



January 18, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! On behalf of everyone at the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program, let me just say how excited we are to have your talented sons and daughters back for this spring semester. Our conductors have prepared beautiful repertoire for all our ensembles, and we're all looking forward to the second part of our season.

For more than 60 years, AYSP has maintained a standard of excellence. It's vital that we continue to offer our students outstanding musical experiences that augment the daily instruction they receive in their school music programs, while keeping tuition as affordable as possible.

The tuition that families pay to participate only covers approximately 32% of the cost of our operations. The remainder must be raised annually through donations, grants, ticket sales, and fundraising events. The AYSP Board of Directors, in collaboration with staff, have organized a fantastic fundraising opportunity that also promotes our new signature fundraising event, the Burque Derby: A Kentucky Derby Bash.

This year, in addition to hosting New Mexico's premier Kentucky Derby party, AYSP will be selling raffle tickets for a once-in-a-lifetime trip for two to the 2017 Kentucky Oaks (Friday, May 5, 2017) and the Kentucky Derby (Saturday, May 6, 2017) at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. The prize package includes roundtrip airfare to Louisville from the Albuquerque International Sunport, hotel accommodations for three nights, and two tickets to both races that include food and beverage service. The Actual Retail Value of the package is estimated to be about \$5,000.

We have printed 6,000 raffle tickets – *much better odds than Powerball* – to be sold for \$20 each. The drawing will be held at the Burque Derby: A Kentucky Derby Bash on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the Sid Cutter Pilots' Pavilion at Balloon Fiesta Park. The winner does not need to be present to win.

Funds raised will help support AYSP, so we can continue to provide superior music instruction for as many students as possible. We strongly encourage all students and families to participate in selling raffle tickets, and suggest a minimum commitment of selling five tickets.

Students who sell 5 raffle tickets will earn an AYSP headset and students who sell 20 tickets will earn a limited edition AYSP hoodie.

We've attached a form for you to indicate your option as to whether or not your student will be participating in this fundraiser. We will be distributing raffle tickets next week at rehearsals, so please return the attached participation form at rehearsal next week.

We're hoping we can count on you to raise valuable support for AYSP so we can continue to further our mission of instilling a lifelong passion for music in motivated people in the Albuquerque area through the pursuit of excellence in orchestral music performance.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of AYSP.

Sincerely,

Mandi Kane
Executive Director

Sayra Siverson
Artistic Director