

# HOCHSTEIN

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra to Tour and Perform in Germany and Czech Republic during 2022 Spring Break**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.— Two years ago, the **Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra** (HYSO) was making plans to tour and perform in Germany and the Czech Republic when the world shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now they are once again poised to travel, with performances in **Berlin, Leipzig, and Prague** during spring break, **April 16–24, 2022**.

Follow along on the 2022 HYSO Tour adventure through a special Facebook event page which will have photos and updates posted by the directors, students, parents, and other tour attendees. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/262422405971571>.

Hochstein works with **Music Celebrations International** (MCI) to create an exciting and educational tour for students and the family members who choose to join them, more than 100 people in all. MCI coordinates not only the three performances in scenic venues – and arranges for things like music stands, a conductor’s podium, and percussion instruments and string basses in each venue – but also sets up guided tours of architectural treasures and historic sites and takes care of travel arrangements.

One stop on the tour is Terezin, the former fortress that was used as a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. To prepare the students for what they would see and experience at Terezin, Hochstein invited Rabbi Peter Stein of Temple B’rith Kodesh to speak to the HYSO students and their families before the rehearsal on March 13. Students asked many questions about the site’s history and context.

Of course, this year extra precautions are being taken for the travelers’ safety during the pandemic. This includes a requirement to be fully vaccinated, wearing masks and distancing when required, and testing prior to crossing certain borders.

HYSO Director Casey Springstead has selected works that are not only educationally beneficial, but also those that feature American influences as well as those of Eastern Europe. He says, “We are

performing *Dances in the Canebreaks* by Florence Price, who is recognized as the first Black woman to have a work performed by a major American symphony. Other works include a Slavonic Dance by the Czech composer Antonín Dvořák, and two movements from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2, a work based on Ukrainian folk melodies that the composer heard during his vacation in the country."

The HYSO made its first performance tour in spring 2001 and has continued to travel every other year to various European cities, including representing the state of New York in 2014 at the "American Celebration of Music," with performances commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion and the Liberation of France.

The Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra is an advanced youth orchestra comprised of grade 7-12 students from all over the Rochester region who play string, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. Auditions are now open for the HYSO's 2022-23 school year. **The application deadline for auditions is April 15, 2022.** For more information, visit <https://hochstein.org/Ensembles/Orchestras/Orchestra-Audition-Info>.

Photographs of the HYSO are available in this folder on Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4qOTOGVRYOhRHZGRzJ2eDVUTkE?resourcekey=0-fgqftceHiuNfAXp1LyOPFQ>

*The Hochstein Orchestra and Chamber Music Programs are supported in part by the Louise Alfreda Hill Memorial Fund.*

*Hochstein programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.*

**About Hochstein:** The Hochstein School was founded in commemoration of genius and is dedicated to providing access to opportunity regardless of age, level of skill, ethnicity, or ability to pay. Hochstein's vibrant community of musicians, dancers, and supporters choose to come together to develop the ability to speak and communicate through music, dance, and expressive arts (music, art, and dance therapy). Established in 1920 as The David Hochstein Memorial Music School, today Hochstein serves approximately 3,500 students annually from a 12-county region surrounding Rochester, N.Y. and continues its commitment to the Rochester community by offering a variety of free and low-cost concerts and performances in the Hochstein Performance Hall—and locations around our city—throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.hochstein.org](http://www.hochstein.org).

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