



—Submitted photos



**Bassoon player
Jamie Bell**

Conductor Richard Carnegie directs the Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra and guest musicians as they work on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony

TEP offers young musicians chance at top-level instruction

Sun Staff

To borrow a memorable line from Shakespeare: screw your courage to the sticking place and you will not fail. That was the challenge Grade 8 bassoonist Jamie Bell faced when contemplating a giant musical leap this past fall.

Bell had been encouraged by his private instructor Staci Nahirney and his St. Marguerite School band teacher Thecla Anderson to join the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra's one-day Talent Enhancement Project (TEP).

It would mean taking a seat next to some of the best young musicians in Saskatchewan, and he admits he was nervous about what it would be like. Would he be good enough to keep up?

"I was worried that I would do badly," admits Bell. "The nerves started to go away when I started talking with Austin (Deane) and Emmett (Fortosky) and joined the other bassoonists. They were very friendly."

The TEP program, run twice a year, was created thanks to a grant from the City of Saskatoon. It allows blossoming orchestral musicians the chance to receive instruction free of charge from the sectional leaders and conductor of the SYO for a half day.

Players spend the first part of the session with their sections, learning a piece of music. Then all the sections come together under the direction of Richard Carnegie.

For many it is the first time they will play

with a full orchestra. Carnegie says that can be a life-changing moment for a musician. They will get a sense of the genius of the composer, and power of the teamwork it takes to pull off a piece of orchestral music.

"It also gives the musicians a chance to see where they are technically," says Carnegie. "It gives them a very good idea of what they are working toward and what it will take to get there."

On that day in October, Bell got the chance to work on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with a full string section for the first time. He had played in his school band for two years and is a member of the West Side Winds, but says playing with the full SYO was special — and very helpful.

"I thought playing with the orchestra was really fun," Bell said. "It felt great, and was a really good learning experience. . . . I would do it again."

Talent Enhancement Project

Saturday, Feb. 6

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at

Aden Bowman Collegiate

The program is not for beginners, but for players with at least two years of experience on their instruments. Anyone interested in signing up for the program, or in getting more information, is invited to call 955-6336 or e-mail syo@sasktel.net.