CHSO LONDON 07

CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

GREAT NEWS!

THE CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HAS BEEN INVITED TO PERFORM AT the Heritage Festival of Music in London, England, on April 5, 2007. The competition, held at the **Royal Academy of Music**, attracts qualified youth orchestras from the United States, Canada, and Europe. This is a high honor, signifying that the CHS Orchestra has reached a level of musical skill matching that of many professional orchestras. It also represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for this diverse group of young musicians to broaden and enrich their world view and to serve as ambassadors of our community.

To perform at the Royal Academy is an honor not to be missed. To meet the challenge of making it possible for ALL students in the orchestra to participate in this life-changing event we need the help of many supporters.

> *The talent present in our young citizens is amazing. When we listen to the Charlottesville High School Orchestra, their music reaffirms our faith in our educational system and the commitment of young people to excellence.*

— David J. Toscano, Delegate, Virginia House District 57

The Charlottesville High School Orchestra is a home and inspiration to the next generation of American musicians and music-lovers. Would that every student had the opportunity to be part of an ensemble with such enthusiasm and talent!

— Michael Slon, Interim Conductor
Charlottesville and University Symphony Orchestra

Ready for the International Stage

THE STUDENTS IN THE CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HAVE EARNED THIS world-class opportunity by dint of hard work, talent, and excellent instruction. Theirs is a success story that makes our entire community proud.

Under the leadership of Laura Mulligan Thomas, the CHS orchestra has grown from eight string players in 1982 to 140 this year, making it one of the largest high school orchestra programs in Virginia. Its members include 25 percent minority students and representatives from many different countries, including India, Ghana, Afghanistan, and Mexico. Its three compilation CDs, "Live!," "Take 2," and "At Last" have sold more than 3,000 copies. The CHSO has gained **a national reputation for excellence**, garnering top prizes at music festivals all over the country, in New York City, Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, Orlando, Dallas, and many other cities. In 1998, it won 2nd place at the International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria.

Now, with your support, the Charlottesville High School Orchestra will take the stage in London to compete with some of the world's best youth orchestras and to serve as a new generation of ambassadors for our community.

Shankar Srinivasan, Violin

Sara Dougadir, Violin

Awards and Honors

OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, THE CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA HAS WON numerous prizes and honors for its exceptional performances. Among them:

2006 First Place, Division V, and Second Place, Division VI, Atlanta Fiesta-Val

2005 Overall Grand Champions for Orchestra, Caribbean Cruise Music Festival

2004 First Place Division V, First Place Division VI, Overall Orchestra Champions, and Overall Grand Champions, Virginia Beach Fiesta-Val

One of eight finalists to win $2,000 in the first-ever National Orchestra Festival, sponsored by the American String Teachers Association and National School Orchestra Association, Dallas

2003 First place Division AA, first place Division AAA, Orchestra Champions, Boston Heritage Festival

2002 First Place Division V, First Place Division VI, Orchestra Champions, and Overall Grand Champions, Myrtle Beach Fiesta-Val

2001 Two Gold Medals, Mid-West Festival of Music, Chicago

2000 First Place in class and Overall Orchestra Champions, All-American Music Festival, Orlando

1999 Two Gold Medals, New York, NY, Festival of Music

1998 Second Place, International Youth and Music Festival, Vienna, Austria (first place went to a university honors ensemble from Australia.) CHSO's 10-day European tour included performances in Halstatt, Austria, the Votivekirke in Vienna, and in Krabcice, Czech Republic

1997 First Place Division V, First Place Division VI, two Superior Ratings, Orchestra Champions, Myrtle Beach Fiesta-Val

1996 Superior Rating, Grand Champions, Boston, New England Festival

Continued on the CHSO website: **www.chsorchestra.org**

About the Director

IN 2007, THE CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA MARKS ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY under the inspired direction of **Laura Mulligan Thomas**. Ms. Thomas came to CHS in 1982 after graduating with honors from James Madison University. She has received numerous awards for her work with young musicians, including Charlottesville's Distinguished Teacher Award, the Piedmont Council of the Arts Award, and "Outstanding Educator in Central Virginia" by Phi Delta Kappa.

Honored as Charlottesville's "Woman of the Year" in 1999 by the Virginia Women's Forum, she was also named one of Charlottesville's Top 25 Citizens by *C-ville.* Ms. Thomas received her master's degree from Shenandoah Conservatory in 1996, having studied with Thomas Wilkins and Ray Fowler. In 2002, Shenandoah University honored Ms. Thomas with its first graduate Alumna of Excellence Award.

Ms. Thomas spent her early years in Alexandria, Virginia, where she studied piano with National Symphony pianist Marion Herrett and learned the cello in the Alexandria City Schools string program. An active performer, Ms. Thomas plays piano and cello with several Charlottesville chamber ensembles, and whenever possible performs with her three siblings as the Mulligan String Quartet. She has guest-conducted dozens of youth orchestras throughout Virginia, and is also the Director of the University of Richmond Orchestra.

The Charlottesville community supported us like a state championship football team when we took the Charlottesville High School Orchestra to Vienna in 1998! The invitation to take the CHSO to Europe again is truly exciting. I am so proud of the accomplishments of these young people, and know that they will be exemplary ambassadors of Charlottesville, the state of Virginia, and our country.

— Laura Mulligan Thomas

Financial Overview

THE CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA'S FIVE-DAY TRIP TO LONDON REPRESENTS a **fundraising challenge that will require significant community support**. CHSO students and parents are aiming to raise a substantial portion of the necessary funds through benefit concerts and student-directed activities such as car washes, quartet performances, poinsettia sales, a 5K-race, and other events and activities. The orchestra hopes to raise the remaining funds through donations, including gifts to a scholarship fund to support students in financial need. Donations to the general campaign and to the scholarship fund are all tax-deductible.

TRAVEL COSTS

Cost per student	$2250
Including:	
Airfare	$800
Hotel/meals	$1200
Insurance and ground transportation	$250
Goal for fundraising through student activities	$105,000
Each student has pledged to raise at least $750 through ongoing fundraising efforts.	
Goal for general campaign	$150,000
Scholarship fund	$60,000
Total fundraising goal for 140 students:	**$315,000**

Car washes help the kids to raise their share of expenses.

Performances work as fundraisers as well.

Help These Talented Kids Put Charlottesville on the Map

THE SUCCESS OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA IS A STELLAR EXAMPLE of what is right with our schools and our community. It vividly reminds us that **our schools can nourish and expect excellence of the highest order.** It is cause for celebration that a diverse group of students from all backgrounds can work together as a team to meet a daunting challenge. These teenagers are Charlottesville's best possible representatives to the world.

Accepting the invitation to the Heritage Festival of Music will have long-lasting consequences, both for these children—most of whom have never flown, never been out of the country—and for their families, friends, and the students who come after them. Imagine what a thrill it will be for these young musicians to perform at the Royal Academy of Music, Great Britain's premier music conservatory, and to see the city's grand sites, including the palaces of music-loving Queen Charlotte, namesake of our city. This concert tour will inspire Charlottesville's children long after this generation of young musicians has graduated. It will be a milestone in the history of our schools and our community.

The CHS Orchestra has paid its own way to nearly every competition in the country with the help of devoted supporters, parents, and orchestra members themselves. In 1998, the CHSO raised enough money to send 80 students to Vienna to participate in the International Youth and Music Festival through fundraising activities and generous donations from community members. In 2007, it aims to take a group almost twice this size to play at the Academy. To make this happen, the orchestra needs the generous support of benefactors throughout the greater Charlottesville community.

The cost of the five-day trip to London will be $2,250 per student. Each student has pledged to raise at least $750. It's up to the many in our community who support music programs for our students and who appreciate this extraordinary opportunity to provide the remainder.

Please **help us make this world-class opportunity a reality** for our young performers. By sustaining and challenging our youth, we nurture our future.

We won "Overall Grand Champions for Orchestra" in the 2005 Caribbean Cruise Music Festival.

Trophies reflect the students' hard work.

What the Students Say about Music and Going to London

For the past three years, Orchestra has created a stable challenge in my life. I know every year I'm going to be in a class full of musicians ready to learn music. And every year I finish with a sense of accomplishment. We learned dozens of pieces, and in just a few short months. Each piece has its own challenges, which we must deal with as an orchestra, as a section, and as individual musicians in a larger group. I'm ecstatic that the culmination of four years of dedication is a trip to London, where we will put our musicianship to the test.

— JULIANA BARTON, VIOLIN

My mother used to promise me ice cream if I practiced enough hours. Now I love working on and practicing new music with the orchestra so no one needs to promise me anything. And with the opportunity to go and play in London, I have something to work for again.

— HARDY DOUGLAS, VIOLA

Plenty of kids grow up wishing they had someone to teach them an instrument. In Charlottesville, not only are we fortunate enough to learn music, we learn it well enough to play internationally. The orchestra program really is a chance to influence the lives of those who partake in it.

— JOSEPH SHEA-HACKETT, VIOLA

When I chose to play the bass in the fourth grade I had no idea how far my seemingly minuscule decision would take me. I am now headed into the 12th grade and have been playing bass for seven wonderful years. This year I have the opportunity to travel with my orchestra to London. I am certain traveling to such a worldly and awe-inspiring place will have such an impact musically and also personally on each member of the orchestra. In other words, I couldn't be more excited!

— ANNA YOUNG, BASS

When I was 8, and my brother was in the CHS Orchestra, I watched as the orchestra played in an old church near Prague. I remember how the people who came showed such appreciation for the music. I'm so excited that I will have the opportunity to play in Europe too. In addition to playing great music, I think our orchestra will convey a very positive image of U.S. culture.

— RACHEL LUCY, CELLO

Portraits on pages 2, 4, 5, 7, and 11 donated by Michael Bailey. Printing donated in part by Kaminer & Thomson.

How wonderful it is to watch the Charlottesville High School Orchestra students move confidently in the direction of their dreams. Their talent has become a joy not only for local audiences, but international ones as well. We support and encourage all of the rich opportunities that have been presented.

— Rosa S. Atkins

Superintendent, Charlottesville City Schools

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Orchestra

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