

For immediate release – 3/1/10

Quincy Area Youth Orchestra Will Premier Steve Parke Composition

Under the direction of Mrs. Christine Beason, the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra will present its Spring Celebration Concert on March 14, 2010 in the auditorium at Baldwin Intermediate School at 5:00 pm. The orchestra will be performing a combination of traditional and contemporary pieces, including audience favorites such as Berlioz's *March to the Scaffold*, the Finale of Brahms' *First Symphony*, R. W. Smith's *The Iliad*, and Alfred Reed's *A Festival Prelude*. The highlight of the concert will feature the premier of a new composition by Quincyan Steve Parke entitled *Purple Mountains' Majesty*. The string and wind sections of the orchestra will also perform feature pieces.

Steve Parke is well known in the Quincy area as an educator, musician, and composer. Having performed extensively throughout the US, Parke is currently Jazz Artist-in-Residence at Quincy University, and has performed on trumpet with many Quincy area music ensembles including the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, Quincy Park Band, Quincy Brass Quintet, and the Big River Swing Machine. He has composed numerous compositions for jazz big band, symphony orchestra, solo instruments, and chamber groups. *Purple Mountains' Majesty* was originally conceived as a musical landscape featuring the majestic mountains of the western United States. As the composition developed further, a patriotic component was added as reflected in the title.

The 2010 QAYO consists of forty-five talented musicians from throughout the tri-state area, selected for the orchestra based on an audition held in November. The members have chosen to dedicate much of their personal time and effort to the success of the ensemble. The QAYO provides opportunities for these student musicians to share and combine talents, improve reading and ensemble skills, perform standard orchestral literature, and to have fun while creating music. The QAYO is partially supported by the Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association, Encore! Symphony Volunteer Council through their "Symphony of Trees" event, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. For more information on this and other youth programs of the QSOA, visit www.qsoa.org or call 217-222-2856.

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