

# THE HYO INSIDER

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## Upcoming Spring Concert

This year's HYO held at Southwood Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 10, 2009,



Spring Concert will be at the Presbyterian Church on beginning at 3 p.m.

## AWARD GIVEN

Each year the Virginia Hamill Simms Award recognizes the contributions made to the cultural life of our city by those who volunteer their time, talents, and resources in support of the Arts. This year, there were seven outstanding nominees. Our own HYO Board President, Ellie Lienau, was presented with the Virginia Hamill Simms Memorial Award in honor of her outstanding contributions to the Arts, both past and present. The HYO is fortunate to have Mrs. Lienau as its president. Congratulations, Mrs. Lienau!



## Great Chicago Trip!

What a trip! I truly wish everyone could have gone. This was not a "working trip" for me and I was able to really enjoy the sights. Chicago is an amazing city, and visiting such a city with a talented group of well-behaved kids made it all the better. The only problem -- there was just too much to see and do in one week! There were many museums that needed a whole day to be seen. Too many great restaurants, fancy stores and lavish music halls to be visited. Too much history to be learned about the majestic marble buildings dotting the city. Our short visit only touched the "tip of the iceberg" of what there is to see and do in Chicago!

I have to admit I was, at first, reluctant to go on this trip, having never been to Chicago and imagining it a huge city, cold and gray. But what it is, actually, is a colorful city alongside the clear blue waters of Lake Michigan. Yes, it is very windy, and every day was a bad hair day, as we had to walk to so many places in the wind!



Our group of nicely-dressed, well-behaved students were noticed and complimented everywhere we went. I especially noticed this at the Civic Orchestra concert where, at intermission, many strangers asked me about our group and where we were from and then complimented them. I cannot tell you how many compliments I received about the students at various places.

The best part of the trip was watching the students see learn so much at the same time. Watching them take it all in was such a pleasure. (cont. on p. 2)

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**President's Perspective**

Wow! What a year we are having. We changed the names of several of our orchestras and added a new one. Our one big registration turned out to be a winner with a record number turning in paperwork and fees early. Our orchestras have continued to grow, with over 185 that have played at least part of the year.

And HYO has had several great concerts, a robust chamber program, and a wonderful trip to Chicago. We enjoyed the two concerto winners at the Winter Concert. The chamber concert was in mid April. And the year still has more in store. The top two orchestras will be playing at Panoply. The Sinfonia will have a school tour toward the end of April. The three younger orchestras will be playing for us on May 3 at Grace Lutheran Church. All of the orchestras will have the thrill of playing in the Concert Hall of the VBC on May 10. The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra will be lending us its shell. Since the Concert Hall has

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**More from our President...**

many more seats, we need all of you to invite others to enjoy this concert. This concert will have many extras. We will honor the Music Educators in the area, and award the school Music Educator of the Year. We will also wish our seniors well as they continue their journeys. There will be a special piece composed by Robert Bradshaw played and the HYO will play with cellist, Paul York. Both of our special guests will be giving workshops the day before the concert. The year will end with the Tennessee Valley Music Festival from June 7-13. It will have some extras as always.

Thank you for entrusting your children to the HYO. We have tried to make the orchestra experience educational, enjoyable, and challenging. Hopefully many of our players will be returning next season, our 49<sup>th</sup>. Suggestions for improvements are always welcome, especially now as we will be planning for the next season during the summer.

Ellie Lienau  
HYO Board President  
elienau@mchsi.com



UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 23, 2009 ~ Sinfonia School Tour

Saturday, April 25, 2009 ~ Sinfonia plays at Panoply at 2:45 p.m. Sunday, April 26, 2009 ~ HYS plays at Panoply at 7:00 p.m.



Sunday, May 3, 2009 ~ Novice Strings, Intermezzo, and Concert Orchestra will play at 3 p.m. in the Grace Lutheran Church Gym

Saturday, May 9, 2009 ~ Symposium & Master's Class (8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.). May 9—Symposium for Music Educators, 8:30– 10 a.m. with Robert J. Bradshaw. 10 a.m.-Noon-Cello Master Class with Paul York. 1-2:30 p.m.-Sinfonia rehearsal with the two musicians. 3:30-6:30 p.m.-HYS rehearsal with the two musicians

Sunday, May 10, 2009 ~ HYO concert for all orchestras

Tennessee Valley Music Festival ~ June 7-13, 2009 at Grace Lutheran Church & School

HYO Auditions in August, 2009. Please call Paula South, 714-0794 for music or to schedule audition times

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**Chicago Trip, continued...**

Watching some of the students play the \$10.5 million Stradivarius violin at Bein and Fushi, Inc., was an amazing and wonderful treat, and totally unexpected.

Thank you, Mr. Lee and Mrs. Brown, for organizing this trip. I also saw, behind the scenes, all the stressful dealings they had with employees at the places we went. All went smooth for us, but not without the constant efforts every day from Mr. Lee and Mrs. Brown. Safety of the students was top priority for them, and no small detail was overlooked. Roll was taken several times a day, on and off the bus. Speaking of the bus, what a great way to tour Chicago. Being chauffeured around that great city – I felt like royalty (I could pretend, anyway)! It was better than being in a limo. People really get out of your way when you are on a huge bus.  
~ Paula South

