

# *Festival Strings 2012*

*an educational outreach program  
sponsored by the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra*

November 2011

This is an invitation to participate in Festival Strings 2012! Sponsored by the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra, Festival Strings is an all-string orchestra of more than 100 young musicians who come together for five intense rehearsals and a wonderful concert each winter. This year's concert will be at Benjamin Franklin Middle School, Ridgewood, NJ, on Saturday afternoon, February 25, 2012. **There are some important changes this year to Festival Strings so please read the information below carefully.**

The conductor for Festival Strings 2012 is Todd Van Beveren. He is pleased to be conducting the Ridgewood Festival Strings for a fifth time. Mr. Van Beveren is the artistic director of the Northern NJ Youth Orchestra, which is celebrating its 18th season. He conducts the Montclair Chamber Ensemble and is the Orchestra Director at Columbia High School.

To qualify for participation in this orchestra, students must be in grades **6-9** (yes, back to 6 to 9) and be recommended by their school orchestra **or** private music teacher, who agrees to help the student prepare the music. Abilities on their instruments must include a command of first position, with extensions and accidentals, and facility in the higher positions for more advanced sections of the orchestra.

There is no limit to the number of qualified students that each school or teacher may send. Feel free to duplicate this information page and the enclosed forms. All forms will also be available on the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra website: [www.ridgewoodsymphony.org](http://www.ridgewoodsymphony.org). Musicians in grades 10-12 who are former members of Festival Strings are welcome as Rehearsal Assistants. Contact the RSO at 201-612-0118 for an application.

Students will be notified of their acceptance with a package of music in **early January. It is extremely important that all pieces are learned before rehearsals begin.** Seating auditions will be part of the second rehearsal. Festival Strings participants are expected to attend all rehearsals.

**Parents must complete the Parent Volunteer Form.** Please fill out all dates and times when you could be available to help out at rehearsals, or in other capacities. Parent volunteer assignments will be included with the student's acceptance package.

## **Rehearsals at Ridgewood United Methodist Church**

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 4:30-8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 14, 2012 4:30-8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 21, 2012 4:30-8:00 p.m.  
Thursday, February 23, 2012 4:30-8:00 p.m.

Dress rehearsal at Benjamin Franklin Middle School,  
Ridgewood

Saturday, February 25, 2012 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Concert at Benjamin Franklin Middle School  
**Saturday, February 25, 2012 4 p.m.**

Fee: Check for \$75 payable to  
"Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra" (need-based scholarships are available)

Questions: Call the RSO hot line 201-612-0118

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, December 9, 2011**

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## **Application Information**

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (student): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (parent): \_\_\_\_\_

School name \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

Years of study \_\_\_\_\_ Violins only – have you studied the following positions: 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 5<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Any previous orchestral experience or other comments can be listed on the back of this application form → → →

## **Signatures**

I certify that, if I am selected to be a member of RSO Festival Strings, I will faithfully prepare the music, attend all the rehearsals, and attend the performance.

Student Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

As parent or legal guardian of the above named student, I give my permission for him/her to participate in this activity. I recognize that the care and safety of my child's instrument is solely his/her responsibility. I further attest to the statement that is signed by my child and will assist in fulfilling the obligations undertaken. I understand that the Ridgewood Symphony, rehearsal/performance hosts, or individual teachers and coaches do not assume responsibility for accident or illness.

Signature of parent or legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Teacher Recommendation**

I endorse the applicant as an excellent and hard-working music student. I will encourage him/her to fulfill his/her duties as a member of the Festival Strings Orchestra member and will assist in preparation of the music.

Signature of teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box:     School Orchestra Teacher     Private Teacher

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years of private study \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send complete application, along with parent volunteer form and check for \$75** (payable to "Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra") to the address below. Please note that applications without the signatures and parent volunteer form cannot be accepted, and that the application fee is non-refundable unless the student is not accepted into the orchestra. Application deadline is Friday, December 9, 2011.

**RSO Festival Strings  
PO Box 176  
Ridgewood, NJ 07451-0176**

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## Parent Volunteer Form

In order for your child to have the best musical experience possible, parent volunteers are expected to work behind the scenes. There are many ways to participate. At the rehearsals, options include setting up chairs before rehearsals, working at the registration table, chaperoning during rehearsals, or supervising dinner breaks (circulate while students eat, oversee clean-up, etc.). On concert day, we need help chaperoning the students and selling tickets.

**Your participation is essential, and everyone is expected to participate! To make things easier for the scheduler, please indicate all possible ways in which you could help, including specific days and times when you can be available. Before rehearsals begin, you will be notified to confirm your assignment for only one volunteer opportunity.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Volunteer opportunities at weekday rehearsals:

	Tues 2/7	Tues 2/14	Tues 2/21	Thurs 2/23
4:00 - 4:30 chair setup				
4:15 - 5:00 registration				
5:00 - 6:00 chaperone				
5:45 - 6:45 dinner chaperone				
7:00 - 8:15 chaperone / clean-up				
Make reminder calls to volunteers				

### Volunteer opportunities on concert day, Saturday, February 25th:

	02/25/12
1:00-3:00 chair setup / registration / chaperone rehearsal	
3:00 until the orchestra plays: chaperone students in cafeteria	
3:00 until concert: assist with ticket sales	
After concert: collect music and/or clean up	

Note: All volunteers on concert day will get to hear the orchestra play!

**Questions??** Contact the RSO hotline at 201-612-0118

Send complete application, parent volunteer form, and check for \$75 (payable to "Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra") to:

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