



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 Student:

We are delighted to introduce you to the second Knights/Tilles Center String Orchestra Convocation and to invite you to become a Fellow of the Convocation. You have been nominated by your school district's Director of Music and your school's Orchestra Director because of your advancement and achievement.

The Convocation will be a day for advanced string players 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. 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: for us: The Mendelssohn Octet (Finale) and Colin Jacobsen's *Ascending Bird*, composed for and recorded by Yo-Yo Ma.

To become a Convocation Fellow you must currently be in school grade 11 or 12, have a NYSSMA rating of at least 97 on a Level 6 piece and be nominated by your orchestra director. Music will be sent well before the Convocation so you can prepare the pieces completely. Please accept this invitation only if you can learn them in a short time. Please also see the attached program from last year to have an understanding of the Convocation and then follow this link for the Fellows Registration Form. It includes all information needed for you to accept your nomination. <https://forms.gle/BwZ5ecqfXC2poViF6>

The deadline for registration is January 17, 2020.

If you have any questions feel free to contact our Orchestra Manager, Ms. Susan Weber: knightsconvocation@gmail.com. In the meantime, the Convocation's artists and directors look forward to your registration. We look forward to seeing you on March 1st for a joyful day of music making.

Best wishes,

Dale Lewis

Roger Tilles