Dear Philharmonia members!

Happy New Year! Congratulations again on a tremendous concert -- bravo!

I hope that you have all had a wonderful break! Our first rehearsal of 2018 will be on **Sunday, January 14, from 2-4:30 p.m. Call time for all members is 1:45 p.m.** Percussion call time is 1:35 p.m. Orchestra assistants call time is 1:30 p.m. Extra help with set-up is always welcome!

The full Philharmonia 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. It is rare that we have a Thursday concert rather than a Monday concert, so please check the following two dates out immediately with your school's orchestra, band or chorus director.
Save these dates!

Sunday, May 13 - Philharmonia Dress Rehearsal (No excused absences)
5:45 p.m. Call Time (On stage): Ingram Hall Stage, Blair School of Music
6-9 p.m. Dress Rehearsal

Thursday, May 17 -
5:30 p.m. Pre-Concert Rehearsal (No excused absences), On-stage call time
5:45-7 p.m. Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Concert

Philharmonia Registration forms:
The deadline for on-line Spring semester registration is 1/14. The deadline for Philharmonia tuition payment is 1/23. 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-Philharmonia 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 11:30 a.m. Weather-related announcements will also be posted 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).

Philharmonia Email List:
Make sure that you and your parents are on the Philharmonia email list so that you will receive announcements. Send a message to Robin.Winkowski@mnps.org and to Carol.Nies@Vanderbilt.edu.
2018 Nashville Summer Orchestral Institute and 2018 Summer Repertory Orchestra: The online application for the 2018 Nashville Summer Orchestral Institute, the 2018 NSOI Concerto Contest and the 2018 Summer Repertory Orchestra will be available next week on the Blair website.

Dates for the 2018 NSOI are May 28- June 1. Priority deadlines for NSOI applications and NSOI 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 or as an assistant with the 2018 Summer Repertory Orchestra.

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

Dr. Carol Nies
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Director, Nashville Youth Orchestra Program
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