



QUARTER NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERSCHOOL ORCHESTRAS OF NEW YORK • FALL 2015

Welcome to the 2015/2016 ISO Season

The 2015/2015 season got off to a great start with retreats for all the orchestras. At these day-long events, students had a chance to get reacquainted personally and musically through sectional and full rehearsals and team-building activities. St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's School donated the use of the school for the junior orchestras' retreat, and Concert Orchestra and ISO Symphony journeyed to Alpine, NJ to a beautiful scout camp on the Palisades. The Symphonic Band held its retreat in October at French Woods, with the facilities donated by ISO Board member Ronald Schaefer.

The first concert of the season will be given by the ISO Symphony. They will perform Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 on Friday, November 20. Artistic Director Jeffrey Grogan says of this work that "Dvorak's G major Symphony is one of the hallmark works in the repertory, a piece that you never forget playing for the first time. It has delights and challenges for every instrument in the orchestra, and, at the same time, it is the perfect piece for learning to work together as an ensemble." All of ISO's ensembles will perform at Symphony Space, January 20 and 21 featuring music by Haydn, Britten, J. Strauss, Delibes, de Falla, and



ISO Symphony rehearses at Alpine Scout Camp

Dvorak. The season will conclude with two OPERA 360 concerts (see below). Throughout the season, the ensembles will perform up to 16 additional concerts in schools, parks, and community centers.

The InterSchool Orchestras of New York, with the collaboration of the Metropolitan Opera Arroyo Foundation, has created OPERA 360. This will be an exciting and enriching experience for all of ISO's young musicians. By looking at opera from various perspectives, students will gain new insights into this art form.

A focus opera has been chosen for each of ISO's ensembles: *Il Trovatore* (Morningside and Queens East Orchestras), *Abduction from the Seraglio* (Trinity Florentine and Turtle Bay Orchestras), *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Carnegie Hill

Orchestra), *Tosca* (Symphonic Band), *Turandot* (Concert Orchestra), and *Manon Lescaut* (ISO Symphony).

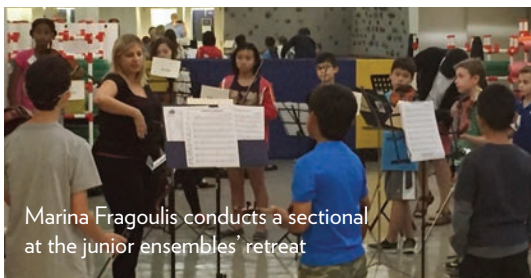
Students in each ensemble will learn to play an excerpt from their focus opera, learn about the opera with Metropolitan Opera Guild study guides and teaching artists, and attend a performance at the Metropolitan Opera! Young professional singers from the Martina Arroyo Foundation's program will sing arias with Concert Orchestra and the ISO Symphony. OPERA 360 concerts will take place on May 15 and 18. Details appear in the calendar in this newsletter.

OPERA 360 will provide ISO's 355 students with a rich experience of opera, as well as bringing the beauty and joy of operatic music to an audience of more than 2,000, including hundreds of public school children.

This promises to be another exciting and rewarding season for the talented young musicians in all eight ensembles. ■

OPERA 360
Abduction from the Seraglio
Marriage of Figaro
Manon Lescaut
ISO

Il Trovatore
Turandot
Tosca



Marina Fragoulis conducts a sectional at the junior ensembles' retreat

City of New York’s Exceptional Support of ISO

For many years, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs has been one of ISO’s largest contributors, with grants of \$50,000 or more annually. We’re pleased to announce that not only has that support been renewed, but two Council members have obtained special additional funding for us. For the fourth consecutive year, Council Member Mark Weprin* (Queens District 23) has awarded us \$10,000 to support the Queens East Orchestra. Council Member Ben Kallos (Manhattan District 5) will support the Teaching Internship Program at Ella Baker School with a \$3,000 grant.

Be sure to let your council member and the mayor know that you appreciate the support of the City for InterSchool Orchestras of New York. Thank you notes from their constituents can do a world of good for ISO and for arts funding in NYC. ■

**Mark Weprin resigned his Council seat in June 2015 to accept a position in Albany with the Cuomo administration.*



ISO Symphony at Carnegie Hall, 2015.

Photo: Adam Hume



Practice Makes Us Strong!

The third annual Practice-a-thon gets underway on November 2 and continues through the 15th. Last year, musicians in the Turtle Bay, Trinity Florentine, Queens East, Morningside and Carnegie Hill Orchestras clocked a total of 1,001 hours of practice time during the event, with the Queens East Orchestra winning the prize for the most average hours practiced. Will they be able to defend their title this year? Time (pun intended) will tell.

Students will be further encouraged to excel through sponsorship by friends and family, with each student having his/her own online fundraising page. Contributions from this event last season totaled \$27,000, and we hope to do at least as well this year. A prize will be given to every student who participates by completing a practice log or by raising funds.

Practice Makes us Strong!
InterSchool Orchestras of New York
Practice-a-thon 2015



Symphonic Band members and staff on retreat



The combined beginner orchestras at Carnegie Hall, 2015

Photo: Adam Hume

The 2014/2015 Season by the Numbers

8,604	Attendance at concerts
23	Number of concerts
2	Continents on which concerts took place
361	Record number of students enrolled
22	Students receiving free lessons through TIP
9	Students receiving free lessons through Endangered Instruments and Janet Wolfe Funds
47	Music staff
8 to 1	Student to music staff ratio
4	Administrative and program staff
1 to 0.02	Student to administrative staff ratio
275	Hours ensembles spent rehearsing and performing
1,001	Hours students spent practicing for the Practice-a-thon
181	Students receiving Symphony scholarships or financial aid
\$241,000	Total scholarships and financial aid awarded
\$2,124	Average cost per student (excluding Symphony tour)
\$740	Average tuition paid
\$1,384	Average subsidy per student
\$929,000	Total budget



New Facebook Group for ISO Alumni

ISO alumni now have a group on Facebook where they can reconnect with former colleagues, learn about special activities for alumni, and discover what ISO is doing today. ISO Board members (and alumni) Eva Gerard, Adrian Ross, and Jessup Shean are coordinating alumni activities. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/interschoolorchestralumni/>



2015/2016 Calendar of Events

Nov. 2-15: Practice-a-thon for students in Carnegie Hill, Morningside, Queens East, Turtle Bay, and Trinity Florentine Orchestras

Nov. 3: Managing Stage Fright, free seminar with Noa Kageyama, National Opera Center, 330 Seventh Avenue, 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 20: Concert: ISO Symphony, Good Shepard-Faith Presbyterian Church, 152 W 66th St, 7:30 p.m.

December 10: Holiday Concert: Concert Orchestra, Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center, First Avenue at 93rd Street, 5:00 p.m.

December 13: Holiday Concert: Symphonic Band, St. Patrick's Church, 9511 4th Avenue, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, 7:00 p.m.

January 20: Winter Orchestra Festival: Concert, Carnegie Hill, Morningside/Queens East Orchestras, Symphony Space, 7:00 p.m.

January 21: Winter Ensemble Festival: ISO Symphony, Symphonic Band, Turtle Bay/Trinity Florentine Orchestras, Symphony Space, 7:00 p.m.

April 11: ISO Gala Benefit with performance by ISO Symphony, Chelsea Piers, 6:30 p.m.

April 17: Honors Recital (location TBA) for winners and runners up in the Concerto Competition, 2:00 p.m.

May 15: OPERA 360 Concert: Carnegie Hill, Morningside/Queens East, and Turtle Bay/Trinity Florentine Orchestras, Symphony Space, 4:00 p.m.



ISO Symphony winds (2012 version) at Carnegie Hall.

May 18: OPERA 360 Concert: Symphony, Concert Orchestra, and Symphonic Band, student soloists and vocal soloists, Rose Theater, Jazz at Lincoln Center, 7:30 p.m.

May 30: Memorial Day Concert: Symphonic Band, Green-Wood Cemetery, 500 25th Street, Brooklyn, 2:30 p.m.

Plus as many as 12 additional community and school concerts to be announced.



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