



# The Buzz About MCYO

**Cliff Colnot**  
**Principal Conductor**

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra MusicNow Series**  
**Civic Orchestra of Chicago**  
**DePaul University Symphony**

*"For young musicians, the McHenry County Youth Orchestras provide an inspirational and challenging musical experience under the superb leadership of music director Russ Vinick."*

**Tim Blakewell**

**Director of Bands and Fine Arts Dept. Co-Chair**  
**Prairie Ridge High School**

*"I am happy that the music students in Crystal Lake have the opportunity to play in a solid orchestral music program like MCYO. I appreciate the flexibility on the part of the orchestra when it comes to conflicts. The students are able to participate in both organizations without any difficulty."*

**David Gauger II**  
**MCYO Coach/Parent**

**Has Played as Extra/Substitute Trumpet with Chicago,**  
**Milwaukee, and St. Louis Symphonies**

*"MCYO is a model of success in arts education. The excellence of the leadership team, the music director Russell Vinick, the instrumental coaching, and the selection of great music all leave little doubt as to the bright future of this organization."*

**Charlie and Peggy Page**

**MCYO Member Parents**

*"MCYO is extremely well managed and organized by Cathy Ames. The clear communication and professionalism of MCYO creates an outstanding experience for the musicians and their parents. In the five years our daughter has been involved, I have seen the program expand greatly."*

**Sean Benolken, Trombone**  
**MCYO Graduate 2007**

**Music Major/ Performance- Scholarship Winner**  
**University of Michigan**

*"I credit MCYO a great deal for helping me get a scholarship to the University of Michigan as a music performance major. MCYO gave me the skills and orchestral training I needed to get into this competitive music studio."*