

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society is to encourage and develop artistic excellence among young musicians in southwest Michigan by providing a diversity of quality orchestral experiences; and, to enhance the cultural environment of the families and communities it serves.

KJSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society Board of Directors carry the responsibility for setting policy and overseeing the operation of the organization. Suggestions and comments are always welcome, and should be addressed to the board and forwarded to the KJSS office.

KJSS STAFF

Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Conductor

Andrew Koehler
Cell: 269-365-3646
E-Mail: koehlerandrew@yahoo.com

Prep Strings Conductors

Audrey Lipsey
E-Mail: aalipsey@crescendoacademy.com

Training Orchestra Conductor

Audrey Lipsey
E-Mail: aalipsey@crescendoacademy.com

Executive Director

Lee Fletcher
Office: (269) 349-7557
E-Mail: kjso@aol.com

Administrative Assistant, Librarian & Ensemble Director

Carol Corey
home phone: 269-381-3125
e-mail: caroldcorey@yahoo.com

THE KJSS OFFICE

The KJSS office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. During non-business hours, messages may be left on voice mail (269-349-7557) or email (kjso@aol.com).

The executive director serves the needs of the orchestras, orchestra members and their families. Please take any questions to the executive director and she will refer them to the appropriate person or committee.

ORGANIZATION OF THE KALAMAZOO JUNIOR SYMPHONY SOCIETY

The Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society (KJSS) is an autonomous organization not funded by a parent organization such as a major orchestra, school system, or community arts center. Each year, we must raise our entire operating budget through the work of parents, volunteers and board members.

Authority for the government and direction of the KJSS is vested in a board of directors consisting of eighteen board members elected by members of the Society at the annual meeting in May, two player directors and their alternates, an Executive Director, and the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra (KJSO), Prep String (PSO) and Training Orchestra (KTO) conductors.

The KJSS Board meets the first Thursday of each month. Between meetings, an executive committee consisting of the president, vice president(s), treasurer, and recording and corresponding secretaries of the board conducts the affairs of the orchestras.

The board of directors hires the KJSS conductors. In formulating the administration policies of the KJSS, the board strives for a balance between immediate and long range goals, so that current members of the orchestras are provided a varied and enriching musical experience without sacrificing the future of the orchestras and their value to succeeding generations.

The Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer and provides programs and services without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, or handicap.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

The **conditions of membership** enable the KJSS orchestras to maintain a high standard of musical excellence. They encompass the basic considerations and responsibilities, which an orchestra member must show to his or her conductor and fellow orchestra members throughout the season. **AS A VALUED KJSS ORCHESTRA MEMBER YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP:**

ATTENDANCE POLICY - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

KJSO: The KJSO performs three concert cycles per season. You are expected to be in attendance and on time to every rehearsal and performance. We ask that you and your parents review the KJSO schedule for the **entire season** as soon as it is presented at the start of the academic year and compare it to the other planned activities on your calendar. If you have an unavoidable conflict, the KJSO has a limited number of excused absences per concert sequence (the exact number of which will be noted on the season schedule). **YOU MUST PLAN AHEAD SO AS NOT TO EXCEED THE NUMBER OF EXCUSED ABSENCES.** In this planning process, please consider all of your sports and academic extracurricular activities, musical competitions, family vacations, SAT & ACT tests, college admissions interviews, etc. Though a number of valid reasons for an absence will be considered as excused, school band and orchestra conflicts take precedence. **EXCUSED REHEARSAL ABSENCES DO NOT PERTAIN TO DRESS REHEARSALS OR CONCERTS; attendance at both is mandatory.**

Any member who has a compelling reason for missing a dress rehearsal or more than the allotted number of excused absences may request permission to do so directly from the music

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director (koehlerandrew@yahoo.com) as early as possible in the cycle; his decision in such matters is final. Missing a dress rehearsal or more than the allotted number of excused absences without permission will bring your membership under review.

PSO: PSO Members are allowed three absences per PSO concert sequence with the exception of Dress and Warm-up Rehearsals. Those students who have missed more than the allotted amount of absences will not be allowed to play the concert unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the conductor. Dress and concert warm-up rehearsal absences must be approved by the conductor at least two weeks in advance of a concert.

Registering Attendance:

KJSO: It is your responsibility to record your attendance at each rehearsal by placing a check next to your name under the appropriate date on the attendance sheet (Attendance sheets are located on the far side of the stage on a table manned by Mrs. Fletcher.) If you do not check yourself off on the attendance sheet, you will be marked absent.

PSO: PSO members must sign in at each rehearsal by picking up their name tag and wearing it on the right side of their shirt where it will be visible by the conductor. Students who do not pick up and wear their name tags will be marked absent

Registering Excused Absences:

You must call the KJSS office or email Mrs. Fletcher 48 hours in advance of an absence from rehearsal (269-349-7557 or kjsso@aol.com); illness is the only exception. Wind, brass and percussion players who can find substitutes within their sections must do so (and provide those colleagues with copies of their music) when missing rehearsal.

Tardies

KJSO & PSO: Please see your season schedule and note the number of tardies allowed per concert sequence before you will be credited with an absence. Late arrivals are disruptive to the conductor and orchestra members. Please allow yourself plenty of time to travel to the rehearsal location, log yourself in on the attendance sheet, take your seat and ready yourself to play.

PRACTICE

You are expected to devote enough time practicing your assigned music so that all notes and rhythms are learned **BEFORE** coming to rehearsal. Sufficient student practice is essential for the orchestra to spend its time efficiently rehearsing ensemble playing and style.

REHEARSALS

You are expected to be seated and tuned 10 minutes prior to the beginning of rehearsal. Rehearsals start promptly at the times and locations posted on the rehearsal schedule. Rehearsal time is valuable and lateness is disruptive to the conductor and fellow orchestra members. As a show of respect for the conductor and your colleagues, please be prompt, turn off all electronic equipment completely (cell phone, Blackberry, iPod etc.), and refrain from engaging in social chatter while in rehearsal. The KJSS schedules a break during each

rehearsal and that is the proper time to check your cell phone or Blackberry and catch up with your KJSO friends.

KJSO: Rehearsals are normally held on **Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., although they may be occasional weekday or Saturday rehearsals (please note times on the schedule)**, during the school year on the stage of Chenery Auditorium, Kalamazoo Adult Education Bldg. (Old Kal. Central H. S.), 714 S. Westnedge Ave.* Parents should drop students off in the back parking lot (off Dutton or Vine Streets). Members enter the side door in the back alley located in the middle of the building. The KJSO performs three regular concerts per year.

PSO & TRAINING ORCHESTRA : PSO rehearsals are held on **Monday** in the band room of Portage North Middle School, 5808 Oregon, Portage, during the school year. PSO students rehearse from either 5:30-7:00 P.M. (Concert Orchestra) or 7:15-8:45 P.M. (Symphonic String) depending on which group they are assigned. The PSO performs two regular concerts per season. Training Orchestra students rehearse on **Tuesday** in the band room of Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. TO students participate in a one hour skills building session from 4:30-5:30 p.m. They perform one concert per year at an Portage West Middle School's Little Theater, which is preceded by a family pizza party.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

The KJSS believes it is essential for all of its student members to participate in their school music programs and strongly encourages participation both for the advancement of their individual musical skills and for the promotion of the arts in their schools. Participation in a school music group is not only a vote for the continued inclusion of fine arts in the schools, it is important for the development of ensemble and leadership skills which in turn strengthens the KJSS orchestras. Should a student not be in their school music program, the conductor may wish to discuss this issue with both the student and their parents. **Students must submit a signed form documenting either their participation or the conflict that makes such participation impossible.**

The KJSS endorses the following policy: **Youth Orchestra Division – League of American Orchestras: Resolution on Cooperation between Youth Orchestras and Their Education Communities**

We, the members of the Youth Orchestra Division of the League of American Orchestras, recognize and value the vital role played by music educators, both private and public, in the training of young musicians. We encourage youth orchestras and their education communities to work together to the greatest extent possible to facilitate the optimum development and musical growth of young people by strengthening both school and community resources.

Youth orchestras, school music programs, and private teachers share the common goal of training the next generation of musicians, audience members, and arts supporters. Toward that end, the following suggestions are offered to leaders in both groups:

- Communicate: Keep information of all kinds flowing in both directions via bulletins, newsletters, designated liaison personnel, and attendance at concerts and meetings.
- Plan your calendar with sensitivity to the needs of other programs. Discuss dates of major events far in advance with all concerned.
- Foster good relationships among youth orchestra conductors, school and private music teachers, and students.

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- Recognize, personally and publicly, the school district and valuable contributions made by other programs. In printed programs, give written acknowledgment as appropriate to school programs, youth orchestras, teachers, and students. Hold special events to recognize the valuable contributions of instructors.
- Provide complimentary or discounted tickets to concerts, and other forms of in-kind assistance whenever possible.
- Advocate music education in the schools and in the community at large. Train parents to communicate effectively with school board members, legislators, and others who influence funding and support of the arts.
- Enrich the programs of others, through run-out concerts by orchestras, bands, and chamber ensembles, or by exchanging conductors or coaches.
- Be flexible in finding solutions to scheduling problems, keeping the needs and welfare of the student foremost in mind. Grant excused absences when circumstances warrant them.

--approved by the Youth Orchestra Division Board of the League of American Orchestras

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MUSIC

As a KJSS orchestra member you are entrusted with a great deal of valuable music for which you are fully responsible. Music is checked out to you before the first rehearsal and again before each concert sequence. It is collected after each concert by the music librarian. **You will be charged for any lost music or folders.**

Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra Music Handling Policy:

- Each Member of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Wind, Brass and Percussion Sections has been assigned a folder. String Players seated on the Outside of the stand are assigned a folder. KJSO music must be carried in the protective folder issued by the Librarian. It is each member's responsibility to make sure that the folder is at every rehearsal and concert. When a member is going to be absent, they must make arrangements to get the music to the rehearsal.
- String players seated on the outside of the stand are assigned Concert folder for their stand. The Concert folder must be used at all rehearsals and concerts. String players seated on the inside of the stand will receive an e-mail containing their practice parts.
- A soft, black graphite pencil is the only writing instrument that may be used to mark music; ink, colored pencils or felt-tip markers are unacceptable and is considered damaging to the music. It is each member's responsibility to bring a pencil to each rehearsal. Please make marks carefully so that the Librarian can easily remove the marks. Members will be charged for marks that cannot be easily removed.
- Mark any cuts with care – do not cross out large blocks of music by defacing the part. Pages may not be cut to facilitate page-turns – use a photocopy. Do not tape additional pages to the original parts.
- Music may not be disassembled or repaired by anyone other than the Librarian. Members must consult the Librarian if he/she wants changes or repairs made or if a problem should occur. Damage caused by members which incurs a charge to the KJSO will be passed on to the player.

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- KJSO members are responsible for returning the folder and all the music immediately after each concert. **A fine of \$30.00 or the cost of replacing the folder and its contents, whichever is greater, will be charged if the folder and/or its contents are not returned at the concert.** If the folder contained a rental piece, the member will be responsible for any late or replacement charges for the missing parts.

If you misplace your folder or music, please contact the librarian ASAP so that parts can be sent to you promptly. If the librarian is contacted prior to the next rehearsal, a new folder should be available by the next scheduled rehearsal.

Prep String Orchestra Music Handling Policy - (Symphonic Strings and Concert Orchestras)

- Each Member of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra and Prep String Orchestras has been assigned a folder. KJSO and PSO music must be carried in the protective folder that the Librarian issues to each member. It is each member's responsibility to make sure that the folder is at every rehearsal and concert. When a member is going to be absent, they must make arrangements to get the music to the rehearsal.
- String players are assigned one Concert folder and one Practice folder per stand. The Concert folder must be used for rehearsals and concerts.
- A soft, black graphite pencil is the only writing instrument that may be used to mark music; ink, colored pencils or felt-tip markers are unacceptable and is considered damaging to the music. It is each member's responsibility to bring a pencil to each rehearsal. Please make marks carefully so that the Librarian can easily remove the marks. Members will be charged for marks that cannot be easily removed.
- Mark any cuts with care – do not cross out large blocks of music by defacing the part. Pages may not be cut to facilitate page-turns – use a photocopy. Do not tape additional pages to the original parts.
- Music may not be disassembled or repaired by anyone other than the Librarian. Members must consult the Librarian if he/she wants changes or repairs made or if a problem should occur. Damage caused by members which incurs a charge to the KJSO or the PSO will be passed on to the player.
- KJSO and PSO members are responsible for returning the folder and all the music at each concert. **A fine of \$15.00 or the cost of replacing the folder and its contents, whichever is greater, will be charged if the folder and/or its contents are not returned at the concert.** If the folder contained a rental piece, the member will be responsible for any late or replacement charges for the missing parts.

It is extremely important that every KJSO and PSO Student bring their music to each and every rehearsal. Forgetting music creates gaps in the instrumentation of the orchestra and compromises the effectiveness of both the conductor's and your fellow orchestra member's rehearsal time.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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KJSO Librarian: Carol Corey – home phone: 269-381-3125 – caroldcorey@yahoo.com

INSTRUMENTS

Loaned Instruments

The KJSS has a limited number of instruments available for loan through the office. Students who have been loaned an instrument are fully responsible for that instrument. This responsibility includes providing proof of insurance for the instrument during the loan period.

KJSO Percussion Instruments

The KJSS owns a large array of expensive percussion instruments and handmade beaters. Members of the KJSO percussion section are charged with the careful handling of all percussion instruments and associated equipment. It is the responsibility of the KJSO percussionists to see that all necessary percussion equipment is unloaded from the percussion storage room and properly set-up **prior to the beginning of rehearsal**. After rehearsal, percussionists are responsible for carefully packing up and returning all percussion equipment and beaters back into the instrument closet (covers placed on the timpani and beaters back in their proper case). It is extremely important that the members of the percussion section check and re-check to make certain that no percussion instruments or equipment have been left out to get misplaced or lost.

PRIVATE STUDY

The KJSS asks that you study your instrument with a private teacher. Private music study is essential to your total development and successful participation in KJSS ensembles. In the case of financial need, partial music lesson scholarships are available by contacting the KJSS office for an application.

CONDUCT

Participation in disruptive behavior (profanity, harassment, etc.) will not be tolerated. It shows a lack of consideration and respect and reflects poorly on the whole orchestra. Orchestra members are required to sign and return a "Mutual Respect Agreement." It outlines the basic rules of conduct for the total development and success of all orchestra members.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Fees

The KJSS is among the few youth orchestra organizations in the United States that does not charge tuition to its student members. We feel fortunate that we have the strong support of our community and a parent support group that enables us to offer a quality musical program in this way. Minimal fees are assessed at the beginning of the season. These fees include:

- An annual registration fee to activate player membership.
- A camp fee (KJSO Tune-up camp & PSO Prelude Day Camp).

Fund Raising

The KJSS Board determines a yearly, mandatory fund raising goal for each family, which is tracked through each family's fundraising account. At the end of the year the sum of each family's fundraising must total the amount predetermined by the Board of Directors. This sum will be communicated to orchestra families at the beginning of the year.

Tune-up Camp

The KJSO season begins on the first Friday and Saturday after Labor Day with the annual "Tune-up" Camp. The camp tradition was begun to give new and returning students an opportunity to get acquainted in an informal setting. Musical activities include full orchestra rehearsals and sectionals with highly qualified music educators. In addition to music making, orchestra members enjoy the social and sports activities available at camp. Saturday evening parents and friends are invited to attend a mini-concert. **Students must practice BEFORE Tune-up Camp. NO SIGHTREADING! Tune-up camp is a required rehearsal.**

Education and Outreach Services

Each year, KJSO students pack up their instruments and board buses to travel to area elementary and middle schools to perform a series of education concerts. It is our goal to encourage and inspire each of our young audience members to participate in their school music program and beyond.

KJSO Concerto Competition

The audition date for the KJSO's Concerto Competition can be found on the rehearsal schedule. If you are interested in signing up for an audition time, a **Concerto Competition Sign-up Form** is included with your materials. For your audition you should be prepared to play the piece you wish to perform at the concert. A piano will be available for an accompanist (you must hire your own accompanist). For all rules applying to the competition, please see the application guidelines included in your beginning of the year packet.

Auditions:

New Member Auditions: Auditions for new members are held at the end of each season in May. Please go to the KJSO website for Audition Requirements and Information (www.kjso.org). All auditioning students are notified of their acceptance or non-acceptance by mail. New members to the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra will be accepted on a one year, provisional status. After this first year, students might be asked to re-audition during the new member auditions at the end of the year for permanent membership. At this second auditions, factors such as attendance, rehearsal preparation, attitude, and general musical development over the course of the year will be considered as well as the prepared audition.

Auditions for Wind, Brass & Percussion Part Assignments & String Seating: Seating is at the discretion of the Music Director as determined by the Part Assignment and Seating Auditions. These auditions are normally held at the end of August. Wind, brass and percussion

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part assignments are posted at Tune-up Camp along with the string seating. Orchestral excerpts are selected by the Music Director from the KJSO season's repertoire for this audition.

Excerpts will be sent to KJSO members by e-mail during the summer and posted in the Member Information section of the KJSO website. .

Ensembles:

The KJSS sponsors several honors ensembles; a Brass Quintet, Woodwind Quintet, String Quartets and if feasible, a Percussion Ensemble. The ensemble program was created to provide ensemble performance experience to selected members of the KJSO, to recognize excellence, to improve the quality of key players, and to increase visibility of the KJSO in the community.

Players are selected through conductor and ensemble director recommendation and/or audition. Members are chosen based on musical ability, reliability, attendance, etc.

Each ensemble will perform publicly. Performances may include pre-Kalamazoo Symphony concerts, school and community functions, and other events, which have the approval of the conductor, ensemble director, board of directors or education committee.

Each ensemble coaching session will be 1 hour and 15 minutes long. In-between coachings the ensembles will have a 1 hour and 15 minute long practice sessions without a coach present. The schedule of coaching and practice sessions will be planned by the coaches and players at the beginning of each season, along with the help of the KSO Education Director and KJSO Ensemble Director. Ensemble coaching or practice sessions may not interfere with KJSO performance and rehearsal times. All players will be expected to learn their individual parts on their own time.

Concert Dress:

Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Members:

Men: Preferred: Black Tuxedo, white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black socks, black shoes

Alternate: Black suit, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks, black shoes

Women: Long sleeve black floor-length dress or long (mid-calf to floor length) black skirt or dress pants (no leggings), non-low cut black long sleeve blouse, black socks/hose (even if you are wearing pants), and black closed toe shoes.

Prep String Orchestra Members:

Men: Black Dress Pants, White Dress Shirt, Black Socks, and Black Shoes.

Women: Mid-calf length Black Skirt, which comes at least 6 inches below the knees when sitting in a chair (this is very important when sitting up on stage), White Long-Sleeved Dress Blouse Black tights/hose/knee high socks and Black Shoes.

Scholarships:

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- **Summer Music Camp Scholarships:** Each spring KJSO, PSO and Training students have the opportunity to apply for scholarships for attendance at summer music camps or

seminars. Scholarships are limited to students up to grade 11. Applications can be download from the KJSS website at www.kjso.org or through the KJSS office at the beginning of March.

- **Posie Tomlinson College Scholarship:**

Fund through the "Posie Tomlinson Scholarship Endowment Fund," this scholarship is awarded to a student graduating from the KJSO and going on to an accredited four-year college, music school, or conservatory to major in music. Applicants must submit an application along with support letters and a high school transcript. **Applications** can be obtained at rehearsals and through the KJSS Office.

- **Need Based Scholarships:**

Private Music Lesson Scholarships: Each season the KJSS has a number of private music lesson scholarships for students in all orchestras.

Assessed Fee or Fee Based Activity Scholarship: Scholarships are available for any assessed fee or fee based activity (registration fee, camp fee, etc.).

Applications for need-based scholarships can be downloaded from the KJSS website at www.kjso.org or by calling the KJSS office. All scholarship application information will remain completely confidential.

Rehearsal Cancellation:

Inclement weather:

KJSO - Local radio and TV stations will be notified of a cancellation. In addition, a cancellation notice will be sent to you by e-mail and if possible, put up on our website www.kjso.org and Facebook page. Please check with your local TV & radio station first.

PSO - Rehearsals will automatically be canceled if Portage Public School classes have been canceled due to weather. Local radio and TV stations will be notified of a cancellation. In addition a cancellation notice will be sent to you by e-mail and if possible, put up on our website www.kjso.org. Please check with your local TV & radio station first.

Emergency Cancellation:

It is unusual that the KJSS must cancel a rehearsal due to an emergency (conductor illness, family emergency or transportation failure). If the emergency notice is sufficient, we will always try to avoid a cancellation by securing a guest conductor. If we cannot find a replacement, we will attempt to email everyone, and will attempt to reach those families who travel from out of town by phone. We will also post a notice on the entrance to the building. Please never leave your child off at a rehearsal without first checking to see if a cancellation notice has been posted on the door.

Player Directors:

Player Directors are full members of the KJSS Board of Directors. As such, they are entitled and expected to attend monthly board meetings, to vote on resolutions and actions (except as

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excluded by the KJSS By-Laws), and to serve on standing committees. Player directors and their alternates will be chosen from junior and senior members of the KJSO.

Player directors assist communications between the Board and orchestra members. They are expected to make formal reports to KJSO Orchestra members about discussion and actions

taken by the board at regular meetings. In turn, player directors are expected to convey candidly to the board concerns that orchestra members may from time to time have.

Elections will be held at the end of the season in the spring with votes cast for the two director positions, one must be a string player and one a non-string player (wind, brass, percussion). The two students with the next highest vote count in the election will hold the position of alternate. Alternates are welcome to attend board meetings as well.

Orchestra Support League

The purpose of the KJSS Orchestra Support League is to support the total musical and personal development of the young musicians of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony, Prep String and Training Orchestras by donating time and resources in benefit of programmed and fund raising activities.

The Orchestra Support League is the representing body of KJSO, PSO and Training Orchestra parents. Proud KJSS parents automatically become members of the League and are asked to actively participate as a member of ONE Fund Raising Committee AND ONE Program Support Committee.

The Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society needs and appreciates the strong support of all parents.

To All KJSS Parents

As a proud KJSS parent your active support is of paramount importance, both to the achievement of your child and to the success of the organization. Your responsibilities are:

- To reinforce your child's commitment to the orchestra by encouraging adherence to attendance policy, private music study and practice, and making sure all assigned music is brought to rehearsals.
- To volunteer time and effort in support of programmed and fund raising activities.

Enclosed with KJSS information materials is a PARENT RESPONSIBILITY VOLUNTEER FORM outlining the specific areas where your support is necessary. Please fill out the form and return it to the KJSS office. For the season to run efficiently, it is extremely important that you return this form by the due date.

KALAMAZOO JUNIOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

Andrew Koehler is currently the music director of the Kalamazoo Philharmonia, which he leads as part of his position as an assistant professor of music at Kalamazoo College. He holds a concurrent post as music director of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra, and is a frequent guest at the West Michigan Symphony Orchestra, where he covers rehearsals for

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music director Scott Speck. This season, guest conducting appearances will take Andrew to destinations as diverse as Vermont and Kyiv, Ukraine.

Previous music directorships have included the Chamber Orchestra of the University of Chicago (which, under his direction, the Hyde Park Herald called the “most wonderful orchestra in recent memory”) as well as the Akademisches Sinfonie-Orchester of Vienna, Austria. He has led guest performances of the North Shore Chamber Orchestra, the University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and, with only a weekend’s notice, the American Opera Group Orchestra in Chicago. He has additionally led ensembles under the auspices of the Aspen Music Festival, the Conductor’s Festival at Bard College, and the 2006 Vakhtang Jordania International Conducting Competition, where he advanced to the final round and won the audience favorite prize. Most recently, he organized and conducted a concert with the Arcato Chamber Ensemble, made up of musicians from the Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids Symphonies. The group’s premiere performance was hailed as “...exceptional under his baton” by the Kalamazoo Gazette.

Born in Philadelphia to Ukrainian parents, Andrew began his musical studies on the violin at the age of five. He is a graduate of Yale College, where he completed a B.A. in Music and German Studies (graduating with honors and distinction in both majors). During his time there, he served as assistant conductor of the Yale Symphony Orchestra and won the Seldin Memorial Prize in Music. He holds a certificate in conducting from the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna, where he studied for two years as a Fulbright scholar, as well as a Masters degree from Northwestern University. His principal teachers have been Victor Yampolsky and Leopold Hager; he has additionally worked with David Zinman, Michael Stern, Jorma Panula, and Mariss Jansons, among others.

PREP STRING AND TRAINING ORCHESTRAS CONDUCTOR

We are fortunate indeed to have Ms. Audrey Lipsey as the conductor of the Kalamazoo Prep String Orchestra and the Kalamazoo Training Orchestra. She brings outstanding talent, advanced educational training and personality to the orchestra podium.

AUDREY LIPSEY, CONDUCTOR - PREP STRING & TRAINING ORCHESTRAS

Ms. Lipsey received her Bachelor of Music Education from Western Michigan University. She is the Executive Director and Instructor of Violin at Crescendo Academy of Music, the Assistant Concertmaster of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, the Associate Concertmaster of the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra, first violinist for the Opus IV String Quartet of Kalamazoo and has performed in many other regional ensembles. She is also a Kalamazoo Community Medal of Arts Award recipient.

KALAMAZOO JUNIOR SYMPHONY SOCIETY HISTORY

One of the oldest and finest youth symphony orchestras in the United States, the **Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra (KJSO)** was founded in 1939 by Eugene Andrie, its first conductor. In 1941 the orchestra came under the direction of Julius Stulberg who remained its conductor until his death in 1974. The late Herbert Butler directed the orchestra until 1978 when Dr. Robert Ritsema assumed the conductor’s podium. Dr. Ritsema directed the orchestra for the next twenty-two years until his retirement in 2001. Steven Ward replaced Dr. Ritsema and led the orchestra until the spring of 2006. After a year-long conductor search, Andrew Koehler joined the elite core of dedicated Kalamazoo Junior Symphony conductors in June 2007.

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This outstanding youth symphony provides an orchestral experience of the highest quality for talented young musicians in southwest Michigan. Players are drawn from the Kalamazoo metropolitan area and surrounding communities in nine counties. Orchestra members do not pay tuition, but are assessed a minimal registration fee. The orchestra is financed by individual and business contributions, state and local grants, and fund raising events.

Membership is open by audition to young musicians through college age with the average age being 16. The orchestra's season begins in early September with a two day "Tune-up" Camp. For the following eight months the 85-95 member orchestra rehearses once a week for three hours.

Three concerts are presented in Kalamazoo each year. At the orchestra's spring concert the featured soloist is the third place winner of the Julius Stulberg Auditions, a competition for young string players established as a memorial to the conductor who led and inspired young musicians for over 30 years.

The KJSO has been accorded many national and international honors. It has been selected to play for the North Central Divisional meeting of the Music Educators National Conference and the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic; it has received National Federation of Music Clubs Awards for Merit for the Crusades of Strings, and for its recognition of American Composers; it has been recommended by the American Symphony Orchestra League as a model for youth orchestras; it has four times been selected as the accompanying orchestra for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival; and it has been invited to play many special engagements. The orchestra has made seven highly successful tours: Canada in 1973; Europe in 1969, 1977, 1982 and 1988; Australia and New Zealand in 1992; and Brazil in 1996. In 1982 the KJSO won first place in the Youth Orchestra Division of the Eleventh Annual International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria; in 1992 the orchestra won first place in the Open Orchestra Division of the Australian National Eisteddfod held in the capital city of Canberra; and in 1996 the KJSO played to packed houses and standing ovations throughout its two-week tour to Brazil.

The **Kalamazoo Prep String Orchestra (PSO)** was established in 1980. Under the direction of Audrey Lipsey and Leo Hazen, students in this intermediate orchestra work on building repertoire and orchestral playing skills. The PSO promotes interest and nurtures future participation in both KJSO and area music education programs. Membership in the PSO is through audition in the spring. The orchestra meets once weekly during the school year for a one and one-half hour rehearsal and presents two concerts per year.

Established in 1992 for elementary string students, the **Kalamazoo Training Orchestra (KTO)** fosters confidence and enthusiasm for fine music through a series of comprehensive skill building sessions. The KTO program is carefully designed to encompass the special needs of at-risk students by providing the solid foundation and support system necessary for successful participation at more advanced levels of participation. KTO students are recommended to the orchestra by area private and school music educators. Students receive a one-hour music skills training session per week.

The Kalamazoo Junior Symphony, Prep String and Training Orchestras are governed by a 20 member Board of Directors of the **Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society (KJSS)** and two player directors and their alternates elected by KJSO members. It is not affiliated with any other organization.

