



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Music Opportunity Program Newsletter, the very first in what we hope to be a helpful, informative, and entertaining periodical on the people, events, developments, and achievements that all together create the musical world of the MOP. We hope that you will enjoy reading it and, just as importantly, helping us to make it and the Program itself still better in the future.

First, "The Music Opportunity Program Newsletter" as a name lacks, to say the least, flair; in fact, it is remarkably and unbearably dull. We therefore take pride in announcing the MOP Newsletter Naming Contest, open to all MOP students. Please submit your suggestions for a name for our newsletter, and

the winning contestant will not only be acknowledged in a future issue, but will also be the recipient of a fifty dollar (\$50) U.S. Savings Bond.

Please mail all entries to:

The Music Opportunity Program  
Phillips Academy  
2316 Seventh Ave. North  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
ATTN: Dr. Rita Salzberg

Stretch your imagination and take advantage of this opportunity to have a permanent impact on the storied history of the Music Opportunity Program (as well as a \$50 savings bond).

**JOIN US!  
MOP SHOWCASE: MARCH 29, BOUTWELL AUDITORIUM**

The sayings are endless: "What is worthwhile is difficult"; "No pain, no gain"; "Naught without labor." And they are all true: anything that is truly valuable and worthwhile comes with a price, and the ability to play the violin, the viola, the cello, or the bass does not come without hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

But with the effort comes the reward, and the reward is performance. It is therefore with great pride that we announce and invite all to the Music Opportunity Program Showcase at the Boutwell Auditorium on March 29, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. Come join us for this grand event featuring performances by all of the MOP programs, and bring your friends and neighbors!

All three orchestras — the Birmingham String Orchestra (BSO), Birmingham Prelude Strings (BPO) and the Alabama Youth Symphony (AYS), our premier ensemble, will perform. Also featured are two talented soloists, both of whom were chosen by audition:

Graham Daugherty, violin (BPS), will perform one movement of the Seitz Violin Concerto. Graham is in the 7th Grade at Advent Episcopal Day School and is a student of Ai-Yi Bao.

JiMin Yang, violin (AYS), will perform the first movement of the Mozart Violin Concerto in A Major. JiMin is in the 10th grade at Indian Springs School and is the concertmaster of the AYS. JiMin

was also the winner of the Winner (String Division) of the Lois Pickard Solo Competition on January 9, 2009, sponsored by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. JiMin is the student of Daniel Szasz.

Additionally, the BSO Honors Ensemble will play a Bach minuet for string instrument arranged by Samuel Applebaum. Being accepted into the BSO Honors Ensemble is a most significant recognition to the hard work and talent of the players.

The Ensemble includes:

- VIOLINS** Mae Jones  
Astiti Prasad  
Barrett Harris  
Nikhil Mantha  
Jonathan Lin
- VIOLAS** Sean Herrera  
Taylor Froelich
- CELLOS** Kate Young  
Sarah Burgner
- BASS** Thomas Gendrich



Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy all three MOP orchestras perform, along with these extraordinary soloists and ensemble players. We hope to see you there!

**GET READY FOR END OF YEAR RECITALS!**

MOP's year-end recitals will be here soon, and we want to invite you all to join us for these significant performances:

**BSO/ BPS CONCERT**

May 9, 2009  
7:00 p.m.  
Indian Springs

**AYS CONCERT**

May 10, 2009  
3:00 p.m.  
Indian Springs

**STRING ACADEMY RECITALS**

May 11, 12, 14

**SOLO RECITALS**

May 17, 23

All of you who have had the pleasure of attending MOP concerts at Indian Springs School have already experienced the acoustics of its wonderful Concert Hall; for those of you new to the program, or who just have not had the opportunity, you are in for a treat. Indian Springs School generously donates the use of this terrific facility, and it is a great experience for our students as well as the audience each time we play. MOP greatly appreciates Indian Springs School, an outstanding educational facility and valued member of the Music Opportunity Program Alliance.

**ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS**

All MOP Orchestras are auditioning in May for 2009-2010. Please call MOP for details or further information at 205-231-9504, and look for news and updates at our website, [www.musicop.org](http://www.musicop.org).

**THE MOP ANNUAL FUND DRIVE:  
NOW MORE THAN EVER**

The Music Opportunity Program provides unique string and orchestra training throughout the greater Birmingham area, and has done so for more than twenty years. Throughout that time, MOP has been deeply grateful for the dedication, support, and friendship of all of its students, parents, teachers, and friends, all of whom have together created a genuine treasure for the youth in our area. Without your help, it would never have been possible, and its continued success in bringing music into the lives of hundreds upon hundreds of hard-working young persons still depends upon your support.

Each year MOP launches its Annual Fund Drive, our principal fundraising effort for the Program. Every donation, no matter how small, is both crucial to the Program's continuation and greatly appreciated by MOP and the members of the MOP Foundation. In this time of financial uncertainty, we know that every dollar counts, and unfortunately, in times like these, it is often the arts that are the first to be abandoned, so we sincerely ask each of you to think about the value of the Program to the children it serves and give whatever you can.

All donations may be mailed to:

The Music Opportunity Program  
Phillips Academy  
2316 Seventh Ave. North  
Birmingham, AL 35203

The Music Opportunity Program Foundation is a 501 (c) 3, non-profit organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible. All donations go to the Program itself, to support and sustain its mission. Please give what you can, knowing that it is money that supports the achievements of young people in an area of the fine arts that brings them strength, dignity, and a well-deserved sense of self-worth. Your donations are an investment in the quality of their lives and their futures. It accomplishes more than you know.

On behalf of the Program, the Foundation and all the young people of MOP, past present, and future: thank you.

