

Welcome to Vermont Youth Orchestra (VYO)!

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

This information will also available online at www.vyo.org by late August.

Interim Conductor: Andrew Massey

Orchestra Manager: Carolyn Long
Email: carolyn@vyo.org
Phone: 862-6732

Reveille! Music Festival: August 2-9, 2009 [Elley-Long Music Center] *see additional information in this packet*

August Rehearsals: Monday, Aug. 17; 3:00-6:00pm [Elley-Long Music Center]
Monday, Aug. 24; 3:00-6:00pm [Elley-Long Music Center]
Monday, Aug. 31; 3:00-6:00pm [Elley-Long Music Center]

Regular Rehearsals: Sundays; 12:45-3:45pm [Elley-Long Music Center] *beginning Sept. 13*

Attendance Policy: VYO students are allowed no more than **3 absences** in each set of rehearsals leading up to a concert & are allowed only **1 absence** between *Reveille!* & the Fall October concerts. Students / parents must contact Carolyn Long regarding any missed rehearsals.

Concert Dates: Friday, Oct. 2, 2009; 8pm [location TBA]
Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009; 3pm [Flynn Center, Burlington]
Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009; 4pm Orchestrapalooza [Flynn Center, Burlington]
Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009 First Night; times TBD [Flynn Center, Burlington]
additional rehearsals on Dec. 29 & Dec. 30
Friday, Jan. 22, 2010; 8pm [location TBA]
Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010; 3pm [Flynn Center, Burlington]
Friday, Feb. 12, 2010; 7pm "From the Top" [Flynn Center, Burlington]
Friday, May 14, 2010; 8pm [location TBA]
Sunday, May 16, 2010; 3pm [Flynn Center, Burlington]

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

Registration Deadline: July 10, 2009

How to complete your VYO Registration: To confirm your participation in Vermont Youth Orchestra please make sure that you print out both the Info Packet & the Registration Packet. You must return the Tuition, Media Consent, Medical, & Reveille forms to the VYOA office with your tuition payment or Financial Aid paperwork by July 10. There are no tuition refunds after the first rehearsal of the season. Please contact the VYOA office 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 \$1275 tuition for VYO covers the entire 2009-2010 season, which runs from August 2009 – May 2010 & includes the *Reveille!* Music Festival. If you have any questions regarding tuition or Financial Aid please contact VYOA Office Manager, Mia Fritze, at 655-5030 ext 100 or mia@vyo.org.

Communication between the VYOA & students/families: 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.

www.vyo.org: 2009-2010 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.

Carpool Lists: We will email out Orchestra Lists by town in late July so that you may arrange carpools.

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, Andrew Massey, and Troy Peters. Although different conductors hear auditions at different times, they all work with the same evaluation system, developed during thousands of auditions over the last 13 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 Troy Peters or by speaking with their conductor when programs start up at the end of the summer.

2009-2010 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 Sessions

(September 13, 20, 27, October 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, and 22)

2:45-3:45 **Theory Level I** (scales, keys & key signatures, rhythmic notation & intervals)
Open to VYStrings, Sinfonia, VYP, VYCW, & Choruses

4:00-5:00 **Theory Level II** (triads and the fundamentals of harmony)
Open to VYO, VYCW, & Choruses.

Spring Sessions

(January 10, 17, 31, February 7, 14, 21, March 7, 14, 21, and 28)

2:45-3:45 **Theory Level II** (triads and the fundamentals of harmony)
Open to VYStrings, Sinfonia, VYP, VYCW, & Choruses.

4:00-5:00 **Theory Level III** (harmonic principles of four-part writing)
Open to VYO, VYCW, & Choruses.

Students must have already taken Theory II or have spoken with Mr. Nielsen about taking the class.

***Reveille!* Music Festival — August 2-9, 2009**
Elley-Long Music Center & St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont

Dear VYO & VYP Members & Parents,

This year's *Reveille!* (pronounced REV-uh-lee) Music Festival will take place August 2 – 9 here in Colchester. 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 the days/times that you will miss.

For those members & families new to the VYOA or new to VYO/VYP, the *Reveille!!* Music Festival is a weeklong overnight camp held here at the Elley-Long Music Center with the use of Saint Michael's College dorms & cafeteria. This festival jump starts the season for VYO & VYP members in preparation for their Fall concerts. It also gives the students an opportunity to get to know each other & to work with talented faculty from all over the country. We are planning an exciting musical schedule culminating in a **final concert at the Elley-Long Music Center at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 9.** Throughout the week there will also be plenty of time for sports, getting to know each other, and lots of non-musical activities organized by our Camp Life Staff.

Reveille Music Festival Registration Form:

Please fill out the *Reveille!* Music Festival Registration form (on both sides) and return it to the office no later than July 10, 2009, along with all of the other paperwork. In an effort to best accommodate all students, please be sure to complete the form as completely & accurately as possible. 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 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 & 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 out & sign in students. If we do not have prior knowledge of a student needing to leave Camp 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 2, at the Elley-Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College. 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 & roommate assignments at registration. We ask that students not ask for changes in their dorm & roommate assignments due to the amount of time that housing placements take. **If you must arrive later than the registration period on Sunday, August 2 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:

Students will be housed in St. Michael's College dorms that are situated near the Elley-Long Music Center. Rooms are set-up as singles, doubles or quads & students may request roommates on their *Reveille!* Registration form. We will try but may not be able to accommodate all requests. Please do not ask for rooming changes at check-in. Each student must bring **\$25 in cash** for a room key and damage deposit. Please be sure to bring cash — we cannot accept checks or credit cards. 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 rooms locked at all times & non-VYOA students are not allowed in the dorms.

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 will have the opportunity to request their elective during the first orchestra rehearsal.

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 (including the office staff) & faculty eat. Students who may be more particular eaters are encouraged to bring their own snacks to keep in their dorm but there is also a vending machine & water cooler in the Elley-Long Music Center & the Camp Life staff run a small snack bar in the evenings. In the event of a medical emergency, we are fortunate to be located very close to the Fanny Allen Campus of Fletcher Allen Health Care. Please be sure to complete & sign the VYOA Medical Form prior to Camp 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 at the festival, write to:

[Student name]
c/o VYOA *Reveille!* Music Festival
Elly-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 students by calling the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association at 802-655-5030. After hours parents can call Caroline Whiddon at 802-238-8369 (please use this number for actual emergencies only).

VYOA 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 Dorm Rooms (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 Dorm 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 machine 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 dorm room. 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 your orchestra manager:

VYP students Art DeQuasie 802-655-5030, ext. 303 or art@vyo.org

VYO students Carolyn Long 802-862-6732 or carolyn@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 dorm rooms (and stay there) by **11:00 p.m.**
- 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 and Fort Ethan Allen communities.
- 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 dorms.
- 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.



V E R M O N T
S Y M P H O N Y
O R C H E S T R A

May 7, 2009

Dear Vermont Youth Orchestra Association Parent:

Congratulations on having a young musician in the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association! You and your student are fortunate to be participating in such a valuable training experience.

For our special 75th Anniversary Season, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra is pleased to continue the special student discount on Masterworks series season tickets to VYOA students and members of their immediate families. For just \$40 per subscription, you can enjoy all five of the VSO's Masterworks concerts at the Flynn Center. Depending on seating availability, this can mean as much as a 77% savings over the regular subscription price!

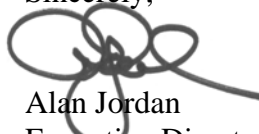
The VSO makes this special offer for several reasons. One, we believe VYO students should have the opportunity to experience our Masterworks performances, and financial barriers should be avoided. Two, access barriers should also be eliminated (family members often must provide transportation). Three, VYOA students' families already make significant investments in their children's musical education, through VYOA fees, private lessons, instrument purchases and maintenance, and that investment should be rewarded.

VSO Music Director Jaime Laredo has designed a phenomenal season to celebrate our 75th anniversary. VYO alumnus and violinist Soovin Kim performs Sibelius' Violin Concerto in October. Anthony Princiotti conducts a program of Respighi, Brahms and Tchaikovsky in December. In January, pianist André Watts makes his VSO debut with Beethoven's Emperor Concerto. Guest conductor Sarah Hicks returns in March to lead the orchestra when Jaime Laredo and Sharon Robinson perform a double concerto written for them by Richard Danielpour. The season closes with Robert De Cormier conducting the Verdi Requiem with soloists, the VSO Chorus and members of the VYO Chorus. A complete schedule is posted at our website: www.vso.org.

You can reserve Masterworks series subscriptions for you and your family by contacting the VSO Office at 1-800-VSO-9293 (876-9293), ext. 10 (in the Burlington area, 864-5741, ext. 10).

We hope to see you and your family at our opening concert October 24th!

Sincerely,



Alan Jordan
Executive Director