

ELLIS ISLAND: *Dream of America*

ESSAY CONTEST

for High School & Middle School Students



\$300 Cash Award to First Place High School Student
\$200 Cash Award to First Place Middle School Student

Awards sponsored by the *Palladium-Item*

The Richmond Symphony Orchestra offers a unique opportunity for high school and middle school students to showcase their writing talents. Using the inspiration of music that brings to life the immigrant experiences of Ellis Island, students are asked to write an essay that expresses their own hopes and dreams. Students writing the winning essays receive a cash award and the honor of being published by the *Palladium-Item*.

The two first place winners will be presented with their cash awards during the March 10, 2007 Richmond Symphony Orchestra concert that honors local talent. Essays will be judged on a combination of originality, expression of individual personality, and knowledge of Ellis Island immigrant history.

Students and parents are encouraged to attend the RSO's February 3, 2007 performance of *Ellis Island: Dream of America*. This Grammy Award-nominated symphony by American composer, Peter Boyer, provides the musical backdrop to the actual words of immigrants who passed through Ellis Island years ago. Local actors bring to life the stories of foreign pioneers who braved the unknown to begin a new life in America.

Discover Your Inspiration!

For ticket information: www.richmondsymphony.org or call 765-966-5181

Student rates and Group ticket pricing available

See contest guidelines for complete details and information on accessing the *Ellis Island: Dream of America* music, if unable to attend the concert.

Sponsored by the



Celebrating Our 50th Season!

ENTRY DEADLINE — FEBRUARY 26, 2007

Complete Contest Rules and Guidelines also available at www.richmondsymphony.org

ENTRY RULES & GUIDELINES

ESSAY CONTEST

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Contest Information and Rules

- Essay contest is open to high school (grades 9-12) and middle school (grades 7-8) students that reside in Wayne, Randolph, Henry, Fayette, Franklin, or Union counties in Indiana or in Preble, Darke, or Butler counties in Ohio.
- Essay entries **must be received in the RSO office by no later than 12:00 pm (noon) on Monday, February 26, 2007.** Entries may be submitted by mail, fax, or delivered to the office.
- First place winners will be notified by telephone on or before March 6, 2007.
- Winners must be present to receive the award during an on-stage presentation at the March 10, 2007 concert.
- Winning essays will be published in the *Palladium-Item* newspaper; all entries will be published on their website.
- Members of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra Board education committee will judge the essays. The decision of the judges is final on all matters relating to the essay contest.

Guidelines for Writing the Essay

- Students can choose to write their essay on one of the following four topics related to Ellis Island:
 “I am inspired to follow my dreams by the (choose one topic from below).”
 1. MUSIC of Peter Boyer’s *Ellis Island: Dream of America* symphony
 2. HISTORY of Ellis Island and the people who came to America
 3. IMMIGRANTS who told their story in the *Ellis Island: Dream of America* symphony
 4. PERSON I know who immigrated to America from another country
- Before and after the RSO’s February 3, 2007 concert, students can listen to Peter Boyer’s *Ellis Island: Dream of America* symphony by borrowing a CD from the local public library, school library, and in some schools from a teacher (English, Music, or Social Studies classes)
- Visit composer Peter Boyer’s website to hear short clips of the music, read about the history of Ellis Island, and see pictures of immigrants, all inspiration for this magnificent symphony: www.propulsivemusic.com
- Essays must be no more than 500 WORDS (300 word minimum)
- Essays must be submitted in a typed format.
- Essays will be judged on a combination of originality, expression of individual personality, and knowledge of Ellis Island immigrant history.

Submitting the Essay

- Be sure to include your name, page number, essay title (“I am inspired to follow my dreams by the ...”), and page number on each page of the essay
- **IMPORTANT!** A cover page must be attached to the essay and include all of the following information:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student’s name	<input type="checkbox"/> School name
<input type="checkbox"/> Mailing address (Street/City/State/Zip Code)	<input type="checkbox"/> Student’s grade (grades 7-12)
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone number	<input type="checkbox"/> Name of Teacher Sponsor and class (English, Music, Social Studies, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent’s name	
- Entries received without all of the required information will be disqualified.
- Mail, deliver, or fax entries to the Richmond Symphony Orchestra by no later than noon on February 26, 2007.

Richmond Symphony Orchestra

Mail to: PO Box 982 — Richmond, IN 47375

Fax to: 765-962-8447

Deliver to: RSO Office, Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, 380 Hub Etchison Parkway, Richmond, IN

Questions? Call 765-966-5181 or e-mail rso@richmondsymphony.org

DUE DATE FOR ENTRY IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007