

## MMEA: Stillwater Junior High Camerata Strings

The Stillwater Junior High Camerata Strings lead by Liz Deger performed at the MMEA Midwinter in-service clinic. To prepare for the convention appearance, the orchestra worked with All-State Orchestra conductor David MacKenzie of the University of Southern Oregon. The program included: Rimsky-Korsakoff, *Dance of the Tumblers* arr. Dackow; Humperdinck, *Evening Prayer*, arr. Del

Borgo; Handel, *And He Shall Purify* (from *The Messiah*), arr. Bender; Hofeldt, *The Gift*; Rimsky-Korsakov, *The Story of the Calendar Prince* (from *Scheherazade*) arr. Hopkins; Gazda, *Appalachian Sunrise*; and Handel, *The Hallelujah Chorus* (from *The Messiah*), arr. Frost. At the center of the program was *Camerata Suite* by Stillwater composer James Hall. The second movement, named

*Still Waters* by the students, reflects the serenity of life in the St. Croix Valley and the warmth and closeness of friends and family. Since its premier in 1998, *Still Waters* has become the theme song of the Camerata Strings, with the hope of establishing a tradition for future Camerata orchestras. †