

SUMMER, 2018

NEW JERSEY READING ORCHESTRA

DEAR FELLOW NJRO PLAYERS,

We are looking forward to having NJRO next season and dates have been set. We have been a group for 10 years now.

Before we begin our next season I believe we should do some revamping to attract more members. As you know we are hanging by a limb. Attendance was down last year considerably. For the coming year Evan Schwartzman will be leading our group as conductor and pianist (when needed).

When NJRO was founded we did not have a conductor. We got together and read through music that we had on hand. Some of it came from members and a lot came from the SOMA library when SOMA was basically a chamber group. We were lucky to have Steve Culbertson join us with his conducting skills. In addition, he offered us a vast amount of music to read through. Steve is unable to join us this year because of other commitments. Nevertheless, he has offered us his library, which is very generous and kind and I am sure we will take advantage of this offer.

We are looking to play traditional chamber music pieces. Here are some changes that some of our founding members have suggested in the hopes of continuing NJRO and making it fun and enjoyable for all.

Peggy LaVake said "I can't think of a better way to pass a Sunday evening than to spend it with friends playing music. How lucky we are to have the use of such a beautiful, secure rehearsal space, and how this allows us to move forward. Truly it's the best space we have, so light and well equipped with chairs and stands. It doesn't get much better." I agree with her wholeheartedly. We must keep this wonderful opportunity going. We are a unique group of friendly musicians that are looking to have fun and to be challenged at the same time. To me it has been the formula for our 10 years of success.

In another discussion with founding members we decided it would be nice to work on something during the year and perhaps have a small concert for friends and family. Reading music for the first time is fun but it is also fun to really make it music. We can work together and make it sound wonderful and be proud of what we have accomplished. Please help us in bringing back NJRO. More people are needed each session to make this work. Please help us to find new players. If you know of any teachers in the area that have high-level students it would be a great opportunity for them to come and learn. Ask your stand partners in the other groups you are playing in. Many orchestra players do not know about NJRO.

Please check the dates for our sessions and mark your calendars. Make NJRO a necessity to start the week.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and hoping you will be able to commit to the dates that are listed.

Sincerely,
Laura Papatto
Evan Schwartzman
Peggy LaVake