Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild

Awards of Excellence: Tue, Jun 6  9:00 am, #1

Arts & Academic Study Group

Presenter: Susan Anderson

Good morning, LAO school board. Thank you for inviting me to share information about the Arts and Academics Study Group and the free, annual Young People’s Concerts for fourth graders, offered since 1968.

The Study Group (SG) is a collaboration among – school districts, The Schools Foundation, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, and the HSO Guild. Its purpose is to investigate and report on adding value to Young People’s Concerts (YPC) especially through pedagogical grade-level appropriateness of the concert program and associated components. The desired outcome is increasing attendance at YPC. The Study Group began its investigation in summer of 2015.

Programmed specifically for them, YPC give students a true symphony experience with audience participation and dance or theatre performance accompanying the major work. In 2016 Gregory Vajda, HSO Music Director and Conductor, will present Carnival of the Animals and Fantasy Playhouse accompanying with puppets.
VIEW 5: CONCERT DATES

Select the date you will attend.

VIEW 6: YOUNG ARTIST AUDITIONS

YPC includes not only the concert, but also the Young Artist Audition winner may be invited to solo with the orchestra at YPC.

VIEW 7: ART CONTEST

The Guild works with elementary art teachers on the annual Art Contest. Fourth graders submit works related to the concert theme. First place winner’s work is

VIEW 8: STUDENT PROGRAM BOOKLET

On the cover of the student program booklet. Other winners’ works along with program notes, information about the Music Director and YPC composers, diagram of HSO, and music puzzles and games are inside the booklet, given to teachers at

VIEW 9: PRE-CONCERT

Pre-Concert visits by a Guild volunteer and an HSO musician. The Guild volunteer discusses concert manners and when to applaud. The professional musician demonstrates his or her instrument and selections from the concert. [Show Hunter’s photo.] Hunter Thomas is principal our bassoonist. Wouldn’t fourth graders like to have him visit their classrooms? You can tell he is fun: notice his red shoes!

VIEW 10: YPC ATTENDANCE

A startling trend in declining attendance at the annual free Young People’s Concerts—especially of the 3 districts in Madison County—led the Symphony Guild to contact our State School Board representative for advice about music’s role in 4th grade pedagogy. She recommended
• a study group including 4th grade teachers, a school administrator, with Guild members and
• suggested its name and focus.
We followed Mary Scott Hunter’s advice.

The guild convened the Study Group of classroom teachers, elementary music teachers, elementary principal, HSO Education Director, and Guild members. We first looked at attendance statistics over the past 4 years. This graph shows
• large drop and gradual increase,
• but the 4800 in 2015 is significantly less than the capacity of 7000 at 4 concerts, which was usual before 2010.

NEXT

VIEW 11: HUNTSVILLE CITY

Pie charts show 2014 attendance of schools with 4th graders. Huntsville City Schools: 38%

NEXT

VIEW 12: MADISON CITY

Madison City Schools: 37%

NEXT

VIEW 13: MADISON COUNTY

Madison County Schools: 29%

NEXT

VIEW 14: STANDARDS

Why should your 4th graders attend YPC? Study Group educators identified 30 correlating Alabama College and Career Ready Standards representing all disciplines:

• 12 English Language Arts
• 8 math
• 1 each in social studies and science
  ○ The first fourth grade science unit is vibration, which is physics, which is music
• 2 each in music, visual art, drama, and dance

That’s a high return on investment in YPC!

NEXT
WHAT’S NEXT

Next steps: Likert scale evaluation through Survey Monkey is sent to all attending teachers for 3 years. The Study Group will reconvene to assess results of each annual survey and YPC. We would appreciate the opportunity to return to share results of findings and hear your input / recommendations.

2016

Moving ahead from to April 2016: Results of 2016 attendance and evaluation survey show attendance from target districts

HUNTSVILLE CITY

Huntsville – 50%, three times as many as in 2015

MADISON CITY

Madison – 87%, up significantly

MADISON COUNTY

Madison County -- 14%, a decline

SURVEY RESULTS

The survey was sent to 347 attending teachers. We received 101 responses, which I am told is a good, expected rate of return.

QUESTION 1

Sample evaluation question with responses—Note no wishy-washy middle option. Each question provides option for comments.

WHAT’S NEXT?
What’s next for 2017? James Stephenson’s *Compose Yourself*, the second evaluation survey, and the SG reconvening to study results and attendance and sharing results.

VIEW 23: PREZI MAP

SOME ADDITIONAL REMARKS ABOUT THE PROJECT?

SWITCH TO POWERPOINT QUESTIONS