



THE KNIGHTS/TILLES CENTER STRING ORCHESTRA CONVOCATION

Sunday, March 1, 2020

FOUNDER/DIRECTORS Dale Lewis | Roger Tilles • **MUSIC DIRECTORS** Eric Jacobsen | Colin Jacobsen
ORCHESTRA MANAGER Susan Weber • **ADVISORS** Christopher Hale | Eric Kay | Michael Salzman | Steven E. Schopp | Stephanie Turner

December 11, 2019

Dear Colleague:

We are delighted to introduce you to the 2020 Knights/Tilles Center String Orchestra Convocation and to invite you to nominate students to become Fellows of the Convocation. **The Convocation will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2020 at Tilles Center.** It is presented in conjunction with Nassau and Suffolk NYSCAME. CTLE or In-Service credit is available to participating educators.

The Convocation will be a day for advanced high school Juniors and Seniors to listen, rehearse and perform side-by-side with The Knights, one of the great chamber orchestras of our day. The Knights present annual seasons at major American and international concert halls, and collaborate with great artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Gil Shaham, Itzhak Perlman and Joshua Redman. We invite you to meet The Knights in this introduction by Yo-Yo Ma: tinyurl.com/yys8apur.

The Convocation will begin at 10:30 AM. Student Fellows will first attend a working rehearsal of The Knights. They will then spend the day rehearsing side-by-side with Knights artists under the baton of Eric Jacobsen, who together with his brother Colin are Co-Artistic Directors. A Concert at 4:30 PM will include student/artist performances of the closing movement of Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings and Vivaldi's *Spring*. The Knights will perform two additional pieces: The Mendelssohn Octet (Finale) and Colin Jacobsen's *Ascending Bird*, composed for and recorded by Yo-Yo Ma.

To become one of the selected Convocation Fellows, students must currently be in school grade 11 or 12, have a NYSSMA rating of Level 6-97, and be nominated by their orchestra director. Music will be sent well before the Convocation so that students can prepare the pieces completely. Please choose only your top musicians, those who can learn these pieces in a short time. Please also see the attached program from last year to have an understanding of the Convocation and follow this link for the Fellows Nomination Form. It includes all information needed for your students to accept your nomination. **The deadline for nominations is January 15, 2020.** <https://forms.gle/BwZ5ecqfXC2poViF6>

If you have any questions feel free to contact Sue Weber: knightsconvocation@gmail.com. In the meantime, the Convocation's artists and directors look forward to your nominations and hope that you will also join us on March 1st for a joyful day of music making.

Best wishes,