



Oakland Youth Orchestras



2025-26 SEASON

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Welcome!



Welcome to the 51st season of the Oakland Youth Orchestras! Last year, we celebrated a significant milestone as we marked our 50th anniversary season. It was a time for reflection on the journey and remarkable growth of OYO since its inception. As we embark on this new season, our enthusiasm continues as we strive to further refine the excellence of our programs and welcome a new group of passionate student musicians.

The sustained success and growth of OYO are made possible by a combination of talented conductors, dedicated students, supportive parents, committed community members, and outstanding leadership.

Collectively, our four OYO conductors have generously shared more than 80 years of expertise and dedication. They teach lifelong skills in teamwork, commitment, organization, and musicianship through weekly rehearsals and concerts, inspiring and guiding students and providing truly memorable experiences.

Throughout the year, our parent volunteers contribute their time and effort to ensure smooth auditions, rehearsals, and concert logistics. Your dedication is deeply appreciated and vital to our continued success.

The OYO Board of Directors plays a crucial role in guiding our organization. Comprised of dedicated parents and former OYO musicians who are active in various community roles, the board brings a wealth of experience. This year, we are delighted to introduce two new executives: Julia Hruska, Vice President of Community Outreach, and Claire Murphy, Vice President of Operations. Both bring a deep passion for creating musical opportunities for students of all ages and skill levels. We eagerly anticipate their energy, ideas, and dedication as they join our current board members in building relationships within and beyond our organization to ensure a vibrant future.

The generous contributions of our donors, program advertisers, and corporate sponsors keep OYO accessible to many families and help strengthen our programs. We extend a special thank you to the Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance for their ongoing in-kind support, providing facilities, faculty, and connections to their community over the past 50 years. We are also grateful to Bloomfield Hills High School for hosting our concerts this season, and to Rochester Community Schools and the University Presbyterian Church for our rehearsal spaces.

Thank you for joining us for tonight's concert. I am grateful for the families who seek new musical experiences at OYO. I look forward to witnessing the excitement as students master challenging pieces, the enthusiasm as they form new friendships, and the joy as they leave the stage after each performance.

As we celebrate the 51st season of OYO, we honor our rich history and look forward to a strong future. We invite you to continue to **Play a Part in Our Future**, supporting our programs and enriching the experiences of our students. Enjoy the season and embrace the incredible memories of your student's OYO journey.

With Gratitude,
Nicole Shogren
Executive Director

Oakland Youth Orchestras Board of Directors

Executive Director – Nicole Shogren
President – Clarke Bonten
Vice President of Community Relations – Julia Hruska
Vice President of Operations – Claire Murphy
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Development - Olivia Marsh
Member at Large – Sarah Leight
Member at Large – David Yarnall
Advisor – Joe Impellizzeri
Symphony Orchestra /Senior Director – Zeljko Milicevic
Philharmonia Orchestra – Wendy Stuart
String Orchestra – John Kennedy
Studio String Orchestra – Nick Karpinsky

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Symphony Orchestra Manager – Qingling Zhang
Symphony Orchestra Assistant Manager – Ahreum Kim
Philharmonia Orchestra Manager – Erica Harding
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String Orchestra Assistant Manager – Theodor Vingarzan
Studio String Orchestra Managers – Xuan Xiao, Jamie Tenbusch
Studio String Orchestra Assistant Manager – Jeff Kampsen
Studio String and String Orchestra Coaching – Nyssa Rabinowitz
Philharmonia and Symphony Orchestra Percussion Mentor – Erin Tomczak
Music Librarian – Shannon Flanigan
Assistant Treasurer and Enrollment Coordinator – Christina Miller
Jamie Tenbusch – Volunteer Coordinator

***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
Department of Music, Theatre and Dance:***

Elisabeth Honn Hoegberg, Ph.D. – Director, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Music

Melissa Hoag – Chair, Department of Music, Professor of Music

Gregory Cunningham, Ed.D. – Professor of Music, Instrumental Conducting,
Instrumental Music Coordinator

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

Martin Yapple – Auditorium Director, Bloomfield Hills Schools

OYO History

Founded in 1975, the Oakland Youth Symphony (OYS) was established with the goal of offering high school students in Oakland County opportunities for musical enrichment. The initiative was led by Joan G. Berndt and Dr. Raynold Allvin from the Music Department at Oakland University. Their vision was to create a regional orchestra that would serve as a valuable resource for young musicians in the community, fostering both educational and artistic growth.

The OYS benefited from substantial early support provided by both its founding board members and Oakland University. This partnership provided the organization with crucial resources, including rehearsal facilities, equipment, and office space, and has remained a cornerstone of the organization throughout its history. Board members took an active role in building the orchestra by implementing recruitment initiatives, forging connections with local schools, and offering summer camps. Their efforts also secured important grant funding, all of which contributed to increased student participation and helped lay a strong foundation for the ensemble's sustained growth and success.



Erv Monroe

Leadership played a vital role in shaping the direction and spirit of the OYS. Ervin Monroe, retired Principal Flutist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, was appointed as the first Music Director. His inspiring approach motivated the initial group of 50 student musicians and set a standard of excellence that would guide the ensemble in years to come. Monroe's legacy was carried forward by successors including James Hohmeyer, Robert Phillips, Andrew

Dabczynski, Anthony Krempa, and OYO's current team of dedicated conductors, each contributing their own expertise and passion to the continued success of the program.

Zeljko "Bill" Milicevic's enduring connection to the Oakland Youth Orchestras (OYO) began in the 1980s when he participated as a student. His experiences in the organization helped shape his future as both a musician and an educator.

In 1994, Milicevic returned to OYO as the conductor, taking the helm of an ensemble comprised of 67 young musicians. Shortly after his arrival, he introduced a strategic five-year plan focused on organizational growth and development. The following year, the Oakland Youth Symphony transitioned to become the Oakland Youth Orchestra, marking a significant milestone and setting forth a new vision for the future.

Milicevic played a key role in OYO's growth, introducing the String Orchestra in 1998, Philharmonia in 2002, and Studio String Orchestra in 2009. Conductors John Kennedy (OYS alumnus, 1975), Nick Karpinsky, and Wendy Stuart joined Milicevic in leading these ensembles. Today, they bring over 80 years of combined experience with the organization, ensuring OYO students receive high-quality musical instruction and mentorship each week.



Student John Kennedy in 1975

Working alongside the conductors in developing OYO's flourishing program offerings was former Executive Director, Joanne Walle. During her 20-year tenure, she provided key leadership as the organization introduced a variety of enrichment opportunities, including Chamber Ensembles, sectional coaching, and Outreach Recitals, enhancing the musical education and experience of its members.

OYO's commitment to musical excellence is reflected in its collaborations with prominent artists such as Ani Kavafian, Rufus Reid, and Owain Phyfe. These partnerships provided unique opportunities for students to engage with distinguished musicians and broaden their artistic horizons. Notable among OYO's achievements are the premieres of commissioned works, including *Car Trek* by James Hartway, as well as two significant compositions by Catherine McMichael. *Symphony of the Ages* was presented to commemorate the orchestra's 40th anniversary, and *Elemental Powers* debuted to celebrate the 50th anniversary season.



For more on OYO's history, scan the QR code to access supplemental photos, past repertoires, programs, and other significant moments from the past 50 years.

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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 since 2023 for the MASTA String Camp, Session III, conducting at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, Troy Sound Power Camp, and 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. In January, 2025, Ms. Stuart was named Teacher of the Year for the Michigan Chapter of the American String Teacher Association.

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 is now an active clinician in schools throughout the area, and is an instructor of Bass, Pedagogy and Chamber Music at Oakland University. 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

Alice Bonten
Oscar Catarino
Mason Chiew
Michael Cho **
Alison Doka
Meisha Ferguson
Hayun Jeong
Yujin Jung
Jerry Mao
Gabriella Murphy
Sehan Park
Suhana Reddy
Gaeun Shin **
Cora Solmes
Chris Song
Jennifer Song
Davy Wang
Luke Zhang

2nd Violin

Ananya Anand ****
Nishad Bhide
Ivy Dao
Matina Green
Chloe Kim *
Eunah Kim
David Lee
Kaitlyn Li
Valli Nagamalli
Mishael Pacheco
Sameer Pai
Blair Qi
Zachary Reynolds
Ariel Song
Jinju Suk
Marina Super
Nainika Valoor
Raphael Yarnall

Viola

Julia Amato **
Yitong Li
Sei Park
Divya Sovani **

Cello

Junu Ahn
Sharon Chang
Anna Maria Hila
Hoon Kang
Daniel Kim **
Junghwan Kim **
Seojin Lee **
Owen Osterbur
Katherine Park
Elaina Socha
Angelina Sun
Olivia Wang
Julia Xiao

Bass

Carter Ellis
Lila Tasdemir *
Miles Tucker-Gough

Harp

Anastasia Leahy

1st Flute

Joanna Ouyang **
Chaerin Park
Ozea Deon Policarpio **

2nd Flute

Hyunjin An
Sacheth Hegde
Keegan Hull



English Horn/Oboe

Thomas Hill

2nd Oboe

Drew Dimitrijevski

1st Clarinet

Junseo Byun **

Lewen Feng **

Jeheon Lee **

2nd Clarinet

Leslie Bahk

Claire Reinhard *

**Bass Clarinet/
Clarinet**

Harley Cox

1st Bassoon

Gabriel da Silva

Siddh Sheth

2nd Bassoon

Jackson Hengstebeck

1st Horn

Clara Cunningham

3rd Horn

Ha-Yun Kim

1st Trumpet

Zachary Glass *

2nd Trumpet

Junhyeong Ha

Noah Weller *

Bass/3rd Trumpet

Brayden Williams

Tuba

Karl Rönmark

Percussion

Seth Ingram

Preston Potter *

++ Co-Concertmaster

* Principal

** Co-Principal

**** Asst. Principal



Philharmonia Orchestra

1st Violin

Agnish Adhya
Rabeya Adler
Choyeon Ahn
Sanika Gadre
Charlotte-Louise Gaillard
Michael Harding
Max Jaros
Hasini Kalagara
Jun Kim +
Alexander Knecht
Elora Lee
Maria Lee
Yewon Lee
Owen Long
Micah Pacheco
Yubeen Song
Camila Sumcad
Rebecca Sun
Luke Yabut
Aiden Yang ++++
Samuel Yang

Violin 1/2

Henry Chaiyasate
Sara DeRyckere
Yerim Kang
Emma Kocher
Minha Lee
Olivia Miller
Jiyun Woo

2nd Violin

Seungwon Ahn
Hojun Choi **
Daniel Chou
Elizabeth Foutz
Ethan Fustin
Shoken Han
Sabrina Iovannitti
Olivia Kalil
Jaein Kim
Yerik Kim
Gus Kish **
Juchan Lee
Seungmin Lee
Seungwoo Lee
Alex Ma
Isabelle Nowlin
Helena Park **
Victoria Pfauth
Alexia Phillips
Evan Seo
Erin Shim
Yeeun Song
Riley Tenbusch
Sabrina Wilinski

Viola

Hayden Choi
Corinne Knight
Hayul Lee *

Cello

Vivienne Brown
Mia Cashatt
Sarah Cho
Eryn Choi **
Cora Grondin
Callie Hruska
Alina Ju **
Addison Kurtin
Cindy Lee
Sharon Lim
Irene Moon
Dan Park

Bass

Robert Caescu
Taliana Merritt *



Flute

Borry Chu ****
 Huiseo Kim
 Jueon Kim *
 Nayoon Lee
 Alexia Nowicki

Piccolo/Flute

McKenna Cox **
 Zahiya Khan **

Oboe

Alexander Greig

Clarinet

Seongmin Choi *
 Lael Lee
 Kashvi Prabhakar
 Emma Skonieczny

**Bass Clarinet/
Clarinet**

Cameron Lata *

Bassoon

Allison Lockwood *
 Mo Sha

Horn

Ryan Corpuz
 Emery Krzeszak *

Trumpet

Claudio Ardanese *
 Sarah Drozd

Percussion

Minhye Kwon
 Jacob Peckens
 Smayan Sharma *

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



String Orchestra

1st Violin

Maria Abdelmessih
Estelle Borla
Preston Brewer
Joyce Cao
Sunwoo Cho
Heather Choi ++
Jiwan Choi
Sally Huang ++
Amanda Knecht
Jeongjun Lee
Juhan Lee
Kangwoo Lee
Nathan Li
Maya Mohan
Paige Nickerson
Sohyun Park
Rachna Rao
Caleb Zhang

2nd Violin

Lana Abbo
Cassie Chen
Yewon Cho
Seungwoo (Steve) Choi
Azaria Etcitty
Leah Geppert
Benjamin Ha
Tanner Koontz
Novak Masic
Kristen McFadden
Kara Nickerson
Hangyul Park
Hannah Park
Madelyn Robinson
Jahiem Smith
Juwon Song
Marco Sumcad
Yashvini Venkatesh
Marcus Vingarzan
Athena Yung

3rd Violin

Yedam Bang
Nicole Bolvari
Abraham Brandenburg
Evelyn Chen
Alexandra Clark
David Griffin
Juwon Kim
Owen Kreiner
Hizkiah Lanac
Joowon Lee
Saahiti Nidudala

Viola

Rulin (Robin) Deng
Evan Guzowski
Haneul Kim
Ava Kulkarni
Frances Lambert
Amogh Maral
Kevin Zeng

Cello

Oliver Freitas
Miles Guilbault
Miranda Howard
Seungchan Hyun
Jeonggyeol Lee
Isabella Mui
Sara Pai
Amelia Putz
Hayoon Song
Luke Sun
Ella Thomas
Lillian Vickers
Emily Waters
Lucy Wu
Evelyn Yoo

Bass

Evelyn Kill
Miles Kreiner

++ Co-Concertmaster



Studio String Orchestra

1st Violin

Lili Beebani
Enzo Cacciutti
Eason Jing
Claire Jung
Yane Kim
Ziggy Kish
Gabriel Kovie
Layla Lee
Unsu Lee
Sophia Li
Lucas Lin
Devin Liu
Ami Olkhovsky
Henry Osterbur
Elliott Parker
Jack Polderman
Gabriel Sumcad
Amory Xiao
Yiming Xie
Andrew Zhao

2nd Violin

Haley Back
Amit Bhattacharya
Grace Cao
Saesha Gujarathi
Balca Gurtekin
Kaiyin Han
Shosei Han
Seeun Jang
Shaylan Kalkhande
Alex Lee
Kevin Lee
Tiana Patterson
Francesca Sancineto
Mia Sgalia
Everett Shen
Emmeline Sweet
Scarlett Tenbusch
Leonard Wang
Eric Wright
Jason Wu

3rd Violin

Abigail Behrendt
Claudia Coupe
Isaac Davis
Ciel Gersky
Ollie Faith Jeromin
Lyaal Kim
Louis Lin
Daniel Litkouhi
Phoenix Rawls-Meehan
Katherine Regina
Kavin Sabarish
Ella Seo
Lucia Sumcad
Ella Zaryczyny

Viola

Juhwan Cho
Swara Deshpande
Grace Elizabeth Erbaggio
Neakon Mirmiran
Aiden Moon
Damian Ristich

Cello

James Cho
Ellen Choi
Seongwoo Choi
Raina Hwang
Chanmin Im
Peter Jeromin
Lucas Jia
Robert Kampsen
Jiyeon Lee
Brenna Moser
Oliver Ristich
Maximilian Schowalter
Rieka Shimizu
Milo Simmons

Harp

Sophie Hu
Rebekah Leahy





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Oakland Youth Orchestras

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
- Chamber Ensemble classes and concerts
- Solo/Concerto Competition and Merit Scholarships
- Tuition assistance through **OYO SCORE**



Our Primary Supporters

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- Community Foundation of Greater Rochester
- OYO alumni and member families

Support Options

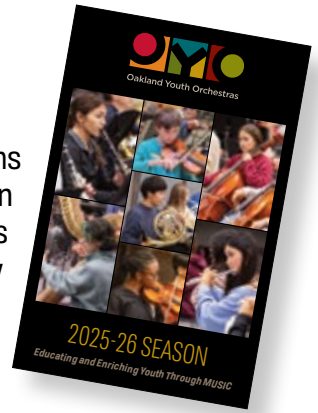
Become a Supporting Donor or Sponsor

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!



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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FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2025 • 8 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

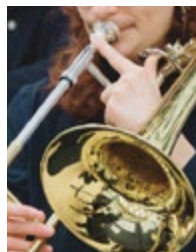
Joy and Strife

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 • 3 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Reassurance and Peace

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026 • 8 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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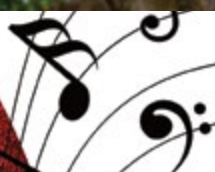
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Congratulatory Messages

Zachary, I am so proud of you and all you have accomplished. Your musical talent is beyond amazing. Keep up the wonderful work. Love, Mom

YAY ROBBIE! We are so excited for your musical future and to see where this journey takes you. Love, Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Julia! We are so proud of your dedication and talent in your senior year of OYO. Shine bright and enjoy every moment! Love Mom, Dad & CJ

Cora - Congratulations on being part of Philharmonia this year, we are excited for the performances! Love, Mom & Dad

Bravo, Brenna! Making it into OYO is a huge deal—your talent and hard work truly shine. Can't wait to hear your music soar!

♥ Riley ♥ We are so proud of you! We love you so very much! Love, Mama and Scarlett

♥ Scarlett, We are so proud of you! We love you so very much! Love, Mama and Riley

To Jiyeon Lee: Congratulations on this special achievement! The best is yet to come

Eliza, we love hearing you play. All of your hard work and dedication shine through every note. Love, Mom, Dad, Midnight, and Harlie

Keegan- WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!!! Love you so much! Love, your whole family! :-)

You Rock! I love you, Borry!

Congratulations on your first OYO concert, Juwon! We are so proud of you. Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Oscar, we are so proud of the young man you are becoming. Best wishes on your last year of OYO. Love Adi, mom & dad.

Kristen M. : We are so happy you love playing the violin! May you always have music in your heart. Love, Mom, Dad, Kaitlyn, Tyler and Teddy

Claire, Congratulations on another season with OYO! We love you!

Congratulations Callie! We are so proud of your hard work and the success you have achieved in orchestra! We love you, your family & biggest fans

Alexia, we are so incredibly proud of you! Your hard work, heart, and dedication continue to amaze us. We love you so much — Mom & Dad ♥

Thank you to all the dedicated staff whose hard work makes this possible. - With gratitude, Erin Shim's Family.

Congratulation Ami on another successful concert! It makes our day to hear you play music! Keep working, hard work pays off. Mom, Elli and family.

Dear Suhana, we are so proud of how far you've come, with your hard work & dedication. Keep playing beautiful music always! Love, Mama, Papa & Didi

Congratulations on another season of OYO, Mia! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

Beya, your fam is so proud of the person you have become. Congrats on your final year of OYO. Have fun stormin' the castle! Love Mom, Dad and Amanda

BRAVO ELLA ZARYCZNY on your 1st orchestral debut! Keep up the great work! You are a star! Love, your Family

Claudia, we're so proud of your progress on the violin, and it is great to see you enjoying OYO so much. You're the best! Love Mum, Dad & Camilla xxx

Miles - Your passion and talent shine through every note you play. We Love You Sunshine, Mom C and Mom H

Riley, we are so proud of you! You truly are amazing! We love you so much! Love, Dad and Scarlett.

Scarlett, we are so proud of you! It has been so much fun to watch you develop as a musician! We love you so much! Love, Dad and Riley.



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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:

Johanna (Jo) H. Allen, Executive Director
jallen@cfound.org · Phone 248-608-2804

Community Foundation
of Greater Rochester

Re: Teresa Schuster Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 80431
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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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- 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.
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Auditions for returning and new students will be held through mid-May 2026.

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Dear OYO Community,

As we come to the close of our 51st season, I am filled with gratitude for the students, families and supporters who made this year so meaningful. It has been a season defined by growth, collaboration, and the shared belief in the power of music.



Throughout the year, our conductors, staff, and Board of Directors worked to foster a supportive and encouraging environment where students could thrive. Through thoughtfully curated and diverse repertoire, students were challenged to grow both individually and as members of an ensemble. They embraced new roles, sharpened their skills, and built friendships that extend beyond the rehearsal hall. Tonight's final concert celebrates that journey, featuring music that spans classical masterworks, Big Band and jazz traditions, and contemporary works.

Beyond our main orchestras, OYO's Chamber Ensembles and Outreach Recitals further enriched the season. We were delighted by the strong participation and enthusiasm in both programs, which provided additional opportunities for meaningful performance and community engagement. The Solo & Concerto Competition was another highlight, featuring many outstanding performances and resulting in well-deserved recognition across all levels. We look forward to hearing performances from our first place winners in the coming season.

We also proudly congratulate our graduating seniors as they conclude their time with OYO and embark upon new adventures. Whether you spent just one season with us or participated in all four OYO orchestras, your contributions have left a lasting impact on our community. Your dedication, leadership, and passion have enriched our organization, and we wish you great success as you begin your next chapter. May the music, friendships, and lessons you gained through OYO continue to inspire you in the years ahead.

Each season brings new students and families eager to embrace fresh challenges, and this year was no exception. We are tremendously grateful to the many parents who stepped into new roles in support of their students' OYO journeys. I would especially like to recognize our orchestra managers, whose unwavering assistance to conductors and students during rehearsals and performances has been invaluable.

To our students: thank you. Your enthusiasm and commitment are at the heart of everything we do. We are proud to provide rewarding musical opportunities within a welcoming and encouraging environment, and we appreciate the effort you bring as you strive to make your orchestra the best it can be.

As we look ahead to a new season, we do so with gratitude and excitement. Thank you for your continued support of the OYO family. We look forward to another inspiring season together this fall.

With gratitude,

Nicole Shogren

OYO Executive Director

OYO 2026 Competition Winners

Studio String Orchestra Solo Competition

Eason Jing, violin – 1st Place

Ziggy Kish, violin - 2nd Place

Honorable Mention

Yane Kim, violin

Claire Jung, violin

Katherine Regina, violin

String Orchestra Solo Competition

Nathan X. Li, violin – 1st Place

Sally Huang, violin – 2nd Place

Lucy Wu, cello – 3rd Place

Honorable Mention

Estelle Borla, violin

Joyce Cao, violin

Caleb Zhang, violin

Philharmonia Orchestra Solo Competition

Jueon Kim, flute – 1st Place

Jun Kim, violin – 2nd Place

Sharon Lim, cello – 3rd Place

Borry Chu, flute – Jessica Rogers Memorial Award

Honorable Mention

Yubeen Song, violin

Elora Lee, violin

Eryn Choi, cello

Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition

Alice Bonten, violin – 1st place, Teresa Schuster Memorial Award

Chloe Kim, violin – 2nd Place

Hayun Jeong, violin – 3rd Place

Jackson Hengstebeck, bassoon – Jessica Rogers Memorial Award

Honorable Mention

Lila Tasdemir, bass

Ariel Song, violin

Gabriella Murphy, violin

2026 OYO Merit Scholarship Awards

Studio String Orchestra

Balca Gurtekin

Everett Shen

String Orchestra

Heather Choi

Evan Guzowski

Philharmonia Orchestra

Chloe Ahn

Eryn Choi

Alina Ju

Yubeen Song

Aiden Yang

Symphony Orchestra

Ananya Anand

Gabriella Murphy

Olivia Wang

Oakland Youth Orchestras Spring 2026 Concert

Studio String Orchestra

Nick Karpinsky, Conductor

Scenes from Swan LakePyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
In Paradisum..... Gabriel Fauré
Music from Incredibles 2.....Michael Giacchino

String Orchestra

John Kennedy, Conductor

Hoe Down from Rodeo Aaron Copland
The Iliad Soon Hee Newbold
Nimrod from Enigma Variations..... Edward Elgar
Blaze of Metal Bryan Sanguinito

Philharmonia Orchestra

Wendy Stuart, Conductor

Blue Towers.....Irving Fine
Duke Ellington! arr. by Calvin Custer
Tico-Tico no Fubá Zequinha Abreu
James Bond Medley..... arr. by Victor Lopez

Symphony Orchestra

Zeljko Milicevic, Conductor

Cuban Overture RumbaGeorge Gershwin
Selections from Carmen Suites No. 1 and 2 Georges Bizet
 Suite II No. 6 Marche des contrebandidiers
 Suite I No. 3 Seguedille
 Suite I No. 2 Intermezzo
 Suite I No. 4 Les dragons d'Alcala
 Suite II No. 8 Nocturne
 Suite II No. 10 La gardemontante
 Suite II No. 11 Danse Boheme
España Emmanuel Chabrier

Program Notes

Studio String Orchestra

Scenes from *Swan Lake*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893); arr. Jamin Hoffman

In Paradisum Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924); arr. Bob Lipton

Music from *Incredibles 2*

Michael Giacchino (b. 1967); arr. Larry Moore

Welcome to the 2026 Spring Concert! The Studio String orchestra has an exciting program planned for you this evening!

We will begin with Scenes from *Swan Lake* by Tchaikovsky, arranged by Jamin Hoffman. This arrangement features three of the sections from the ballet. It begins with the *Introduction to Act IV*. This opening movement features the harp and takes a musical theme through many different key signatures and dynamics. This opening theme creates an atmosphere of swans emerging through the fog as each one moves through a different key signature. The second movement is *Dance of the Cygnets*. Meaning, "Dance of the Little Swans," this movement moves in a unified way to resemble four baby swans dancing in unison. It has some tricky melodic passages as well as some syncopated accompaniments that can be tricky to count. The third movement is the *Finale to Act IV*. This familiar theme moves quickly and features several rhythmic challenges for the orchestra. There are many times where the orchestra is playing two's against three's with eighth notes and triplets. The movement's constant motion leads to a triumphant ending symbolizing true love over evil.

Our second piece is *In Paradisum* by Gabriel Fauré, arranged by Bob Lipton. This beautiful piece features our harp. It also has beautiful moving melodies throughout the orchestra. *In Paradisum* is the final movement from Fauré's *Requiem*.

Our final piece is Music from *Incredibles 2* by Michael Giacchino, arranged by Larry Moore. This sequel doesn't disappoint and neither does the music! It starts with the famous *Incredibles* theme. It's fast moving rhythmic melodies will catch you on the edge of your seat! There are several time signature and tempo changes in this piece. The fast opening of the piece transitions to a slower legato melody. This expressive legato melody floats in the first violin section, while accompanied by the rest of the orchestra with a syncopated rhythm. It then builds tension, moving back to a faster tempo as it moves into the *Incredibles 2* theme. This fast, jazzy arrangement moves quickly and eventually changes to cut time or a double time feel at the end. It will have you dancing out of your seat to the very end!

We hope you enjoy our program this evening and I'd like to thank you all for an incredible season! Thank you for your dedication to OYO and making it the incredible organization and family that it is!

String Orchestra

Hoe Down from Rodeo

Aaron Copland (1900-1990); arr. Stephen Bulla

The Iliad Soon Hee Newbold (b. 1974)

Nimrod from Enigma Variations

Edward Elgar (1857-1934); arr. Mitchell Bender

Blaze of Metal Bryan Sanguinito

Our program starts with the iconic *Hoe Down* by Aaron Copland. Composed for Agnes de Mille, the ballet *Rodeo* was an immediate hit in 1942 and has been performed around the world ever since. *Hoe Down* is the high energy finale to the ballet, built around the American fiddle tune *Bonaparte's Retreat*. With joy and moments of humor, it is one of the most familiar classical pieces in popular culture. This arrangement keeps the energy, infectious rhythms and jaunty style of the original.

The Iliad by Soon Hee Newbold was written for the LA Philharmonic and their youth orchestra program. Following the epic poem by Homer, it depicts scenes from the end of the Trojan War. Stirring battle music, anxious waiting, tense negotiations, resignation and triumph all appear, with the piece ending not in joy but in silence as the survivors bury and mourn Hector, their fallen prince.

Nimrod, the 9th movement from *Enigma*, a set of variations for orchestra by Edward Elgar, is one of the most lush and beautiful moments in all of European classical music. Elgar wrote each movement as a tribute to a personal friend—Nimrod (a legendary biblical hunter) pays tribute to his friend A.J. Jaeger, whose name in German means “hunter.” A quietly moving theme returns throughout the piece, with the orchestra swelling and receding each time, until growing to a series of breathtaking moments that finally disappear into a peaceful final chord.

Blaze of Metal by Bryan Sanguinito is just a non-stop romp through heavy metal head-banging for strings. High energy from start to finish, it is a blast to perform and, we hope, just as much fun to experience!

Philharmonia Orchestra

Blue Towers Irving Fine (1914-1962)

Composed in 1944, *Blue Towers* is an early work by American composer Irving Fine, written during his formative years as a student at Harvard University, where he studied with Walter Piston. The piece reflects Fine's developing voice, shaped by the clarity, balance, and craftsmanship associated with mid-20th-century American neoclassicism.

Scored for full orchestra, *Blue Towers* is concise yet richly expressive, demonstrating Fine's sensitivity to color and form. The title suggests an abstract image rather than a specific program, inviting listeners to imagine shifting musical “structures” that rise and recede throughout the work. Transparent textures and carefully crafted counterpoint allow individual instrumental lines to emerge clearly, while the overall architecture unfolds with elegance and restraint.

Fine's harmonic language blends tonal foundations with subtle modern inflections, creating music that feels both grounded and fresh. Rhythmic vitality propels the work forward, contrasted by moments of lyricism and introspection. The interplay between instrumental sections highlights Fine's skill as an orchestrator, even at this early stage in his career.

Though less widely known than some later American orchestral works, *Blue Towers* offers a compelling glimpse into the voice of a composer who would become an important figure in American music. Its refined style and expressive clarity make it a rewarding experience for performers and audiences alike.

The score calls for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, alto and tenor saxophone, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, and strings.

Duke Ellington! Arr. by Calvin Custer

Duke Ellington (1899-1974) was a prolific American composer, pianist, and bandleader. He was born and raised in Washington DC and moved to New York City, where he worked from the mid 1920's. Ellington helped define the sound of jazz across a career spanning more than five decades. His music blended sophistication, swing, and vivid orchestral color, elevating jazz to an art form performed on the world's greatest stages.

This arrangement by Calvin Custer celebrates Ellington's enduring legacy through a medley of some of his most beloved works. Audiences will recognize classic melodies such as *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, *Do Nothing 'Till You Hear From Me*, and *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*, each capturing a different facet of Ellington's musical personality—from driving swing rhythms to smooth, lyrical elegance.

The piece is scored for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, piano and strings.

Tico-Tico no Fubá

Zequinha Abreu (1880-1935); arr. by Marty Gold

Zequinha Abreu was a well-known Brazilian musician, composer and band leader who was born in Santa Rita do Passa Quatro, Sao Paulo. He was a musical prodigy who wrote over 300 pieces, influencing popular Brazilian music. In addition to being a musician, he worked as a pharmacist, piano teacher and served as mayor of the town in which he was born.

Few Latin American works have achieved the international popularity of *Tico-Tico no Fubá*. Composed by Zequinha Abreu in 1917, the piece is a dazzling example of *choro*, a Brazilian genre known for its lively tempos, virtuosic melodies, and rhythmic vitality. The title roughly translates to "sparrow in the cornmeal," evoking the quick, darting movements reflected in the music's energetic character.

In this orchestral arrangement, Marty Gold transforms the spirited choro into a showcase for full orchestra. The arrangement highlights the interplay between sections, with woodwinds often taking the lead in presenting the nimble main theme, while strings and brass provide rhythmic drive and colorful accompaniment. Percussion adds an essential layer of Latin flair, reinforcing the music's dance-like energy. From its sparkling opening to its exhilarating conclusion, *Tico-Tico no Fubá* captures a sense of joy and exuberance that transcends cultural boundaries.

The piece is scored for two flutes, oboe, two clarinets, bassoon, two horns, three trumpets, two trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, piano and strings.

James Bond Medley Arr. by Victor Lopez

For more than six decades, the world of James Bond has captivated audiences with its blend of espionage, glamour, and high-stakes action. Since the release of *Dr. No*, the Bond franchise has become one of the most successful in film history—due in no small part to its unforgettable music.

Victor Lopez's *James Bond Medley* brings together several of the series' most iconic themes in a dynamic orchestral setting. At its core is the instantly recognizable *James Bond Theme*, composed by Monty Norman, is followed by well known classics like *For Your Eyes Only*, *Goldfinger*, and *Live and Let Die*, showcasing the evolving musical style of the series across decades.

Lopez's arrangement captures the essence of the Bond sound—sleek, dramatic, and rhythmically driven—while adapting it effectively for full orchestra. With its mix of sophistication and intensity, *James Bond Medley* celebrates a film legacy in which music plays a starring role, as memorable as the iconic agent himself.

The score calls for two flutes, oboe, two clarinets, bassoon, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, piano and strings.

Symphony Orchestra

Cuban Overture Rumba George Gershwin (1898-1937)

George Gershwin's start in music can be likened to the proverbial, "Mom, I wanna' be a rock-star when I grow up". Only at the beginning of the 20th century, it wasn't rock and roll but rather jazz and Latin influences in classical music. As a youngster, Gershwin started piano lessons somewhat late at the age of ten. Through a series of inadequate teachers, he finally began studying under Charles Mambitzer who was responsible for rocketing Gershwin's skills to the point where at age 16, he began working for publishing houses. Eventually, his songwriting would begin earning him commissions for more songs and in 1924, he teamed up with his brother Ira.

While demonstrating an interest and proficiency in writing both popular and classical music, Gershwin was one of the first American composers to incorporate Jazz and Latin elements into mainstream classical music. His *Cuban Overture* is no exception. The inception of this exhilarating work came in 1932 when Gershwin took a long overdue break with some friends in Havana, Cuba. Without going into details, for purposes of these program notes, we'll stick to how the composer phrased it: "Two hysterical weeks in Cuba, where no sleep was had."

In the piece, Gershwin melded sounds and rhythms of ubiquitous street musicians who surrounded him along with the Cuban dances played in the local clubs. Local percussion instruments that were not well known back home at the time including claves, bongos, maracas and a gourd found their way into the piece. Written in just over a month, it was premiered by the New York Philharmonic at an all-Gershwin concert.

Selections from *Carmen Suites No. 1 and 2*

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

French composer, Georges Bizet, was a child prodigy whose early skills as a pianist were compared to that of Franz Liszt. His career as a composer later in life was an interesting one in that he struggled with finishing projects. In spite of this, his creative output included over 70 vocal songs, 20 orchestra works (including his masterful Symphony No. 1 in C Major) and many piano and chamber pieces as well as 30 operas. Although the number of operas he worked on was prolific, only five were finished and of those, only two were considered successful including *L'Arlesienne* and *Carmen*.

The opera *Carmen* was composed between 1873-34 and it premiered in March of 1875. From the beginning, the production presented difficulties with the instrumentalists commenting the parts were too hard and the singers complaining that the orchestra was too loud. In spite of this and other struggles to produce the work, by some accounts, it was a success. Sadly, the composer

died of a heart attack shortly after the premier at age 36. Today, it stands as one of the most popular operas ever composed.

After Bizet's passing, two suites—each comprised of six movements from the opera—were rendered by French composer Ernest Guiraud. Within each suite, one hears the colorful sounds of Spain including Spanish dance rhythms and forms. Besides dances, the movements feature highlights of some of the most recognizable melodies and high points from arias and choruses from the larger work. Tonight's performance features selected examples drawn from each of the suites and was chosen to highlight the strengths of our OYO Symphony Orchestra.

España Emmanuel Chabrier (1841-1894)

As was the destiny of many composers preceding and succeeding him, French composer Emmanuel Chabrier was originally headed in his father's footsteps in becoming a lawyer. Born in Ambert, a town in the Auvergne region of central France, his music studies began with the piano at age six and violin study followed later and continued a part of the composer's formal training until the time came to attend law school. In 1856, Chabrier's family moved to Paris to support the composer while in law school. Concurrent with his academics, he also studied musical composition and continued with his violin and piano studies. Upon graduation, he was placed with the Ministry of the Interior but continued to compose and send his works to publishers throughout Paris.

One incident that changed the course of his career was attending Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. As many French composers of his day, Chabrier became a devoted follower of Wagner as well as beloved French composers including Cesar Franck, Eric Satie, Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel to name a few.

The exotic sounds of *España* evoke the color and flavor of other worlds. This Romantic exoticism is thought to have its inspiration from two factors. First, those dwelling in the northern countries longed for the warmth and sunshine of destinations like Spain and Italy. But just as the world was more becoming a place to venture out into, far off lands including the Orient became not only a fantasy but also a reality for some. These influences manifest themselves in the music of many composers of the time.

Specifically, *España* was inspired by Chabrier's visit to Spain in the spring of 1883. As he traveled, he penned themes from local folks songs and dances, as they would provide material for later work. Throughout the composition, a number of Spanish dances are incorporated—chiefly the Jota and the Malaguena. Coupled with themes transcribed from his travel log as well as original themes of his own, Chabrier threads a tapestry of vibrant color and thrill while skillfully showcasing the brilliance of each section of the orchestra.

Welcome New Students

Symphony

Caleb Lalik - Viola

Philharmonia

Emily Oleszkowicz - Bass

Congratulatory Message

Lewen, from your first note to now leading clarinets, we're so proud! As you head to Harvard, may music always stay with you. Love, Mom, Dad, Taiwan

Congratulations 2026 OYO Seniors!

Ray Adler has played Violin in OYO for four years. When time permits, Ray enjoys reading and learning about new things. After senior year, Ray is going into Psychology at Oakland Community College. Playing new music and meeting new people is Ray's favorite memory of OYO.

Julia Amato has played Viola in OYO for three years. She chose to play the viola at age 11 so that she could quit the piano. However, contrasting with her earlier motives, she stuck with music is because of the satisfaction, ideas and wisdom it inspired within her. In addition to her music engagements, Julia is also a Captain, midfielder, and attackman on her Varsity lacrosse team, a HOSA first-place medalist for Medical Innovation, a chess enthusiast, a coding novice, a coworker, a sister, and a life-long learner. Her most poignant memory in OYO is playing the Sibelius Violin Concerto. She strongly disliked the piece in the weeks leading up to the concert, until a powerful moment during the dress rehearsal changed her opinion forever. She remembers the exact moment when it became her all-time favorite piece: the soloist held a long, isolated trill, until the entire orchestra shattered the tension in complete unison, overwhelming her in a complex of unforgettable intensity. Julia plans to major in Materials Science and Engineering at Michigan Technological University to pursue a career in innovative entrepreneurship and will "absolutely continue playing viola" in the Keewenaw Symphony Orchestra, alongside many other projects and activities she plans to join.

Leslie Bahk has played Clarinet in OYO for two years. Her desire to hear and play in an orchestra environment brought her to the group, and she has grown to enjoy orchestral music more than the band music at school. Leslie plans to go to the University of Michigan and pursue a pre-Dental track. Her favorite memory of OYO is seeing her friends during rehearsal every week and has enjoyed the last moments of the concerts.

Junseo Byun has played Clarinet in OYO for three years. His favorite memory was playing rock paper scissors to decide who gets to play the clarinet solo. Junseo plans to attend college after he graduates. He hopes to spend more time working out and get 8 hours of daily sleep after graduation.

Oscar Catarino has been playing violin with OYO for nine years, participating in all four orchestras. He joined after hearing about the ensemble from his violin teacher, and after one year with Studio Strings, he fell in love and kept coming back. One of his fondest memories is performing Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in Philharmonia, which he still listens to at least once a week. Looking ahead, Oscar plans to earn an Electrical Engineering degree at the University of Michigan and play violin in one of their orchestras. He hopes to keep improving his skills and maintain a beloved hobby he'll always remember.

Sharon Chang has played Cello in OYO for seven years, participating in all four orchestras. She began playing cello in fifth grade and joined OYO to meet new friends and explore new music. Outside of orchestra, Sharon likes arts and crafts and enjoys trying new foods with friends. Upon graduation, she plans to study pre-Med or Biomedical Engineering at Dartmouth College. As part of the Symphony Orchestra, Sharon found playing entire symphonies particularly rewarding. She also appreciated meeting new people and discovering interesting music through OYO.

Mason Chiew has played Violin in OYO for nine years, participating in all four orchestras. In his free time, Mason also enjoys playing the drums and video games. Mason plans to study Astronomy at the University of Michigan. After his senior year, he hopes to stay in touch with his friends and make new ones in college. Mason's favorite memory of OYO was his early years in Studio String and Strings orchestras, hanging out with friends.

Michael Cho has played Violin in OYO for eight years, participating in all four orchestras. In addition to playing the violin, he enjoys going on walks. Michael plans to study Biology in college. His favorite OYO memory is talking with friends during rehearsal breaks.

McKenna Cox has played Flute, Piccolo and Tenor Saxophone in OYO for the past two years. She joined OYO for the more advanced repertoire performed. Her favorite memories are those of Ms. Stuart's stories and the concert events. In her free time, McKenna likes hanging out with friends and mountain biking. She intends to pursue a degree in Music Performance at college.

Gabriel Da Silva has played Bassoon in the OYO Symphony Orchestra for one year. Gabriel participates in his school's robotics program, and also enjoys participating in the theater program, including Summer Music Theater, where he has participated on the set build team and in the pit orchestra. Following graduation, Gabriel plans to attend the University of Michigan to study Electrical Engineering. OYO was his first experience performing a full symphony, and it was very memorable to be able to play Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony.

Alison Doka has played Violin in OYO for eleven years, participating in all four orchestras. She started playing the violin when she was 4 years old and her very first violin teacher, Mrs. Pearl Jones, told her about OYO, so she joined at the age of 7. Alison really enjoys playing tennis, going for runs, traveling and hiking. She has family in Slovakia that she visits every other year with her uncle, who is a professional bassoonist in the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra. After senior year, Alison hopes to graduate from college and go to Dental school. She has committed to play tennis at Oakland University and wants to study pre-Dentistry. Her plan B is to be a high school Anatomy teacher and maybe add a Minor in Music. Alison's favorite memory of OYO was when she and her dad were talking about how cool it would be if Mr. Milicevic picked the piece "Vltava (The Moldau)" by Smetana. And the next day, when they were getting new music, she looked through it and she saw "The Moldau".

Carter Ellis has played String Bass in OYO for four years. In addition to playing the bass, Carter also plays water polo and is a member of the swim team. Following graduation, he plans to major in Aerospace Engineering. Carter joined OYO to push himself to play more advanced music and has enjoyed opportunities to talk to his friends in the hall during breaks.

Lewen Feng has played Clarinet in OYO for four years. He has been involved in music since the age of five and has played clarinet for eight years. Lewen joined OYO because he wanted to challenge himself as a musician and grow beyond the limits of his school's music program. In college, Lewen is excited to study Government and Political Science at Harvard and is looking forward to trying new experiences. He hopes to continue playing clarinet, performing in a student symphony orchestra where he can continue to play full orchestra repertoire, joining a jazz ensemble, and staying connected with the friends he's made at OYO. His favorite memory in OYO was working with composer Catherine McMichael on her piece, *Elemental Powers*, for the 50th anniversary. He remembers how amazing it was to work with a composer on their own piece and to play a piece composed specifically for the OYO!

Meisha Ferguson has played Violin in OYO for four years, participating in both the Philharmonia and Symphony orchestras. Her favorite memories in Philharmonia are of Ms. Stuart telling jokes and making working hard marvelously fun. The best times in Symphony were when Mr. M would become greatly animated while conducting, or when he would tell us his many entertaining (but purposeful) stories! This fall, she will be attending Wheaton College (IL), studying Voice, Violin and Neuroscience, while also completing, through dual enrollment, a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Michigan (graduating Dec. 2026). After concluding these studies, she says, "I will have to see where the Lord leads!" Since she was young, two of her biggest loves have been music and people. With a focus on mental wellness, her desire is to better understand the brain and the mind (thoughts/actions), and how these form the human self. She is also intrigued by

the healing properties of music on the whole person and is eager to incorporate this into her studies. Overall, she hopes to serve God, through service to others, with her life and abilities.

Matina Green has played Violin in OYO for seven years, participating in all four orchestras. Music has been a significant part of her life for a long time. She has played the piano for 14 years and the Violin for 8 years. Matina joined OYO because she wanted to grow her love for music beyond private lessons, as well as connect with others who love music like she does. She will be attending Michigan State University to study Animal Science on a pre-Veterinary track. Her favorite memory is making friends with other students at OYO, where they have bonded over their love for music.

Junhyeong Ha has played Trumpet in OYO for four years. Even as a senior, Jun doesn't feel like much has changed, and loves sleeping, chatting with friends, and playing online games in addition to playing the trumpet with musical groups whenever possible. After graduating Jun plans to attend college and study Dentistry, also hoping to continue playing the trumpet through school clubs or with friends. Jun hopes to become more mature and continue growing both personally and musically. One favorite memory was the excitement and adrenaline felt while preparing for concerts and performing in front of an audience. "Every performance gave me a thrilling sense of focus and accomplishment as a trumpet player."

Thomas Hill has played Oboe and English Horn in OYO for two years. "I'm so grateful to perform with this orchestra! I love the oboe and OYO has been a great opportunity to play with a large group." Thomas can't wait to come back to visit and watch this group grow in the years to come. He will be studying Oboe Performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music. His favorite memory of OYO playing Tchaikovsky 4.

Olivia Kalil has played Violin in OYO for two years. She is "a farm girl with 32 hobbies", so she has no spare time. She always wanted to join but was too busy with sports until she got injured, and since then, the past 2 years have been mostly music. This year, she is in 3 orchestras and 4 choirs. She loved all of her time spent at OYO. Olivia's siblings are OYO alumni and they absolutely loved it, too! Olivia wants to thank Ms. Stuart for suggesting she go into musical education because she genuinely does not know if she would have ever considered it, if not for her. Through this program, and especially because of Ms. Stuart, Olivia is going into Musical Education and could not be happier about it. She hopes to inspire kids half as much as her teachers have inspired her. Her favorite memory is when Ms. Stuart lost her voice and she had to tell the class everything she was trying to say.

Junghwan Kim has played Cello in OYO for three years. He initially started, knowing it would be a good activity for college applications, but it proved to be more than just that. In his free time, he likes playing tennis and hanging out with friends. Junghwan looks forward to going to college for Dentistry, where he can make money and "live happily ever after typa-thing".

Alexander Knecht has played Violin in OYO for two years. When health challenges made it difficult to pursue other outlets, Alexander had the privilege of joining OYO after having pursued music for several years. His favorite memory of OYO is the evening Ms. Stuart came in having lost her voice. She had a "translator" so she could conduct. After his senior year, Alexander will be studying Biochemistry, pre-Medicine, and Mandarin at either Oakland University or the University of Michigan. He enjoys research, math, and the *Mission Impossible* franchise.

Jeheon Lee has played clarinet in OYO for four years. In his free time, Jeheon likes creating music and playing jazz. Having the opportunity to make music with friends outside of school has drawn Jeheon to the orchestra. He plans to pursue Business and Engineering in college and is still deciding between the UC Berkeley M.E.T program or the University of Michigan IBE Program on a full ride. He hopes to be part of the startup culture in Silicon Valley and develop more technical skills. Jeheon considers winning the Woodwind award twice in the Concerto Competition as one

of his OYO highlights. Some of his fondest memories include performing Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 and gathering for group photos after each concert.

Sarah Lee has played Cello in OYO for four years. Sarah enjoys solving puzzles, going rock climbing and adding new restaurants to Bell! She will definitely be continuing orchestra in college to serve her community. Sarah plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania as a Political Science and Urban Education major on a pre-Law track. What she will remember most about her OYO experience is "joshing around" with her previous stand partners and being able to get closer to Sehan, Divya and Deon.

Alexia Nowicki has played the Flute for eight years and joined OYO this year to try new things. Before OYO, she had never played with strings in an ensemble before. Alexia likes hanging out with friends and shopping. After senior year, she plans on playing for Grand Valley State University's marching band on Piccolo and majoring in Diagnostic Sonography. Alexia's favorite memory of OYO was walking in the room and listening to all the string instruments for the first time.

Owen Osterbur has played Cello in OYO for five years. Owen joined orchestra because it gave him the chance to play pieces he could not otherwise. In addition to orchestra, he enjoys weightlifting and hanging out with friends. Owen will be attending the University of Michigan for Electrical Engineering. His favorite memory is joining the Symphony Orchestra with his friends.

Joanna Ouyang has played Flute and Piccolo in OYO for five years. Joanna fell in love with the flute in sixth grade during Covid when playing became a hobby and a way to not go crazy. She is a 3-time All-State musician with recognition for District Honors band and division I Solo and Ensemble. Joanna is incredibly grateful to her family, teachers, and peers for their endless support and patience. Joanna plans to study Biology at Harvard University and continue music in college. She enjoyed playing *Hungarian Dance* in Philharmonia and notes it among her favorite OYO memories.

Sehan Park has played Violin in OYO for five years. She loves listening to music and spontaneously playing instruments. Sehan will be visiting Korea this summer and attending the University of Michigan in the fall, pursuing stem related studies. She hopes to continue playing her instruments, along with her academic pursuits. Sehan's favorite memory in OYO is learning and discovering new favorite music every concert cycle.

Chaerin Park has played Flute in OYO for four years. After senior year, she hopes for new experiences and making some fun memories in college, where she will be studying Medicine. Chaerin has enjoyed making new friends and considers the first concert she had with OYO as one of her favorite memories.

Ozea Deon Policario has played Flute and Piccolo in OYO for two years. He is Filipino and likes to listen to music and go shopping. He also likes hanging out with his friends. After senior year, Ozea plans to go to Michigan State University and major in Biochemistry. Ozea's favorite memory of OYO is going to Taco Bell after a concert.

Siddh Sheth has played Bassoon and Contra-Bassoon in OYO for four years. His favorite memory was the first time he brought the Contra-Bassoon to orchestra. Everyone was quite surprised and intrigued by it. He remembers how fun it was to see their reactions. Siddh plans to study Neuroscience on the pre-Med track in college. Eventually, he hopes to become a clinical Neurologist. In his free time, Siddh enjoys serving as a stage manager for the theatre company at his school and has also been an intern at a neurology-based research company, ThinkNeuro.

Gaeun Shin has played Violin in OYO for four years. During her free time, she likes to read books, watch movies, and make desserts. Gaeun plans to take a gap year and then study Chemistry at University of Michigan, hoping to continue playing violin as a member of an ensemble throughout

college. Her favorite memory is her first concert this season as a concertmaster. "It felt amazing to lead a group and to be in a position I looked up to for years."

Elaina Socha has played Cello in OYO for nine years, participating in all four orchestras. Being a part of OYO has been an incredible experience for Elaina. She began playing cello in kindergarten, studying under Melody Mieszkowski, Milan Puscas, Nicole Shogren, and Paul Wingert. Beyond the cello, Elaina's musical career expanded to playing tambura, baritone, and tuba. In her free time, she likes to spend time with friends, listen to music, and read. After graduation, she plans to attend either DePaul University or Kalamazoo College, to study International Relations.

Chris Song has played Violin in OYO for eight years, participating in all four orchestras. He started playing the violin when he was in the first grade and ever since then has sought to play together with other people. During his free time, Chris enjoys listening to music, as well as calling friends and hanging out with them. Next year, Chris plans to study Biomedical Engineering at the University of Michigan. He plans to continue playing music in college in addition to pursuing his other interests. Chris' favorite memory of OYO was in Philharmonia when they played an arrangement of the *Lord of the Rings*.

Jennifer Song has played Violin in OYO for eight years, participating in all four orchestras. Jennifer started violin in first grade after she wanted a fun hobby and joined OYO in fourth grade. Ever since then, she has played both in OYO and her school orchestras. Jennifer plans on going to college to study pre-Med. Jennifer loved sitting near and having fun with her friends while being able to play fun music.

Divya Sovani has played Viola in OYO for four years. Originally, she wanted to play violin when she was first choosing an instrument in middle school. However, her older sister would not let Divya play because she played the violin. This was definitely a blessing in disguise because she enjoys playing the viola so much more. In her free time, Divya enjoys hiking, crocheting and photography/videography. She plans to double-major in Chemical Engineering and Economics at either Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, or the University of Pennsylvania. Her favorite memory of OYO is eating soggy McDonald's fries with her stand partner in the very back row while rehearsing Dvorak's 8th Symphony in her sophomore year.

Marina Super has played Violin in OYO for three years. In her free time, she enjoys reading and hanging out with friends. Marina plans to major in Environmental Studies and Sustainability at Michigan State University. Her favorite memory of OYO is at every dress rehearsal, when she gets to finally practice on stage because it puts into perspective how much work the students did to get to this point.

Lila Tasdemir has played Double Bass in OYO for five years. Lila joined OYO because she wanted a chance to make music on a higher level with students sharing the same commitment. In her leisure time, she enjoys reading, baking, hanging out with friends and dogs, and doing puzzles. Lila hopes to find a job in psychology or the music field. She will be attending the University of Michigan to double major in Psychology and Double Bass Performance. Her favorite OYO memory was building friendships with the other bassists and playing in a bass section full of wonderfully talented and kind people.

Brayden Williams has played Bass Trombone in the OYO Symphony Orchestra for one year. Brayden learned how to play bass trombone this year so when his friend Karl mentioned that there was an opening he thought he might as well join because it should be fun. Outside of OYO, he plays tuba in most of his ensembles, and this has opened a whole world of music he didn't know existed. He plans to major in Music under the Multimedia Arts Tech program at Western Michigan University while also taking lessons and playing tuba in ensembles. His favorite OYO memory is the fall concert performance, partially because of the parts he had with Karl (Symphony tuba player), but also because "Tchaikovsky is really fun to play."



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 *Frozen*.

The program is open to all students entering grades 7-12, including our 2026 graduates. It runs June 16 - July 26, 2026 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 2026 seniors.

Scan here for more SMT
Information and Registration



Scan here for Pit Orchestra
Audition Information



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