

## **SAN MARINO TRIBUNE**

April 23, 2009

### **Huntington Orchestra Performs at Carnegie Hall**

Anxious and excited about their long-anticipated April 8-12 New York tour, forty-three students of the Huntington Middle School advanced orchestra didn't appear a bit tired as they boarded the LAX bound buses at 4:15 a.m.

Approximately ten hours later, they, along with a large group of parents and siblings, checked into the Hilton Hotel just after 5:00 p.m. Eastern.

The itinerary included a Broadway show, tours of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Empire State Building, Julliard School of Music, and American Museum of Natural History.

And, of course, the most anticipated of all the activities would be the orchestra's performance on the main stage, Isaac Stern Auditorium of Carnegie Hall.

The group also visited the prestigious Julliard School of Music.

Visiting Julliard was a highlight of the trip for many," said Musical Director Rob Folsom. "Upon our arrival, we met with two wonderful young Julliard students who gave us a full tour of the campus. The kids were riveted as they were told about life as a Julliard student. There were many great questions asked by our students, and I could see a look of wonder in their eyes as they imagined the possibilities. It was amazing to see the level of talent and dedication necessary to attend a top-notch music school."

After the recital, the kids enjoyed a retro 1950s theme dinner and then were off to Broadway for a performance of Phantom of the Opera.

"Our long anticipated performance at Carnegie Hall was scheduled for the next afternoon," Folsom said.

At about 9:00 a.m. we walked the two blocks to Carnegie Hall to observe other student groups perform.

When we got to the hall, we could hardly believe what we saw. Right near the entrance, in a massive display window, there was a large promotional poster. We must have stood there for at least ten minutes, gawking incredulously at the bold print, which read, Huntington Middle School – Rob Folsom, Director. I must admit, I could hardly believe it myself."

The group was led to a rehearsal room on the top floor where we tuned and warmed up.

"After waiting for what seemed like an eternity, we were finally led back down to the ground floor and made our way onto the enormous stage," Folsom said. "The view of the hall from the stage was even more impressive than from the audience. A couple of kids may have been a bit overwhelmed by it all and forgot we were supposed to warm up."

When they finished playing the last note of our final selection, the Bach Double Violin Concerto, the orchestra was given a standing ovation.

"The applause lasted so long, that I had to tell our soloists, Olivia and Anya, to take another bow," Folsom said. "It was an incredible feeling for all of us."