

The Wheaton North Wind Ensemble has been accepted as one of only six groups from around the nation to perform in the 2009 New York Band and Orchestra Festival where the performance venue is Carnegie Hall on April 1, 2009. Carnegie Hall is - without question - the heart of all of the Performing Arts in the United States and our single-most important stage. In 1890, when he laid the cornerstone of the building that would become Carnegie Hall, Andrew Carnegie said "it is probable that this hall will intertwine itself with the history of our country." Within 25 years Carnegie Hall became one of the world's most important stages—not only for great music, but also theater, dance, and the exchange of ideas.

And, forty members from Chamber, Treble, and Men's Choir will perform at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center, New York City on Sunday, April 5, 2009. Dr. Eric Johnson from Northern Illinois University extended a personal invitation to Mrs. Noodén and the Wheaton North High School Choir to sing Haydn's *Theresienmesse* under his direction. Students from Wheaton North, in addition to other selected choirs and students from the NIU School of Music will form a large festival chorus. That chorus will be accompanied by a professional symphony orchestra with guest professional soloists. Avery Fisher Hall is considered to be one of the world's greatest concert halls and is located in the heart of New York City as part of Lincoln Center, along with the Metropolitan Opera House and the Julliard School of Music, not far from Carnegie Hall.

The uniqueness and importance of these opportunities is very special. Having one group from any high school perform at either of these venerable sites is impressive, but having two groups perform there, back-to-back, is almost unheard of. Not "just anyone" can play at Carnegie Hall, or Lincoln Center. This is *the* once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity. An appearance at Carnegie Hall or Avery Fisher is synonymous with success. We're very proud of our students because professionals dream for years of performing there. Our kids have the opportunity to do so while in high school. It's extraordinary.