

INSTRUCTION

Student Activities and Honors

School Participation in Musical Activities—National Symphony Concerts

I. PURPOSE

To provide information to elementary school staff members concerning the annual National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) concerts for students in the fourth grade, for 9- to 10-year-olds in special education centers, and for other special education students who are mainstreamed into fourth-grade-level general music instruction.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Activity

Concerts will be presented by the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for elementary school students in the fourth grade, for 9- to 10-year-olds in special education centers, and for other special education students who are mainstreamed into fourth-grade-level general music instruction.

B. Dates and Times

March 16, 2010—Tuesday
10:20 a.m. and 11:40 a.m.

March 17, 2010—Wednesday
10:20 a.m. and 11:40 a.m.

March 18, 2010—Thursday
10:20 a.m. and 11:40 a.m.

March 19, 2010—Friday
10:20 a.m. and 11:40 a.m.

April 22, 2010—Thursday
10:20 a.m. and 11:40 a.m.

C. Time

All concerts last 50 minutes.

D. Cost

The cost is \$5 per pupil, but no unusual field trip permission is required. Students eligible for free and reduced-price meals will not be charged but will be counted in the quota allotted each school. Fees are to be collected in the local school. The principal must write one check to the order of the Fairfax County School Board and send it to the Department of Financial Services, Accounting Section. All checks must be postmarked by Friday of the week of the scheduled field trip.

E. Transportation

School bus transportation will be arranged by the local school. Authorized school staff members should use the online field trip system for this purpose. No fund code is necessary. Transportation is provided from a central account. To complete the online bus voucher fund code, select "no charge trip." Select trip group, instructional and trip category, National Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert. Then save as S-approved. The transportation supervisor will assign buses and drivers and will communicate directly with principals regarding departure times, etc. All passengers must be seated on a seat; no standees will be allowed.

F. Chaperons

Teachers accompanying students are to remain with their students and to sit with them during the concert. They are responsible for their students' conduct and should instruct students in concert manners (see Attachment C) before leaving for the concert. The ushers at the Kennedy Center will provide seating instructions. Chaperons are required at the rate of one for every ten students and attend the concert free of charge.

G. School Assignment

Each school has been assigned a specific maximum number of seats for students, teachers, and chaperons as shown on Attachment A. The total number of seats allocated to Fairfax County Public Schools is based on the seating capacity of the concert hall. All seats are assigned. It is imperative, therefore, that schools notify Jennifer Himes, music resource teacher, 703-208-7873 or jennifer.himes@fcps.edu, if they plan to send a number of participants less than or greater than their assigned quotas. This should be done no later than March 1, 2010.

H. Program

The program to be presented at each concert is titled Sounds Historic and will be conducted by Maestro Emil de Cou. Materials useful in preparation for the concert will be sent under separate cover to the general music teacher and lead fourth grade teacher at each elementary school. Pupils should become familiar with the selections and the composer prior to the concert.

I. Inclement Weather

If school is canceled or opens late due to inclement weather, the field trip will be canceled.

National Symphony Orchestra Concert Program

Sounds Historic ***Emil de Cou, conductor***

This program features the National Symphony Orchestra performing standard works from the classical music repertoire and places these pieces in the context of American history. The life of Franz Joseph Haydn, “the father of the symphony” closely parallels that of George Washington, “the father of our country.” Beethoven began writing his epic 5th symphony while Lewis and Clark were on their famous expedition. Igor Stravinsky’s music can be heard as a direct reflection of the chaotic times and events leading up to WWI. These concerts will be presented with image magnification—live video images of the performing musicians projected on a large screen suspended above the stage.
Curriculum connections: Language Arts and Sciences

Bach—Stokowski Toccata and Fugue

Haydn—Second Movement From Symphony No. 100 (“Military”)

Beethoven—Finale From Symphony No. 5

Tchaikovsky—1812 Overture (excerpt)

Stravinsky—The Rite of Spring (excerpt)

Bernstein—“Times Square” From On the Town

Higdon—Finale From Concerto for Orchestra

Sousa—The Stars and Stripes Forever March

CONCERT MANNERS
(Symphony)

Students will:

- Enter and leave the concert hall in a quiet and orderly fashion.
- Stay with their assigned teacher and/or chaperon.
- Get settled in seats immediately.
- Applaud for the conductor's entrance at the beginning of the concert. This applause is a formal way of saying "hello" to the conductor and the orchestra.
- Cease applause when the conductor steps onto the podium. There should be silence because this move signals that the orchestra is ready to play.
- Sit quietly so everyone can listen to each musical selection.
- Applaud at the conclusion of a musical selection when the conductor drops his or her arms and turns to face the audience or when he or she steps off the podium to the stage. If the conductor continues to hold the baton up, there should be no noise or applause. This move signals that another movement or more of the same selection is coming.
- Exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Students exhibiting inappropriate behavior will be removed from the concert hall.
- Thank the orchestra and conductor with applause when the last selection has been completed and the conductor has lowered his or her hands.
- Refrain from bringing cameras or recording equipment into the concert hall.
- Remain seated until dismissed.
- Leave the concert hall with their chaperons in the same quiet and orderly manner as when they entered.