



September 1, 2011

Dear CHAMPS parent,

We are excited that your child is interested in participating in Chamber Music in Public Schools (CHAMPS) program for 2011-2012. Our goal is to instill the love for music, and to encourage the building of leadership skills, creative problem solving and increased personal responsibility.

CHAMPS is the educational arm of Salon Concerts, Inc. As a non-profit chamber music organization, we perform chamber music in private homes around Austin – chamber music as it is meant to be heard. This is my first year as director of CHAMPS and I'm looking forward to working with you. From our collaboration with the University of Texas to the extended reach of our outreach performances, CHAMPS continues to get more involved in the Austin community, playing a greater role in arts education in public schools.

The following are expectations that we have of our participating students:

- Ensembles are strongly encouraged to rehearse once a week outside coaching;
- Students are strongly encouraged to attend one of Salon Concerts chamber music house concerts which are free to CHAMPS students;
- Students must participate once a semester in an outreach performance either at events organized through CHAMPS or privately by the student;
- Students are required to participate in two end-of-semester recitals: one on January 15, 2012 at 4pm at Anderson High School auditorium, and the other in April of 2012 on a date and in a venue to be decided.

For many years Salon Concerts, Inc. has provided chamber music coaching free to CHAMPS students and their schools. Students receive at least 30 sessions of weekly coaching by local professional musicians at no cost. We would like to thank the City of Austin, the Texas Commission on the Arts, private foundations and many private donors for helping us continue this service to students who may not otherwise be able to afford such valuable instruction.

We do have a supply fee of \$50 per semester for each CHAMPS participant. **This fee is due by the end of September and again by the end of January, or you may pay the annual fee of \$100 in full by the end of September.** However, once a student is selected to participate in CHAMPS, no student will be denied access to this program due to this fee. Scholarship is available to those students to whom this fee presents a barrier for participation. Please contact the orchestra director and me about the scholarship.

CHAMPS' success has relied on many volunteer during the year, and we invite you to support the program in these additional ways:

- Become a Parent Representative at your child's school: each school will be represented by a CHAMPS parent to help facilitate outreach performances, rehearsal schedules and additional flow of information between coaches, orchestra directors and CHAMPS students.
- Assist at one or both of CHAMPS recitals: these concerts are open to the public and showcase CHAMPS students' work. Help is needed with state management and post-concert refreshments.
- Assist with CHAMPS annual fundraiser.
- Make a donation to CHAMPS or help solicit sponsorships from businesses and the community.
- Attend one of Salon Concerts' four performances this season. CHAMPS students attend for free and parents get a discount for tickets. Please contact salonconcerts@gmail.org about concert tickets.

Once again, congratulations on your child's participation in CHAMPS. Please let me know if there are any questions that I may answer for you. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

With warmest regards,

Toby Blumenthal-Phillips
CHAMPS Director

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