

KALAMAZOO JUNIOR SYMPHONY SOCIETY

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Celebrating 70 years of music 1939-2009

September 23, 2008

Dear Music Teacher,

The first session of the **Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society's Training Orchestra (TO) for elementary string students** will be held on Tuesday, October 14. We look forward to your recommendations of those young string players who would benefit from the TO experience. Along with your approval, criterion for student participation is the completion of one year of string instruction. Audrey Lipsey will be directing the Training Orchestra and **participation is free of charge.**

The KJSS Training Orchestra was developed to give young area string players an additional opportunity to reinforce the essential basic skills so important to their development and success. We will focus on bow hand and arm use, left hand position, and technical advancement such as pre-vibrato, pre-shifting, and exploration of bow strokes used in orchestral playing. A portion of the hour will be dedicated to the rehearsal of music that will be performed at the March 31 concert.

Training Orchestra sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts located at 922 W. Maple Street across from the YMCA. Rehearsals will be held in the music room at the far west end of the building. Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, and end Tuesday, March 31 with a family pizza party followed by a concert at Portage West Middle School's Little Theater.

Each year, we give Training Orchestra students and their family members free tickets to attend Kalamazoo Junior Symphony concerts. This season will be especially exciting as the Junior Symphony celebrates its 70th Anniversary! To help celebrate this exciting event, the KJSO will bring back an alumni orchestra directed by KJSO conductor of 23 years Dr. Robert Ritsema on February 22, and on April 26, the KJSO will perform Carmina Burana with area choirs and soloist

You can send us your list of recommendations by emailing them to Lee Fletcher at kjsso@aol.com. Please reinforce our request that your students' parents call or email us if they plan on having their child participate. Also, **please return your recommendations by October 9** so we have enough time to call those parents that we haven't heard from and invite their child to attend the first session. **Additional flyers or recommendation forms can be downloaded from our website at www.kjsso.org.**

The vast majority of the students in all three Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society orchestras began their musical journey in your school or studio program. We want to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for our area's young musicians, and for your support of this enriching, supplemental string training program.

Sincerely,



Lee Fletcher
Executive Director

The Kalamazoo Training Orchestra is partially supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation, the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo County.