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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ISO SYMPHONY TO TAKE PART IN 2014
ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL**

Top Group from InterSchool Orchestras of New York to Represent New York

The ISO Symphony, the top ensemble among the InterSchool Orchestras of New York's (www.isorch.org) eight major ensembles, has been accepted to participate in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Aberdeen, Scotland, in August 2014. It will be the first U.S. youth orchestra to take part in the Festival since 2006.

While at the Festival the ISO Symphony will perform a full concert, a shared concert with the Amersfoort Youth Orchestra from The Netherlands, and two community concerts. In addition to the five days at the Festival, ISO's young musicians will have three days to explore the culture and history of Scotland in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Perth, and Sterling.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for ISO's students, and I am so happy that we can provide it for them," said ISO Executive Director Waddy Thompson.

The Aberdeen International Youth Festival (www.aiyf.org) annually presents more than 1,000 young performers in music, dance, and theatre. Founded in 1969 in Switzerland, it originally only included youth orchestras, but since then has expanded to include all the performing arts and moved its home to Aberdeen, Scotland. The Festival not only is a showcase for young artists from across the globe, it also offers opportunities for performers and ensembles from different countries to collaborate and get to know each other. The 2014 Festival will run from July 25 through August 2.

Waddy Thompson
Executive Director

Jeffrey D. Grogan
Artistic Director

Jonathan Strasser
Music Director Emeritus

“ISO’s talented young musicians have so much to offer, and an opportunity like this inspires them to work even harder and perform at their absolute best,” commented ISO Artistic Director Jeffrey Grogan.

In recognition of its players’ accomplishments, all **ISO Symphony** members receive full tuition scholarships. Students range in age from 12 to 19 and come from every part of New York City. Slightly more than half attend public schools, with the others split among private and parochial schools and home schooled. Its alumni include musicians in professional orchestras in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, and other cities. Several notable conductors are also among its alumni, including James Gaffigan (chief conductor, Lucerne Symphony, Switzerland) and Tito Muñoz (Music Director, Phoenix Symphony).

In the 2013/2014 season the ISO Symphony will perform two major concerts: On January 22 it performed with guest artist violinist Bella Hristova in a free concert at the Julia Richman Education Complex, and on May 28 it will perform at the Rose Theatre at Jazz at Lincoln Center. The Symphony will also perform two free community concerts.

Since the 2010/2011 season the ISO Symphony has been led by ISO’s Artistic Director, **Jeffrey Grogan**. He also serves as conductor and artistic director of the Greater Newark Youth Orchestras, music director and conductor of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, and education and community engagement conductor for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

ISO Board Chair Barbara Tracy noted that “ISO is all about creating opportunities for New York City school children, and this will truly be an exceptional experience.”

About InterSchool Orchestras of New York

Founded in 1972 by Annabelle Prager to provide orchestral playing experience for school children, ISO has grown over the years to include four orchestras for beginners, two progressively graded intermediate orchestras, a flute ensemble, and a symphonic band in addition to the ISO Symphony. More than half of its students receive scholarships or financial aid and come from every part of New York City. The twenty concerts they give annually are heard by more than 7,000 people.

Contributions toward this trip or to support ISO’s regular programs can be made at www.isorch.org or by calling (212) 410-0370.

END

February 26, 2014