



## FAQ 2011-12

### What are the different orchestras in the PCYO program?

In 2011 there are 3 new orchestras in our program:

**Prelude Strings** is a beginning orchestra comprised of string players who are getting their first experiences with an orchestra. Students must read music and have basic understanding of playing their instrument to be placed in this ensemble.

**Intermezzo Orchestra** is an intermediate ensemble of string players who have good basic playing skills and are learning the skills necessary to be in the advanced orchestra. The Intermezzo participates in the annual Retreat and in Musical Exploration Saturdays.

**Tampa Bay Youth Orchestra** is the flagship of the orchestra program and a full symphony of strings, winds and percussion. It is comprised of the finest players in the Bay area who come together to play standard classical music as well as pops and new music. This ensemble has an annual weekend Retreat and takes part in Musical Exploration Saturdays.

### What if I don't like my orchestra assignment? Can I re-audition?

You should call Gregory Ruffer to discuss your audition and get some insight into why you were placed in the orchestra. He will determine whether it is necessary to do a re-audition.

### Who are the conductors of the orchestras?

**Stephen P. Brown** is the Principal Conductor of the Tampa Bay Youth Orchestra. He will also do work with the Intermezzo Orchestra and Prelude Strings. **Gregory Ruffer** is the Artistic Director of the program and will conduct all of the orchestras throughout the year. We are in the process of finding one more team member who will conduct the Prelude Strings and Intermezzo Orchestra on a regular basis. Sectionals are taught by all of the conducting staff as well as professionals from the Patel Conservatory.

### When do the orchestras rehearse?

All of the orchestras rehearse on **Tuesday nights**. Prelude Strings meets from 5:00-6:00 pm in the TECO Theatre. The Intermezzo Orchestra meets from 6:15-7:45 pm in rehearsal room 207 of the Conservatory. The Tampa Bay Youth Orchestra meets from 7:00-9:00 pm in TECO Theatre. Once each month the Intermezzo Orchestra and TBYO participate in Musical Exploration Saturdays.

### How much does it cost to be in PCYO?

The cost of PCYO will be *lower* in 2011 than it was in 2010...and you will get more rehearsal time! We realize that times are tough all over, and we truly want to make it possible for you to be a part of the finest orchestra in the Tampa Bay area. The fees for participation will be:

**\$385** – full year tuition if paid in full by August 23.

**\$425** – full year tuition if paid after August 23 or if paid in installments.

*The Tampa Bay Youth Orchestra and Intermezzo Orchestra will be going on a weekend retreat at the end of September; there is an additional fee for this.*

**What are Musical Exploration Saturdays?**

This is a new program in 2011 that gives students in the TBYO and Intermezzo Orchestra an opportunity to have more musical experiences with their orchestra. Held one Saturday each month (see PCYO calendar) from 10 am to 1 pm, these days will be used for additional sectional rehearsals, master classes with visiting artists, music theory and history lessons, and full orchestra rehearsals. Your experience with PCYO will help to make you a better player, more informed musician, and a well-rounded person.

**Do we get to see performances at the Straz Center?**

Yes! Your tuition includes 2 free concerts this year: The President's Own Marine Band on October 16 and Pink Martini on April 5. The Marine Band is one of finest professional bands in the world. Not only will you see them in concert, but you will also get master classes and workshops with the players in the band...all because you are part of PCYO! Pink Martini is an eclectic group of musicians from Portland, Oregon, many of whom are members of the Portland Symphony. Their concert will show you the many different things you can do with your classical music training. Along with these concerts, your Patel Conservatory ID badge allows you to get a student discount on tickets for other performances at the Straz Center. No one else offers you more musical experiences that PCYO.

**Are all of our concerts and rehearsals at the Straz Center?**

All rehearsals for PCYO ensembles take place at the Straz Center, mostly in TECO Theatre and rehearsal room 207. The main concerts for the PCYO season are presented in Ferguson Hall at the Straz Center, one of the finest concert halls in the United States. We expect to schedule more performances for the orchestras at venues across the Bay area, including both indoor and outdoor spaces. Information on performances will come to you many weeks in advance so you can plan your schedule.

**There are other youth orchestras in the Bay area. Why should I learn with PCYO?**

In 2011 the PCYO program will celebrate its 29<sup>th</sup> year of educating the finest orchestral musicians in the Bay area. We can promise you that our long history, as well as the fact that we are an integral part of the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, means that we will be around to teach many, many more students for years to come. In fact, to honor this long history, we have chosen to re-name our top orchestra with the name that started the whole program in 1982: the Tampa Bay Youth Orchestra.

You can see from the information above that PCYO has great education programs and the very best performance and learning facilities. In addition we have more than 130 full-time employees and 80 Board members who work together to teach music, provide administrative support, make sure rehearsal spaces are set and concerts are flawlessly run, raise money to support the orchestra (and all other) programs, purchase music and equipment, provide security so every person in our buildings is safe, bring performances to the students, and oversee a comprehensive performance and education facility. In short, there are 28 years of history and a 100% commitment to the future. We are a unique program and, we believe, this is the best program for you and this community.