



November, 2009

Dear Music Educator:

**Do you have advanced students who would like to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship and the opportunity to perform as a soloist with a premier adult band in the state of Michigan?** The Grand Rapids Symphonic Band is once again sponsoring the Youth Soloist Competition to find the state's finest high school wind or percussion soloist. The Grand Rapids Symphonic Band is making the opportunity available to any student who is currently enrolled in a secondary band program in the state of Michigan. **In addition to performing a solo with the band, the winning student will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship made payable to the university or college that he/she will attend.** The youth soloist will appear in concert with the Grand Rapids Symphonic Band, conducted by Barry Martin on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at Lowell High School.

Soon, students will begin preparing for their district solo/ensemble festival. If you have any students who are interested in this scholarship, they should consider choosing a solo suited for both MSBOA District Solo/Ensemble Festival and the GRSB Youth Soloist Competition. Students must select a solo that has a **readily available band accompaniment**. As the student's music teacher, we ask you to assist them in this. Students must submit a preliminary tape or CD that includes a minimum of one movement of the work to be performed, or the entire selection if not multi-movement, not to exceed 15 minutes. **Tapes/CD's must be postmarked by February 1, 2010 and mailed to me directly.** A committee representing the woodwind, brass and percussion sections will evaluate the preliminary round. All tapes and CDs become the property of the Grand Rapids Symphonic Band and will not be returned. The finalists will be notified by phone before February 15, 2010. The finalists will be selected to perform a live audition at Grand Valley State University on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Each finalist will need to bring his or her own accompanist for the audition. The winner will be selected that evening and notified at the conclusion of the live auditions. The winner must be available for a minimum of two, possibly three, Thursday evening rehearsals (March 25-April 29). A rehearsal schedule will be determined following the selection of a finalist. In addition, the music director reserves the right to edit the winner's selection for program length. Suitable cuts will be worked out between the music director and the student soloist.

As a music educator, please consider personally inviting your best students to apply for this fantastic opportunity. **All submissions should be clearly marked with the applicant's name and have the application fee of \$15 and accompanying application form completely filled out. Poor quality tapes or incomplete applications will not be judged. Late applications will not be considered.**

The board of directors and conductor Barry Martin are very excited about providing this unique opportunity to showcase the talent of Michigan's youth!

Sincerely,

Keith Hudson, Chair GRSB Youth Soloist Competition  
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