

## LINCOLN'S IDEALS concert to feature Young Musicians, Guest Composer, and Mayor John Spring

Under the direction of Music Director Bruce Briney, two of the area's most talented young high school musicians will be the featured soloists for the Quincy Symphony Orchestra's 54th Young Artists Concert on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2008 at 3:00 in the QJHS Morrison Theater. The LINCOLN'S IDEALS concert will feature the two winners of the annual Young Artists Competition: Emily Hart, oboe, and Kelsey Drea, piano. The QSO will host guest composer Todd Goodman for a pre-concert lecture, and Mayor John Spring will appear as the narrator for Aaron Copland's famous *Lincoln Portrait*.

Emily Hart is a senior at Quincy High School, and is a member of the National Honor Society and the QHS varsity basketball team. She has been playing the oboe for nine years and has been a student of Marianne Peters, Louis Margaglione, and WIU Professor Michael Ericson. Last summer she traveled to Europe with the Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra, and plans to return again this year as principal oboe. She is a member of the QHS concert band, the QU Concert Band, and the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra. She is an active member of the youth group at First Union Congregational Church in Quincy. She is the daughter of Connie Hook and Rodney Hart.

Kelsey Drea, daughter of John and Brenda Drea of Macomb, is a senior at Macomb High School. She has been playing piano for 11 years, and studies with Dr. Jenny Perron of WIU. Kelsey plays percussion in the MHS wind symphony and marching band, and is involved with National Honor Society, math team, soccer, intramural basketball, one act plays and SADD. She is class treasurer for the MHS senior class. She is a member of the Macomb Municipal Band, her church youth group, and running club. Kelsey will be a returning member of the Illinois All-State Honors band this winter.

The QSO will host the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra as they share a side-by-side performance of Copland's *Outdoor Overture* under the direction of QAYO Conductor Christine Beason. Briney will then lead the young soloists in their performances. Miss Hart will perform the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of Haydn's *Concerto for Oboe in C Major*. The first half of the program will conclude with Miss Drea's performance the final movement of Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16*.

Following the intermission, the QSO will commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth through the performances of works by Todd Goodman and Aaron Copland. Todd Goodman's *Symphony No. 1 Fields of Crimson* will depict through music and narration the story of the Battle of Gettysburg. The five movements represent different days involving the battle of Gettysburg in the form of prelude, three days of battle, and solemn finale. The composer grew up near a battlefield in Pennsylvania, and this is his reaction to the loss one family experienced there. Between the movements of the Symphony, Kaitlyn VanderMaiden, a sophomore at QHS and an active performer with the Quincy Community Theatre, will read the (fictional) memoir of a young girl living in Gettysburg during the days of the battle.

Composer Todd Goodman of PA will be a guest for the performance, and will speak to the audience at 2:20 PM from the stage about his inspiration for *Fields of Crimson*. Goodman has been described as "one of America's promising young composers." In addition to many performances in the United States, his works have also been performed in Canada, Mexico, Europe and Asia. Goodman currently serves as the resident composer for the McKeesport Symphony Orchestra. He is resident composer for the newly built Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center in Midland, Pennsylvania, and serves on the faculty of the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School where he teaches musicianship and composition to some of Pennsylvania's finest young musicians.

The concert will conclude with the performance of Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, which includes readings from some of Lincoln's most famous letters and speeches, including the Gettysburg Address. Quincy Mayor John Spring will serve as the narrator for this dramatic work.

Concert tickets will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance from the Symphony Office at 428 Maine, or from Wild Birds Unlimited, 3502 Broadway Rd. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors. Children 18 and under are admitted free to all QSO concerts, and are encouraged to attend. Flexi-tickets (6 admissions for \$60) will be available at the concert, offering a 30% discount over single-admission prices. LINCOLN'S IDEALS is partially supported by The Knapheide Manufacturing Company, Encore! Quincy Symphony Volunteer Council, the Quincy Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, media sponsor Comcast Spotlight, and by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. More information on the 61<sup>st</sup> Season and each of the WINDOWS ON THE WORLD concerts may be found at [www.qsoa.org](http://www.qsoa.org). Call 217-222-2856 for a brochure or additional information.