November 19, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

It is wonderful to be able to introduce myself to you as the new Director of Orchestral Activities at Iowa State University in conjunction with such an exciting event! The 2010 Honor Orchestra Festival will be a fantastic opportunity for your students to interact with musicians and faculty here at Iowa State in a positive, fun, and musically rewarding environment. We have exciting music and wonderful experiences planned for your string students this year and we hope you will join us.

Some of the highlights of the 2010 ISU Honor Orchestra Festival include: a joint concert with the ISU Symphony Orchestra on Saturday afternoon; a performance of the internationally acclaimed Ames Piano Quartet for the 2010 Honor Orchestra participants; rehearsals, sectionals and masterclasses with ISU Faculty; and a pizza party provided by the ISU Symphony Orchestra for the Honor Orchestra participants on Friday night.

Enclosed you will find the forms needed for your string students to apply and be nominated to the ISU Honor Orchestra. Please complete the Director information in the middle of the nomination form, and feel free to photocopy the application form for as many students as you would like. All of the information enclosed with this packet is also available online at www.music.iastate.edu/ensembles/honororchestra.

In the past, the ISU Honor Orchestra has included high school winds, brass and percussion. However, in effort to refocus the mission of our festival, this year we are limiting participation to string students only. We feel that we will be better able to serve your string students in a more direct and meaningful way with this change.

Thank you for your support of this festival. Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jacob Harrison, D.M.A
Director of Orchestral Activities
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