



The *Upbeat*: July 2007 A Monthly Message

From Board chair, David Phillips, and Executive Director,
Cheryl Jukes

We hope all of our families are enjoying some good old summer relaxation and fun! We also hope our musicians are getting some good practice time in! It's hard to believe, but in just about a month's time, auditions will begin! In September, MCYO starts its 62nd season--one filled with some exciting surprises!

AUDITION NEWS:

As of today, over 600 students have registered to audition! Tell friends and neighbors about MCYO and encourage them to audition also!

Reminder--if you have not already done so, please take a few moments to register for your audition before you go away on vacation and to avoid the \$12 late fee, which will be automatically applied to registrations after August 13. Please do not hesitate to call Greg Cox in the office (301-581-5209) if you have any questions or need help with the on-line process. Remember, auditions will take place August 20-25 here at the Music Center. You will be emailed instructions for audition day check-in and parking later in August.

IMPORTANT EMAIL: Be sure we have the proper email address for you, so that you receive audition instructions and any subsequent correspondence about acceptance and enrollment. ***This whole process relies on web-based communications, so correct email addresses are vital! Please check your on-line account to make sure all of your data is entered correctly. Please make sure that your internet service provider accepts incoming mcyo.org email. Set your SPAM blockers to enable our email.***

HELPERS: We need more volunteers to help out during audition week, especially student helpers! Please contact the office (email: cheryl@mcyo.org) if you'd like to help MCYO AND earn MCPS Student Service Learning Hours. Last summer, many Philharmonic and Sinfonia students and their friends helped during audition week and had a great time doing so! While helping MCYO, they also had time to socialize with their friends and act as mentors for younger and often very anxious students! We feed you, and you get SSL hours and some other perks! It's fun and rewarding...we NEED you!

WHAT'S NEW?:

- A music library! In August, MCYO will move its massive collection of music contained in over 18 old file cabinets stored at SSI Middle School, to a brand new professional music library system, which will be installed right here at Strathmore. Music in our midst in more ways than one!
- New and newly found instruments! In addition to purchasing some new percussion toys, MCYO has found a long-lost celesta, vibraphone and bass



A celesta (source: DK Images)

trombone, which will require repair, but, hey...how many youth orchestras on the planet have a celesta they can call their own?

- We've been planning exciting new events and activities for our students next season...and an international trip for the Summer of 09! Stay tuned...
- A new T-shirt design? That depends on you-- *create one and send in your entry*

BOARD NEWS:

- Thanks for your input! After over 6 months of information gathering, surveying and interviewing, the Board will use this feedback to commence on long-range planning for the next MCYO Strategic Plan.
- Re-evaluation and revision of the MCYO By-laws has begun

SOME of the COMING ATTRACTIONS for next season!

- Parent-Orientation Night - September 19, 6:30 Room 309
- October broadcast of *From the Top*
- MCYO T-shirt and Pizza Day! Saturday, 10/27
- "Fright Night" at Six-Flags, Sat., 10/27 for Philharmonic and Sinfonia



Jonathan Carney

- Potential Fall cable TV documentary-videography of MCYO!
- Fall Master Class collaborations with the BSO:
Katherine Needleman - double reed
Ilya Finkelshteyn - cello
- December outreach concert - Harps at the Children's Inn
- December 9 Concert, featuring BSO Concertmaster, Jonathan Carney as soloist

- January 8 Philharmonic Open rehearsal with Maestro Marin Alsop
- March 9 concert, featuring guest artist DBR with Symphony
- April 30 Philharmonic Open rehearsal with Maestro Leonard Slatkin



Marin Alsop (photo by Paul Schraub)