



Oakland Youth Orchestras

50 YEARS



2024-25 SEASON

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Educating and Enriching Youth Through MUSIC

M Manhattan School of Music



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**BE A PART
OF IT IN
THE HEART
OF IT.**



Welcome!



It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to this exciting 50th season of the Oakland Youth Orchestras! I also extend a warm welcome to alumni and past OYO Presidents, Administrators, Managers, and Board Members, who have returned to join us for this landmark season. I look forward to sharing the story of this incredible organization, with its unwavering dedication to inspire young people, through the power of music, to become outstanding musicians, individuals, and leaders. The combination of talented conductors, students, the dedicated and generous support of parents and community members, and the leadership of key individuals has kept this program alive and growing. As the season unfolds, we will hear from some of the key players that have shaped OYO into the premier orchestral experience it is today.

I offer my gratitude to the many individuals who support the performances of our orchestras. The OYO Board of Directors give of their talents to provide sound direction for our organization. To our many parent volunteers who contribute their time throughout the year to enable everything from auditions to rehearsal and concert logistics, I am deeply appreciative. I invite all of you to thank our inspiring conductors, whose dedication and passion for music fuel this organization, and who have worked diligently to make the performances of this season unforgettable. The energy of the students in eager preparation of the music is much enjoyed and appreciated, and their journey of growth, teamwork, and accomplishment shows with the progress at each rehearsal and in each concert throughout the season.

Our programs are made possible by our Donors, Endowments, Program Advertisers, and Corporate Sponsors. We offer a special thank you to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts for their generous support since 2010, and to the Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance for the ongoing in-kind support for facilities, faculty, and mentors over the past 50 years. To our generous hosts for rehearsals and performances, we are grateful to the Oxford Community Schools, Detroit Country Day School, Rochester Community Schools, and the University Presbyterian Church.

This season's concerts are a celebration of the music, talent, and creativity that has permeated OYO's history. Each performance is an opportunity to bring together music lovers to enjoy the talents and toil of our students, and to share a diverse and captivating lineup of compositions. As we celebrate our 50th year, I invite you to be instrumental in securing the future of OYO, by supporting the programs that enrich your students.

It is your support and participation that makes it all possible. Thank you all for being here. Let's immerse ourselves in the beauty of music, celebrate the talent of our performers, and create unforgettable memories together. You have all played a role in the history of this organization, whether for a single season or for decades, and we encourage you to **Play a Part in Our Future** as we celebrate and usher in the next 50 years of OYO.

With Gratitude,

Nicole Shogren
Executive Director

Oakland Youth Orchestras Board of Directors

Executive Director – Nicole Shogren
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Member at Large – David Yarnall
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Philharmonia Orchestra – Wendy Stuart
String Orchestra – John Kennedy
Studio String Orchestra – Nick Karpinsky

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***Thank you all for your vision and dedication
of time and support throughout the year.***

Special Thanks

***In gratitude to our faithful partner, Oakland University
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Elisabeth Honn Hoegberg, Ph.D. – Director, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Music
Jeffrey Heisler, DMA – Chair, Department of Music, Professor of Music
Gregory Cunningham, Ed.D. – Professor of Music, Instrumental Conducting,
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Katherine Boersma – Production and Facilities Manager

Thank you for coordinating spaces for us to rehearse and perform:

Ann Book – University Presbyterian Church
Elizabeth Kelley – Facilities Operations and Scheduling, Rochester Community Schools
John Schmidt – Theater Coordinator, Oxford Community Schools
Jim Davis – Executive Director of the Visual, Performing, and Communication Arts,
Detroit Country Day School

OYO History

In 1975, the Oakland Youth Symphony was established with a vision to offer students an opportunity to enrich their musical education. Through the combined efforts of Joan G. Berndt, Lecturer, Music Department, Oakland University; and Dr. Raynold Allvin, Oakland University Department Chairman, the Oakland Youth Symphony was founded. The group was envisioned as “regional orchestra” for high school students in Oakland County. The founding board of trustees was comprised of area arts advocates and educators. “[Many of the early board members] gave unstintingly of their time, efforts and even money to help the orchestra become viable and successful,” Joan Berndt reflected in her account of the organization’s history. In-kind contributions from Oakland University were arranged for rehearsal spaces, equipment, and office headquarters; a partnership that still exists today. Through partnerships with area schools, summer camps, and grants, the organization gained traction in recruiting students to audition for the group.



Erv Monroe

Ervin Monroe, Detroit Symphony Orchestra retired Principal Flutist, was appointed as the first Music Director/Conductor of the Oakland Youth Symphony, drawing 50 students for the inaugural concert. He was an inspiring conductor for several years, offering unique ways to interpret music and challenging students to perform at the highest levels. Following Ervin Monroe were several other conductors, most notably James Hohmeyer, Robert

Phillips, and Andrew Dabczynski.

It was in the initial two years of the program that our own String Orchestra conductor, John Kennedy, played bass in the Oakland Youth Symphony, providing him with the spark to pursue a career in music.

In the 1980s, Zeljko “Bill” Milicevic, began his journey as a student in the symphony. His experience as a student in OYS shaped who he wanted to be as a person and what he wanted to do professionally. Today, he is a highly sought after musician and educator.

In 1994 Zeljko Milicevic returned to OYO, this time as the conductor of the orchestra. With a group of 67 musicians, ranging in age from 8-19, Zeljko set forth a new path for the organization developing a 5-year plan for growth. In 1998, the String Orchestra was added, and Anthony Krempa was hired as its conductor. Four years later in 2002, the Philharmonia Orchestra was added. With the expansion, John Kennedy returned to OYO, this time as the conductor of the String Orchestra. With increasing enrollment numbers, the Studio String Orchestra was added for the 2009-2010 season with Nick Karpinsky hired as its inaugural conductor. In 2011, Wendy Stuart joined as the Philharmonia Orchestra’s second conductor.



Student John Kennedy in 1975

With the growing interest in OYO, additional enrichment programs were introduced. In 2011, the Chamber Ensembles program was launched. In 2014-15, sectional coaching with university and area music professionals was added throughout the season to augment the orchestra experience. That same year, Outreach Recitals brought young musician performances to senior living facilities throughout the area.



Bill Milicevic in 1995

Our current team of OYO conductors, Zeljko Milicevic, Wendy Stuart, John Kennedy, and Nick Karpinsky, have collectively shared over 80 years of expertise and inspiration with our students, bringing them together each week to fulfill their desire to deepen their musical experience. Their continued dedication to this organization has enabled a camaraderie that ensures students are welcomed into OYO wherever their

journey begins. The conductors have been joined over the years by several directors and board members who have contributed to the success of OYO. Significant leadership was provided by Joanne Walle, who was hired as Executive Director in 2002 to oversee the development of the growing organization. After 20 years of dedicated service, Joanne retired, with a legacy of enthusiastic students, parents, and supporters.

Over the years, OYO has collaborated with acclaimed international artists to expose students to a variety of musicians and musical styles. In 1977-78, concert violinist Ani Kavafian visited the group, performing with the orchestra and offering master classes to violinists. In 1998, OYO, with the support of the Chrysler Corporation, commissioned noted composer James Hartway to write *Car Trek*. For OYO's 30th anniversary season in 2006, jazz bassist Rufus Reid held a workshop for students and performed in concert with the OYO conductors and String Orchestra. To commemorate its 40th anniversary season in 2014-15, OYO commissioned Catherine McMichael to write a piece for the organization. In May 2015, all four orchestras collectively premiered *Symphony of the Ages*. For the 50th anniversary season, we once again have invited Catherine McMichael to compose a piece for our orchestras. *Elemental Powers* will premiere at our final concert of the season, each movement crafted to highlight the personalities and abilities of each of the orchestras.



Catherine McMichael

In May 2015, all four orchestras collectively premiered *Symphony of the Ages*. For the 50th anniversary season, we once again have invited Catherine McMichael to compose a piece for our orchestras. *Elemental Powers* will premiere at our final concert of the season, each movement crafted to highlight the personalities and abilities of each of the orchestras.

As we reflect on the 50-year journey of this highly valued organization, we thank those who have dedicated their time and energy to enable this incredible opportunity for our students. Parents, alumni, community members, educators, and supporters have all played a crucial role in the success of OYO, contributing resources that fund and populate our orchestras. We hope you will **Play a Part in our Future** this 50th anniversary.



For more on OYO's history, scan the QR code to see additional photos, links to past repertoire, programs, and more memorable moments.

Our Conductors



Zeljko Milicevic Symphony Orchestra

Zeljko Milicevic earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Violin Performance from Wayne State University and his Master of Music in Education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. In 2007, he completed the Certificate in Orchestral Studies from Wayne State University with an emphasis in Conducting and Violin Performance.

A sought-after clinician and adjudicator, Milicevic began his service in public education in 1990 and has taught music to students at all grade levels. He has led orchestra programs in Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools, Utica Community Schools, and Farmington Public Schools. He retired from Oxford Community Schools in 2015 where he was Director of Orchestras and District String Coordinator, grades K-12. Additionally, he has been Adjunct Professor of String Pedagogy at Oakland University in Rochester, MI since 2005.

A member of the Flint Symphony Orchestra since 1987, Milicevic was appointed to the position of Associate Concertmaster in 2011. His role as Concertmaster of the Bijou Orchestra, a select 13-member salon theatre orchestra located in Bay City, MI, has afforded him numerous memorable performances in the mid-Michigan area including the revival of silent movies set to live music, performing as soloist, and presenting period reviews in concert specializing in music from the 1920s, 30s and 40s. He has also performed with many of Michigan's regional orchestras including the Michigan Opera Theatre, Saginaw-Bay Orchestra and The Midland Symphony Orchestra.

An avid chamber musician, his career includes engagements with numerous ensembles. He performs with the Ivybrooke Strings where he engages in a variety of chamber music settings including trios and quartets and specializing in violin and piano duo. The duo enjoys performing recitals and performing for community groups in the Rochester area. Milicevic is also a violinist with the Classic Impressions String Quartet comprised of principals of the Flint Symphony Orchestra. His most recent recording projects include a musical portrayal based on the book Einstein's Dreams with the Bijou Orchestra, and the piano trios of Mendelssohn and Haydn recorded with the Ivybrooke Strings. As an outreach of the Flint Symphony Orchestra, he is a violinist with the Troubadours ensemble.

Milicevic has previously directed the Lake St. Clair Symphony and Symphony of the Lakes. Presently, he is Music Director and Conductor of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra; the Detroit Medical Orchestra at the Medical School at Wayne State University, and the Oakland University Chamber Orchestra. Milicevic has been a part of the OYO family since 1994, serving as Senior Conductor with the Oakland Youth Orchestras directing the Symphony Orchestra.



Wendy Stuart Philharmonia Orchestra

Wendy Stuart is the Orchestra Director at Troy High School. Before the start of the most recent chapter of her career in Troy in fall of 2021, she taught for 21 years in the Clarkston Community Schools, where she developed the then newer Orchestra program from its third year of existence (with only three grade levels) to the current program that features three high school Orchestras and multiple middle school/junior high orchestras. Under her direction, the Clarkston Orchestra program was featured at the Michigan Music Conference, traveled extensively, and performed at consistently high levels at MSBOA Festivals. For her final decade in Clarkston, she directed five Orchestras, grades seven through twelve. Prior to joining the music faculty in Clarkston and Troy, she spent a year beginning a new string program in a district east of Cincinnati, OH.

Wendy Stuart serves as the conductor the Philharmonia Orchestra, one of the four ensembles that comprise the Oakland Youth Orchestras. She has been with OYO since 2011.

Ms Stuart is an advocate for music education in Michigan. In addition to her school program and youth orchestra, she works with many levels of Orchestras as a clinician; from day long workshops to pre-festival clinics. She enjoys giving presentations at conferences for music educators and mentoring student teachers. She is also an adjudicator for MSBOA Solo and Ensemble festivals throughout the state, where she can use her experience gained from more than twenty years as a cello teacher. She has taught at many summer music camps, including serving as music director for the past two summers at MASTA String Camp, Session III, conducting at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, Troy Sound Power Camp, and serving many times in the past as Cello Coach for MASTA Camp, Session III.

Ms. Stuart earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Cello Performance from Eastern Michigan University and her teaching certification and Masters of Music in Music Education from the University of Michigan. In addition to her degrees, she studied orchestral conducting while attending the ASTA International Workshops in Norway and France. Ms. Stuart was the Director of the MASTA String Camp, Session III, for six years and was an Adjunct Professor of String Methods for four years at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. She was MSBOA District IV's Orchestra Teacher of the Year in 2014 and 2021.

Ms. Stuart is committed to continuing her own ability, growth and experience as a musician and regularly brings new ideas from her own performing to student orchestra rehearsals. She is the principal cellist for the Oakland Symphony Orchestra, the assistant principal cellist for the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, and performs with other orchestras and ensembles throughout the year.



John Kennedy String Orchestra

John Kennedy has had a 30-year career in public school music education, directing orchestras in the Farmington Public Schools, Detroit Public Schools, and in Iowa City, Iowa. He now is an active clinician in schools throughout the area, and is instructor of Bass at Oakland University and the University of Michigan Flint. He has been conductor of the String Orchestra here at OYO since 2002.

John is internationally recognized as a bassist, clinician and teacher of young string bassists. He is Past-President of the International Society of Bassists, the largest worldwide organization dedicated to the upright bass. He is also a veteran clinician at the Univ. of Michigan Bass Bash, the Golden Gate Bass Camp, the Richard Davis Workshop in Madison, Wisconsin, the Michigan Bass Fest, the Oberlin Bass Workshop and the Milt Hinton Bass Workshop. Mr. Kennedy is a regular performer with many local and regional orchestras. He was formerly Associate Principal Bass of the Honolulu Symphony, and has performed with the Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint, Toledo, Kalamazoo, New Mexico, and Cedar Rapids symphonies.

As a composer and arranger, John has written dozens of works, both arrangements and original compositions, for youth orchestras and for young bassists. He holds his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in String Bass Performance from the University of Michigan. He lives in Troy.



Nick Karpinsky Studio String Orchestra

Nick Karpinsky graduated from Wayne State University in 2009 receiving a Bachelor's degree in instrumental music education and in 2015, Nick received his Master's Degree from Marygrove College in education with a focus in curriculum, assessment, and instruction. He has studied with various violinists over the years including Geoffrey Applegate and Jim Waring. As a violinist, Nick has performed with several community orchestras in the metro Detroit area. He has also performed with artists including; Il Divo,

Mannheim Steamroller, Aretha Franklin, and Eddie Daniels at venues such as the Fox Theater, Orchestra Hall, DTE Energy Music Theater, and Joe Louis Arena.

In addition to performing, Nick enjoys composing and arranging music. He has arranged several pieces for small chamber groups to large combined works for full orchestra and choir. Nick also enjoys conducting and performing in pit orchestras for musicals and has been involved in many productions throughout his career. He is the pit orchestra conductor for Rochester Community Schools' Summer Music Theater Program.

Nick's public school teaching career began in the fall of 2009 with Warren Consolidated Schools. He taught general music and beginning band there for two years. Following that, Nick moved to the Waterford School District where he conducted the orchestras at Mott High School for seven years. Nick then moved to Birmingham Public Schools for five years as the orchestra director for Derby Middle School and Seaholm High School. Nick is currently the orchestra teacher at North Hills Middle School, Way Elementary School, and Eastover Elementary School in the Bloomfield Hills School District. In addition to public school teaching, Nick has conducted youth orchestras with the Oakland Youth Orchestras (2009-present) and Detroit Civic Youth Ensembles (2009-2013).

Symphony Orchestra

1st Violin

Isabelle Bonten ++
Mason Chiew
Michael Cho +++
David Collier
Aanya Deol
June Kim
Minjun Kim ++
Naeun Kwon
Chloe Ma
Andrew Park
Ania Popovski
Gaeun Shin
Kyra Shogren ++
Anmol Shukla
Cora Solmes
Chris Song
Jennifer Song
Aidan Sun
Kieran Venugopal
Franny Wang
Luke Zhang
Retta Zhou

2nd Violin

Livia Baker
Sophia Barjuca
Alice Bonten *
Isabel Cabrera
Oscar Catarino
Sophia Cervantes
Selina Chang
Agastya Chaturvedi
Daniel Cho
Alison Doka
Meisha Ferguson
Caroline Fernandes
Ana Sofia Hernandez
Gomez
Lauren Jenkinson
Yujin Jung
Grace Kashiwagura
Jerry Mao

Kate McIntosh
Gabriella Murphy ****
Dania Neiroukh
Sameer Pai
Devraj Pandey
Daniel Park
Sehan Park
Georgia Talbot
Davy Wang
Isabel Wilinski
Brian Zhang

Viola

Julia Amato
Garrett Brockman
Samuel Collier **
Yeriel Kim ****
Yitong Li
Jing-yi Ma **
Divya Sovani **
Hyein Yang
Michael Zheng

Cello

Giulia Ardanese
Alvin Cai ****
Megan Cashatt
Sharon Chang
Jack Ganezer
Daniel Kim
Junghwan Kim **
Seojin Lee **
Owen Osterbur
Delphine Schowalter
Elaina Socha
Grant Song **
Claire Tantengco

Bass

Carter Ellis
Danielle Leight **
Lila Tasdemir **

Harp

Anastasia Leahy



1st Flute

Joanna Ouyang **

2nd FluteMarilou Cerru
Raegan Dallaire
Sookyung Kwak *
Chaerin Park**Piccolo/Flute**

Ozea Deon Policarpio

1st Oboe

Josie Ethier ****

2nd Oboe

Avee Lamba

English Horn/Oboe

Idris Freijy *

1st ClarinetLewen Feng **
Jeheon Lee ****2nd Clarinet**Robert (Bobby) Ayotte
Junseo Byun *
Frank Lulgjuraj ******1st Bassoon**

Walter Thompson

2nd Bassoon

Maeve Maurice

**Contra Bassoon/
Bassoon**

Siddh Sheth

Horn

Ha-Yun Kim

1st TrumpetMichael McMartin **
Kathleen Padula ****2nd Trumpet**Junhyeong Ha
Kyle Kirklin ***1st Trombone**

Jaden Singer

2nd Trombone

Benjamin Eber

Tuba

Jalen Toyee

Percussion

Ayaan Deol

++ Co-Concertmaster
 +++ Associate Concertmaster
 * Principal
 ** Co-Principal
 **** Asst. Principal



Philharmonia Orchestra

1st Violin

Ananya Anand ++
Nishad Bhide
Ivy Dao
Hayun Jeong ++
Chloe Kim ++++
Eunah Kim ++++
Jun Kim
Doye Kwak
David Lee
Maya Nagy
Manisha Pednekar
Blair Qi
Suhana Reddy
Zachary Reynolds
Ariel Song
Yubeen Song
Nainika Valoor
Aiden Yang
Matthew Yang
Raphael Yarnall

Violin 1/2

Rabeya Adler
Isabella Brooks
Matina Green
Alex Rajcevski
Isaac Stroia
Lucas Walker *
Elizabeth Wydeven

2nd Violin

Agnish Adhya
Choyeon Ahn
Vishnu Balagatte
William Chen
Sara DeRyckere
Sanika Gadre
Charlotte-Louise Gaillard
Michael Harding
Emilia Jaros
Max Jaros
Hasini Kalagara
Olivia Kalil
Alexander Knecht
Elora Lee
Yewon Lee
Kaitlyn Li **
Owen Long
Olivia Miller
Valli Nagamalli **
Abigail Ritzenhein
Jinju Suk
Camila Sumcad
Marina Super
Jiyun Woo

Viola

Hayden Choi
Isaac Collier **
Natalie Kortge
Sei Park **
Mark Yabut

Cello

Sienna Calcut
Eryn Choi
Avery Farcas
Octavian German
Anna Maria Hila
Addison Kurtin
Jonah Lee
Sharon Lim
Katherine Park **
Angelina Sun **
Olivia Wang
Sophia Xydas **

Bass

Elliot Bayer ***
Taliana Merritt
Jaxon Szkatulski *



Flute

Hyunjin An
Borry Chu **
McKenna Cox
Saarvi Duruvasan
Sacheth Hegde **
Jueon Kim

Oboe

Alexander Greig

English Horn/Oboe

Thomas Hill *

Clarinet

Leslie Bahk
Seongmin Choi
Harley Cox
Kashvi Prabhakar
Claire Reinhard **

Bassoon

Jackson Hengstebeck
Allison Lockwood
Elyse Wallace

Horn

Ryan Corpuz
Clara Cunningham *
Abigail Graham ****
Emery Krzeszak

Trumpet

Zachary Glass *
Noah Weller

Tuba

Karl Ronmark *

Percussion

Seth Ingram ****
Juha Lee
Preston Potter *
Smayan Sharma

++ Co-Concertmaster
++++ Assistant Concertmaster
* Principal
** Co-Principal
**** Assistant Principal



String Orchestra

1st Violin

Seungwon Ahn
Eli Barjuca
Elizabeth Foutz
Shoken Han
Emmanuel Hindi
Sabrina Iovannitti
Chloe Kim
Gus Kish
Maria Lee
Seungmin Lee
Seungwoo Lee
Emily Li
Alex Ma
Audrie Miller
Isabelle Nowlin
Helena Park
Victoria Pfauth
Alexia Phillips
Rachna Rao
Olivia Scally
Evan Seo
Erin Shim
Julianna Socha
Rebecca Sun
Riley Tenbusch
Sabrina Wilinski

2nd Violin

Lana Abbo
Maria Abdelmessih
Estelle Borla
Preston Brewer
Ahvi Carter
Qianyu Chen
Heather Choi
Ethan Fustin
Sally Huang

Patrick Ionut
Jaein Kim
Yerik Kim
Emma Kocher
Juchan Lee
Jacqueline Miller
Paige Nickerson
Ethan Wang

3rd Violin

Joyce Cao
Cassie Chen
Sunwoo Cho
Daniel Chou
Leah Geppert
Tanner Koontz
Juhan Lee
Sohyun Park
Madelyn Robinson
Marco Sumcad
Shreyas Tripathi
Athena Yung

Viola

Hayul Lee

Cello

Aryanna Anderson
Vivienne Brown
Mia Cashatt
Sarah Cho
Cora Grondin
Callie Hruska
Alina Ju
Cindy Lee
Irene Moon
Isabella Mui
Dan Park
Amelia Putz
Ryan Taegyoon Yoon

Bass

Robert Caescu
Miles Kreiner
Emily Oleszkowicz



Studio String Orchestra

1st Violin

Nicole Bolvari
Lydia Borla
Abraham Brandenburg
Yewon Cho
Benjamin Ha
Avni Kaarthick
Jax Kathawa
Juwon Kim
Owen Kreiner
Hizkiah Lanac
Jeongjun Lee
Kangwoo Lee
Nathan Li
Kristen McFadden
Kara Nickerson
Hyerin Park
Zachary Steusloff
Adyoth Sural
Yashvini Venkatesh
Marcus Vingarzan

2nd Violin

Jae Choe
Seungwoo (Steve) Choi
Eason Jing
Joowon Lee
Layla Lee
Unsu Lee
Sophia Li
Lucas Lin
Ami Olkhovsky
Henry Osterbur
Tiana Patterson
Jack Polderman
Gabriel Sumcad
Scarlett Tenbusch
Andrew Zhao

3rd Violin

Sofie Dhar
Ciel Gersky
Balca Gurtekin
Kaiyin Han
Shosei Han
Shaylan Kalkhande
Yane Kim
Ziggy Kish
Ariana Lin
Elliott Parker
Kavin Sabarish
Mia Sgalia
Everett Shen
Benjamin Walklet
Eric Wright
Caleb Zhang

Viola

Lucas Calviti
Swara Deshpande
Lea Gaunt
Pari Gowda
Aiden Moon
Alden Swallow

Cello

James Cho
Seongwoo Choi
Miles Guilbault
Jueun Huh
Seungchan Hyun
Doyoon Kwak
Dageom Lee
Thomas Oldham
Nathan Shin
Hayoon Song
Ella Thomas
Asher Woolf
Lucy Wu
Evelyn Yoo

Bass

Evelyn Kill





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March 22 - Music, Theatre and Dance



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Play a Part in Our Future

How Your Support Helps

Because we believe that music education and enrichment should be accessible to all, OYO keeps tuition affordable for families and offers need-based tuition aid through SCORE. Tuition income, however, only covers about 60% of operating expenses so we rely on the generous support of our donors to continue educating and enriching our students' lives through music.

Every contribution supports this mission, makes participation accessible, and provides these program opportunities:

- Seasonal rehearsal and concert venue rentals
- Sectional rehearsals with coaching
- Community Outreach Recitals
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- Solo/Concerto Competition and Merit Scholarships
- Tuition assistance through **OYO SCORE**



Our Primary Supporters

- Michigan Arts and Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts,
- Oakland University School of Music, Theatre and Dance
- Fifth Third Bank, Kroger
- Community Foundation of Greater Rochester
- OYO alumni and member families

Support Options

Become a Supporting Donor or Sponsor

We invite you to partner with Oakland Youth Orchestras. By supporting OYO, you are distinguishing yourself or your organization as one that supports our youth and community. Your contribution will provide you with a variety of benefits:

- Complimentary concert tickets;
- Complimentary ad in the concert programs;
- Recognition on the OYO website, in marketing materials, press releases, and more.

Advertisement in the OYO Concert Program

OYO prints professional full-color concert programs throughout the season. Program ads, ranging in cost from \$75 to \$450, distinguish your business among concert-goers and the OYO community as one that supports OYO's mission of educating youth through music education. It's never too late to submit your ad!



Our Primary Supporters



Oakland Youth Orchestras is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For more information on how you can support OYO, please contact:

Nicole Shogren, Executive Director
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Dad, Mom
Lauren &
Christopher



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We are so proud of your accomplishments and motivation Ciel.

Kristen M- We love hearing you play your violin and watching you perform on stage! We are so proud of you! Love, Dad, Mom, Kaitlyn, Tyler & Teddy

Congratulations Chloe on your Senior year! We are so proud of you and your dedication for the past 9 years in OYO. We love you! Love Mom, Dad, & David

Congratulations Den in following your interests to see where they lead you. *Inspiring!*

Congratulations Alex!! We are so proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad and Emma Greig

We're SO proud of you, Jaxon! We love you!

Dear Ania, you fill our life and hearts with music and joy. Congratulation on another year with OYO. Love you, Mama and Tato

Suhana, we are so very proud of you! You've come so far in your musical journey! Congrats! Keep up the dedication & hard work. Love, Mama, Papa & Didi

Bobby K, Congratulations and best wishes for a spectacular senior year and season with OYO. We are all so proud of you! Love, Mom, Jacob and Alexa

Zach, congratulations on another year. You have a true love of music and I'm very proud of you. I love you. Love, Mom

Dearest Callie, we are so proud of you and all your hard work. You are an amazing young woman, keep up the great work! Much love, mommy, daddy and Ed

Congratulations Caroline (Fernandes) on a fine OYO performance, dedicated year of violin practice and personal development. Mom, Dad, Laura.

Jack Ganezer, We are all so proud of you! Cello, Symphony Orchestra Class of 2025

Cora - You were motivated and determined, and now your hard work got you into Strings. Congratulations! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad.

Dear Ami, Congratulation on your performance! Persistence and hard work does pays off! We love you very much! Mama, Arielle and family

Carpe Diem~!! Borry ♥

Zubin, We are so proud of you! You are an amazing musician! We can't wait to see what you do next! Love, Mom & Dad

Kieran: Congratulations on your final year with OYO. It has been a joy to watch you grow as a musician and a person. Love, Mom and Dad

Alexia Mom and Dad love you so much and we are so proud of you! Keep working hard and you will sell out stadiums and we will be your roadies! :)

Kyra, welcome to your 11th season with OYO! Best wishes for a memorable senior year!

Riley ♥ We love you so very much! You are so amazing! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad and Scarlett

Scarlett ♥ You have worked so hard to get here! You are amazing! We are so proud of you! We love you so much! Love, Mom, Dad and Riley

We are so proud of you, Ben W! Your talent, drive, commitment, and passion shine through every time you play. We love you. Dad, Sarah and Becca

Congratulations Aanya on completing 10 years with OYO! We are super proud of you. We wish you the very best in everything that you do! Love, Deols

Jack Ganezer, We are all so proud of you! Cello, Symphony Orchestra Class of 2025

Ben Walklet - Congratulations on your wonderful performances on the violin, we are so proud of you and your accomplishments! Grandma & Poppa Walklet

Asher, we are so proud of you and love you so much! Congratulations on your first year with OYO!

Kathleen - Congratulations on your outstanding achievements! Your hard work and dedication shows. Love Grandma & Aunt Maurine

Kathleen - Kudos on your accomplishments! So proud of you. Quintin

Kathleen, You are our sunshine, and an amazing, accomplished trumpeter! Blessings from all of us! Toelle Family

Kathleen - We're so proud of you and your hard work. Your passion and dedication inspire us daily. Made the Lord bless you on your future! The Gang

Congratulations to our favorite cellist! Octavian, it has been a joy to see you performing all these years. We are very proud of you! Love, Mom & Dad

Natalie, you amaze us! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Mia! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

Jax K. - We are so very proud of the wonderful young man you are growing up to be. May God bless you each day with abundant joy & wisdom. Mom&Dad, Z&L

D: we are in awe of your poise, passion & talent as a cellist. Nani & Papa would be so proud as you carry on their legacy. Félicitations chérie amour!

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Oakland Youth Orchestras Teresa Schuster Memorial Fund



In January 2000, OYO established an endowed fund in memory of Teresa Schuster, a talented and much admired violinist. The proceeds of this fund will be used exclusively for the OYO Concerto Competition held each spring. Additional contributions are always welcome.

Contact:

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Re: Teresa Schuster Memorial Fund
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Oakland Youth Orchestras The Jessica K. Rogers Fund

The Oakland Youth Orchestras maintains the JESSICA K. ROGERS FUND, in memory of Jessica Rogers, who was killed in a car accident on March 24, 2001.

Jessica was an immensely talented and accomplished musician, who was a member of the Oakland Youth Orchestras at the time of her death. Jessica was principal flute and piccolo in the OYO Symphony Orchestra and a prizewinner in the 2000 OYO Concerto Competition. In addition to her position in OYO, she was a member of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, the Detroit Metropolitan Flute Choir and the Adams High School symphonic and marching bands.

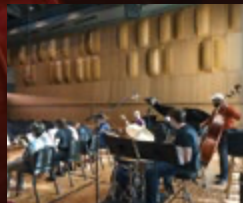
Jessica was loved and respected by everyone who knew her. She had a wonderful sense of humor, boundless energy, and a loving and enthusiastic nature that was contagious. Jessica's parents, Paul and Kathleen Rogers, have made an extraordinary generous contribution to the Oakland Youth Orchestra in memory of their daughter. The contribution of the Rogers Family is used to promote and assist student members of the Oakland Youth Orchestras in their studies and performance of orchestra music.



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Oakland Youth Orchestras

50 YEARS



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OYO conductors and performers graciously request your observance of the following performance etiquette:

- For the sake of the performers and the audience around you, please refrain from talking or making distracting noises during the concert.
- Turn off all electronic devices such as pagers and cell phones before the concert begins.
- Do not use flash photography.
- When operating your video device please keep viewfinder closed.
- Do not enter or leave the auditorium while students are performing. Please wait until an orchestra group has completed their music set.
- Do not applaud for the performers until the end of a music piece with several movements.
- Prevent children from running in the auditorium, and accompany them in and out of the auditorium as necessary.
- Remove crying children to the lobby.
- Refrain from putting your feet on the chairs in front of you.
- No food or drink is permitted in the auditorium.

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Auditions for returning and new students will be held through mid-May, 2025.

**For more information or to sign-up for an audition,
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Dear OYO Community,

This year has been a wonderful journey celebrating the 50th season of the Oakland Youth Orchestras. Having long admired OYO for the musical education offered to its students, I was honored to work with OYO's passionate conductors, board members, and staff to commemorate this milestone season. Throughout the year, my enamor grew with the stories and successes of our students, both past and present, and I look forward to the continued growth and quality of OYO for the next 50 years.



This evening, we celebrate our 50th year with the premiere of *Elemental Powers*, a collaboration with Michigan-based composer Catherine McMichael. The work includes a movement for each of our four orchestras inspired by an element on the periodic table, selected to match the energy of the students for which it was composed. We extend our sincere gratitude to Catherine for engaging in this creative, enthusiastic endeavor.

The students of OYO inspire our conductors, board members, and staff. Your effort and commitment motivate and energize us to provide the best opportunities for your musical growth. We are grateful to each of you for the dedication, curiosity, enthusiasm, and talent that you bring to your orchestra.

Every spring we say a bittersweet farewell to OYO's graduating seniors. These individuals have dedicated their Thursday evenings to making beautiful music and forming friendships. Some will advance in careers as music educators and performers, while others will continue their musical engagement through extracurricular ensembles. We sincerely appreciate your involvement with OYO and hope that you carry forward the experiences and memories of your time with us, maintaining a lifelong enjoyment of music.

Our conductors dedicate themselves to delivering an exceptional experience for students. Their ability to unite students from diverse backgrounds in pursuit of musical excellence is fundamental to the lasting legacy of our organization. We express our gratitude for their unwavering commitment to promoting both musical and personal excellence.

Member families contribute significantly to OYO's success. I am thankful for the numerous volunteers who generously offer their time and skills to enhance events throughout the year. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our orchestra managers for their invaluable assistance to conductors and students each week in navigating rehearsals and concerts. Your welcoming presence fosters a strong sense of community within the organization.

To our donors, advertisers, and sponsors, we appreciate your generosity and endorsement of our programs. Your financial support is critical in providing the highest quality musical education for our students and in securing facilities for our rehearsals and performances.

Whether reflecting on your journey with OYO, celebrating the musical development of your child or student, or simply appreciating the performances by these committed young musicians, we thank you for joining us this evening to celebrate the final concert of our 50th season! We look forward to seeing you next season as we usher in the next 50 years of OYO!

With gratitude,

Nicole Shogren

OYO Executive Director

OYO 2025 Competition Winners

Studio String Orchestra Solo Competition

Marcus Vingarzan, violin – 1st Place

Honorable Mention

Jueun Huh, cello

Ziggy Kish, violin

Evelyn Yoo, cello

String Orchestra Solo Competition

Daniel Chou, violin – 1st Place

Alina Ju, cello – 2nd Place

Riley Tenbusch, violin – 3rd Place

Honorable Mention

Heather Choi, violin

Gus Kish, violin

Isabelle Nowlin, violin

Philharmonia Orchestra Solo Competition

Aiden Yang, violin – 1st Place

Jueon Kim, flute – 2nd Place

Jonah Lee, cello – 3rd Place

Seongmin Choi, clarinet – Jessica Rogers Memorial Award

Honorable Mention

Jackson Hengstebeck, bassoon

Suhana Reddy, violin

Ariel Song, violin

Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition

Kyra Shogren, violin – 1st place, Teresa Schuster Memorial Award

Alice Bonten, violin – 2nd Place

Gabriella Murphy, violin – 3rd Place

Jeheon Lee, clarinet – Jessica Rogers Memorial Award

Honorable Mention

Michael Cho, violin

Junghwan Kim, cello

Kathleen Padula, trumpet

Gaeun Shin, violin

2025 OYO Merit Scholarship Awards

Studio String Orchestra

Ariana Lin

Evelyn Yoo

String Orchestra

Irene Moon

Philharmonia Orchestra

Borrry Chu

Thomas Hill

Chloe Kim

Emery Krzeszak

Karl Ronmark

Symphony Orchestra

Lewen Feng

Anastasia Leahy

JingYi Ma

Lila Tasdemir

Oakland Youth Orchestras

Spring 2025 Concert

Studio String Orchestra

Nick Karpinsky, Conductor

Kinetic..... Shirl Jae Atwell
Legends of Glory Kathryn Griesinger
Krypton from Elemental Powers Catherine McMichael

String Orchestra

John Kennedy, Conductor

Odyssey (Journey of Odysseus) Soon Hee Newbold
Soul from Heart, Soul, Stomp!..... W.A. Mathieu
Neon from Elemental Powers..... Catherine McMichael

Director and Alumni Ensemble

Arsenic from Elemental Powers Catherine McMichael

Philharmonia Orchestra

Wendy Stuart, Conductor

Blue Danube Waltz, op. 314..... Johann Strauss Jr.
Cobalt from Elemental Powers..... Catherine McMichael
St. Louis Blues WC Handy
George Gershwin in Concert George Gershwin
Selections from Les Misérables..... Claude-Michele Schönberg/Herbert Kretzmer

Symphony Orchestra

Zeljko Milicevic, Conductor

Overture to Candide..... Leonard Bernstein
Oxygen from Elemental Powers..... Catherine McMichael
Four Dance Episodes from Hoedown Aaron Copland
 Buckaroo Holiday Saturday Night Waltz
 Corral Nocturne Hoe-Down
Serenata..... Leroy Anderson

Program Notes

Oakland Youth Orchestras is pleased to present its second collaboration with composer Catherine McMichael. Premiered by all four orchestras on April 30, 2015, *Symphony of the Ages* was commissioned to celebrate the 40th Anniversary Season of OYO, dedicated to the past, present and future musicians of the OYO. This year, we commemorate the 50th Anniversary Season of OYO with *Elemental Powers*, welcoming new musicians to join in the legacy of OYO.

Elemental Powers Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

Elemental Powers is a symphony written for four different but related youth orchestras: two string orchestras for younger players, two full orchestras for older players. To mark the 50th anniversary of this wonderful organization, this piece was commissioned to have a separate and independent movement for each orchestra, plus one additional movement for strings. The five movements are related under the *Elemental Powers* umbrella. Each movement explores the powerful associations with five different elements. Although they are related in spirit each movement can be performed on its own.



Catherine McMichael

Catherine McMichael, pianist, is an award-winning composer, arranger, performer, clinician and teacher in Saginaw, Michigan. Her degrees from the University of Michigan are in piano performance and chamber music. She is the pianist for the Saginaw Bay and Flint Symphony Orchestras, Ann Arbor based River Raisin Ragtime Revue, accompanies the Saginaw Choral Society and directs Bells on High at First United Methodist Church of Saginaw. Her compositions are represented by five publishers

and have been played on all seven continents by orchestras, bands, vocal and handbell choirs and chamber ensembles of all types: performed by professional touring artists, university faculty and students, avid amateurs and young musicians. Catherine and her violinist husband Rod Bieber have two adult children, Meredith, Physical Therapist in training, photographer and world traveler; and Nathan, Nashville studio violinist, conductor and composer's assistant. Catherine is available for commissions for any instrument or voice. Contact her via www.catherinemcmichael.com.

Studio String Orchestra

Kinetic Shirli Jae Atwell (b. 1949)

Legends of Glory Kathryn Griesinger (b. 1979)

Krypton from Elemental Powers Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

Welcome to the 50th Anniversary spring concert for the Oakland Youth Orchestras! It has been a wonderful season and a pleasure to work with all of these incredible students every Thursday! We have an exciting program planned for you this evening with three pieces that have never been performed by the Studio String Orchestra.

We will begin the program with *Kinetic* written by Shirl Jae Atwell. This energetic melodic piece is in the key of d minor and features several unison passages, where every section gets a chance to play the melody. It has complex perfect harmonies that require the students to listen and tune amongst the group. The piece moves in and out of the melody with syncopated rhythmic melodic compliments.

The second piece is *Legends of Glory* written by Kathryn Griesinger. This heroic sounding piece begins in e minor, giving the moving line to the cellos. It then moves to an anthem, led by the violins, that sounds like an orchestra marching together in victory. The piece moves through several different themes and characters featuring different sections within the orchestra. It modulates to the key of a minor with beautiful melodic and harmonic phrases. It then concludes with the feeling of victory ending with a reflective sounding A major chord, or a picardy third.

Our third and final piece is *Krypton* from *Elemental Powers*. Krypton's name derives from the Greek kryptos for concealed or hidden. The fundamental unit of length, the meter, is defined in terms of the orange-red spectral line of Kr. It is a noble gas, and not easily combined with other elements. Solid, it's a white crystalline substance. And of course, there's Superman! You will hear the heroic thematic style continue throughout this piece. It opens with the low strings playing the heroic sounding melody. It moves through character and style changes into a beautiful legato section, which is then followed by the orchestra playing a "Superman" rhythmic melody. It concludes with the restatement of some of these melodies in a new key signature and everyone ends with an up bow, just like Superman taking off in flight!

We hope you enjoy the world premiere of Krypton and our 50th Anniversary concert!

String Orchestra

The Odyssey (Journey of Odysseus) Soon Hee Newbold (b. 1974)

Soul from Heart, Soul, Stomp! W.A. Mathieu (b. 1937)

Neon from Elemental Powers Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

We often perform works by the young American composer Soon Hee Newbold, and this is one of our favorites. Depicting the heroism and sweep of Homer's great epic, you can imagine the waves, storms, magic, and drama that abound in the ancient epic. Listen for the interplay of many different playing styles – rapid accompaniments with long tone melodies, tremolo ("shaking" bows) with pizzicato (plucking), and many special effects. High haunting harmonics, col legno (notes tapped with the wood of the bow), and muted instruments are some of the sounds you will hear on this journey

In 2009, the String Orchestra performed *Heart, Soul and Stomp!* by W.A. Mathieu. This wild work challenged the students to express themselves in 3 deeply different ways in each of the movements, involving improvisation, singing, acting, and intense playing. Tonight we are bringing back the middle movement of the work, *Soul*, which brings deep emotion and lush playing to the fore. Mathieu described the movement this way:

For the Soul movement, I went back to my own teenage years and felt the longing and loneliness and ecstasy of those years. This is the movement I would have written at that time if I'd had the chops.

Listen for the bass section solo in the center of this beautiful piece!

Elemental Powers brings *Neon* to the string orchestra! Neon is from the Greek, neos, meaning New. Odorless and colorless, until an electrical current passes through it and transforms it to a brilliant orange red. Georges Claude made the first neon sign in 1910 and debuted it at the Paris Expo. Famously used in Las Vegas and other places as lighting. This movement takes a jazz turn.

We are so excited to bring our portion of this world premiere to you. Neon can be a gaudy and electric element, for sure. Catherine McMichael evokes Las Vegas, Sinatra, 1940's movies, in all their bright and sultry styles. Challenging all the sections of the orchestra, this piece is fun to play and fun to listen to!

Director and Alumni Ensemble

Arsenic from Elemental Powers Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

Arsenic has been known since 400 BC. It's the 'king of poisons, as well as the poison of kings.' Famous poison events: Napoleon's gastric cancer was perhaps caused by slow poisoning. The Borgias, in Italy, poisoned the wealthy and prominent to become the most powerful family during the Renaissance. In 1786, Thomas Fowler created a cure-all tonic, Fowler's solution, arsenic-based. Used to treat skin conditions, it became apparent that people often developed cancer on the exact spot the solution was applied. Even so, the tonic wasn't phased out until the 1950s!

The movement was written for string ensemble and is a bonus in the *Elemental Powers* collection. *Arsenic* will be performed tonight by OYO conductors and alumni, representing years of talented individuals who found musical inspiration in the orchestras of OYS/OYO. We are pleased to feature our alumni, who continue to make significant contributions to the music community as performers and educators.

Philharmonia Orchestra

Blue Danube Waltz, op. 314 Johann Strauss Jr. (1825-1899)

The "Waltz King," Johann Strauss II, began his adult life as a bank clerk, but left the banking world to pursue his musical passion. He soon became one of Vienna's favorites, composing over 500 waltzes, polkas, quadrilles and operettas.

The *Blue Danube Waltz* was premiered in 1867 in both Europe and the US (New York City) with the version heard tonight adapted by the composer for the 1867 Paris World's Fair. The piece was originally written as a choral work, with words written by the Vienna's Men's Choral Association's resident poet, Joseph Weyl. The waltz became so popular, it became known as the unofficial Austrian national anthem.

The waltz begins with an introduction in the horn and cello. There are five melodies or waltzes followed by a long coda that revisits many of the previous melodies. The piece features many tempo and key changes within the various melodies.

The piece is scored for piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp and strings.

Cobalt from *Elemental Powers* Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

Lustrous, silvery blue metal, and magnetic. Produces brilliant blues in paint, porcelain, glass, pottery and enamel. A glass object found in the tomb of King Tut was colored deep blue with cobalt, which would be from 1352 B.C. Known even earlier in China for pottery glaze.

The movement written for Philharmonia inspired the choice of many pieces referencing “blue” programmed for this performance. The work features each section of the Orchestra - from starting the piece in the percussion section, brass chorales, woodwind features, and string segments. All sections are highlighted within the movement. Multiple time signature changes work seamlessly throughout the piece.

The piece is scored for 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, bass clarinet, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 2 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, and strings.

St. Louis Blues

WC Handy (1873-1958); arr. by Bill Holcombe and Matteo Giamario

William Christopher Handy, often referred to as the “Father of the Blues,” was instrumental in popularizing the blues genre. *St. Louis Blues* stands out not only for its emotional depth but also for its innovative musical structure. Handy incorporated the habanera rhythm—a syncopated, dotted eighth-sixteenth pattern – into the piece, adding a unique flavor that set it apart from traditional blues compositions.

The blues is a genre of music that originated in the Deep South of the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It emerged from African American musical traditions, incorporating elements such as work songs, spirituals, field hollers, shouts, chants, and rhymed simple narrative ballads.

Blues music is characterized by its use of specific chord progressions, with the twelve-bar blues being the most common. This structure provides a framework for improvisation and expression. The term “blues” itself has come to symbolize a range of emotions, from melancholy to hope.

The arrangement by Bill Holcombe and Matteo Giamario for full orchestra aims to capture the original’s emotional depth and rhythmic complexity while showcasing the diverse timbres of orchestral instruments.

The score calls for 2 flutes, oboe, 2 clarinets, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto and tenor saxophone, 2 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, piano and strings.

George Gershwin in Concert

George Gershwin (1898-1937); arr. by Chuck Sayre

George Gershwin in Concert is a dynamic and exciting arrangement that brings together some of the most iconic works of American composer George Gershwin, blending classical sophistication with the unmistakable rhythm and energy of jazz. Arranged by Chuck Sayre, this concert suite takes Gershwin’s timeless compositions and presents them in a rich, orchestrally lush format that highlights both the melodies and the rhythms that made Gershwin’s music so distinctive.

The suite opens with the iconic *Rhapsody in Blue*, one of Gershwin's most famous works, originally composed in 1924. The next section features the exuberant *I Got Rhythm*, one of Gershwin's most popular songs. First introduced in his 1930 musical *Girl Crazy*, this tune became an anthem for the jazz era. *Someone to Watch Over Me* is the next Gershwin classic explored in this arrangement and is one of Gershwin's most beloved ballads, written in 1926 for his musical *Oh, Kay!* *'S Wonderful* is the next song presented; a classic song composed by George Gershwin, with lyrics by his brother Ira Gershwin, which was introduced in their 1927 Broadway musical *Funny Face*. The piece concludes as it began, with more of *Rhapsody in Blue*.

The score calls for flute, oboe, 2 clarinets, bass clarinet, bassoon, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, 2 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, piano and strings.

Selections from *Les Misérables*

Claude-Michele Schönberg/Herbert Kretzmer; arr. by Bob Lowden

Les Misérables is a musical adaptation of the novel written by Victor Hugo in 1862. The musical, which is completely sung like an opera, premiered in Paris in 1980. In 1985, it premiered in London and continues to run to date, making it the longest running musical in the West End and the second longest running musical in the world.

The musical is set in early 19th century France and chronicles the life of Jean Valjean, after his release from a nineteen-year prison term for stealing a loaf of bread for his sister's starving child. He breaks parole to start a new life, but is pursued by a police inspector named Javert. Jean Valjean and other characters introduced in the story are swept into the revolutionary period of French history.

The arrangement features many favorites from the musical, including *At the End of the Day*, *I Dreamed a Dream*, *Master of the House*, *On My Own*, and *Do You Hear the People Sing?*

The score calls for 2 flutes, oboe, 2 clarinets, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto and tenor saxophone, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, piano and strings.

Symphony Orchestra

***Overture to Candide* Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)**

Leonard Bernstein is considered by many as America's greatest musical figure. Born in a middle class suburb of Boston of Russian-Jewish decent in 1918, Bernstein was equally adept as a pianist, conductor, teacher and composer. Today he is remembered perhaps most as the greatest American ambassador to the world's musical community.

Before Bernstein's international popularity, American composition students were usually turned away from the European conservatories because many viewed Americans as "incapable" of artistic ability. At least that was the case in the post-war Europe during the 1950's. Thankfully, Bernstein changed that opinion.

Amazingly, Bernstein conducted all of the world's major orchestras before his death in 1990. He served as music director of the New York Philharmonic from 1958-1969. As a composer, his output was prolific with three symphonies, numerous orchestral pieces, chamber compositions, art songs and two operas. In all, he remains best known for his

Broadway shows, but especially *West Side Story* and *Candide*.

The *Overture to Candide* received its premiere in the fall of 1956. It was conceived by the inspiration of Voltaire's satire from 1759, based on the satire of the same name by popular German philosopher, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz. The story involved a quartet of young people afflicted by troubles, all of which referred to events of the time including war, slavery, piracy and the Spanish Inquisition.

Nearly two centuries later in 1956, the witty play *Candide* was set to song by the collaboration of Lillian Hellman and Leonard Bernstein. Hellman's intent was meant more as "an attack on the anti-Communist investigating committees of the McCarthy era." Even Bernstein wrote "the matters with which Voltaire's satire was concerned are valid for us in America, with its puritanical snobbery, phony moralism, inquisitory attacks on the individual, brave-new-world optimism and essential superiority."

The overture resembles a Rossini-like sparkle that wastes no time in introducing the various tunes from the musical. Their offbeat nature is still very much rooted in the classical tradition. But the vibrant, enthusiastic and optimistic energy of the piece underscores the zaniness of the story.

Oxygen from Elemental Powers Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

Our American-inspired concert continues with *Oxygen*, composed by a personal friend and colleague, Catherine McMichael from Saginaw, Michigan. The work is atmospheric and at times reactive. Melodically, it is lush and displays an energetic counterpoint that is punctuated by the brass. OYO Symphony is honored to feature another creation by Catherine McMichael! Annotations by the composer describing *Oxygen* are below:

Most abundant element in earth's crust at 49.2%, 21% of air and 66% of the human body. Third most abundant in the universe, after hydrogen and helium. All life on Earth depends on oxygen. Oxygen is also highly combustible. Combustion is a reaction in which a fuel reacts with oxygen gas, releasing energy in the form of light and heat. Combustion MUST involve O₂. Interesting that oxygen is the essential agent for both fire and water.

Four Dance Episodes from Hoedown Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Buckaroo Holiday
Corral Nocturne

Saturday Night Waltz
Hoe-Down

When thinking of truly epic American music, it is difficult not to picture the music of American composer Aaron Copland first. Known as the Dean of American Composers, Copland was a prolific 20th century composer that is known for weaving tapestries of American folk songs and quintessential American styling in his modern orchestrations. Like many other composers of the last century, Copland clearly developed not only a distinct American voice but an orchestrational language that is unmistakable when hearing it.

Perhaps best known for his epic ballets like *Appalachian Spring*, *Billy the Kid* and tonight's offering including four of the dance selections from the ballet *Overture*, Copland is also remembered for a wealth of compositional contributions including three symphonies, a beloved clarinet concerto, works for voice and orchestra, numerous chamber music pieces as well as a wealth of movie scores. His ability to

explore and depict musically themes of the American landscape, pioneer life and the triumphing human spirit are attributes that make his music so universally recognizable. Use of open fifths to depict the wide open plains, expansive dynamic ranges and rhythmic tensions that allow the imagination to run as wild as the adventures the music unfolds.

Buckaroo Holiday opens the set of four dances and sets the scene with a lively, kinetic energy evoking the spirit of a bustling ranch and the cowboys' carefree lifestyle.

Corral Nocturne paints a more introspective and melancholic picture with its slow, somber melodies reflecting the loneliness of the American West.

Saturday Night Waltz opens with the sound of fiddles tuning and features a waltz that captures the social dynamics of the ranch with the Cowgirl facing challenges in winning the affections of the cowboys.

Hoe-Down brings down the house as the finale, and notably the most famous of the four dance sequences. It explodes with energy and exuberance featuring lively square dance tunes like *Bonyparte* and *McLeod's Reel* culminating in a triumphant celebration of the Cowgirl's success.

Serenata Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Leroy Anderson has become an iconic composer of miniatures creating many musical bonbons that delight listeners everywhere. From the audience perspective, his compositions evoke a strong sense of "being there" in the moment with the orchestra and likewise, the orchestra with the audience. It is music that is fun and entertaining while displaying the full-feature ability of the symphony orchestra in depicting the image of what the title composition performed is relaying to the listener.

Originating from the Italian term for serenade, the origins of this work stem aft to the days when musical entertainments were performed in the open air, at night, by young gentlemen in the spirit of love and gallantry under the windows of ladies. The piece begins on a theme in a minor key with an underlying beguine rhythm. Later, the mood brightens so as to heighten the suitor's proclamations before returning to a calming, romantic ending.

Additional Donations

Gold \$250 - \$499

Xu Chen

Monica Rounds *In memory of Betty Curtiss*

Silver \$150 - \$249

Susan Joul

Junghwan and Chloe Kim Family

Bronze \$149 and less

Margaret Hoerner *In memory of Betty Curtiss*

Irma Hoops *In memory of Betty Curtiss*

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Robert McBride *In memory of Betty Curtiss*

Jeanne Pichel *In memory of Betty Curtiss*

Dawn Riley *In memory of Betty Curtiss*

LC Schmitz *In memory of Betty Curtiss*



**Donations are
always accepted
online at
www.oyomi.org**

Congratulations 2025 OYO Seniors!

Giulia Ardanese has played Cello in OYO for the past two years. Giulia has always loved music and enjoys playing instruments by herself and with others. In her free time, she likes to play bass with her band and sing. She also enjoys spending time with her friends and family. After senior year Giulia hopes to move to Rome and explore the city. She plans to major in International Law at Roma Tre University in Rome. Giulia's favorite memory of OYO is the excitement right before going on stage during concerts and the words of encouragement that everyone shares.

Robert Ayotte has played Clarinet and Bass Clarinet in OYO for four years. Band and music have been a large part of Robert's life and have shaped who he is today. He would like to keep music a part of him, so he plans to play in a band or orchestra in college where he will pursue a degree in engineering. One of Robert's memories from OYO was during breaks when he was in the Philharmonia orchestra. He and his friends would talk and joke around. The sun was always setting around break time, so the sky would turn beautiful colors.

Livia Baker has played Violin in OYO for the past six years. Livia started her music studies on the piano which inspired her to choose violin in 5th grade. In her free time Livia enjoys swimming, is captain of her swim team and was a part of the 2023 and 2024 state teams! Livia attends the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills and plans to study sports management at NYU in the fall. She hopes to go into sports law or sports marketing. Livia's favorite memory was hearing Mrs. Stuart talk about her childhood or her trips to different places.

Isabelle Bonten has played Violin in OYO for the past ten years. After graduation, Isabella plans to pursue a double major in violin performance and music education at the University of Michigan. In addition to music, she is also passionate about school, especially math. She plans to pursue a math minor while in college. Isabelle also loves being outside and going on long walks with her dog, Roo. She enjoys horseback riding, swing nature, and reading on the porch. Isabelle's favorite memory in OYO is performing Sibelius with the Symphony orchestra this past January. She had spent many years when she was younger watching the advanced soloists, and found it was very gratifying to go from the inspired to the one who inspires others.

Garrett Brockman has played Viola in OYO for the past three years. He plans to study music education and science in college. Garrett enjoys listening to and performing all classical music. He also enjoys hiking, spending time outdoors, and building puzzles in his free time. Garrett's favorite memory from OYO is performing Brahms Symphony No. 1 and hearing Mr. M's pre-concert speeches.

Isabel Cabrera has played Violin in OYO for the past three years. After graduating from high school, Isabel hopes to continue growing as a musician. She plans to continue playing the violin, majoring in Music Education. Isabel grew up surrounded by classical music which inspired her to become a violinist. In her free time, she likes to spend time with her friends, either going out or doing something music related. Isabel's favorite memory of OYO is playing the *Poet and Peasant* Overture at her first concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra. It was the first truly "advanced" piece she performed.

Alvin Cai has played Cello in OYO for the past nine years. Alvin will be studying Psychology at the University of Michigan but plans to continue playing cello as a hobby. Alvin joined the orchestra because he thought it would be fun. When asked what his favorite memory from OYO was, Alvin says that he can't decide...it's all been fun!

Sienna Calcut has played Cello in OYO for the past four years, having begun her journey on the instrument eight years ago. Sienna plans to attend Oakland University next year and hopes to

go into the medical field. In her free time, she enjoys reading and doing puzzles. Sienna's most memorable moment from OYO was playing music from *The Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Megan Cashatt has played the cello in OYO for the past three years. In addition to playing cello, Megan also dances competitively. She plans to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering and continue to play cello in a campus orchestra. Megan's favorite memory of OYO is performing Dvorak's Symphony No.8. She absolutely loves that symphony!

MariLou "Mari" Cerru has played flute in OYO for the past two years. In sixth grade, when all her friends wanted to be in orchestra, she decided to be different and chose to play the flute. Mari is an avid reader (this is the year she'll finally read 50 books). She wants to be a magazine editor and eventually an author and will be majoring in journalism at the University of Limerick, Ireland. Mari's goal in life is to see *The Phantom of the Opera* in London. Through OYO she has reconnected with old friends and met so many cool people!

Samuel Collier has been a member of OYO for nine years, playing both the Violin and the Viola during his years participating in all four orchestras. Finding OYO was a great way to continue to develop his musical skills on both instruments. As a younger musician, he loved to hear the higher orchestras playing impressive classical symphonies. He is glad that he had the opportunity to reach that proficiency and participate in Symphony Orchestra for three years. In his free time, Samuel enjoys reading, programming for fun, running, or playing basketball. After senior year, Samuel plans to go to either Hillsdale College or the University of Michigan and study Political and Computer Science.

Aanya Deol has played Violin in OYO for the past ten years. In her free time, Aanya enjoys reading, dancing, and spending time with friends. She plans to major in Biology at the University of Michigan in the fall and hopes to stay involved with music and orchestra. Aanya is so grateful for all her memories with OYO as they have been a great way to develop her skills as a musician. She knows that her experiences will stay with her far beyond high school. Aanya's favorite memory of OYO has been getting to play new music each concert cycle.

Benjamin Eber has played Trombone in OYO for three years, participating in both the Philharmonia and Symphony orchestras. He has enjoyed music ever since beginning piano lessons at a young age. He feels that OYO was a great opportunity and is glad he participated. Benjamin also enjoys singing, musical theatre and running. He plans to attend Ohio State University and "be a member of the best band in the land". His favorite memory of OYO is hanging out with friends every week. "The friends I gained at OYO will be friends for life."

Josie Ethier has played Oboe in OYO for one year. After high school, Josie plans to attend Michigan State University to study Music Education and join the marching band! She started playing piano at the age of 5 and still plays for fun today! Outside of music, Josie loves hanging out with her friends and traveling! Josie's favorite memory from OYO was getting to meet new friends and playing music by Brahms!

Octavian German has played the Cello in OYO for the past six years. Octavian has always been interested in music, as he began playing piano when he was in first grade. He started cello in fifth grade and joined OYO in 7th grade when his orchestra director recommended it (Thanks, Mrs. Murphy!). Octavian plans on attending college, likely at the University of Michigan. In his free time, Octavian enjoys listening to music, watching sports, and spending time with his friends. Octavian's favorite memory in OYO was playing *Pirates of the Caribbean* last year. He feels it was the most fun piece he'd ever played, and it sounded fantastic. He remembers having a great time with Ms. Stuart, as she tried to get the group to sing. It still makes him laugh.

Ana Sofia Hernandez Gomez has played the Violin in OYO for the past five years. She joined OYO, and orchestra in general, because she loved the feeling of playing a moving piece with an ensemble. During her free time, Ana Sofia loves learning songs on her guitar and participates in synchronized swimming and water polo. Ana Sofia plans to go to college and study something in Economics/Business. Her favorite memory in OYO was laughing so hard at something dumb with her stand partner during rehearsal, then the conductor asked why they were laughing.

Lauren Jenkinson has played the Violin in OYO for one year. When she was 8 years old, a professional string quartet came to her school and inspired her to want to be in orchestra. She is currently undecided where she will attend college but plans to double-major in Music Education and Performance. In her free time Lauren sings in choir, enjoys sewing and crocheting clothes, and reading. Lauren's favorite memory in OYO was being able to branch out and meet new people and anytime Mr. M said or did something random or funny.

Minjun Kim has played the Violin in OYO for seven years. Music has always been a part of Minjun's life, whether playing in OYO, doing music therapy, teaching, or learning new instruments. He also enjoys being active and staying up too late to talk with friends. Minjun plans to pursue Pre-Med with a focus in Computational Biology. Currently, he is deciding between Brown and Cornell University. Minjun will always cherish playing the Finale of the Bruch Concerto with OYO. It was "absolutely a once-in-a-lifetime adrenaline rush".

Yeriel Kim has played the Viola in OYO for six years. In her free time, she likes to play guitar and chat in cute cafes. It's been Yeriel's pleasure to have OYO as her longest running activity and she can't wait to see what music she will play next. After senior year, she will be going to the University of Michigan to study Psychology. "Don't worry," she remarked, "I'll bring my viola along and audition for Pops or campus orchestra :)" Her favorite musical memory was playing Tchaikovsky 2 in her first concert in Symphony Orchestra. Overall, her favorite memories are chatting and playing music with her friends.

Natalie Kortge has played the Viola in OYO for one year. She joined because she wanted an opportunity to grow creatively. Natalie has always been a creative person, whether that be through illustration, music, writing or anything else. She always lived by the philosophy "try everything once" and will continue doing so! She plans to attend Oakland University and is aiming for a degree in Education with a specialization in English, with an aim to teach English at the secondary level. Natalie's favorite OYO memories have been the concerts. She felt incredibly special to be part of a performance with such talented students.

Avee Lamba has played the Oboe in the OYO Symphony Orchestra for three years. Outside of OYO he enjoys eating food, sleeping and music. Avee plans to go to Michigan State and major in Political Science and Economics on the pre-law track. His favorite memory of OYO is performing *West Side Story*.

Danielle Leight has played the String Bass in OYO for seven years. In her free time, she likes to read, listen to music, and craft. Introduced to OYO by her private teacher, Danielle has loved working with all the different conductors. Danielle plans to major in Double Bass Performance at Lawrence University. Danielle does not have one favorite memory, but loves it when she gets to be silly with friends during breaks.

Frank Lulgjuraj has played the Clarinet in OYO for two years. He really enjoys playing his clarinet, especially at orchestra rehearsals, cooking, and mathematics. Next year, Frank plans to pursue a double major in Clarinet Performance and Instrumental Music Education at the University of Michigan with intentions to obtain master's degrees in both fields. He hopes to be a music teacher and/or professional musician in a top tier orchestra like the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Frank's

favorite OYO memory was when Mr. Milicevic was working with the clarinet section. Frank played his part, and Mr. Milicevic said, "Who played that?" Expecting criticism, Frank fearfully raised his hand. To his shock, Mr. Milicevic said "That was correct!" This experience boosted his confidence and taught him to play out even when he thinks it's wrong.

Chloe Ma has played the Violin in OYO for nine years. She enjoys traveling, going to concerts, and getting food or boba with friends. She loves to play in OYO because she gets to play beautiful, diverse music with other great musicians! Chloe plans to study Computer or Data Science while continuing to play violin in college. She aspires to be a Software Engineer or Data Analyst. Chloe's favorite memory is playing Smetana's *Moldau* with the Symphony Orchestra. "I really love how the piece sounds and although it was challenging skill-wise, it really improved my playing as a whole."

Michael McMartin has played the Trumpet in OYO for three years. Near the end of his sophomore year, his dad mentioned that orchestra was a fun way of improving his sight reading and helping him adjust to new environments. Not really knowing much about OYO, he auditioned and has been here ever since. After senior year, Michael plans to study Music Education at Western Michigan University. Michael's favorite memory of OYO is every couple of weeks, after rehearsal, he and most of the brass section go out for Taco Bell.

Dania Neiroukh has played the Violin in OYO for one year and has loved playing the violin since she started at the age of 10. She enjoys playing piano/violin, reading books and playing video games. She plans to attend Oakland University majoring in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Music and/or German. She hopes to study medicine and become a pediatrician in the future. Dania's favorite OYO memory is her first concert. The feeling of playing with her fellow musicians on stage for the first time was unforgettable.

Kathleen Padula has played the trumpet in OYO for the past four years. She joined as a freshman as the only trumpet in Philharmonia. She is currently in Symphony with a full brass section! When Kathleen's not running to rehearsals she enjoys hanging out with friends, reading, listening to music and getting sweet treats. Next, she will be attending Central Michigan University, majoring in Music Education and Performance and minoring in Marketing. Kathleen's favorite memory of OYO is from performing Selections from *West Side Story* at the 2024 spring concert. "It was a lot of fun to perform, especially as a brass player!"

Andrew Park has played the Violin in OYO for ten years. He considers himself responsible and hardworking and one who concentrates on his work. He can also be found hanging out with friends and working out at the gym. Next, he plans to pursue Engineering at college. Andrew's favorite memory of OYO is learning how to play the violin seriously and bond with lots of people.

Ania Popovski has played the Violin in OYO for nine years. She started playing the violin in elementary school and her teacher suggested she audition for OYO. Ania loves to bake and hang out with her friends and hopes to travel the world as soon as she can. After her senior year, she plans to study Business and potentially pre-law. Her favorite memories of OYO are hearing the background stories to some of the songs that Mr. M picks out.

Alex Rajcevski has played the Violin in OYO for nine years. Having come to OYO because a long-time teacher suggested it to him, Alex has enjoyed his nine years of making new friends and challenging himself to improve his musicianship. Alex plans to attend Michigan State University to major in International Relations and have a career in D.C. or work for a think tank. Alex's favorite OYO memory was during his first year in Philharmonia. It was on concert day and Ms. Stuart was preparing them to go on stage and she talked about how important everyone is, no matter their skills.

Delphine Schowalter has played the Cello in OYO for six years. She was inspired to join OYO by two students in her 6th grade class who she looked up to and who continue to inspire her. After graduating, Delphine will be studying at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, pushing the boundaries of fashion and fine art. She plans to use her work as a voice for feminism that challenges deeply rooted norms sparking change at the intersection of art, politics, and identity. Delphine will remember the “creative metaphors conductors will use to describe the energy they want us to create through our sound.”

Kyra Shogren has played the Violin in OYO for the past eleven years. When time permits, Kyra engages in reading, playing games, and socializing with friends. Kyra also enjoys participating in the pit orchestra for musicals. Next year, Kyra plans to study Film and Psychology and will continue to play music through new opportunities. Kyra’s favorite memory of OYO is getting to perform the Wieniawski Violin Concerto with the Symphony orchestra. “It was such a special experience to play with my friends and the wonderful orchestra.”

Jaden Singer has played the Trombone in OYO for three years. He also plays the piano and bass guitar and likes to read. Next year, Jaden plans to study Biophysics at the University of Michigan. After that, there’s a good chance he will try for veterinary school. His favorite OYO memory is definitely from his junior year, when he played Dvorak 8.

Grant Song has played the Cello in OYO for six years. In his free time, he likes to swim. His parents wanted him to join an orchestra and after a few cycles, he really started to enjoy playing and being part of the OYO community. Grant plans to study Mechanical Engineering in college. His favorite OYO memory is when he got to play the whole Brahms Symphony with his close friend as his stand partner.

Isaac Stroia has played the Violin in the OYO Philharmonia Orchestra for one year. He joined OYO so he could enjoy more advanced music. Outside of music, Isaac likes to play tennis with friends and he “LOVES diablo sauce”. Next year, he plans on attending the University of Michigan and then pursuing law school. Isaac’s favorite memory from OYO was the first dress rehearsal and seeing all of the orchestras playing.

Georgia Talbot has played the Violin in OYO for eight years. She joined the orchestra in elementary school after encouragement from her violin teacher, Clarke Bonten. Georgia loves to share her music at celebrations for friends and family, especially for her biggest fan, her grandma. She is also involved with many things at school and is excited to be going to college in the fall. Georgia plans to major in Sales and Business Marketing at Western Michigan University. Her favorite memory of OYO is her first concert performance in Studio Strings, and the bouquet of flowers her grandparents brought her.

Claire Tantengco has played the Cello in OYO for seven years. She was motivated to join the orchestra after years of playing piano by herself. She wanted to experience performing with and group and being part of a musical community. Outside of music, Claire enjoys hanging out with friends, swimming and performing cultural dances. She is planning to attend the University of Michigan to study Biochemistry and play cello with the Campus Orchestra. Claire’s favorite memories of OYO come from concert performances. She especially loved the Symphony performances, as she got to play super fun music with her best friend and sister.

Walter Thompson has played the Bassoon in OYO for four years. He also has been a drum major for Lake Orion High School marching band and participated in the winter percussion group for the past four years. Walter plans to attend university and major in Music. His favorite OYO memory is getting to perform music with friends.

Jalen Toyee has played the Tuba and Trombone in OYO for one year. In his free time, he enjoys composing band pieces and fishing. The connection between music and nature is what he tends to study and represent all throughout his life. Next year, Jalen will be attending Central Michigan University to major in Music Performance on Tuba. His favorite memory from OYO is when the entire brass section counted measures wrong and came in 7 measures early during rehearsal.

Kieran Venugopal has played the Violin in OYO for three years. Outside of OYO he was the drum major of the FHS marching band for the past 2 years and plays in the musical pit orchestra. Kieran works as a page at the Ferndale Library and spends his free time with friends or reading. Next fall, he will be majoring in Music Education at Michigan State University with a dual degree in Math Education. His favorite memories from OYO are meeting some of his now best friends on the first day of Philharmonia.

Franny Wang has played the Violin in OYO for nine years. Franny joined OYO after seeing her brother participate, and she thought the concerts were “cool”. Apart from violin, she is very passionate about color guard and spends most of her free time in related activities. Next year, Franny plans to study Psychology at the University of Michigan. She will always remember performing for the first time on a stage with OYO.

Isabel Wilinski has played the Violin in OYO for two years. She began playing the violin in middle school and gradually became more invested during high school because of friends she made in music classes and activities. In her free time Isabel loves running, reading and baking. She will be attending the University of Michigan majoring in Political Science on a pre-law track. Her favorite memory of OYO was getting to perform longer musical works with some of her best friends.

Elizabeth Wydeven has played the Violin in OYO for two years. OYO has been an inspiring, challenging, and positive experience in Elizabeth’s musical journey which started at school in 6th grade. In her free time, she loves to work out and run track. After her senior year, Elizabeth plans to attend a four-year university to further her education. Elizabeth’s favorite memory in OYO was the first time Philharmonia rehearsed Max Bruch’s Violin Concerto No 1. “That concerto became my most listened to song on Spotify in 2024.”

Mark Yabut has played the Viola in OYO for three years. Mark has been in orchestras for around 8 years and has been playing music for about 12 years. He plans to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and major in Statistics. He enjoyed the opportunity of playing for his family at OYO performances.

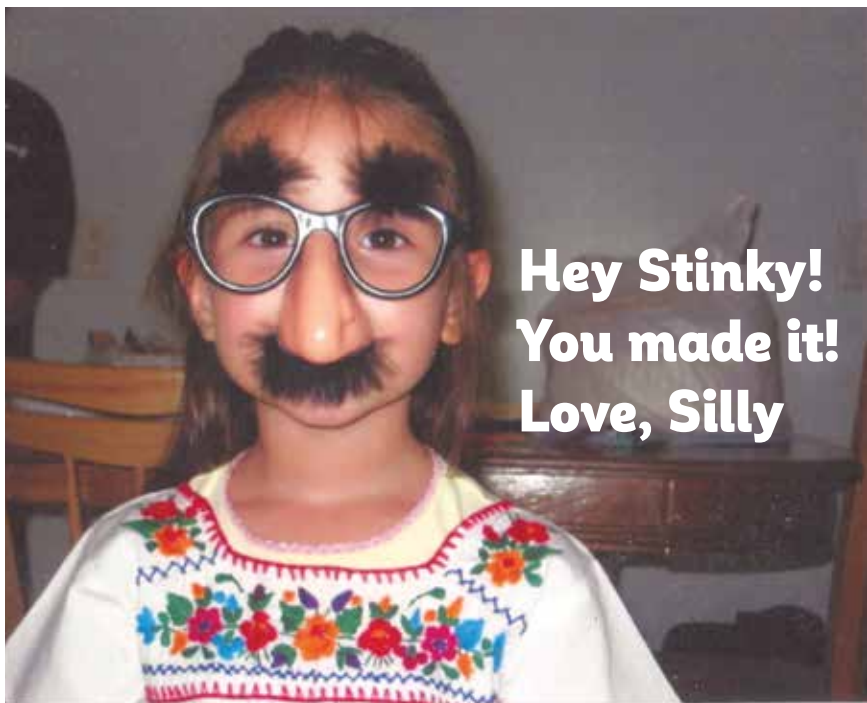
Retta Zhou has played the Violin in OYO for the past five years. Retta loves music and being able to create music with a community that is equally passionate is truly something special to her. In her free time, she enjoys going on walks, watching documentaries, and shopping. Retta plans to attend college next fall to study Mechanical Engineering. Go blue! She doesn’t have a single favorite memory from OYO, because each concert becomes her new favorite memory.

Additional Seniors

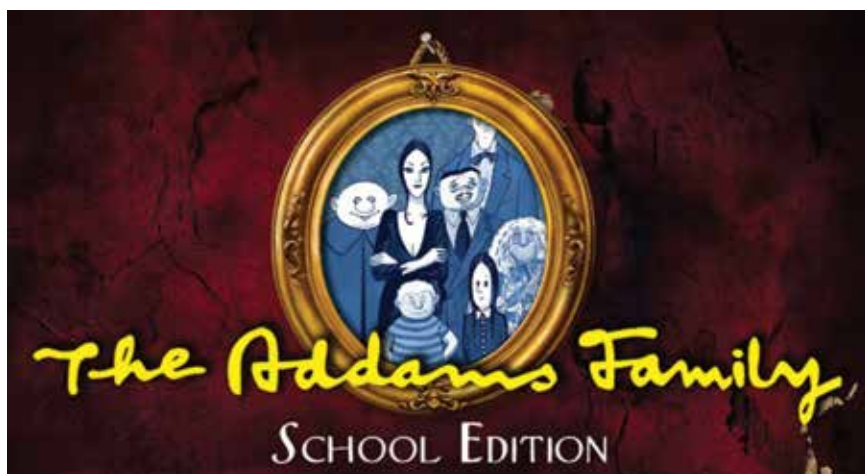
Raegan Dallaire
Saanvi Duruvasan
Caroline Fernandes
June Kim
Sookyoung Kwak

Kate McIntosh
Anmol Shukla
Aidan Sun
Hyein Yang
Michael Zheng

*Great job, Ania!
We're all so proud of you!*



**Hey Stinky!
You made it!
Love, Silly**



Registration is open for Rochester Community Schools Summer Music Theatre

Summer Music Theatre, also called **SMT**, continues to be an annual tradition for the Rochester area community. Started in 1973 at Adams High School, SMT is now managed through the Rochester Community Schools' Summer Learning Program and is a community-wide education offering. Each summer, a new musical theatre production is offered to allow students to study the theater process onstage and backstage. SMT is operated as a professional production and is supported through Rochester Community Schools.

This year, SMT will be presenting *The Addams Family*.

The program is open to all students entering grades 7-12, including our 2025 graduates. It runs June 17 - July 27, 2025 and actors meet three to six days a week, depending on their part. Pit orchestra is open to all high school students, incoming freshmen through graduated 2025 seniors.

**Scan here for more SMT
Information and Registration**



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Audition Information**



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