



# Youth Orchestra

## Youth Orchestras in Minnesota

by Cristina Seaborn

Hello from a newcomer who has taken on the task of writing an article about youth orchestras in the state. I have called directors to find information on youth orchestras and have formed the partial list below. Contact me and I'll be able to compile a complete one. Please send me information including the name of orchestra/symphony, the conductor, contact person, address, phone, e-mail, website, number of musicians and concert dates. In addition, if any youth orchestra would like to send me their mission statement, what music is on the program, information about auditions, concerto competitions, or any curriculum, theory, solfege, or performance oriented training you offer students, you may be featured in our next article on youth orchestras in the state. Please write! Cristina Seaborn, 731 12th Avenue South #2, St. Cloud, MN 56301; 320-654-9048; seaborn@cloudnet.com

**GTCYS Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies**, 430 Oak Grove Street, Suite 205, Minneapolis, MN 55403; phone 612-870-7611; fax 612-870-7613; mail@gtcys.org; www.gtcys.org.

Paul Jan Zdunek, artistic director; Nancy Galatowitsch, contact person.

There are seven orchestras and conductors: Philharmonia, 75 musicians, Susan Oftedahl, conductor; Sinfonia, 65, Karen Olsen; Repertory West, 65, Barbara Flooding; Repertory Northeast, 90, Ed Schaeffle and John Madura; Concert Orchestra, 75, Paul Ousley; Philharmonic, 65, James Berg; Symphony, 80, Paul Jan Zdunek.

Symphony concert dates began on Sunday, November 15. The Celebrity Series continues on Sunday, April 18, 7:30 P.M. at the Cathedral of St. Paul with "Opera Goes to Church" featuring the Minnesota Opera Chorus and resident artists, Jorja

Fleezanis, violin. On Sunday June 6, 7:00 P.M. at Benson Great Hall, Bethel College, the "Symphony Farewell Concert from the New World" takes place. In June 1999, the Symphony will tour Eastern Europe in Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, Vienna and Budapest.

Winter auditions take place January 9. The concerto competition is on January 16. 1999 Audition dates will be May 5-8 and May 12-15.

**Hutchinson Crow River Area Youth Orchestra (CRAYO)**, 728 Juul Rd, Hutchinson, MN 55350; phone 320-587-2854 or 320-587-2854; e-mail swcook@hutchtel.net.

Michael Crary, conductor; Steve Cook, contact person. 25 musicians.

Concert dates are December 13, 4:00 P.M. at Hutchinson Middle School and April 25th, 2:00 P.M., at the Hutchinson High School.

**Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra (MAYSO)**; Box 4311, Mankato, MN 56002; 507-344-7372; alo@blc.edu

Adrian Lo, music director and conductor; Tom Nuessmeier, assistant to the conductor. 50 musicians.

Concert dates are December 20, 2:30 P.M. at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College and 7:30 P.M. at Mankato Civic Center Banquet Hall. This is a joint concert with the Mankato-based male chorus RiverBlenders. This concert has no ticket price, but is a benefit for the Salvation Army and the Red Cross which have been helpful since the March tornado. Additional concerts are on March 14 at New Ulm Junior High auditorium and March 21 at Ylvisaker Fine Arts Auditorium, Bethany Lutheran College. Concerto competitions take place in October; one winner plays as soloist with the symphony.

**Minnesota Youth Symphonies**, 790

Cleveland Ave, St. Paul, 55116; 651-699-5811; mnythsym@aol.com; http://members.aol.com/mnythsym

There are four orchestras and conductors: Symphony Orchestra, 105 musicians, Manny Laureano conductor; Repertory Orchestra, 95, Claudette Laureano; Philharmonic Orchestra, 100, Jim Bartsch; String Orchestra, 60, Patricia Kelly.

Concert dates are November 22, "A Gershwin Celebration"; February 14, 2:00 P.M. at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, "Do I Hear A Waltz?"; April 25, 2:00 P.M. at Orchestra Hall, "I'll Take Romance"; and May 2, 2:00 P.M. at Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota, with Butch Thompson, Guest Artist.

Mid-year auditions are in January.

**St. Cloud Youth Orchestra**, Dr. Margaret Schmidt, conductor; phone 320-255-2295(w) or 320-255-0998(h); mschmidt@stcloudstate.edu.

Concert dates include December 13, Spiritoso Strings Holly Days Concert at St. Cloud State University Ritsche Auditorium with Sonare Strings and Choir.

*Cristina Seaborn is the collegiate representative to MNSOTA. She is pursuing a Masters in Orchestral Conducting at Saint Cloud State University. Her undergraduate degree is in jazz violin performance from Berklee College of Music, Boston, Massachusetts. She is interested in jazz string ensembles, gives workshops on improvisation, and writes for string orchestra. Her self-published arrangements, in fiddle, Celtic, Cajun, and jazz styles, have been field tested in the Rapid City string program so that the bowings and kinks are worked out. ‡*