



August 2009

Dear Fellow Musician,

The Iowa State Fair starts this week, which means the start of the DMCO's 34th season is not far behind. The first rehearsal will be **Tuesday, September 8, 2009**, promptly at 7:00 p.m. in Calvin Hall, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Beaver and Franklin, Des Moines. We will have a social time at Snookies as part of our first rehearsal.

Rehearsals will be from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. Dress rehearsals will be the Saturday preceding the concert and will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Our concert schedule for the 2009-2010 season is as follows:

Fall Concert	November 1	Sheslow Auditorium
Celebrate and Sing <i>Messiah</i>	December 6	Sheslow Auditorium
Winter Concert	February 28	Sheslow Auditorium
Spring Concert	May 9	Sheslow Auditorium

All concerts will start at 2:00 p.m., with Carl's pre-concert talks at 1:00 p.m.

Our annual meeting and pizza party will be held either May 11<sup>th</sup> or May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please be ready to cast your vote in the spring as to which date you prefer. The meeting will be at Westminster.

We will start our season with "Viva Italia." Selections are as follows:

Rienzi Overture – Richard Wagner  
Adagio from Spartacus – Aram Khachaturian  
Roman Carnival Overture – Hector Berlioz  
Symphony No. 4 (Italian) – Felix Mendelssohn  
Parade of the Charioteers from Ben-Hur – Miklos Rosza

Our winter concert will be "In Memoriam" as we dedicate the concert to Richard Gerstenberger, former director of the orchestra. Dick's wife Martha will attend. We will perform a commissioned work by Linda Robbins Coleman. Our spring concert, "Tapping Our Inner Soloists," will feature soloists and ensembles from within the orchestra. You can check out the full programs on our website, [www.desmoinescommunityorchestra.com](http://www.desmoinescommunityorchestra.com).

The Board of Directors constantly seeks to make both member participation and audience experience better than ever before. As a reminder, the policies pertinent to the efficient operation of the orchestra are included with this letter. As you are all aware, we are a not-for-profit organization and as such we rely on contributions, grants, advertising, sponsorships and **DUES** from the members. According to our by-laws, all members *must* pay dues for each concert. Dues are \$18 per concert, including *Messiah*. If you are not financially able to pay dues, financial aid is available through our Meir Bernstein funds.

As with any volunteer organization, there are numerous opportunities for the members to assist with various tasks during the year. Some of the opportunities available for each concert are assistance with mailings, percussion loading or unloading, and ushering at the concerts. If you are unable to assist, volunteer a family member. Please consider volunteering for at least one job during the season.

Any questions regarding any of the policies, practices, etc., of the organization can be directed to any Board member or to Carl Johnson, our director.

**The DMCO Board of Directors and their responsibilities for the 2009-2010 season:**

Carolyn Knittle	President	Michael Ramirez	Dues Collector
Josh Whitver	Vice President	Shaunda Murphy	Media and Social Coordinator
Kendall Childs	Secretary	Lynn Messina	Fund Raising
David Hindal	Treasurer		

We look forward to seeing all of you, returning members or new, on **September 8 at 7:00 p.m.** for the beginning of another great concert season.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Knittle*

President, DMCO Board of Directors

*“Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music.” ~Sergei Rachmaninov*

*”I’ve never known a musician who regretted being one. Whatever deceptions life may have in store for you, music itself is not going to let you down.” ~Virgil Thomson*



## Board of Directors / Orchestra Policies and Practices

*Membership Requirements.* According to the orchestra by-laws, “Any musician who has been accepted by the conductor and who pays his or her dues each segment shall be a member.” In general, membership is open to all adult instrumentalists possessing the skills necessary to perform standard orchestral literature. Formal auditions are not required. Members are responsible for attending rehearsals and for practicing at home as required to perform the music. Members are responsible for the condition of their music and for returning it promptly at the conclusion of each concert.

*Dues.* Members pay \$18.00 dues per concert. Dues are to be paid to the membership oversight Board member, either by segment or for the entire season. Failure to pay dues by the third rehearsal of the following concert segment will result in the member being ineligible to play until dues are paid. Dues for regular playing members may not be waived. If paying dues constitutes a financial hardship, members may contact any Board member to apply for a Meir Bernstein fellowship for that segment’s dues.

### *Openings and Seating.*

Strings: Open so long as there is room on stage, subject to conductor approval. First-stand players stay as is per conductor choice; further seating is by tenure, player/section leader/conductor choice.

Woodwinds, brass: Closed when the maximum number of parts is covered. Seating is by tenure, player/conductor agreement.

Percussion: Open so long as there is room and need. Section leader is by conductor choice; part assignment is by section leader and conductor choice.

*Attendance.* Consistent attendance at rehearsals is important both for individual players and for the ensemble as a whole. Members are expected to attend *all* rehearsals if possible. Please inform the section leader or conductor in advance of known absence.

### *Other Responsibilities and Opportunities.*

Fund-raising. The orchestra is supported by membership dues, audience donations, and business/corporate donations and sponsorships. In the fall, the Board member responsible for fund-raising provides handouts and other materials to orchestra members so that they can make appropriate contacts and requests for funding. For instance, many businesses will make donations to organizations supported by their employees and patrons. Sponsors contributing \$25.00 or more per season are acknowledged in the concert programs.

Financial Aid. The Meir Bernstein Foundation makes fellowships available to help with orchestra-related expenses for members with special financial needs. Board members may be contacted for further information.