

## **Charlie Hunter to perform with National Festival Orchestra at Carnegie Hall**

**January 12, 2007**

Charlie Hunter, a Mason County High School senior, has been accepted into the viola section of the 2007 National Festival Orchestra in New York City. Hunter, who has been an Kentucky All-State Orchestra student for the past three years participated in national audition process among All-State Orchestra students from all the states for membership in the National Orchestra. The performance and festival activities of the National Festival Orchestra, features outstanding high school instrumental students in a residency program at the historic Carnegie Hall, in New York City.

This marks the second year Hunter has been included into membership of the orchestra having participated in the 2006 Carnegie Hall performance of Shostakovich Symphony No. 5, in January, 2006. He is a member of both the Mason County Concert Choir and Orchestra. Hunter has been named by the Kentucky Music Educators Association as both an All-State Choral and Orchestra student the past three years. Charlie is a private viola and mandolin student of Leo Blair and private vocal student of Catherine Clarke of the Downing Performing Arts Academy in downtown Maysville. He is the son of Nancy and C. J. Hunter of Washington. Charlie is also a member of the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir of Trinity United Methodist Church. Charlie is the senior class president and president of the National Honors Society at Mason County High School.

The National Festival Orchestra celebrates its 11th anniversary concert in 2007 with the performance of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 conducted by Benjamin Zander. The NFO was founded with the mission of identifying talented music students from across the country who have already demonstrated their musical ability and commitment to the art and provide them with an intensive orchestral training residency in New York. The conductor for the 2007 orchestra will be Benjamin Zander, a native of England and a member of the New England Conservatory since 1967. Benjamin Zander has an extensive international conducting career appearing frequently with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, Israel Philharmonic, Malaysian Philharmonic, The Scottish and Irish National Orchestra and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic.

In addition to the orchestral rehearsals directed by Dr. Zander, the Manhattan Philharmonic Orchestra and Elysium String quartet will assist the high school students in workshops and clinics during the festival. The performance of the National Festival Orchestra will be held at Carnegie Hall on Sunday evening, Jan. 14.