

Westminster & Conejo Valley Youth Festival Orchestra Vienna, Austria June/July 2009

I was invited to provide the Festival Orchestra of 58 players to Vienna, Austria late June and early July 2009 to participate in the International Haydn Festival as the Haydn Festival Orchestra. The festival is the celebration of the 200th year of Franz Joseph Haydn's death. Ed Lojeski and I have assembled an orchestra of 32 professional and 26 advanced and motivated student musicians to represent Southern California and the Conejo Valley. This is a unique collaboration where students will perform with professional musicians.

There will be participants from all over the world performing a series of concerts. The Festival Orchestra will work with a number of choral organization and internationally recognized conductors. We will be performing in some of the most famous and well known concert venues in the world.

The Wiener Konzerthause, The Votiv Kirche, The Musikverein Golden Hall and The Royal Palace are just a few examples of venues where we are booked to perform. These venues are where Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and many of the most renowned composers of all time spent much of their lives working and performing. **This is an opportunity of a lifetime!**

The CVYO Board Directors has agreed to act as a guarantor to help finance our student musicians. However, we must raise dollars above and beyond the normal operating expenses of CVYO in order to provide this opportunity.

We are actively seeking financial support for this very special project. If you are aware of any sources that can help provide this opportunity and who would like to be a part of this experience, please contact me at:
www.cvyo.com.

Musically yours,
Bill Benson
Artistic Director/Conductor