



Photo courtesy

CHIMING IN: Santa Monica High School Symphony Orchestra was selected from over 400 schools to participate in the LA Philharmonic's "School Partners Program."

UPDATE

## 'Black Widows' trial is delayed

BY JESSICA ROBERTS  
Special to the Daily Press

**DOWNTOWN LA** — The "Black Widows" will continue to wait.

A Superior Court judge on Thursday delayed for another six weeks the setting of a preliminary trial date for two elderly women that stand accused of killing homeless men in efforts to collect millions of dollars in life insurance payouts.

The defendants, 75-year-old Helen Golay, of Santa Monica, and 73-year-old Hungarian-born Olga Rutterschmidt, of Hollywood — often referred to as "The Black Widows" — each face two counts of murder and two counts of conspiracy to commit murder for financial gain in the deaths of Paul Vados in November 1999 and Kenneth McDavid in June 2005.

Both defendants have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

On Thursday, the judge also quickly denied Rutterschmidt's request to be released in order to cast her vote in Tuesday's elections.

See BLACK WIDOWS, page 13

# Samohi orchestra gets their Phil

BY KEVIN HERRERA  
Daily Press Staff Writer

**SAMOHI** — The performance of the Santa Monica High School Symphony Orchestra has struck a chord with some world-class musicians.

Following a competitive and rigorous selection process that involved more than 400 schools and an audition in front of some of the world's best, the high school's orchestra has been selected to participate in the LA Philharmonic's "School Partners Program."

The program, created in 2002 to address a lack of funding for music programs in public schools, will bring highly trained musicians and teaching artists to the Samohi campus to develop the performance skills of the students, preparing them for a future

career in music.

Students are also allowed to attend open rehearsals of the Philharmonic and performances at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles and the Hollywood Bowl.

"For students, this means additional support in developing their own individual technique, making them better musicians, but also helping them understand what it takes to be a professional and to play continuously at that level," said Joni Swenson, the director of the Samohi Symphony Orchestra.

Karl Montevirgen, manager of youth musical programs for the Philharmonic, said Samohi was chosen because "of strong leadership ... and dedication towards excellence."

"These students are driven," Montevirgen

said. "They also happen to be one of the most advanced orchestras we've worked with."

The program, due to begin shortly, will continue for two years. Samohi will contribute \$3,500 toward the partnership, Montevirgen said.

It has been an incredible year for the Samohi music program. Last February, the orchestra became the first public high school orchestra to ever play at the Disney hall. Earlier this year, the orchestra toured China for several performances.

"I'm really excited to work with musicians with the LA Phil," said Tracey Tran, a 17-year-old violinist at Samohi. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us. I'm really proud of our school and can't wait to get started."

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