

DATE May 2023
TO CSYSA Families and Pikes Peak Region Young Musicians
RE Prep Class Introduction Letter

Dear Friends –

We would like to invite you to join us this year in a specially tailored course hosted by the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association that will help your aspiring music major gain acceptance into their college or conservatory of choice. We call it the Collegiate Performance and Preparation Program, or “Prep Class,” and our director has been teaching it here and in Seattle for almost 30 years.

Students of orchestral instruments, along with ensemble training and private lessons, will need to be prepared as soloists and competitors, skilled technicians on their instruments of choice, ready with repertoire lists that include scale/etude books and a full rank of concertos, sonatas, and pieces composed in progressive styles and eras. They will need to be disciplined and ready to submit music resumes and recordings. They will need to attend summer music camps and perform in Master Classes, and they will need to select colleges with potential teachers who match their expectations and personalities. We will introduce you to this unique process and help your young musician master the necessary steps they need to successfully complete it. Please keep in mind that we believe that an earlier start is better! With so many requirements, don’t wait until your musician is a junior or senior in high school—they will be better prepared if they are able to begin preparation at an earlier age.

Margaret Pressley was brought up in Seattle by a family of musicians and played in the Seattle Youth Symphony when she was in school. She has taught violin for more than 50 years and founded the Seattle Conservatory of Music in 1994. Along with progressive music academics, Ms. Pressley established a college performance program to guide students at the Conservatory through the process of applying to a music program – a very different process from a traditional college application.

We look forward to seeing you in class!