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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHARLESTON YOUTH ORCHESTRA TO MAKE DEBUT AT CELEBRATION

CHARLESTON -- The Charleston Youth Orchestra, under the direction of Kathy Ryan of Charleston, will make its debut performance this weekend as part of Eastern Illinois University's CELEBRATION: A Festival of the Arts and Humanities.

The string orchestra, consisting of 32 students ages seven through 13, will perform for roughly a half-hour beginning at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Tarble Arts Center on Eastern's campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Ryan said the performance will include Handel's "Air"; Puccini's "Mio Babbino"; Klaus' "Waltzing Scale" and "March of the Astronauts"; the folk tune, "Simple Gifts"; a medley from Mr. Holland's Opus called "American Symphony"; and a medley from Gilbert & Sullivan's "Mikado."

Although the performers are known collectively as the Charleston Youth Orchestra, the group's membership comes from communities all over and around Coles County -- Charleston, Mattoon, Oakland, Arcola, Effingham, Kansas and Paris. Ryan said she hopes to see the addition of winds and brass to the orchestra within the year.