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Youth play alongside BYU-Idaho Symphony

Posted by: [Our Towns Moderator](#) on March 23, 2009 at 7:50PM EST

Bryn Boogert

[center] and Davis Lundberg [right] play Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Overture" at a rehearsal with Dr. Robert Tueller, conductor of the BYU-Idaho Symphony Orchestra.

Ashley King

Daily Herald

The American Heritage School Lyceum Philharmonic will perform with the BYU-Idaho Symphony Orchestra on April 1 in Rexburg, Idaho.

In preparation for this side-by-side concert, Dr. Robert Tueller conductor of the BYU-Idaho Symphony, made a special trip to American Fork to rehearse with the American Heritage students on Wednesday.

"It's a lot of hard work for an orchestra of students ranging from 13 to 18 to play alongside a university orchestra the level of the BYU-Idaho Symphony," said the Philharmonic's director, Kayson Brown. "We started working on this music in December. At first some of the students may have thought that we bit off more than we could chew, but the rehearsal process has shown that given the right circumstances, our young musicians can play as well as the best university orchestras."

Orchestra students in the area frequently have opportunities to travel, but Brown said he hopes this trip will have some added benefits for his students.

"I think these kids are excited about this sort of trip because it has benefits far beyond the fun of roller-coasters and participation trophies," Brown said. "These students are getting the inside track to admissions and scholarships to programs that are genuine educational options."

The Philharmonic has performed in past years with orchestras at University of Utah and BYU.

"Our students come back motivated, refreshed by the change in venue," Brown said. "And that much more in-the-know when the time comes to decide where and what to study in college."

There are hopes that the side-by-side concert will be a tradition for the American Heritage musicians.

"We've discussed working next year with Utah State as well as the possibility of the Debut Orchestra in California," Brown said. "These situations take tricky timing and coordination and usually take a few months to plan."

Tueller said he was "very impressed" by the level of playing and "how well prepared" the American Heritage students were.

"He commented on how refreshing it was to work with young musicians who already had a 'solid orchestral background,'" Brown said.

The concert takes place in BYU-Idaho's Barrus Concert Hall at 4 p.m. and will feature Kristina Willey, a former member of the Lyceum orchestra who won the BYU-Idaho concerto competition. The concert is free and open to the public.

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