We are OYO

United by their love of music, over 300 elementary through high school students from numerous counties throughout southeast Michigan come together each Thursday to discover and nurture their passions for music.

Through our four-tiered orchestra program, we teach, guide, and foster musical growth in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

We laugh, we play – literally.

History

Established in 1975, OYO, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), has become one of the premier orchestral education programs in southeastern Michigan. Our alumni include both professional musicians and those who have pursued other careers while keeping the joy of music in their lives.

Through our weekly rehearsals and concert performances, OYO students develop lifelong skills of teamwork, commitment, organization and musicianship. OYO conductors encourage a high level of musical advancement within a supportive environment.

We are Community

Aside from its dedicated student musicians and accomplished conductors, Oakland Youth Orchestras is made up of a community of supportive parents and board members. Our students’ parents work together at volunteer and fundraising activities while our board members, most of whom are OYO parents, give their time and talents to ensure that OYO is guided by sound policies.

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OYO Philharmonia Orchestra; Wendy Stuart conductor.

Support Opportunities

“OYO played a pivotal role in my life. I not only developed as a musician, but as a person and leader. All of the conductors held us to the highest standards and supported us in rising to meet them.”

- Mary, OYO Alumni

OYO SCORE Program

The OYO SCORE program uses dedicated funds each year to offer tuition aid to students based on financial need, particularly students from underserved areas. This program is funded through donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations dedicated to supporting youth programs in our community.

OYO Symphony Orchestra; Zeljko Milicevic conductor.
How Your Support Helps

Because we believe that music education 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.

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

- Seasonal rehearsal and concert venue rentals
- Sectional rehearsals with professional musicians
- Community Outreach Recitals
- Chamber Ensemble classes and concerts
- Solo/Concerto Competition and Merit Awards
- Tuition assistance through OYO SCORE

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 building a vibrant 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.

OYO Mission Statement

The mission of OYO is to inspire young people, through the power of music, to become outstanding musicians, individuals, and leaders.

For more information:
Joanne Walle, Executive Director
248-237-3475 • joanne.walle@oyomi.org

OYO Studio String Orchestra; Nick Karpinsky conductor.

OYO String Orchestra; John Kennedy conductor.

Our Primary Supporters

- Michigan Arts and Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Oakland University School of Music, Theatre and Dance
- Bonten Family, Kroger, Amazon Smile, Meijer, and Community Foundation of Greater Rochester
- Concert Program Advertisers
- OYO alumni and member families

OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

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for the ARTS
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MUSIC THEATRE & DANCE

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

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