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NJSO'S GREATER NEWARK YOUTH ORCHESTRA PRESENTS CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCES



STUDENTS PERFORM FOURTH ANNUAL 'GNYO GIVES BACK DAY' AND THIRD ANNUAL CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

SAT, MAR 16 AND SAT, MAR 23 IN NEWARK

NEWARK, NJ (March 14, 2013)—Chamber ensembles in the **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's Greater Newark Youth Orchestra (GNYO)** give two performances in Newark this month. On Saturday, March 16, 40 student musicians in select GNYO chamber music ensembles will participate in the fourth annual **GNYO Gives Back Day, a community-service event** in which the students perform in a concert for senior citizens at the New Community Corporation Extended Care Center in Newark. On Saturday, March 23, the third annual **GNYO chamber music concert** at Bethany Baptist Church in Newark—free and open to the public—will feature performances by all of the orchestra's chamber ensembles.

The GNYO ensembles, ranging from string quartets to woodwind choirs, have been rehearsing music selections since November and will perform movements from Dvořák's "American" String Quartet, Mozart's String Quartet K. 575, Boismortier's Sonata for Flute Trio and Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* arranged for clarinet choir, as well as contemporary works like Ewald's Symphony for Brass and Guarnieri's *Estudo* for percussion instruments.

"GNYO Gives Back Day and our chamber concert are two very important and meaningful elements of our program," says GNYO Artistic Director Jeffrey Grogan. "Chamber music gives our students a chance to rehearse and perform in smaller groups, which inspires more intense musical growth. The students perform at GNYO Gives Back Day as a way to share music with those who could benefit from the wonderful power of music."

New Community Corporation is the largest community-development agency in the country, serving thousands annually through emergency food assistance, transitional housing facilities for the homeless, extensive rehabilitation services for patients and other services.

The chamber music concert takes place at Bethany Baptist Church in Newark on Saturday, March 23, at 2 pm. The performance is free and open to the public.

GREATER NEWARK YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Established in 1990, the NJSO's Greater Newark Youth Orchestras give qualified middle- and high-school students—especially minority youth—the opportunity to study for as many as 21 weeks with NJSO musicians and gain performance experience in an encouraging and motivating environment. The program is comprised of three separate ensembles (the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, Greater Newark Chamber Orchestra and Greater Newark Violin Ensemble) that perform two full concerts each year. Additionally, the Youth Orchestra performs a side-by-side concert with the NJSO and gives a chamber music concert.

In addition to developing musical talent, the students gain critical life skills including teamwork, leadership, problem solving and multi-tasking. The significance and achievements of this program and its impact on the lives of these young musicians have received national recognition from the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

Combined, each season the three ensembles typically serve more than 130 students ages 10–18, representing 11 counties throughout northern and central New Jersey.

For more information about the Greater Newark Youth Orchestras, visit www.njsymphony.org/gnyo.

THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is comprised of some of the country's finest musicians. The Orchestra is proud to have Jacques Lacombe as its Music Director. Artistic excellence, innovative programming and community engagement are hallmarks of its mission. To best serve the people of New Jersey, the orchestra brings its programs to seven outstanding venues throughout the state. Select performances of the NJSO are broadcast regionally and throughout North America.

Education and community engagement programs enrich the listening experience for children and adults alike. In addition to the Greater Newark Youth Orchestras, these programs include:

REACH

Established in 1998, Resources for Education and Community Harmony (REACH) is a chamber music program that brings the musical magic of the NJSO to every county in the state. With original programs designed and performed by NJSO musicians, REACH provides unique opportunities to get up close and personal with NJSO musicians and make music-filled memories that last a lifetime.

Ensembles have performed in a wide variety of settings that include senior living communities, youth centers, local performing arts centers, restaurants, libraries, hospitals, schools, social and cultural clubs and private homes. REACH offerings include school assembly programs, master classes and clinics for orchestra and band ensembles, lecture-demonstrations, chamber music performances, interactive workshops in leadership development through music, feature performances for fundraising events and custom-designed programs.

Recognized for their flexibility and accessibility, these programs are typically offered each season at nearly 100 venues attended by as many as 17,000 people in New Jersey's 21 counties.

NJSO Early Strings Program—Newark

Through the NJSO Early Strings Program—Newark, the Orchestra provides modified Suzuki string instruction to second-through fourth-grade students in Newark schools. The NJSO and Newark Public Schools began their partnership in 2000–01 in order to seed a vibrant string program in the district, through which the school-based instrumental music teacher's weekly instruction would be supplemented by regular coaching sessions (up to 36 hours each season) by NJSO string players. Having expanded in 2011 to serve public charter schools as well, NJSO Early Strings also provides in-school

chamber ensemble performances by NJSO musicians, a performance by the fourth-grade students at NJPAC and attendance at NJSO Concerts for Young People.

Among the many benefits of string instruction, studies by Columbia University researchers have shown that participating NJSO Early Strings students outperform peers by 20–30% on standardized math, science and literacy tests. Teachers and principals who were surveyed by the researchers consistently attested to positive effects on students' self-confidence, discipline, socialization, and ability to focus. In the 2011–12 season, NJSO Early Strings served 16 public and public charter schools in Newark, and nearly 700 second through fourth graders and their music teachers.

Concerts for Young People

As many as 20,000 elementary- and middle-school students and teachers from all across the Garden State annually enjoy the NJSO's Concerts for Young People (CYP). These standards-based orchestral programs are specifically designed to spark the imagination and enhance student learning. With more than 60 years of experience creating interactive concerts for young audiences, the NJSO offers two different programs in five convenient venues during the school year. To ensure that students get the most out of the concert, the NJSO provides a Teacher's Resource Book consisting of leveled pre- and post-concert activities that address the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, visit www.njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org. Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra's website.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's programs are made possible in part by The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors. United is the official airline of the NJSO.

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