8 at St. Michael's College Main Campus. All VYO & VYP students are expected to participate in this weeklong festival. If for some reason you cannot attend *Reveille!* or if you will miss any portion of the week's rehearsals, you must contact *Reveille!* Music Festival Director Anne Decker directly (anne@vyo.org) AND mark down on the *Reveille!* Music Festival registration form in your Registration Packet the days/times that you will miss.

For those members & families new to the VYO or new to VYO/VYP, the *Reveille!!* Music Festival is a weeklong overnight camp that helps the students get a jump-start on their Fall Concert program. It also gives the students an opportunity to get to know each other & to work with the talented faculty brought in from all over the country. Due to renovations taking place in the dorms surrounding Elley-Long Music Center, the bulk of *Reveille!* will be held on Saint Michael's College Main Campus. *The final concert, however, will be held at the Elley-Long Music Center at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 8.*

Reveille! Music Festival Registration Form:

Please fill out the *Reveille!* Music Festival Registration form (3 pages) that is included in your Registration Packet and return it to the office no later than July 9, 2010, along with the VYO or VYP Registration paperwork. In an effort to best accommodate all students; please be sure to complete all forms as accurately as possible. Housing, chamber group, & elective class assignments will be decided based on when we receive your paperwork. In other words, the sooner you turn in ALL of your paperwork, the higher the likelihood that we will be able to honor all of your requests. Please keep this packet of important information for your records.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all of *Reveille!*'s rehearsals, activities & events. **If a student needs to miss any portion of *Reveille!* for any reason, it MUST be submitted directly to *Reveille!* Music Festival Director, Anne Decker, in writing.** Parents should note on the *Reveille!* Registration form when a student will need to be off-campus AND ALSO contact Anne Decker at anne@vyo.org. In order for us to maximize the use of our talented music faculty it is very important for us to know ahead of time when a student will need to be away as it effects their orchestra rehearsals, chamber rehearsals & individual lessons. For the safety & security of all students, we also need to make sure that Camp Life staff is present to sign students in & out. If we do not have prior knowledge of a student needing to leave *Reveille!* it will be at the discretion of the Camp Life Director & Anne Decker.

Arrival & Registration:

Registration will take place between 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 1, on Saint Michael's College Main Campus – we will send out an email with directions to the exact building in late July. Please do not arrive earlier than 3:00 p.m. The musical program for the week will start at 5:00 p.m. Students will receive their schedule & housing assignments at registration. We ask that students not request changes in their housing assignments due to the amount of time it takes to coordinate housing for 150+ students. **If you must arrive later than the registration period on Sunday, August 1 OR depart campus at any time during the week it is important that you let us know so that a member of the Camp Life staff can be available to check you in or out.**

Housing, Dorm Room Keys & Deposit:

This year students will be housed on Saint Michael's College Main Campus. Rooms are set-up as quad suites – students will have their own bedroom with a common living space & bathroom shared with other students in the same suite. There are no kitchen facilities in the suites. Students may request suitemates on their *Reveille!* Registration form. We will try but may not be able to accommodate all requests. Suitemate requests are also based on the order in which we receive students' Registration paperwork, all of which is due July 9, 2010. Please do not ask for housing changes at check-in on Sunday, August 1. Each student must bring **\$25 in cash** (we cannot accept checks or credit cards) for a room key and damage deposit. The full \$25 is refundable at the end of *Reveille!* if your room is clean and your key is returned. For security purposes, students will need to keep their suites locked at all times & non-VYOA students are not allowed in the suites.

Daily Schedule & Activities:

A complete schedule of musical and recreational activities will be given out to each student **at check-in for *Reveille!*** The daily schedule consists of breakfast, sectionals, morning orchestra rehearsal, music theory/history & other electives, lunch, chamber music, afternoon activity period, dinner, evening orchestra rehearsal, an evening all-campus event, and the "final hour" activity period. Each student will also receive one 45-minute private lesson during the festival from one of our esteemed Faculty. Students should request their electives on the form provided with their Registration materials.

Free Time & Camp Life:

Our Camp Life staff will organize & lead a wide variety of activities each afternoon that may include arts & crafts, baking, outdoor sports, swimming at the Saint Michael's College pool, & other fun group activities. Evening events are required (8:30-10p.m.) & the schedule will be announced on the first day of camp. Since some of the activities & events are dependent upon good weather, there may be last minute changes. "Final hour" activities (from 10-11p.m.) will be optional activities & free time. Students are allowed & encouraged to go to bed early (before the campus curfew of 11p.m.) but **MUST** check in with their counselor to coordinate bed check. Please let us know if a student is a heavy sleeper by indicating this on the *Reveille!* Registration Form.

Health:

Students are **strongly urged** to stay well fed, hydrated, and rested at camp. The cafeteria is prepared to furnish vegetarian options as requested on your *Reveille!* Registration form. It is standard "camp cafeteria" fare that all staff & faculty eat. Students who may be more particular eaters are encouraged to bring their own snacks to keep in their dorm. In the event of a medical emergency, St. Michael's College is located very close to the Fanny Allen Campus of Fletcher Allen Health Care. Please be sure to complete & sign the VYOA Medical Form so that we may seek medical care for your child if needed & so our Staff can be aware of students' medical conditions.

Communications & Visitors:

Since so much music is concentrated in this week, we ask that students please avoid leaving the festival for family events. Family visitors are welcome for concerts (or to pick students up to attend church services), but we ask that they **not** visit students at any other times during the festival. Students can receive mail at camp Monday – Friday only. We do not receive mail on weekends. To send mail to a student during *Reveille!*, write to:

[Student name]
c/o VYOA *Reveille!* Music Festival
Elley-Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College
223 Ethan Allen Avenue
Colchester, VT 05446

In case of emergencies during business hours, parents can reach the VYOA office by calling 802-655-5030. Please be aware that VYOA office staff will not have immediate access to students this year as all activities will take place on St. Michael's College Main Campus & not at the Elley-Long Music Center.

After hours parents can call Caroline Whiddon at 802-238-8369 (please use this number for actual emergencies only).

REVEILLE! MUSIC FESTIVAL PACKING LIST

1. \$25 CASH for room/key deposit
2. Medications or vitamins needed during the week– these should all be listed on the student’s medical form.
3. For Suites (housing) - be prepared for both cold & hot weather at night:
 - Alarm clock
 - Sheets & mattress pad
 - Blanket and/or sleeping bag
 - Pillow & pillow case
 - Fan
4. For Bathrooms:
 - Caddy for carrying items
 - Soap & shampoo
 - Toothbrush & toothpaste
 - Hand & shower towels
 - Shower shoes
5. For Rehearsals:
 - Folding music stand
 - Reeds, valve oil, mallets, extra strings, mutes, etc.
 - Pencils
 - Clothes pins (if you want to play outdoors)
 - Duets and other chamber music to share with friends
6. Change for the vending machines and other snacks sold by Camp Life staff
7. Pencils for rehearsals
8. Regular phone you can plug in the dorm room (to be used with a phone card & you will have to ask for instructions on how to call out once you arrive at Camp) or cell phone.
9. Recreation equipment (indoor & outdoor):
 - Tennis balls & racquets
 - Frisbees, Soccerballs, etc.
 - Swimsuit (there is generally a trip to the St. Mike’s pool)
 - Books, deck of cards, board games, etc.
 - Writing paper
 - Stamps for mailing letters
10. Seriously, be sure to bring pencils & a folding music stand.
11. Weather appropriate clothing (students will be walking between buildings):
 - Warm & cool weather clothes
 - Rain gear
12. Proper attire for the final concert: nice clothes, but formal black and white is not necessary.
 - Boys: Dress slacks, button down shirt, shoes/sandals. (neither jacket nor tie is necessary)
 - Girls: Long skirt (hem should fall below the knee) with blouse (NO halter tops), long dress or dress slacks, shoes/sandals.
13. Snacks: If you tend to be a particular eater or have a restricted diet, we encourage you to bring extra snacks that can be stored in your room or suite. Meals are standard camp cafeteria food with a vegetarian option.
14. **And don’t forget a pencil & folding music stand.**

If you have any questions please contact Director of Operations, Art DeQuasie at 802-655-5030, ext. 108 or art@vyo.org

VYOA *Reveille!* Music Festival Policies

This copy is for Parents / Students

The signed copy on the registration form must be returned to the VYOA Office

The Absolutes:

- No possession or use of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or tobacco.
- No sex.
- No student operation of a motor vehicle.
- No leaving the Saint Michael's College campus without staff supervision or permission.

Any violation of the above will result in immediate expulsion from camp without tuition refund.

House Rules:

- Students must maintain a low noise level after sunset. Please observe Quiet Hours from 10:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. There will be younger students present who we encourage to go to bed earlier than 11p.m.
- Students must check into their own assigned suites (and stay there) by **11:00 p.m.**
- Non-VYOA members are not allowed in any suite.
- Treat the facilities, grounds, and equipment of Saint Michael's College with respect.
- Show consideration for your fellow musicians, for the *Reveille!* Music Festival staff & faculty, and for the Saint Michael's College community.
- No swimming without a certified lifeguard.
- If you are scheduled to leave campus, you must check-out with a Camp Life staff member (your counselor or the Camp Director).

Any violation of the above can result in a meeting with the Festival Camp Life Director, parental notification, and/or other assigned consequences.

Other Guidelines:

- Be On Time — show up promptly for rehearsals and for check-in.
- Be Awake — get enough sleep so you can do a good job.
- Be Safe — no running or horseplay in the suites.
- Be Clean — pick up after yourself.
- Be Alert — notify a staff member immediately if there is an emergency.
- Be Cool — don't do anything stupid.

Any violation of the above can result in a meeting with a staff member. Continued violations can result in consequences of House Rules above.