

Press Release
Midwest Young Artists
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Midwest Young Artists



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Midwest Young Artists and University of Illinois Concert Choir Collaborate to Perform Carmina Burana;
2005-2006 Walgreens Concerto Competition Winners Perform**

FORT SHERIDAN, IL, - The Midwest Young Artists Chorale and Symphony Orchestra (MYA 878 Lyster Road, Highwood, 847-926-9898) and the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana Concert Choir will collaborate to unlock the mystery of 13th century clergy with a dramatic performance of Carl Orff's electrifying *Carmina Burana* at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 18 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University (50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, 847-467-4000). Soloists include soprano Desiree Hassler, tenor Ben Junes and bass Kevin Prina, students of the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana Concert Choir.

Religion was far away from the minds of the 13th century clergy who composed *Carmina Burana*. The manuscript, discovered in 1803 at the Benedictine monastery of Beuren in southern Germany, consists of more than 1000 poems, songs and plays. The lyrics of the poems flaunt secular issues such as alcohol, lust and gambling. *Carmina Burana* was later set to music by German composer Carl Orff and had its world premiere in Frankfurt in 1937.

Sponsored by the McCormick Tribune Foundation, the 7:30 p.m. concert will also feature Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, Mendelssohn's *Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the 2005–2006 Walgreens Concerto Competition Open and MYA Division winners, cellists Gabriel Cabezas and Mindy Park with the award-winning MYA Symphony Orchestra. 13-year-old Gabriel Cabezas, a student at Wilmette Junior High School, will perform Kabalevsky's *Concerto No. 2 for Cello* and 16-year-old Mindy Park, a student at Lake Zurich High School, will perform Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No. 1*.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree for the Park family. 12-year-old Laura Park, younger sister of Mindy and student at Lake Zurich Middle School North, will take the stage as the winner of the MYA Junior Division of the 2005–2006 Walgreens Concerto Competition and will perform Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in e minor* with the MYA Concert Orchestra at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University. Sponsored by Seman Violins, the matinee program also features the MYA Choristers, Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Orchestra. **Tickets are \$20/adult and \$10/student and senior and are available at www.mya.org or by calling 847-926-9898.**

Midwest Young Artists (878 Lyster Road, Highwood, 847-926-9898), is the leading youth-music ensemble program in the Midwest. Founded in 1993 by Dr. Allan Dennis with one orchestra, MYA has grown into a full-curriculum music school with a distinguished faculty of 22. MYA has five youth orchestras, more than 50 chamber music ensembles, three vocal ensembles, an all-inclusive jazz program, and classes in music theory and history. The program is for serious young musicians and dedicated amateurs. MYA is housed in its own state-of-the-art facility in the town of Fort Sheridan, which provides its students with large rehearsal halls, classrooms, a recording studio, and music library. MYA graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories in the country.

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