Oakland Youth Orchestras



2026-27 SEASON

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL

MUSIC THEATRE & DANCE

Educating and Enriching Youth Through MUSIC


Marshall
MUSIC COMPANY
Since 1948, Marshall Music has proudly partnered with school music programs to provide everything students need on the journey from their first notes to center stage.
On behalf of your many supporters at Marshall Music, congratulations to Oakland Youth Orchestras!
1965 LARCHWOOD DR | TROY | 866-788-2031
www.marshallmusic.com

Welcome!



Welcome to OYO's 52nd season! Each year, we see hundreds of young musicians come together at OYO through a shared passion for music. Through weekly rehearsals and seasonal concerts, our students refine their technical skills, expand their musicality, and discover how teamwork and dedication transform effort into polished performances. Just as important, they build lifelong friendships and a sense of camaraderie that will bring a vibrant, contagious energy to the concert stage tonight.

OYO is fueled by the contributions of many talented and dedicated people with whom I have had the privilege to work with throughout the season. Our four conductors — Zeljko Milicevic (Symphony), Wendy Stuart (Philharmonia), John Kennedy (String), and Nick Karpinsky (Studio String) — combine musical expertise with a deep understanding of how to engage, challenge, and support young musicians. Together, they bring nearly 90 years of experience nurturing OYO students and developing lifelong skills in teamwork, commitment, organization, and musicianship. Our Board of Directors and staff — current and former OYO parents and former OYO musicians — ensure that the programmatic, operational, and financial resources are in place to serve hundreds of students each year. Parent volunteers further strengthen this community by generously sharing their time and resources.

OYO's programs are made possible by our donors, endowments, program advertisers, and corporate sponsors. We extend special thanks to the Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance for more than 50 years of in-kind support through facilities, faculty, and connections to its community. We are also grateful to Bloomfield Hills High School for hosting this season's concerts, and to Rochester Community Schools and University Presbyterian Church for providing weekly rehearsal spaces. The generosity of all our donors, advertisers, sponsors, and community partners helps keep OYO accessible to families and strengthens the programs our students experience. Please join us in thanking them for the vital role they play in the OYO community.

OYO began its 52nd season with the largest student membership in its history — a milestone that reflects both the growing demand for our programs and the enduring importance of our mission to young musicians and the wider community. We are grateful to every family, teacher, supporter, and concertgoer who has helped build this momentum. Thank you for joining us this evening and for being part of OYO's growing story.

Tonight's performance celebrates months of dedication and collaboration as our remarkable students share their love of music with you. Please sit back and enjoy the concert — we're delighted you're here!

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
Treasurer – Brenda Papp
Development - Olivia Marsh
Member at Large – Sarah Leight
Member at Large – David Yarnall
Advisor – Joe Impellizerri
Symphony Orchestra /Senior Director – Zeljko Milicevic
Philharmonia Orchestra – Wendy Stuart
String Orchestra – John Kennedy
Studio String Orchestra – Nick Karpinsky

Additional Personnel

Symphony Orchestra Manager – Lyndsey Cox
Symphony Orchestra Assistant Managers – Qingling Zhang, Jongkeun Won

Philharmonia Orchestra Manager – Erica Harding
Philharmonia Orchestra Assistant Managers – Bernadette Borla, Stratos Dallis

String Orchestra Managers – Xuan Xiao and Lijing Lin
String Orchestra Assistant Managers – Waikei Chan and Theodor Vingarzan

Studio String Orchestra Managers – Jeff Kampsen
Studio String Orchestra Assistant Managers – Mona Rao-Stamos, Anusha Peddiraju

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
Volunteer Coordinator – Narine Kchikian

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:

Elizabeth Kattner, Ph.D. – Acting Director, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance
Coordinator of Assessment and Evaluation

Alta Marie Boover, DMA – Associate Director, School of Music, Theatre and Dance
Coordinator of Community Engagement

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 Yaple – 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.



Bill Milicevic in 1995

Milicevic played a key role in OYO's growth, introducing the String Orchestra in 1998, Philharmonia in 2002, Studio String Orchestra in 2009, and the Chamber Ensembles program in 2011. Conductors John Kennedy (OYS alumnus, 1975), Nick Karpinsky, and Wendy Stuart joined Milicevic in leading these ensembles. Today, they bring nearly

90 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.



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 honored to serve as the conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, one of the four ensembles that comprise the Oakland Youth Orchestras. She has been with OYO since 2011.

Ms. Stuart is currently the Orchestra Director at Troy High School. Under her direction, Troy High Orchestras have been featured at the Michigan Music Conference, received the highest ratings at adjudicated festivals in Michigan and Florida, and have performed nationally and internationally. Before her move to 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. 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.

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/Honors Orchestras 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 20 years as a cello teacher. She has taught at many summer music camps, including conducting at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Masterworks Orchestra, Troy Sound Power Camp and serves as music director for the MASTA String Camp, Session III since 2023.

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 and Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestras, and performs with other orchestras and ensembles throughout the year.



John Kennedy String Orchestra

John Kennedy has been conductor of the String Orchestra here at OYO since 2002. He 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, Pedagogy, and Chamber Music at Oakland University.

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.



Nick Karpinsky Studio String Orchestra

Nick Karpinsky has been a conductor with OYO since 2009 directing the Studio String Orchestra. Nick graduated from Wayne State University in 2009 receiving a Bachelor's degree in instrumental music education. In 2015 he received his Master's Degree from Marygrove College in education with a focus in curriculum, assessment, and instruction.

Nick Karpinsky is the Director of Orchestras at North Hills Middle School, Way Elementary, and Eastover Elementary schools in the Bloomfield Hills School District (2023 - present). Previously he was the Director of Orchestras for Seaholm High School and Derby Middle School with the Birmingham Public Schools (2018-2023), Director of Orchestras for Waterford Mott High School with the Waterford School District (2011-2018), and taught general music in the Warren Consolidated School District (2009-2011).

Nick has studied with various violinists including Geoffrey Applegate and Jim Waring. As a violinist, Nick performs 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, and Pine Knob Music Theater.

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. Nick is part of the Rochester Community Schools Musical Directors Teams acting as the pit orchestra conductor for the Summer Music Theater (SMT) program (2022-present) and the Rochester Adams High School spring musicals (2024-present).

Symphony Orchestra

1st Violin
Ananya Anand
Sophia Barjuca
Alice Bonten ++
Hayun Jeong ++++
Yujin Jung
Chloe Kim ++
Eunah Kim
David Lee
Abby Lentner
Kaitlyn Li
Jerry Mao
Gabriella Murphy ++
Valli Nagamalli
Mishael Pacheco
Blair Qi
Zachary Reynolds
Cora Solmes
Ariel Song
Jinju Suk
Nainika Valoor
Davy Wang
Hayoun Won
Luke Zhang

2nd Violin
Agnish Adhya
Choyeon Ahn
Henry Chaiyasate
Sanika Gadre
Charlotte-Louise Gaillard
Max Jaros
Hasini Kalagara
Jaein Kim
Jun Kim *
Emma Kocher
Yewon Lee
Helena Park ****
Yubeen Song
Camila Sumcad
Rebecca Sun
Shreyas Tripathi
Samuel Yang
Raphael Yarnall

Viola
James An
Hayden Choi
Caleb Lalik **
Hayul Lee

Cello
Mia Cashatt
Eryn Choi
Anna Maria Hila
Alina Ju
Daniel Kim ****
Addison Kurtin
Cindy Lee
Leon Ma *
Dan Park
Katherine Park
Angelina Sun
Olivia Wang
Julia Xiao

Bass
Owen Aumack ****
Taliana Merritt
Miles Tucker-Gough *

Harp
Anastasia Leahy

1st Flute
Borry Chu **

2nd Flute
Hyunjin An
Manreet Chadha
Nayoon Lee *



Flute/Piccolo
Jueon Kim **
Macy Kim

English Horn/Oboe
Drew Dimitrijevski

1st Clarinet
Claire Reinhard **
Jaiden Swami **

2nd Clarinet
Seongmin Choi
Harley Cox *
Emma Skonieczny

Bass Clarinet/ Clarinet
Cameron Lata

1st Bassoon
Jackson Hengstebeck

2nd Bassoon
Mo Sha

1st Horn
Clara Cunningham

2nd Horn
Ha-Yun Kim

3rd Horn
Ryan Corpuz

1st Trumpet
Zachary Glass

2nd Trumpet
Isaac Vickers
Noah Weller

1st Trombone
Samuel Green

2nd Trombone
Ben Cunningham

Bass/3rd Trombone
Abe Nowaczok

Tuba
Karl Rönmark

Piano/Percussion
Seth Ingram *
Minhye Kwon

Percussion
Preston Potter *

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



Philharmonia Orchestra

1st Violin
Joyce Cao ++++
Sunwoo Cho
Sara DeRyckere
Ethan Fustin
Michael Harding
Sally Huang
Yerik Kim
Gus Kish
Elora Lee ++++
Juchan Lee
Seungmin Lee
Nathan Li
Owen Long
Isabelle Nowlin
Victoria Pfauth
Evan Seo
Riley Tenbusch
Jiyun Woo
Luke Yabut
Aiden Yang +

Violin 1/2
Maria Abdelmessih
Preston Brewer **
Ella Bunao
Seowoo Kim
Juhan Lee **
Seungwoo Lee
Joy Li
Alex Ma
Ashwath Mahesh
Alexia Phillips
Erin Shim

2nd Violin
Lana Abbo
Emma Arnott
Eli Barjuca
Estelle Borla
Heather Choi ****
Jiwan Choi
Leah Geppert
Chloe Kim
Amanda Knecht
Jeongjun Lee
Kangwoo Lee
Lena Lee *
Maya Mohan
Hangyul Park
Hannah Park
Hyerin Park
Sohyun Park ****
Rachna Rao
Thea Solmes ****
Athena Yung
Caleb Zhang

Viola
Evan Guzowski **
Eunyu Kim
Ava Kulkarni
Amogh Maral
Micah Pacheco
Chiho Sweeney
Kevin Zeng **

Cello
Vivienne Brown
Sarah Cho **
Miles Guilbault
Callie Hruska
Seungchan Hyun
Amelia Lee
Sharon Lim **
Irene Moon
Isabella Mui
Ryan Park
Siwoo Park
Amelia Putz
Hayoon Song
Luke Sun
Lucy Wu



Bass
Robert Caescu **
Miles Kreiner
Harrison Le
Evelyn Yeremin **

Flute
Adelyn Calin
Jiwon Choi ****
Katherine Guo
Haim Kim
Huiseo Kim *

Flute/Piccolo
Cecilia Grice

Oboe
Danielle Cheng
Ishana Das
Alexander Greig *
Siyue (Larry) Peng ****

Clarinet
Liam Freiburger
Jun Kim **
Lael Lee **
Kashvi Prabhakar
Addison Zdanowski

Bassoon
Pushkar Rajhans *

Horn
Camille de Veer *
Leila Litkouhi

Trumpet
Claudio Ardanese *
Emilio Cabrera
Sarah Drozd

Trombone
Johan Song

Percussion
Weston Balczak *
Niko Dallis
Adam O'Rourke

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



String Orchestra

1st Violin

Nicole Bolvari
Cassie Chen
Anna Chiang
Yewon Cho
Seungwoo (Steve) Choi
Benjamin Ha
Eason Jing
Yuna Jung
Juwon Kim
Yane Kim
Ziggy Kish
Tanner Koontz
Joowon Lee ++
Aden Li
Kristen McFadden ++
Kara Nickerson
Henry Osterbur
Madelyn Robinson
Charlotte Stacey
Marco Sumcad
Yashvini Venkatesh
Marcus Vingarzan ++
Seneca Watt
Amory Xiao
Yiming Xie
Weijia Xu
Andrew Zhao

2nd Violin

Haley Back
Yedam Bang
Amit Bhattiprolu
Abraham Brandenburg
Grace Cao
Evelyn Chen
Sumin Cho
Alexandra Clark
Maria Alice Fernandes Burin
David Griffin
Shosei Han
Claire Jung
Lyall Kim
Gabriel Kovie
Owen Kreiner
Hizkiah Lanac
Alex Lee
Kevin Lee
Unsuh Lee
Sophia Li
Lucas Lin
Billy Alain Martinez Quinones
Saahiti Nidudala
Ami Olkhovsky
Elliott Parker
Sarah Powers
Sthuthi Puranik
Isabella Reed
Juwon Song
Gabriel Sumcad
Emmeline Sweet
Leonard Wang
Yifan Wang

Viola

Rulin (Robin) Deng
Swara Deshpande
Grace Elizabeth Erbaggio
Cora Grondin
Haneul Kim
Frances Lambert
Neakon Mirmiran
Damian Ristich

Cello

Nihit Chavan
Seongwoo Choi
Oliver Freitas
Raina Hwang
Chanmin Im
Soohyeon Jeong
Lucas Jia
Megan Lee
Sophia Schuck-Giordano
Ella Thomas
Lillian Vickers
Emily Waters **
Evelyn Yoo **

++ Co-Concertmaster



Studio String Orchestra

1st Violin
Jeremy An
Paige Ashley
Abigail Chen
Isaac Davis
Saesha Gujarathi
Kaiyin Han
Shaylan Kalkhande
Kyuhyun Lee
Roun Lee
Devin Liu
Tanya Nair
Jack Polderman
Katherine Regina
Mia Sgalia
Everett Shen
Scarlett Tenbusch
Maria Vo
Jason Wu

2nd Violin
Cecelia Bui
Yvonna Chen
Aaron Chiang
Abigail Cure
Ciel Gersky
Avni Ghatol
Sophia Guo
Seeun Jang
Srivatsa Keshipeddy
Janie Kim
Minchae Kim
Soeun Kim
Erin Lee
Louis Lin
Daniel Litkouhi
Katie Lohman
Phoenix Rawls-Meehan
Francesca Sancineto
Ella Seo
Max Stupka
Lucia Sumcad
Stefania Vintilescu
Eric Wright
Ella Zaryczny

3rd Violin
Autumn Chabie
Noah Gomez
Aundreia Griffin
Henry Harris
Anadi Khoshbin
Eunsol Kim
Sophia Kim
Sofia Phan
Oliver Rich
Sunwoo Sim
Mason Stein
Paxton Stone
Linden Ulrich
Robin Wright
Jueun Yang
Junyeol Yang
Kailyn Yoo

Viola
Jessie An
Juhwan Cho
Madeleine Estes
Iris Geng
Siyuan Huang
Linya Kong
Rayva Kulkarni
Aiden Moon
Theodore Stamos

Cello
James Cho
Ellen Choi
Larkin Einhorn-Kulik
Aiden Gan
Jacob (Yoochan) Hyun
Robert Kampsen
Lael Kwon
Amana Lee
Chaeyoon Lee
Chloe Lee
Hanjun Lee
Jiyoon Lee
Sangmin Lee
Ianna Manaay
Isaac Ni
Aria Pacer
Athreya Raman
Anaya Riddle-Hermiez
Vihaan Tipnis
Jacob Wallace

Bass
Ellen Brinker
Grace Piazza





SCHOOL OF MUSIC,
THEATRE AND DANCE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

2027 Scholarship & Admission Auditions

- **Friday, December 4** (Music, Theatre, Dance)
- **Friday, January 29** (Music, Theatre)
- **Saturday, February 13** (Music, Theatre)
- **Friday, February 19** (Music, Theatre, Dance)
  - Last date to audition for scholarships
- **Saturday, April 10** (Music, Theatre)

Major for a Day

Attend classes, take lessons with our faculty, attend ensemble rehearsals, and have lunch with current students. See what it's like to be a Golden Grizzly for a day with this free program!



Supporters







In-Kind Partner











Donations

Premiere $1000 +

Charles and Mary Bonten
Charboneau Family
Susan Clark Joul Birthday Fundraiser *
- Jason Beaune
- Linda Bischak Etter
- Joseph Daniel-Hoste
- Madeleine Krick
- Betsy Marsh
- William J Randall
- Linda Speck
- Steve Thomas
- Eileen Miller Tschura
- Joanne Walle
- Martha Windscheif

John Kennedy*
Shogren Family*
In memory of Peter Wright
- Soyoung Bae
- Michael Carl
- Andrea Eisenberg
- André L. Do Santos
- Michael Purcell
- Leslie Toews
- John Wright

Platinum $500 - $999

In Memory of Kelly Muzzi
The Putz Family

Gold $250 - $499

Bernadette Borla
Henry Chaiyasate
Beth and Brad Rosenberg *

Silver $150 - $249

Ananya Anand's Family
Jingwei Chang
Xing Chen and Koryo Han
Seongmin & Seongwoo Choi
Guilbault Family
Stephen Ju
Chloe Lee Family
Dohoon Lee
Melissa Luck-Brinker
Aaron Smith

Bronze $149 and less

Borry Family
Sam Cho
Madhu Gowda
Barbarose Guastello & Ron Estes
Caroline Hermiez
Hayun Jeong Family
Murphy Family
Osterbur Family
Sha Family
Madhukanth Vijayakanthegowda
Diane Winder

**Alumni or Alumni Family*

*The **Michael Cho Fund** provides scholarships to musicians of the Oakland Youth Orchestras who demonstrate exceptional musical commitment. These contributions were inspired by Michael's desire to spark enthusiasm for music and encourage active engagement in rehearsals. The fund aims to encourage and reward young musicians who actively contribute to rehearsals, maintain professionalism, and help the orchestra prepare for performances. Through the **Conductor's Scholarship**, awarded annually at the discretion of the conductors, the fund recognizes students' commitment to repertoire preparation, active rehearsal participation, and willingness to assist others.*

Oakland Youth Orchestras

Be a Part of the Story

How Your Support Helps

Oakland Youth Orchestras (OYO) believes music education and enrichment should be accessible to all. We keep tuition affordable for families and offer need-based tuition aid through OYO SCORE. However, tuition income covers only about 60% of our operating expenses. We rely on the generous support of our donors to continue educating and enriching our students' lives through music. Every contribution helps make participation accessible and supports our mission by funding the following program opportunities and needs:

- 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**

SCORE
Oakland Youth Orchestras

Join Our Primary Supporters

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

Support Options

Become a Supporting Donor or Sponsor

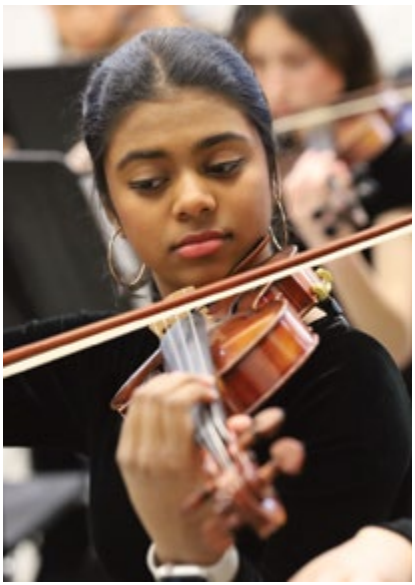
Partner with OYO to support music education for our youth and community. Whether you give as an individual or an organization, your contribution demonstrates that commitment. Depending on your contribution level, benefits may include:

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

Advertisement in OYO Concert Programs

Showcase your business to concertgoers and the OYO community with an ad in OYO's professional, full-color concert programs, printed throughout the season. Ads range from $75 to $450 and demonstrate your support for OYO's mission of educating youth through music. Submit your ad and show your support!





For more information on how you can support OYO, please scan the code below:

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

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS







HARP
BAND
THEATER
JAZZ
DANCE
VISUAL ARTS
CREATIVE WRITING
ORCHESTRA
CHOIR
PIANO



BLUELAKE.ORG
800.221.3796

TWO WEEK SESSIONS
GRADES 5-12
JUNE - AUGUST

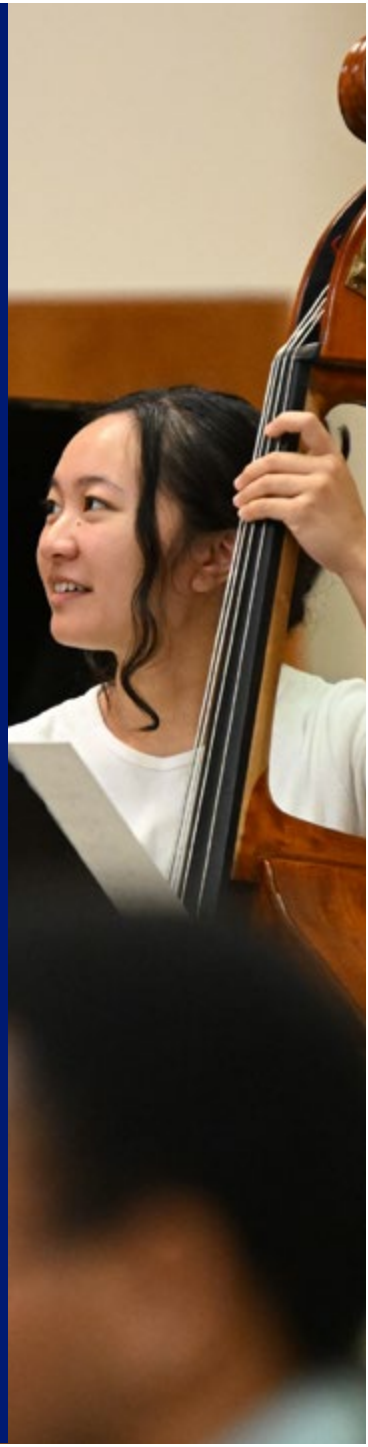
blue lake™
fine arts camp

University of Rochester
Eastman School of Music

Your career starts here.

LEARN MORE AT
ESM.ROCHESTER.EDU/GO/FACTS

Music. *Ever* Better.

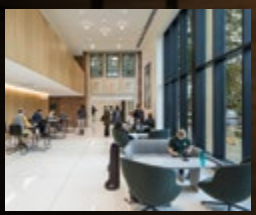
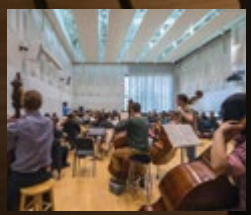



Manhattan
School of Music
BE A PART
OF IT IN
THE HEART
OF IT.
MSMNYC.EDU
NEW YORK, NY
admission@msmnyc.edu

BE A SPARTAN OF DISCOVERY

Explore limitless possibilities and discover the world of music. MSU provides a welcoming and motivating environment designed to give you the freedom to grow and the inspiration you seek to help realize your unique potential.

A Student-Focused Environment: Experience a 40% expansion in facilities, with acoustically superior spaces for rehearsal, performance, recording, and pedagogy.


2027 Audition Dates: January 29–30 | February 5–6, 19–20, 26–27
Admissions office: (517) 355-2140, MUSIC.admissions@msu.edu

College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MUSIC.MSU.EDU/EXPLORE

Rochester Conservatory of Music

120 E Third Street, Rochester, MI 48307



Private Lessons in Violin, Viola, Cello, Piano, Voice, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, and Guitar



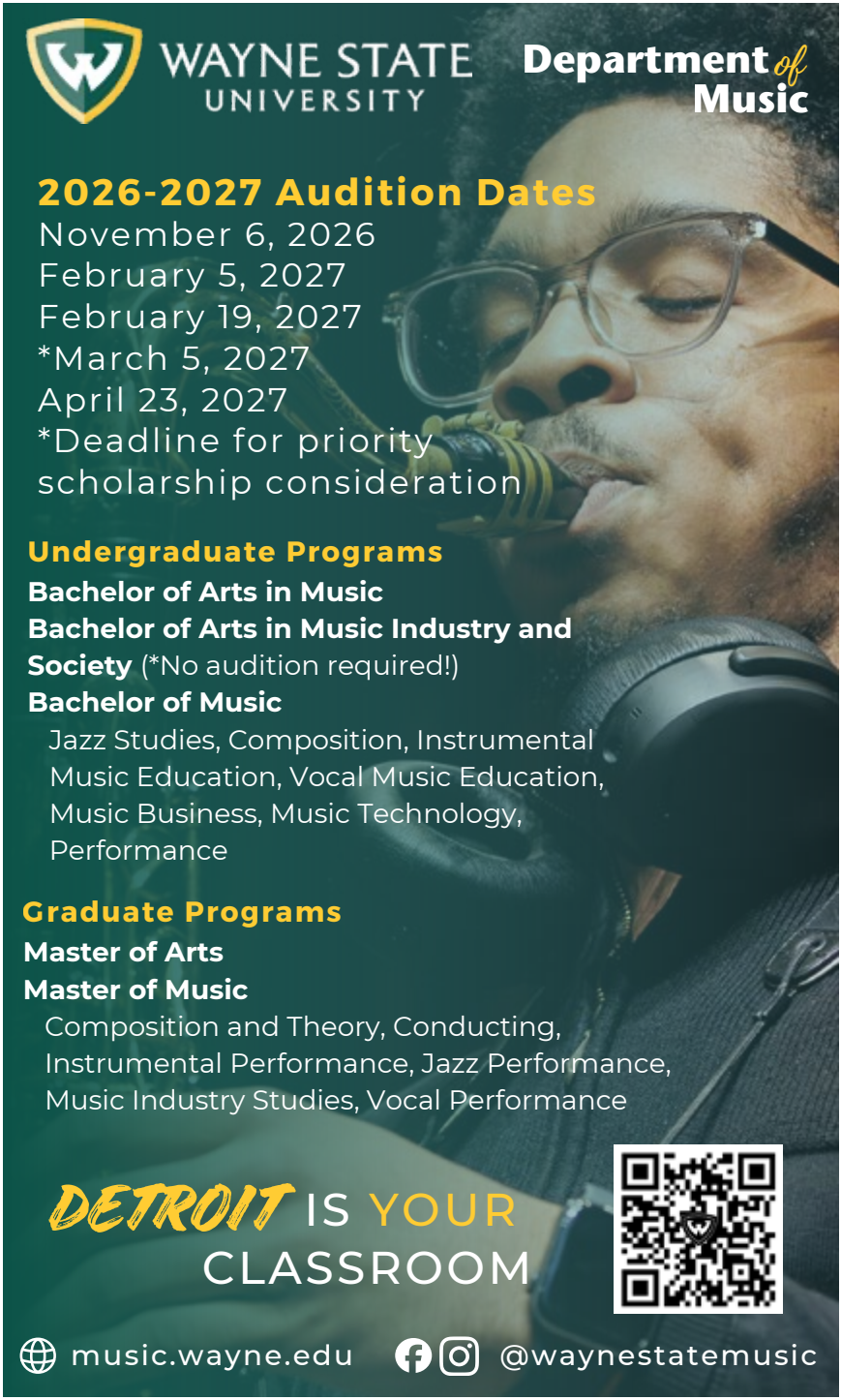
248-656-1925

Rochesterconservatory.com

Rochesterconservatoryofmusic@gmail.com






WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Music
2026-2027 Audition Dates
November 6, 2026
February 5, 2027
February 19, 2027
*March 5, 2027
April 23, 2027
*Deadline for priority scholarship consideration
Undergraduate Programs
Bachelor of Arts in Music
Bachelor of Arts in Music Industry and Society (*No audition required!)
Bachelor of Music
Jazz Studies, Composition, Instrumental Music Education, Vocal Music Education, Music Business, Music Technology, Performance
Graduate Programs
Master of Arts
Master of Music
Composition and Theory, Conducting, Instrumental Performance, Jazz Performance, Music Industry Studies, Vocal Performance
DETROIT IS YOUR CLASSROOM
music.wayne.edu
@waynestatemusic

Wilson Fine Violins



Nurture your child's musical talent!

Our knowledgeable friendly staff will treat you like family, from our honest pricing to our careful attention to your wishes.

highest quality rentals

fine instrument sales

expert repair, restoration and bow rehairing

private lesson studio

We have everything you need to keep your instrument sounding its best.

725 S. Adams
Birmingham 48009
wilsonfineviolins.com

248.258.1125







BONTEN SUZUKI STRINGS

At **Bonten Suzuki Strings**, Clarke Bonten teaches students ages 2-78. Her committment to Suzuki's philosophy paired with extensive Suzuki training support her mission to help all students develop exemplary character and superior musicianship through the violin.

For more information on how you can be a part of Clarke's Suzuki program, contact her at:

517-294-3593
clarkebonten@gmail.com

Making the world a more beautiful place, one child at a time.

DAVID YARNALL photography

Open dates are still available for Class of 2027

810.814.3301 David@davidyarnall.photos

www.DavidYarnall.photography



Turning What If Into **WHAT IS**™

Grand Valley inspires students to follow their passions while building the skills they need to pursue a creative life. Our programs feature:

- Small class sizes
- Greater opportunities to perform
- Engaged, committed faculty

We're here to inspire and empower the next generation of music educators and artists.

gvsu.edu/music

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY.
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

KC
PLASTIC SURGERY
AESTHETIC | RECONSTRUCTIVE | MICROSURGICAL

Proud to support the
Oakland Youth Orchestras (OYO)



Kongkrit Chaiyasate, MD, FACS
Double Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon
Professor of Plastic Surgery, Oakland University

6 Honors
American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (ASRM)
including Best Case of the Year and Best Save of the Year

AESTHETIC FACE SURGERY
Facelift, Eyelid Surgery, Rhinoplasty

BREAST SURGERY
Breast Augmentation, Breast Lift, Reduction

BREAST RECONSTRUCTION
Immediate & Delayed Reconstruction, DIEP Flap

BODY CONTOURING
Tummy Tuck, Liposuction, Body Lift

RECONSTRUCTIVE & MICROSURGERY
Craniofacial, Limb Reconstruction, Lymphedema Surgery

SCAR REVISION & COMPLEX REPAIR
Trauma, Skin Cancer Reconstruction

The Center of Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery | BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN | chaiyasate-plasticsurgery.com

McCOURT'S MUSIC GROUP

BT BENCHTOP REPAIRWORKS

THE GREEN HORN PROJECT

DETROIT VIOLIN CO.

McCourtsMusic.com

Congratulatory Messages

Zach, I love how much music inspires you. Keep up the great work. Love, Mom

Cora, You continue to amaze us with your musical talents. You were motivated and determined to play viola, and we love seeing you use music to handle adversity. May you follow your heart wherever your musical journey leads. Love, Mom and Dad

Alexia - I am very proud of you! Always remember what Jerry said - if you get confused, just listen to the music play.

Nice job, Mason! Congratulations!

Congratulations to our favorite fiddler, Kailyn Yoo, on your first year of OYO! We love you so much and are so proud of you! Keep shining! Mom, Dad & Sis E

Great job, Sofia!!

Dear Liam, I'm proud of you. Keep on enjoying music! Love, Mom

Henry, You have invested so much time and heart into what you love. And it really shows. Mom, dad and your family are so proud of you and love you very much.

Riley - We love your beautiful music! It is a gift to hear you play everyday. We are so proud of you! We LOVE you SO much! Love, Mom and Scarlett

Scarlett, We are so proud of you! You play with such heart & beauty! It is always such a gift to hear you play. We LOVE you SO much! Love, Mama and Ri

Ethan, So proud of your music journey! Ten years in orchestra as a senior next year will be amazing. Your years of dedication paid off. We love you!

Yifan, you are my shining star! Enjoy every moment of your musical journey and cherish the memories you make along the way. With all my love, mom.

Eliza, your dedication and hard work are a joy to listen to. Keep making beautiful music. Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Ana on Your Senior Year!! We are so proud of you! Your music is a blessing in our home!! - Mom & Dad

Congratulations Ami! We are so proud of your hard work and amazing performance! Mama, Elli and Family

Kristen, Your excitement and passion for music are evident every time you play. We're so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, Kaitlyn, Tyler and Teddy

Congratulations to the entire orchestra! Thank you for filling the stage with energy, harmony, and unforgettable moments. — Erin Shim's Family

Sweet Sophia, your dedication, faith, and passion have made us incredibly proud. You are so loved. Keep shining, beautiful! Love, Mom, Dad, and Eli

Congrats, Harrison, on making Oakland Youth Orchestra! We're so happy and proud of you! You'll do GREAT! Love, Mom, Dad, GeGe

Estelle, congrats on another incredible season! Love, Mom, Dad and Lydia

Congratulations, Madeleine Grace! Great Work on your OYO music for the concert! We love you!!

Congratulations Seneca! We're so proud of your hard work & talent. We can't wait to hear you shine on stage in your first OYO concert. Love, Mom & Dad

Katie, we are so proud of all you have accomplished! Love, Mom, Dad, Brenden and Brynn

Owen, You make us so proud! We love being able to follow you along your musical journey. Love, Mom and Dad

Dear Amana, you shine just by being you! We're proud of you. Believe in yourself, play with your heart, and enjoy your first OYO performance! Love, Mom & Dad



Get in touch with us

EMAIL
hello@multitel.net

WEB
www.multitel.net

multitel

Hassle-free cost-effective communications and collaboration solutions

Small or a big business, we've got you covered.

PRINT • DESIGN • PROMOTIONAL ITEMS •

PrintMasters

PRINTING COMPANY

• Graphic Design • Printing •
• Finishing Services • Mail Services •
• Promotional Items •

26039 Dequindre | Madison Hts., MI 48071 | 248.548.7100 | PrintMasters.com

ADVENTURES IN CHAMBER MUSIC

July 5 – July 16, 2027

9:30 – 12:30

Chamber music for string players 4th through 12th grade

adventuresinchambermusic.com

info@adventuresinchambermusic.com



Support Our Advertisers

Adventures in Chamber Music 30
Armadillo Printwear 25
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp 18
Bonten Suzuki Strings 25
David Yarnall Photography 26
Eastman School of Music 19
Grand Valley State University 26
KC Plastic Surgery 27
Manhattan School of Music 20
Marshall Music Company ..... Inside front cover
McCourt's Music Group 27
Michigan State University School of Music 21
Multitel 29
Oakland University - School of Music, Theatre and Dance 14
Print Masters Printing Company 30
Rochester Conservatory of Music 22
Rochester Symphony Orchestra ..... Inside back cover
UM School of Music, Theatre & Dance ..... Back cover
Wayne State University Department of Music 23
Wilson Fine Violins 24

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
Rochester, MI 48308-0431

community foundation
Greater Rochester

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.

RSO Connections

2026-2027 CONCERT SEASON

ROCHESTER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

65th year In Concert

Latin Hearts, European Souls
FRI., OCT. 2, 2026 • 8 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Christmas Around the World
FRI., DEC. 11, 2026 • 8 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Connections to the Past
SUN., MARCH 14, 2027 • 3 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Here, There and Everywhere
FRI., MAY 21, 2027 • 8 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Call 248-651-4181 or rochestersymphony.com



GO BLUE GUARANTEE

FREE TUITION

for families with incomes $125,000 & under
& assets below $125,000

Tuition support for some families earning more

smtd.umich.edu/victors-2031

umichsmtd

Oakland Youth Orchestras



FALL CONCERT NOV 18 2026

Bloomfield Hills High School

Educating and Enriching Youth Through MUSIC

Concert Etiquette Considerations

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.



Oakland Youth Orchestras
Fall 2026 Concert

Studio String Orchestra

Nick Karpinsky, Conductor

Sonata Vivant ..... Elliot Del Borgo

Eclipse ..... Joshua Reznicow

Concerto No. 2 in G Major ..... Joseph Haydn

2026 First Place winner Studio String Solo Competition
Eason Jing, violin Kuanting Wang, accompanist

Conquistador! ..... Deborah Baker Monday

String Orchestra

John Kennedy, Conductor

Darkened Shadows ..... Joshua Reznicow

Prelude II ..... George Gershwin

Allegro Brillante Op. 19 ..... William Ten Have

2026 First Place winner String Solo Competition
Nathan Li, violin Dr. Aran Kim, accompanist

Vanishing Pointe ..... Richard Meyer

Philharmonia Orchestra

Wendy Stuart, Conductor

Die Meistersinger Prelude ..... Richard Wagner

Dusk ..... Steven Bryant

Casus Belli ..... Andrew Boysen, Jr.

Danse Nègre Op. 35, No. 4 from the African Suite ..... Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Symphony Orchestra

Zeljko Milicevic, Conductor

Romeo and Juliet, No. 2 ..... Sergei Prokofiev

Polovtsian Dances ..... Alexander Borodin

Program Notes

Studio String Orchestra

Sonata Vivant Elliot Del Borgo (1938-2013)

Eclipse Joshua Reznicow (b. 1975)

Conquistador! Deborah Baker Monday (b. 1953)

Welcome to OYO's 2026-2027 season! The Studio String Orchestra is excited to open the season with three incredible original compositions for string orchestra.

We begin the concert with *Sonata Vivant* by Elliot Del Borgo. This fun and energetic piece in D major encourages each section in the orchestra to count independently. While the piece starts with a unison theme, it quickly branches out into complex harmonies and different rhythmic motifs. It contains some challenging eighth note passages with some sections getting some double stops, which is playing two notes at once.

Our second piece is *Eclipse* by Joshua Reznicow. This piece is in e minor and opens with a beautiful tremolo chord progression. The cello and bass melody kicks in at a much faster tempo. This piece has several melodies, counter melodies, and accompaniments intertwined within the sections of the orchestra. There is a true independence of parts and requires strict counting to make all of the sections lineup and come together. It also features some col legno sections for the violins and violas, where they will actually play notes percussively using the stick part of the bow to vertically strike the string. Listen for the basses to drive this piece to the end with their section solo to conclude the piece.

Finally, we end our portion of the concert with *Conquistador!*, by Deborah Baker Monday. This piece opens with a fast driving rhythmic melody in a minor. It then moves to a slower middle section with a completely different feel. Each section of the orchestra gets a chance to play the melody. There are several syncopated melodies, which require the group to subdivide to lock all the themes in. It then concludes with a recap of the driving opening melody.

We hope you enjoy our opening program and look forward to another incredible season! Thank you to all OYO students, parents, and families for your support and dedication to this wonderful organization!



Eason Jing

Eason Jing, 10, is a fifth-grade student at Delta Kelly Elementary School who began playing the violin in first grade. For the past two years, he has studied under the guidance of Emily Paye. Eason began his OYO journey with the Studio String Orchestra in 2023, and this year marks his fourth year with OYO.

In addition to violin, Eason has also played piano and drums. Outside of music, he enjoys snow skiing and swimming, and currently swims with OLY Swimming.

String Orchestra

Darkened Shadows Joshua Reznicow (b. 1975)

Prelude II George Gershwin (1898-1937); arr. Tim McCarrick

Vanishing Pointe Richard Meyer (b. 1957)

This String Orchestra concert consists of three works depicting very different and clear moods – or perhaps times of the day.

Darkened Shadows is a musical depiction of a mood, or a time and place, as the sun sets and mystery unfolds. Nervous energy flows into lush and enveloping melody and sonority, returning to high energy and finally disappearing into the darkness.

George Gershwin is properly recognized as one of the great American composers, who successfully integrated European art music with American Jazz. His *Three Preludes* for piano were written in 1926, just after the great success of *Rhapsody in Blue*. We are performing a delightful arrangement of the second prelude, marked "Andante con moto e poco rubato" ("slow but moving, with freedom"), which shimmers with jazz harmonies and rhythms. I imagine a sultry summer day, the kind where you walk outside and the heat hits you like a physical presence. Everything is moving in slow motion, and when you look down the street, the pavement sends heat waves into the air above. This lazy mood is interrupted by a blues march, perhaps a jazz band trying to inject some life into the hot day. Soon, however, they give up, and the opening mood returns, sings its song, and fades away.

Vanishing Pointe is 'pure' music – no story behind it, just a joyful time moving through melodies, jazz rhythms, and complicated musical conversations between the sections of the orchestra. Notice the recurring motif of whispering repeated notes in the violas that introduce many of the sections of the piece. This is a bright and sunny high noon kind of piece!



Nathan Li

Nathan Li is an eighth-grade student at Boulan Park Middle School and is in his fourth season with the Oakland Youth Orchestras. He began studying violin at age eight with Waileng Cheang and joined OYO's Studio String Orchestra in fall 2023. Last year, he was selected to perform with the All-State Orchestra.

Outside of music, he enjoys playing tennis and spending time with friends.

Philharmonia Orchestra

***Die Meistersinger* Prelude**

Richard Wagner (1813-1893); arr. by Tom Kennedy

Richard Wagner was a well-known German composer who was best known for his operas. Wagner wrote both the music and libretto for his operas, rather than relying on another to write the script. Wagner took the writing of opera into the concept of a total work of art, which combined all aspects of the production – script, music, orchestra, sets, and acting.

Wagner was known for a great level of complexity and stretched the limits of harmony, range, size of the orchestra and demands on the performers. He used melodies called leitmotifs, which were musical phrases that represented characters in his story lines. The concept was utilized by many future composers, especially John Williams (as heard throughout the *Star Wars* movie scores). His story lines were often dark, complicated tragedies.

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg (the *Master Singers of Nuremberg*), an unusually light-hearted opera, premiered in 1868, one year after its completion. The story centers on a singing contest, the elements of a good song, and the rivalry between a good and bad singer, competing for the hand of a beautiful young lady.

The Prelude introduces the opera's four main melodies, devoting a section of the piece to each. The two themes you will hear first represent the guild of the Master Singers – a march and a fanfare. The third theme is the song with which one of the main characters sings in order to win a singing contest and the fourth theme uses the march in parody, representing the apprentice singers comically imitating their teachers. Wagner concludes the piece by melding all four melodies together, which can be heard distinctly throughout the performance.

The score calls for piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, and strings.

Dusk Steven Bryant (b. 1972)

From the composer: This simple. chorale-like work captures the reflective calm of dusk, paradoxically illuminated by the fiery hues of sunset. I'm always struck by the dual nature of this experience, as if witnessing an event of epic proportions silently occurring in slow motion. Dusk is intended as a short, passionate evocation of this moment of dramatic stillness.

Steven Bryant, born in Little Rock, Arkansas, is an active composer and conductor with a varied catalog, including numerous works for wind ensemble, orchestra, electronic and electro-acoustic creations, music for chamber ensembles, and music for the Web. He studied composition with John Corigliano at The Julliard School, Cindy McTee at the University of North Texas, and Francis McBeth at Ouchita University.

The score calls for 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion, harp, and strings.

Casus Belli Andrew Boysen, Jr. (b. 1968)

Casus Belli, in Latin, means a "cause or, or justification for, war." While not expressly programmatic, this piece is nevertheless meant to evoke and suggest powerful feelings and emotions to the listener. It was commissioned in 1986 by the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Metropolitan Orchestra Festival.

Structured in a rough sonata form, the main thematic ideas in Casus Belli are presented immediately. The forceful opening theme develops through rhythmic manipulations of a three-tone motive and around the pitches found in the Locrian mode.

Andrew Boysen, Jr. composed *Casus Belli* as a senior at Jefferson High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He began writing for piano at age nine and has also composed works for concert bands and jazz ensembles. He studied composition at the University of Iowa, where he also studied French horn and piano.

The score calls for flutes, oboe, 2 clarinets, bassoon, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani, percussion, and strings.

Danse Nègre*, Op. 35, No. 4 from *African Suite
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875–1912)

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was an English composer and conductor born in London in 1875. He was the son of a Sierra Leonean doctor and an English mother. Coleridge-Taylor displayed musical talent early in his childhood and began studying music at a young age. He received early training from his mother, who was a professional singer, and later went on to study at the Royal College of Music in London. During his time at the college, Coleridge-Taylor became interested in the music of Antonín Dvořák, who had recently visited England and encouraged British composers to incorporate folk music into their compositions. This interest in folk music led Coleridge-Taylor to explore African American music and culture, which had a significant influence on his compositions. African-American music held a great interest to Coleridge-Taylor, as his father descended from freed enslaved people, who had been given a home in a settlement in Sierra Leon. His music was celebrated in America during his life. Coleridge-Taylor was even received by President Theodore Roosevelt at the White House on his first American tour.

Coleridge-Taylor's most famous work is his choral trilogy, *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*, which was first performed in 1898 to critical acclaim. He also composed numerous other works throughout his career, including orchestral pieces, chamber music, and solo works for voice and piano. In addition to his compositional work, Coleridge-Taylor was a respected conductor and toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Australia. He also worked as a music educator, teaching at the Crystal Palace School of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Sadly, Coleridge-Taylor died at a young age, in 1912, at the age of 37. Despite his relatively short

career, he remains an important figure in the development of classical music in Britain, and his works continue to be performed and celebrated today.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Danse Nègre* is a lively and expressive orchestral work that was first published in 1904. The piece is heavily influenced by African-American folk music and culture, and is a testament to Coleridge-Taylor's commitment to raising awareness and appreciation for Black music. Featuring syncopated rhythms, call-and-response motifs, and colorful harmonies, *Danse Nègre* is a celebration of the rich cultural diversity that existed in early 20th-century America. The piece is played at a fast tempo with exuberant energy, evoking images of joyous communal dancing. Overall, *Danse Nègre* is a vibrant and compelling orchestral work that showcases Coleridge-Taylor's unique approach to composition and his passion for bringing diverse musical traditions to a wider audience.

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

Symphony Orchestra

***Romeo and Juliet*, No. 2** Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Born on April 23, 1891 in Sontsivka, Ukraine, Sergei Prokofiev was a precocious young child who had started taking piano lessons at a very young age. By age five, he had already composed his first composition. The Russian Empire produced many exceptional composers including Glinka and Mussorgsky who wrote in a more traditional style. Disenchanted by the music of his contemporaries, Prokofiev's interests turned to a different and fresher approach to music, more closely inspired by the music of Alexander Scriabin.

Throughout his career, Prokofiev shocked listeners and critics by pushing the limits of his compositional style. Many composers who preceded and succeeded him experienced rejections to the new style of music only to later become part of the mainstream of great music literature. This is completely the case with Prokofiev. The composers output of music was quite prolific both before the communist era of Stalin and after (even after he was booted out of Moscow along with other creatives and cultural leaders).

Prokofiev has composed for every classical genre but is known most famously for his work *Peter and the Wolf* as well as ballet based on the story of *Romeo and Juliet*. Tonight's performance of the second suite features seven movements from the ballet as described below.

1. *The Montagues and the Capulets*

   Aggressive and imposing, the heavy chords and menacing rhythm depict the bitter 14-year-old feud between the two Nobel houses of Verona at the Capulet ball. A contrasting and graceful melody for flute and violin represent Juliet dancing with her fiancé, Count Paris.

2. *Juliet the Maiden*

   Playful and naive, the light-footed pizzicato in the strings capture a 14-year-old's youthful energy as she skitters about teasing her nurse. There is a shift in tone as the music suddenly shifts into a pensive melody depicting the faint premonition of doom.

3. *Friar Laurence*

   Dignified and solemn tones of the bassoon, tuba and cellos mark this movement as it portrays the wisdom of of the friar who advises the star-crossed lovers through the storm of family disputes.

4. *Dance*

   This high-energy dance is full of sharp movements. One can hear the hustle and bustle of a street scene as energized by the biting harmonies, syncopated rhythms and dialogue between the winds and strings.

5. *The Parting of Romeo and Juliet*

   The music turns tender and bittersweet as this interlude provides a brief moment of repose before the tragedy strikes.

6. *Dance of the Antillean Maidens*

   Delicate and graceful, this episode is flowing and serves as a distraction leading up to the impending doom.

7. *Romeo at the Tomb of Juliet*

   Grief-stricken, Romeo's overwhelming sadness is depicted by a dark, mourning music that brings back the sweeping tones of the love theme but in a tragic, distorted light.

Polovtsian Dances Alexander Borodin (1833-1887)

Alexander Borodin was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and was the illegitimate son of an Armenian prince and a physician's wife. Interestingly, as one of the most colorful composer's in Russia's musical history, Borodin was not a musician at all – at least not in the traditional sense. Instead, he primarily devoted his life to pioneering the research on the chemistry of phosphoric acid. In addition, he was a proponent in favor of educating women in medical fields and advocated student rights at the St. Petersburg medical school.

Borodin earned the distinction of being known as part of "The Russian Five". This list included contemporaries Balakirev, Cui, Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov. These five composers had a mission and desire to make Russian music known to the world while attempting to make the musician's life a little easier in the Communist state. In spite of their contributions as composers, they were Nationalists first. In other words, they wrote from their hearts – not what the government wanted. To that end, some of them ran the risk of getting into trouble with officials but these five composers persisted and

wrote music that was inspired by the humanity of the great people – not their political leaders points of view.

Borodin did not dedicate time to compose until later in his life. Instead, he manipulated his schedule in order to compose and became known as a procrastinator. Although this is not completely uncommon with composers, the hilarious part of the story here was when Borodin's colleagues ribbed him by sending notes reading not "I hope you are well", but rather, "I *do* hope you are ill!" This was due to the composer's method of not showing up to work but rather playing "hooky" from his scheduled chemistry lectures.

Perhaps known as one of classical music's "greatest hits", the *Polovtsian Dances* from the opera serve as a grand example of Borodin's contrasting musical styles. The challenges and pleasures of writing for the orchestra afforded Borodin the opportunity to contrast the musical styles of Russia with that of Asia. The opera was based on the 12th century conflicts between the Russian Prince Igor and the Polovsti Tatars of Central Asia.





Enjoy a Complete Digital OYO Concert Experience!

Pre-order access to view the entire OYO 2026-27 Concert Season via the OYO YouTube channel private link for as little as $20.

Scan this code to order your online video access.

Scan this code to view the OYO Season Concert Program!

2027 Solo & Concerto Competition

Applications for the 2027 Solo & Concerto Competition will be available on January 15, 2027 in MyOYO. **Applications and application fee must be received by February 7, 2027.**

Upcoming OYO Concerts

Chamber Ensembles Concert
Sunday, January 31, 2027
University Presbyterian Church

Winter Concert
Thursday, February 18, 2027
Bloomfield Hills High School

Spring Concert
Wednesday, April 28, 2027
Bloomfield Hills High School

Visit www.oyomi.org/concerts for more information.





