Dear CYS members!

Happy New Year! Congratulations again on an absolutely amazing December concert -- bravo!

I hope that you have all had a wonderful break! Our first rehearsal of 2018 will be on Sunday, January 14, from 6:30-9 p.m. in the VU Music Rehearsal Hall. Remember that this rehearsal is not at Blair! It is at the VU Band Room (124 28th Ave. S.) near West End Avenue and the VU Football Stadium. Monday, January 15, is an official Vanderbilt University holiday (MLK Day), so all VU classes are cancelled for the holiday.

We have a tremendous semester planned, so remember to put this Sunday night rehearsal onto your calendar now. Remind each other on Saturday, January 13, that we start on Sunday, January 14!

**CYS Spring Schedule:**
The CYS Spring schedule will be posted on the Blair website (on the NYOP page) next week. Make sure to check out all of our dates with your family's schedule and your school's schedule. Print out an extra copy of the schedule as soon as it is posted, and
give it to your school orchestra, band or choral director to see if there are any conflicts with school concerts that have not yet been announced.

**CYS Registration:**
The deadline for online 2018 spring semester registration is Jan. 16. The deadline for CYS tuition payment is Jan. 23. Please call Ms. Hobbs, the Blair registrar, at 615-322-7655, or email her at Rachel.Hobbs@Vanderbilt.edu if the online system is not working properly. Let me know if you are running into difficulties! The registration link can be found at:

https://vupace.vanderbilt.edu/index.jsp

**Weather Issues:**
Hopefully it will only snow on non-CYS days! Call 615-322-5815 to check on the status of a rehearsal due to weather-related issues. Weather-related announcements will be posted online by 4 p.m. Weather-related announcements will also be posted at: blair.vanderbilt.edu (NYOP page) and on Facebook (Curb Youth Symphony). If you are coming from more than two hours away, please check with me before you leave, if the weather is questionable.

**Attendance:**
Attendance and dedicated preparation by all are necessary to present a concert at the highest level of musical excellence. Attendance at all rehearsals by all is the goal. Students who miss more than three rehearsals per semester will be placed on leave of absence until the beginning of the next semester. Absences are not classified as excused or unexcused, as all absences have the same effect on the ensemble’s performance. If you will be absent due to an unavoidable conflict or illness, please email your absence in at least one hour before the rehearsal begins (Carol.Nies@Vanderbilt.edu).

**CYS Email List:**
Make sure that you and your parents are on the CYS email list so that you will receive CYS announcements. Send a message to Robin.Winkowski@mnps.org and to Carol.Nies@Vanderbilt.edu.

**CYS Members’ Honors and Awards List:**
Please send in a list of your musical and academic awards asap for the new website! Send to: carol.Nies@Vanderbilt.edu with a subject heading of: Your name- CYS- Honors and Awards

**2018 Nashville Summer Orchestral Institute:** The online application for the 2017-18 Nashville Summer Orchestral Institute and the 2018 NSOI Concerto Contest will be available next week on the Blair website. Dates for the 2018 NSOI are May 28- June 1. Priority deadlines for applications and fellowship applications (college, graduate students and adults) are earlier this year, so make sure to get your application and online recordings in asap to reserve your position in the 2018 NSOI.

I am looking forward to a wonderful semester! Please email or call if you have any questions!

Dr. Carol Nies  
Director, Curb Youth Symphony  
Director, Nashville Youth Orchestra Program  
615-322-5815  
[Carol.Nies@Vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Carol.Nies@Vanderbilt.edu)