

The Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra's Chamber Music Project opens the world of chamber music to the young musicians of our Senior Orchestra and a few selected members of Intermezzo Orchestra. It provides a unique opportunity for growth as musicians – building independence in their playing, and increasing their skills of listening and blending, giving them unique performance opportunities, and building active participation in making music with others. The goal is that the training and rewards of these experiences will go with them throughout their lives as performers, audience members and concerned citizens of their communities.

This will be the tenth year that NYSO has offered this exciting and educational program, which provides opportunities for our musicians to learn the skills of making music in small chamber ensembles. These skills grow both their individual abilities and the level of the orchestra as a whole, and they develop a life-long skill that will increase their enjoyment of music for years to come. The project comes out of our conviction that offering young musicians the experience of playing chamber music will inspire and grow skills in an unparalleled way.

This project provides the following:

- Students grow in musical skills, learning to play more independently and building self-expression through music as they listen to others and to themselves.
- Students discover the excitement of chamber music and learn to appreciate the rich experience they can have as they work together; this in turn benefits the ensembles, and thus the orchestra as a whole.
- With professional musicians as coaches, students are enriched by the ideas and expertise of those who have traveled the same path.
- By working in small groups, students build relationships within the orchestra, become more involved with their music and are responsible for their own parts, as well as learn to make musical decisions as a group.
- Through a variety of performance venues, students learn confidence as well as meet the needs of underserved groups in our communities.

At the end of the program, all groups will perform in a concert to be at First Parish Church in Beverly on Sunday, March 2, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

In addition, we are dedicated to teaching young people to serve others through their music. After the training part of this project, all ensembles participate in some way in outreach concerts in several of the 35 communities we serve, performing for senior citizen residences, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and school programs.

The young musicians are divided into 15 small ensembles – quartets, trios, quintets and duos. Each student participates in one small chamber music ensemble that rehearses for 75 minutes each week.

Outstanding coaches are selected from professional musicians, chamber musicians and outstanding teachers and conductors in the area. Coaches are selected from the following: professional ensembles, accomplished chamber musicians, members of local area orchestras and teachers.