

Calvin

School of Orchestral Studies 2013



1. *Why NYSSSA? (why audition, why did you decide to attend?)*

To be honest, the biggest motivation for my audition was that the site was a four-minute drive from where I live near Poughkeepsie, NY, in the Hudson Valley. I knew that NYSSSA was a respected and intense program, but I wasn't sure if I would actually attend SOS if I got accepted. Frankly, the idea of being away for four weeks during the summer before my senior year was intimidating. Regardless of these concerns, I auditioned anyway and waited to see what came of it. At first, I was an alternate for the flute section, but then I got a call telling me that I was accepted into the program. I ended up choosing to attend NYSSSA. I wasn't sure an opportunity of this magnitude would be offered to me anytime soon. I was excited about working with the best student musicians from New York and with some of the best professionals in the world from the Philadelphia Orchestra. In retrospect, I believe I made the right choice.

2. *How did you find out about NYSSSA?*

My music teacher and my private teacher suggested it. I looked NYSSSA up on Facebook and saw the audition dates. I also saw many photos of the orchestra and the wind ensemble.

3. *Typical Day/Schedule at NYSSSA?*

A typical day at NYSSSA is packed with music. I woke up each morning at approximately 7:30 AM, got ready, and then joined a few close friends for breakfast at the Skidmore Dining Hall. After breakfast, we walked over to Zenkel, the music center, for our 9:00 AM full orchestra rehearsal. This rehearsal lasted until noon; at the conclusion of full orchestra rehearsal, we headed back to the dining hall for lunch. At 1:30 PM, we headed back to Zenkel for a two-hour rehearsal with the Wind Ensemble or the String Orchestra. After this rehearsal, we had some free time until dinner. After dinner, we got dressed up for a concert of the Philadelphia Orchestra at SPAC. Returning home from the concerts at 10:30 PM, our day concluded!



4. *Best Moment at NYSSSA?*

I hate to seem haughty, but finding out I was principal chair was a very special moment for me. It validated my decision to attend NYSSSA and it showed that even a former alternate can do great things. But the best part of NYSSSA for me was eating breakfast every morning with Eva, Erin, Sarah, Nicole, and Marisa, among others. Once I found this core group of friends, I knew that NYSSSA would be unforgettable.

5. *Why would you encourage someone to audition for NYSSSA?*

I would encourage you to audition because NYSSSA is a superb program. If you're like me, you might be worried about leaving home and being away for so long. But the people you meet, the musicians, are so worth it.