



# Rappahannock Youth Symphony

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## Monthly Newsletter

November 2012

### A Message from Our President

Since 1996, the Rappahannock Youth Symphony has striven to provide opportunities to young musicians to grow through the discipline of musical performance. On behalf of the RYS Board of Directors, I welcome all of you to what is shaping up to be another exciting year. For our returning families, you might have noticed that the Parent Concert and Potluck was a little more crowded than in times past; it brings me great satisfaction to see the RYS growing and to see our plans and efforts producing positive results. For those of you who have followed the restructuring of the RYS, you know that we went through an extensive strategic planning process two years ago and began implementing that plan this

past year. The first steps included building our professional staff and key board members. This year we are moving forward with identifying external funding sources and with strengthening our Board committee membership. Megan, your Executive Director, has recently completed a course of study in grant writing. By her industrious efforts, the RYS has submitted grant proposals to several funding organizations. We believe that identifying and securing both private and public funds will enable the RYS to provide an even more positive experience for our youth without the need to increase dramatically the membership costs. Although we have a great deal of expertise on the



**Thomas Holland**  
President, RYS Board of Directors

Board, and our professional staff constantly gives two-hundred percent, the RYS could not exist without the commitment, dedication, and efforts of its members and volunteers. Growth is exciting and I know you will sense the energy as you see (and hear) the growth in your young musician as we move forward into this new season.

### Winter Concert—December 9, 6pm at Salem Fields

The RYS Winter Concert will be held on Sunday, December 9th at 6pm at the Salem Fields Community Church (11120 Gordon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407). Students need to arrive no later than 4:30pm.

The concert will be recorded by RonArt Associ-

ates Recording. CDs will be available for purchase at \$15 (\$17 if you want it mailed). CDs will be available in January.

Students from the Salvation Army Music School will perform Christmas Carols in the lobby prior to the concert.

We will have a reception following the concert, and we

request that each family brings a dessert (finger foods only) and a 2L bottle of water/soda/juice to share with the group.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students (under 18)/seniors (55 and older). Tickets will go on sale on November 26th at rehearsal and will also be available at the door. Students do not need a ticket.



## October Parents Concert and Potluck Dinner

The 2nd annual Parents Concert and Potluck Dinner on October 22 was a huge success! All four groups performed beautifully!

The goal of the October concert is to give the students a chance to perform as a group, but without the pressure of a formal con-

cert. This is especially important for our youngest Primo members, some of whom have never performed on stage.

We also had a Chili Cook-Off with 9 contestants. Congratulations to Dana Rodgers, the winner of the Chili Cook-Off. She re-

ceived 63 votes!

The RYS would like to thank Diana Noonan for setting up and decorating the cafeteria! The gorgeous fall colors and centerpieces added a touch of elegance to the event. Special thanks also to her husband, Steven, and daughter, Alexa, for their assistance!



## Practice-A-Thon in January

### DID YOU KNOW?

*Music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school.*

### NOW YOU DO!

During the month of January, the RYS will be holding a Practice-A-Thon as a fundraiser for the orchestra. Each musician will obtain sponsors who are willing to pledge a certain amount of money per hour for every hour the member practices his or her instrument for the month. Sponsors may also pledge a flat amount.

**STEP 1:** Ask your family, friends, neighbors, school/private music teachers, etc. to sponsor you. Give a form to each of your sponsors and ask them to return it to you or mail it directly to RYS.

**STEP 3:** From January 7 to 28 – keep a record of how much you practice. Practice time, private lesson time, time in your school orchestra, performances and time at RYS rehearsals counts! If you play another instrument or sing – that practice time counts too.

**STEP 4:** Collect money from your sponsors. Return the money to Megan at rehearsals on February 4 and 11.

Parents – Please help and encourage your child to find sponsors and participate.

Musicians – Please ask for

sponsors and practice!

Our goal is to raise \$3,000 – which means if each student gets 5 sponsors who donate as little as \$10, we will easily reach our goal!

You will receive paperwork on January 7th.



## Great Lakes Scrip (Gift-cards) Ongoing Fundraiser

This is perhaps the easiest fundraiser that doesn't involve actually selling anything. With Great Lakes Scrip, you purchase gift cards to your favorite retailers to use for yourself or as a gift. **These make perfect Christmas gifts!** A percentage of the gift card goes directly back to the organization.

For example: Old Navy donates 14% of the gift cards purchase. Buy a \$100 Old Navy gift-card and \$14 goes directly back to RYS.

### Examples of Retailers:

**Gas**—Wawa, Sheetz, Exxon, Gulf, Sunoco

**Grocery/Household**—Target, Walmart, Giant, Shopper's, CVS

**Department Stores**—Bed Bath & Beyond, Belk, JC Penny, Macy's Kohl's, Sears

**Clothing:** American Eagle, Dick's, Old Navy, Aeropostale

Gap, Foot Locker

**Restaurants:** Starbucks, Caribou, Bonefish, Olive Garden, Bravo, Cheesecake Factory

**Gifts:** Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Best Buy

And HUNDREDS more!

You can place orders by creating an account online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) or you can order simply by emailing Megan and/or bringing a check with your order to rehearsal. Many retailers offer instant electronic and/or reloads.

Megan will place orders on Tuesday and will have gift cards available at rehearsal the following Monday.



**For more info:**  
[www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com)

**Use enrollment code:**  
**81EL385931143**

## Policy Reminders

### Move Up Auditions

Move-up auditions take place in only September or June. We do not hold mid-year auditions. Only new students may audition mid-season.

### Participation Forms

Please return all participation forms to Megan at rehearsal. Forms are due December 3.

### Scholarships and Financial Aid

Students who receive any type of financial assistance, as well as those who receive tuition awards/scholarships are required to participate in the entire 2012-13 Concert Season. Failure to do so may result in having to pay back the tuition.

### Attendance

Students are allowed only 2 absences for the year. Excessive absences may result in a reevaluation of the student's participation in the RYS.

Please report all absences at least 24 hours ahead of rehearsal.

## Congratulations!

The following students participated in the North Central VA Regional Orchestra event on November 2-3 in Nokesville:

Fiona Madigan, Kitana Finley, Oliver Kriska, Riana Chan,

Rayna Yu, Christopher Tillman, Tyler and Kirkland Fehrman, David Moore, Jennifer and Kimberly Louie

The RYS also had two students participate in the Stafford All County Middle

School Band: Maria Barber and Joey Kelly

*If your student has accomplished something that you would like us to publish, please email Megan.*





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**Staff:**

Megan Bevell, Executive Director  
Angela Ammerman, Primo  
Brent Idleman, Repertory  
Veronica Jackson, Symphony  
James Kazik, Wind Ensemble

**Board of Directors:**

Thomas Holland, President  
James Kazik, Vice President  
John Welsh, Treasurer  
Annamarie Bollino, Secretary  
Allen Ammerman,  
Parliamentarian

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the RYS is to provide young dedicated musicians in the community the opportunity to develop advanced ensemble and performance skills that will enable them to grow to their fullest potential as musicians and performers and in doing so enrich the community through the art of music

**Rappahannock Youth Symphony**

**Community Holiday Concerts**

November 30—  
Fredericksburg Commu-  
nity Chorus performs the  
Messiah at Fredericksburg  
Baptist Church, 7:30pm

December 1—FCC's  
Messiah at FBC, 2pm

December 6—UMW  
Philharmonic's Fiddlestix  
Petting Zoo, 5:30-6:15pm  
in Dodd Auditorium, free

December 6 and 7—  
UMW Philharmonic's  
Pops Concert, 7:30pm in  
Dodd Auditorium, \$10  
general admission, 8 and  
under Free



December 15—Chamber  
Chorale of Fredericks-  
burg concert, 7:30pm at  
Fredericksburg United  
Methodist Church

December 16—Chamber  
Chorale Concert

December 16—Stafford  
Regional Choral Society  
concert, 3pm at Colonial  
Forge High School

December 22—  
Rappahannock POPS con-  
cert, 8pm at Grace  
Church of Fredericks-  
burg, tickets required

**Looking Ahead—RYS Schedule**

**REHEARSALS**

November 12  
November 19  
November 26

December 3—Last re-  
hearsal of 2012!

January 7—Rehearsal  
January 14—Rehearsal  
January 21—No rehearsal  
January 28—Rehearsal

**CONCERTS/EVENTS**

December 9—Winter Concert, 6pm at Salem  
Fields Community Church; \$10 adults, \$8 stu-  
dents/seniors

December 10—RYS pizza party, 6:30pm at  
Battlefield Middle School (not mandatory)

March 23—Symphony and Tea/Silent Auction;  
2pm at the Old Silk Mill, \$20 general admission

May 12—Spring Concert, Fredericksburg  
Academy, \$10 adults, \$8 students/seniors

*Happy Holidays to You and Yours!*  
*-The Rappahannock Youth Symphony*