



The Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra (WCYO) would like to extend an invitation to your school instrumental ensemble to participate in our annual ***Celebration of Music Education Festival***. We especially encourage the participation of any specialty groups, such as auditioned Chamber or Symphonic Orchestras and Wind Ensembles.

Date: Saturday, **May 1, 2010**
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: East Ridge Middle School Auditorium
10 East Ridge Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

PURPOSE OF THE FESTIVAL

The first goal of the Festival is to bring together orchestras and wind ensembles from public schools in the Fairfield and Westchester counties. We recognize that public school music education plays a critical role in the success of any youth orchestra. Our Conductors, Executive Director and Board of Directors feel strongly that without your hard work and inspiration, a regional group such as ours would never experience the type of success it has. This Festival is a great opportunity to see performances by other area school programs, get to know one another, and make some connections across the region.

The second primary goal of the Festival is to provide an educational experience for your students in a friendly, non-competitive environment. Performances will be adjudicated for rating only, by Petko Dimitrov, Music Director of the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra, and by Suzanne Corey-Sahlin, Conductor of the Western Connecticut Junior Orchestra, our all strings orchestra. Following the performance, your group will participate in a twenty minute clinic with one of the adjudicators. To read more about Mr. Dimitrov and Ms. Corey-Sahlin, please see their biographies on our website at www.wctyo.org.

The third and final main goal of the Festival is to give some of your strongest players the opportunity to play with a high quality youth orchestra. The WCYO is inviting the first chair of each section of your orchestra or wind ensemble to perform the festival's finale with the WCYO. The pieces will be made available on our website in advance of the Festival date. These players will rehearse with the youth orchestra for one hour before the performance on May 1st, but the students should practice the piece ahead of time.

COST

There is a Festival registration fee of \$20 per student for participation to offset the costs of the facilities and associated expenses. The fee covers the entire cost of the event and all participants will receive a Festival T-shirt. Spectators are invited to attend the event, and admission to the Festival is free.

TIMELINE

If you are interested in participating in the Festival, please complete the enclosed registration forms. The forms are also available on our website at www.wctyo.org under the Music Festival tab, along with additional Festival information.

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| 1. February 1st | Registration forms due with \$150 deposit |
| 2. March 15th | Balance due |
| 3. May 1st | Festival date |

Availability for performing ensembles to participate is on a first come, first serve basis. There is no additional selection process for the event. The Festival is limited to six performing groups.

Thank you so much for considering participation in this event. If I can answer questions regarding the Festival, please do not hesitate to contact me at (203) 438-3744 x 1717 or mmcnamara@ridgefield.org.

We would also like to invite you to attend the first Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra concert of the 2009-2010 season as our guest. I have enclosed two complementary tickets to the concert to be held on Sunday, November 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan. We hope to see you at the concert, and look forward to hosting your group at the Festival in May!

Best regards,

Michael McNamara
President, Board of Directors
Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra