

# **SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HONOR ORCHESTRAS**

## **Purpose and Mission**

Springfield Public Schools sponsors an honors youth orchestra program with three different orchestras which span all the grades in which SPS offers orchestra as a course: the Springfield Youth String Orchestra (YSO), the Springfield Junior Youth Symphony (SJYS), and the Springfield Youth Symphony (SYS). Descriptions, membership requirements, and directors of each orchestra are listed below.

The mission of each of the honors orchestras is to provide an age-appropriate, honorary, and supplementary orchestra for advanced players of orchestral instruments.

The orchestras are structured according to grades and ages of the students. The orchestras are honorary because a successful audition is required for membership. The literature performed by each orchestra is supplementary to the regular SPS orchestra curriculum because the level of difficulty and required advanced playing skills exceed those of normal grade-appropriate literature.

**SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HONOR ORCHESTRAS**  
**REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS**  
**REVISED 9/23/11**

**Springfield Youth Symphony**

**Andy Johnston, Director**

**Carla Wootton, Assistant Director**

- Performing season: September-May
- Rehearsals: Mondays from 6:30-9:00  
Glendale High School Band Room
- Acceptance: Audition only
- Auditions: Spring (April or May) at Glendale
- Audition requirements: **Strings:**
- Major scales through 4 sharps and 4 flats, 3 octaves required for vln, vla, vc; 2 octaves for bass
  - A solo or etude approximately 2-3 minutes
  - Sightreading

**OR**

- Next school year's Missouri All-State Orchestra audition requirements. See the SYS website or <http://www.moastaweb.org> for the material.
- Sightreading

**Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion**

- Major scales through five flats and five sharps (all woodwind, brass, and mallet percussion)

- Chromatic scale covering the full range of the instrument (all woodwind, brass, and mallet percussion)
- Excerpts from the State Band Audition List. For specific excerpts for your instrument, visit: <http://www.springfielddouthsymphony.com/> and click on the appropriate link *or* see your director or teacher

Eligibility requirements:

Student must be enrolled in his or her own school orchestra or band (respectively by instrument) if offered.

Student must take private lessons from a qualified teacher.

Student must be in grade 9-12 and 14 years of age.

Any student not attending a Springfield Public School or not living inside the Springfield city limits will pay tuition of \$150.00 due at the first rehearsal.

In the years that a trip is planned, all members are required to participate. Failure to agree to participate in a trip will result in dismissal from the group.

# **SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HONOR ORCHESTRAS REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

**REVISED 9/23/11**

## **Springfield Junior Youth Symphony**

**Lisa Fent, Director**

Performing season:	October-March
Rehearsals:	Mondays from 4:30-6:00 Hillcrest High School Annex Music Room
Acceptance:	Audition only
Auditions:	October at Hillcrest
Audition requirements:	Required 2 octave scales, preferably 3 octaves, up to 4 sharps or flats A short solo or etude Sight reading
Eligibility requirements:	Student must be enrolled in his or her own school orchestra if offered. Student must take private lessons from a qualified teacher. Student must be in grade 8-10 and 13 years of age.

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and age 12 may audition for SJYS if they have spent at least 2 years in SYSO first.

No student under grade 7 will be allowed to audition for SJYS.

Any student not attending a Springfield Public School or not living inside the Springfield city limits will pay tuition of \$75.00 due at the first rehearsal.

In the years that a trip is planned, all members are required to participate.

Failure to agree to participate in a trip will result in dismissal from the group.

# **SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HONOR ORCHESTRAS REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

**REVISED 9/23/11**

## **Springfield Youth String Orchestra**

**Martha Garrison, Director**

Performing season:	October-March
Rehearsals:	Mondays from 4:30-6:00 Reed Academy Music Room
Acceptance:	Audition only
Auditions:	October at Hillcrest
Audition requirements:	Preferably 2 octave scales up to 4 sharps or flats A short solo or etude Sight reading
Eligibility requirements:	Student must be enrolled in his or her own school orchestra if offered. Student must take private lessons from a qualified teacher. Student must be in grade 5 – 8 <b>and</b> 10 years of age. Any qualified student under grade 5 or age 10 may be accepted at the SYSO Director's discretion, but must remain in SYSO until grade 7.

Any member not attending a Springfield Public School or not living inside the Springfield city limits must pay tuition of \$50.00 due at the first rehearsal.

In the years that a trip is planned, all members are required to participate.

Failure to agree to participate in a trip will result in dismissal from the group.

# SPS Honor Orchestra Directors

## Springfield Youth Symphony

### Andy Johnston

Andy Johnston directs the Springfield Youth Symphony, the Glendale High School Orchestras, and four different elementary school orchestras. This is his twenty-eighth year teaching strings, his twenty-first teaching in public schools, and his sixteenth in Springfield. Mr. Johnston graduated from Oklahoma State University, where he majored in both music education and violin performance. He holds a Master of Music degree in viola performance from Missouri State University, and he has done additional graduate work at Texas Tech University. During his tenure in Springfield, Mr. J has been the Assistant Conductor of the Springfield Youth Symphony from 1998-2001, the Conductor of the Springfield Jr. Youth Symphony from 2001-2006, and instructor of viola at Missouri State University in 2007. In addition to teaching and conducting, Mr. J is active as a professional violist and violinist. He is a member of the American String Teachers Association, where he currently serves on the State Board of Directors; and he is a member of the Missouri Music Educators Association, where he served as vice-president from 2006 to 2008. Before coming to Springfield in 1997, Mr. J taught in the Enid, Oklahoma Public Schools and served as concertmaster of the Enid Symphony Orchestra. He enjoys spending time with his wife Elizabeth, who teaches orchestra at Pershing Middle School and plays violin professionally, and their children Allison (violinist) and Benjamin (cellist). Mr. J enjoys an eclectic array of hobbies and interests, especially cooking, caving (cave exploration), memorizing the number  $\pi$  (a totally useless pastime), and pulling out in front of high school students and driving the speed limit.

### Carla Wootton

Carla Wootton is the assistant director of the Springfield Youth Symphony.

## Springfield Junior Youth Symphony



### Lisa Fent

Mrs. Fent has been directing the Springfield Junior Youth Symphony since 2006. Prior to that she directed the Spring Youth String Orchestra for 5 years, having taken over for her very own beginning violin teacher. Mrs. Fent has been teaching orchestra at Hillcrest High School, Reed Middle School and area elementaries for the last 21 years.

Mrs. Fent received both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Music Education from Missouri State University, formerly SMSU. She received the outstanding alumnus award from the MSU music department in 2007. In the spring of 2011, the Springfield Junior Youth Symphony was selected to perform and compete at the National Orchestra Festival in Kansas City under Mrs. Fent's direction.

Mrs. Fent's orchestras at Reed and Hillcrest have received top honors many times over at area contest and festivals. Mrs. Fent also directs the musicals at Hillcrest as well as many area banquets and award ceremonies. Mrs. Fent has performed on violin and viola with the Springfield Symphony and the Fort Smith, AR Symphony, Master Works at SBU, area string quartets and is currently performing with the Springfield/Drury Civic Orchestra. During weekends she plays electric bass in a local classic rock and blues band.

Mrs. Fent has been married since 2005 to Kevin Fent and has 2 grown step-sons, Zach and Josh, as well as a house full of animals! She loves to spend free time with friends doing anything out in nature.

## **Springfield Youth String Orchestra**

### Martha Garrison

Martha Garrison received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education in 1974 from Southwest Baptist University, and then continued her education, receiving a Master of Science in Education, Music Education in 1996 from Missouri State University.

Mrs. Garrison has been teaching piano since she was in eighth grade. She taught vocal music at Reed Middle School, Springfield, from 1990 – 2000, teaching music classes, directing choirs, and adjudicating in area solo and ensemble music festivals. In the fall of 2000, Mrs. Garrison began teaching orchestra at Pleasant View Middle School and fifth

grade beginning strings at Bowerman, Fremont, Pleasant View, Robberson, Truman, and Williams elementary schools. Under her direction, Pleasant View Orchestras have received consistently high ratings, including First Place at the Worlds of Fun Festival of Music in 2008. The Pleasant View 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra took first place in the SPS All-City Orchestra Festival in May of 2011.

Mrs. Garrison was invited to direct the Springfield Youth String Orchestra (SYSO) in the fall of 2006. She takes pride in watching her Pleasant View and SYSO students continue in string programs through high school, Springfield Junior Youth Symphony, Springfield Youth Symphony, and even college and university pursuits.

Martha lives in Springfield with her husband, Wayne, and enjoys spending time with their four grown children and five grandchildren.