



Hearing is believing

DATE: November 5, 2015

CONTACT: Sara Torrey
storrey@esyo.org
(w) 518-382-7581
(c) 518-956-3534

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Way More Than Drums: ESYO Presents First Percussion Concert of the Season

(Schenectady, NY) The three percussion ensembles of Empire State Youth Orchestras (ESYO) will present their first concert of the season on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Shaker Junior High School, 475 Watervliet Shaker Rd, Latham, NY 12110.

The concert will feature music by renowned percussion composers Lynn Glassock, Jared Spears, Thomas Brown, and Richard Albagli. Mr. Albagli, known locally for his positions as Principal Percussionist with Albany Symphony Orchestra and a faculty member at the University at Albany, is a prolific composer, having written more than 25 works for solo percussion and percussion ensemble as well as a timpani concerto. He is a co-conductor of two of ESYO's percussion ensembles and will direct some of the pieces at the Nov. 9 concert. He is joined by three other conductors, Mark Foster, John Antonio, and Genoveffa Vitale. Mr. Foster, on the faculty at The College of Saint Rose, is also a member of Albany Symphony Orchestra and also performs with the Empire Jazz Orchestra. Mr. Antonio, a retired Albany music teacher, maintains a private studio. Ms. Vitale teaches music at Bethlehem Central Schools and gives master classes on four-mallet marimba.

ESYO has provided percussion ensemble experience to its members for more than 30 years and is believed to be the only youth orchestra organization in the country with three percussion ensembles. The ensembles follow ESYO's model of progressive training and provide a clear path for young percussionists to follow as they develop and improve ensemble skills. Many members of the ensembles also perform in ESYO's Youth, Repertory, and Wind Orchestras. The more advanced ensembles routinely perform in festivals and clinics throughout the northeast. The Youth Percussion Ensemble has been a guest performer at Albany Symphony's American Music Festival.

The concert is free and open to the general public. Donations to help offset the cost of the program are welcome.

The complete schedule for all ESYO ensembles can be found at esyo.org/event.

About Empire State Youth Orchestras: 300+ talented youth from the Capital Region of New York and western New England are selected by audition each year for positions in ESYO's program of high-level music education and performance opportunities for young musicians. Well known for its Youth Orchestra's participation in CBS 6's Melodies of Christmas (benefit concerts for the pediatric cancer program at Albany Medical Center), ESYO actually has a total of nine performing ensembles that collectively give approximately 30 public performances a year. ESYO reaches out to the community with an annual free concert for senior citizens, concerts for young people, and ESYO's Sistema CHIME™, a free music education program for inner-city, low-income youth in Albany and Schenectady. Founded in 1979, ESYO has been recognized as a premier music education/performance program for youth and has received three prestigious ASCAP awards. A not-for-profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors, ESYO was named Tech Valley Nonprofit Business Council's Nonprofit Organization of 2013 (for organizations of fewer than 75 employees) in recognition of ESYO's positive contributions to the vitality of the region. For more information, visit www.esyo.org.

Contact: Sara Torrey (w) 518-382-7581 (c) 518-956-3534 storrey@esyo.org

###