48th Season
2022-2023

Educating and Enriching Youth Through MUSIC
Welcome!

There are always many people to thank, but in particular, I want to thank our incredible Orchestra Managers: Bernadette Borla and Jamie Tenbusch, Studio String Orchestra Co-Managers, Gosia DeRyckere, String Orchestra Manager, Bobbie Sethuraman, Philharmonia Orchestra Manager, and Jamisen Sivak and Mary Tison, Symphony Orchestra Co-Managers. They arrive early, checking students into rehearsal, track attendance, support their conductor, and in many cases help with the orchestra setup and teardown. Please tell them thank you when you see them!

Special thanks also to the Board of Directors for your time and dedication. Thank you for ensuring that OYO is guided by sound principles and serving as OYO ambassadors in the broader community.

Finally, the thank you extends to our COMMUNITY for the part you play in continuing to make OYO one of the premier youth orchestra programs in Michigan!

- STUDENTS - thank you for your diligent practice and attendance to make your performances a personal best
- PARENTS - thank you for choosing OYO for your student
- STAFF - your energy, as well as dedication, helps guide OYO every week and throughout the season
- PRIVATE TEACHERS - thank you for recommending OYO, preparing the students in lessons, and giving the encouragement they need
- PARENT VOLUNTEERS - thank you for your service, whether large or small
- DONORS - thank you for your generosity
- ADVERTISERS - thank you for your support though advertising in the concert program
- SUPPORTERS - Corporate, Foundational and Government support which helps to maintain the quality programming the students receive. Special thanks to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for their generous Operational Support Grant Award

As previously announced, this is my 20th and final year with OYO. I have so many feelings about my time at OYO, but the most prominent would be THANKFUL. I have worked with incredible colleagues, families, and board members throughout my tenure. Together, we have created what OYO is today. Many of these relationships have evolved in friendships that I will continue to cherish. I will not be a stranger to OYO. You’ll see me at concerts and I hope to remain involved in some capacity.

Tonight I hope you enjoy this evening of live music-making. More than ever, as we continue to educate and enrich our students through music, we must remember that forever and always we are United in Harmony, to gift our students with the best orchestral education experience possible!

With gratitude,
Joanne M. Walle
Executive Director
Oakland Youth Orchestras
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String Orchestra – John Kennedy
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Symphony Orchestra Manager – Jamisen Sivak
Philharmonia Orchestra Manager – Bobbie Sethuraman
String Orchestra Manager – Gosia DeRykrere
Studio String Orchestra Managers – Bernadette Boria and Jamie Tenbusch

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

Additional Personnel
Administrative Assistant and Music Librarian – Jenni Shier
Assistant Treasurer and Enrollment Coordinator – Christina Miller
Music Coaching and Chamber Ensembles – Nyssa Rabinowitz
OU Percussion Mentor - Mattheas Boelter, OYO Alumni

Oakland Youth Orchestras (OYO) is a recognized leader in orchestral music education for talented young musicians. Forty-eight years and over 7000 students later, OYO continues to inspire youth on their musical journey to become outstanding musicians, individuals, and leaders who share a passion for music. Our alumni include both professional musicians and those who have pursued other careers while keeping the joy of music in their lives.

The storied history of OYO began in 1975 as Oakland Youth Symphony through the combined efforts of Joan G. Berndt, Lecturer, Music Department, Oakland University; and Dr. Raynoki Alvin, Oakland University Department Chairman; as well as OYO Founding Conductor Ervin Monroe, Detroit Symphony Orchestra retired Principal Flutist. OYO continues to partner with Oakland University School of Music, Theater and Dance.

Two past Oakland Youth Symphony students remain a part of Oakland Youth Orchestras. Mr. John Kennedy, OYO String Conductor, was among the first 50 musicians performing in the OYS premiere concert, and Mr. Zeljko Milicevic, OYO Symphony Conductor, performed with OYS in the 1980s.

In 1994 Zeljko “Bill” Milicevic returned to began his OYO career as conductor with an orchestra of 67 musicians. A five year plan for growth was developed and in 1998 String Orchestra was added. In 2002 John Kennedy returned to OYO as the String Orchestra conductor. The Philharmonia Orchestra was launched in 2002 and in 2011 Wendy Stuart became its 2nd conductor. In 2010, due to increasing enrollment numbers, Nick Karpinsky became the inaugural conductor of Studio String Orchestra. 2011 brought the additional of the Chamber Ensembles program open to OYO musicians. In 2014-15 sectional coaching with university and area music professionals and was added throughout the season to augment the orchestra experience. Reaching out to the community Outreach Recitals began in 2014 bringing our young musicians to perform at senior living communities throughout the area. In 2016 Nyssa Rabinowitz, music educator and chamber coach was hired working weekly with students in the Studio String and String Orchestras and Chamber Ensembles.

OYO has collaborated with acclaimed international artists in order to expose students to a variety of musicians and musical styles. In 1998, OYO, with the support of the Chrysler Corporation, commissioned noted composer James Hartway to write Car Trek. For OYO’s 30th anniversary season in 2006, jazz bassist Rufus Reid held a workshop for students and performed in concert with the OYO conductors and String Orchestra. To commemorate its 40th anniversary season in 2014-15, OYO commissioned Catherine McMichael to write a piece for the organization. In May 2015, all four orchestras collectively premiered Symphony of the Ages.

Today, OYO serves over 300 students in grades 2-12 from throughout southeast Michigan. Each spring, OYO recognizes about 40 graduating seniors who, on average, have participated in OYO for five or more years. In May 2017, we celebrated the first “decade” student.

OYO believes that music education should be accessible to all. While OYO keeps tuition affordable, the OYO SCORE program, established in 2011, uses dedicated funds each year to offer tuition aid to students based on financial need, particularly students from underserved backgrounds.

OYO is generously supported by grants from Michigan Arts and Cultural Council (MACC) and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) since 2010. Additional support comes from private donors, advertisers, corporations, and foundations dedicated to supporting youth programs in our community.

As we approach the 50th Anniversary, we celebrate the history and growth of OYO and look to the future as we continue the mission of OYO to inspire young people, through the power of music, to become outstanding musicians, individuals, and leaders.
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 duos. 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

Ms. Stuart is excited to be part of the Oakland Youth Orchestras for her 12th season. This school year, Ms. Stuart is continuing the latest chapter in her career as the Orchestra Teacher/Director at Troy High School. 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 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.

Ms Stuart is an advocate for music education in Michigan. In addition to OYO and her school program, 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 events throughout the state, where she can use her experience gained from more than twenty years as a cello teacher. She has taught a many camps, including conducting at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp and many times in the past as Cello Coach for MASTA Camp, Session III.

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

Ms. Stuart is committed to continuing her own ability, growth and experience as a musician. She is the principal cellist for the Oakland Symphony Orchestra, the assistant principal cellist for the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, and performs with many other orchestras and ensembles throughout the year.

John Kennedy  String Orchestra

String Orchestra Director John Kennedy is excited to return for his 21st year with the Oakland Youth Orchestras. He recently retired as Orchestra Director at North Farmington High School after a 30-year career teaching in the public schools. In addition to directing the OYO String Orchestra and working with school orchestras throughout the state, Mr. Kennedy is instructor of Bass at Oakland University, the University of Michigan Flint and Wayne State University, and has an active private studio of bass students.

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 University 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 is excited to celebrate his 14th season with 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 is currently the Director of Orchestras for Seaholm High School and Derby Middle School with the Birmingham Public Schools was named Orchestra Teacher of the Year by MSBOA District 4 for the 2021-22 school year. Previously he taught in the Waterford and Warren Consolidated School Districts.

He 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, 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. He has conducted and performed in over a dozen shows. In 2022, Nick became the pit orchestra conductor for Rochester’s Summer Music Theater program.
Symphony Orchestra

1st Violin
Alena Bajcz
Isabelle Bonten
Celeste Chan
Natalie Chang
Daniel Choi
Andrew Corkery
Gabriela da Silva
Aanya Deol
Missole Doe ++
Benjamin Drummelsmith
Josiah Ferguson
Jessica Glidden
Lily Holfield
Karen Jin ++
Lauren Jin ++
Oliver Kayi
David Kim
Minjun Kim
Jacqueline Pletta +++
Gaeun Shin
Kyra Shogren
Amalia Socha

2nd Violin
Mason Chiew
Minh-Nhi Daniels
Ayla Ferguson
Mark Hong
Grace Hwang
Keigo Iwao
Emma King
Chloe Ma
Vivian Orr *
Paloma Palomino
Helen-Rose Pangilinan

Cello
Alvin Cai
Nora Chiew **
Michael Collier
Michael Hong
Eunho Jung **
Minwoo (Brian) Kim
Seojin Lee
Mahima Mahajan
Keegan McDonough
Jakub Oronowicz

Viola
Samuel Collier
Yeriel Kim
Isabella Lebert **
Emerson Tomaszewski **

Bass
Ian Frisch
Danielle Leight
Leah Sivak *
Madelyn Updike

1st Flute
Jian Kim
Jiahn Yoo *

2nd Flute
Sophia Dobbie
Jihyo Yoo

1st Oboe
Veronica Austin **
Haoyi Wang **

1st Clarinet
Arthur Kim
Soomin Lee *

2nd Clarinet
Lewen Feng
Jeheon Lee *

2nd Bassoon
Katelynn Miller

2nd Bassoon
Ava Rabban

1st Horn
Michelle Peng

1st Bassoon
Haoyi Wang **

1st Bassoon
Teo Vujic

1st Trombone
Makenzie Barber

2nd Trombone
Matthew Allen

Vivaldi
Samuel Collier
Yeriel Kim
Isabella Lebert **
Emerson Tomaszewski **

Bass Clarinet/
Clarinet
Hyejin Song

1st Bassoon
Van Bellomo

Piano/Percussion
Grant Supancich

Percussion
Garrett Crescenti
Jimin Park
++ Co-Concertmaster
+++ Associate Concertmaster
* Principal
** Co-Principal
## Philharmonia Orchestra

### 1st Violin
- Kendall Allen
- Alice Bonten **
- Michael Cho **
- David Collier
- Ivy Dao
- Jessica Deng
- Alison Doka
- Phillip Duong
- Jane Fall Lakatos
- Daniella Gan **
- Hyoungkoo Jeong
- Junee Kim
- Naeun Kwon
- Paul Lei
- Andrea Li **
- Gabriella Murphy
- Jathan Oaida
- Elizabeth Oh
- Zachary Reynolds
- Caelan Surre
- Kathy Vu
- Franny Wang

### 2nd Violin
- Livia Baker
- Isabel Cabrera
- Oscar Catarino
- Alexa Daulton **
- Meisha Ferguson
- Caroline Fernandes
- Aryeh Gamer
- Stephany Guevara
- Ana Sofia
- Hernandez Gomez
- Meera Iyer
- Eunah Kim
- Angela Liu
- Maya Nagy
- Blair Qi
- Nanita Shi
- Aaron Sun
- Yisong Sun
- Georgia Talbot
- Kieran Venugopal
- Jerry Wang
- Kai XU
- Brian Zhang **

### Viola
- Garrett Brockman
- Laura Lemerond ****
- Yitong Li
- Jooeun Lim **
- Jing-yi Ma **
- Nicholas Pochmara
- Divya Sovani
- Mark Yabut
- Hyein Yang
- Michael Zheng ****

### Cello
- Megan Cashatt
- Sharon Chang
- Octavian German
- Allison Goodrich
- Derek Han ****
- Daniel Kim
- Angelina Kou
- Hannah Oh *
- Owen Osterbur
- Delphine Schowalter
- Elaina Socha
- Grant Song
- Claire Tantengco

### Bass
- Adam Albanese ****
- Christian Bush *
- Carter Ellis
- Lila Tasdemir

### Clarinet
- Robert (Bobby) Ayotte **
- Hangyul Kim **
- Angela Park
- Claire Reinhard

### Flute
- Saanvi Duruvasan
- Ellamarie Gordhamer
- Joanna Ouyang *
- Brianna Park ****
- Chaerin Park

### Bassoon
- Kevin Durbin
- Siddh Sheth
- Walter Thompson *

### Oboe
- Allison Armstrong *
- Aleah Freijy
- Graham Goodrich

### Horn
- Brianna Belisle
- Justine Han
- Lucy Lee *

### Trumpet
- Junhyeong Ha
- Kathleen Padula *
- Chester Van Daele ****

### Trombone
- Benjamin Eber *

### Tuba
- Jacob Weiss *

### Percussion
- Ayaan Deol *
- Seth Ingram

---

**++** Co-Concertmaster

**++++** Assistant Concertmaster

* **Principal

** **Co-Principal

**** Assistant Principal
String Orchestra

1st Violin
Sophia Cervantes
Daniel Cho
Isaac Collier
Sara DeRyckere
Elizabeth Foutz
John Hwang
Shyeon Jun
Nicole Li
Jerry Mao
Shyan Park
Sei Park
Alex Rajcevski
Yubeen Song
Nainika Valoor
Lucas Walker
Jiyun Woo
Aiden Yang
Raphael Yarnall

2nd Violin
Agnish Adhya
Rabeya Adler
Jason Asirvatham
Chloe Athanas
Brooke Demchak
Charlotte-Louise Gaillard
Hayun Jeong
Jun Kim
Yewon Lee
Kaitywyn Li
Daniel Park
Julianna Socha
Rebecca Sun
Oliver Talbot
Mary Tito
Quentin Zhou

3rd Violin
Choyeon Ahn
James Colling
Ethan Fustin
Sanika Gadre
Sabrina Iovanniti
Chloe Kim
Owen Long
Jacqueline Miller
Maya Mohan
Celeste Sanislo
Olivia Scally
Camila Sumcad

Cello
Sienna Calcut
Eryn Choi
Matty Hamilton
Evan Henderson
Callie Hruska
Addison Kurtin
Noah Kwok
Iris Mo
Katherine Park
Milan Thai-Tang
Sophia Xydas

Bass
Elliot Bayer
Omkar Prabhu

Studio String Orchestra

1st Violin
Vishnu Balagatte
Cassie Chen
Michael Howard
Hasini Kalagara
Gus Kish
Tanner Koontz
Alex Ma
Isabelle Nowlin
Rachna Rao
Evan Seo
Lana Shim
Ethan Zielinski

2nd Violin
Alexis Bellairs
Estelle Borla
Ahvi Carter
Heather Choi
Catherine Garvin
Sally Huang
Avni Kaarthick
Julia Kaitner
Kenneth Kwok
Hizkiah Lanac
Juchan Lee
Seungwoo Lee
Emily Li
Anna Lutz
Marco Sumcad
Riley Tenbusch
Yashvini Venkatesh

3rd Violin
Preston Brewer
Isabella Calin
Irene Cerru
Evan Du
Samuel Du
Leah Geppert
Siyun Jeong

Cello
Ami Olkhovsky
Dan Park
Tiana Patterson
Aurora Teng
Marcus Vingarzan

Viola
Aditya Gopu
Corinne Knight
Mason Lee
Kearsten Struzik

Bass
Lorelei Sobolewski

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** Co-Principal
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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

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

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

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

Our Primary Supporters

• Michigan Arts and Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Oakland University School of Music, Theatre and Dance
• Fifth Third Bank, Flagstar Foundation, Bonten Family, Kroger, Amazon Smile, Meijer
• Community Foundation of Greater Rochester
• OYO alumni and member families

Support Opportunities
Our Primary Supporters

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

For more information on how you can support OYO, please contact:
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ZELJKO MILICEVIC – Music Director & Conductor

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23, 2022 • 8 PM • ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FRIDAY, DEC. 9, 2022 • 8 PM • ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, MAR. 19, 2023 • 3 PM • ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 • 8 PM • ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rochester Symphony Orchestra continues its commitment to the development of young artists in their pursuit and appreciation of music.

Visit our website at www.rochestersymphony.com for the annual Young Artist Competition. We encourage parents, relatives and friends of members of the OYO to attend an RSO season this season.

An OYO member will be admitted FREE when accompanied by an adult purchasing a regular ticket to any RSO concert. Give the gift of music!

The Rochester Symphony Orchestra is proud to support

**Flight of Fancy**

ROCHESTER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2022-2023 CONCERT SEASON

ZELJKO MILICEVIC – Music Director & Conductor

**Tour de France**
FRIDAY, SEPT. 23, 2022 • 8 PM • ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Holiday Cheer**
FRIDAY, DEC. 9, 2022 • 8 PM • ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Classical Gems**
SUNDAY, MAR. 19, 2023 • 3 PM • ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**A New Horizon**
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 • 8 PM • ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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- February 17, 2023*
- May 5, 2023

*last date for scholarship consideration

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CONGRATS OLIVER!

Wow, 11 years of OYO! How time flies. You’re a senior now, and we can hardly believe our eyes. We are so proud of you!

Love
Mom, Dad, & Amelia
For Andrew Corkery: Despite the challenges you have proved to be strong, and your determination has paid off. Congratulations on joining OYO! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

Estella says, “I LOVE AKAKA!” Golden Sunrise Farms, LLC

Congratulations on your first OYO season, Claire! We are so proud of you for taking on this challenge and can’t wait to see you grow as a musician!

Angelina, congratulations on your acceptance into OYO!

Izzy, we are so very proud of you! Love, Samson, Gus, and Tommy Calin

Celeste Chan: Thank you for the wonderful music through the years!! Good Luck with the next chapter in your life!

I wish all the best to OYO.

Izzy, we are so proud of you! Love, Mama, Dad and Sydney

Sophia, we are so proud of what you have accomplished and we are excited to see where your hard work and dedication take you! Love, Mom, Dad, and Jack

Addison we are so proud of you!

Congratulations on your first OYO concert, Brooke! Your hard work and dedication have brought you far. Thank you for bringing us so much joy through your music!

Congratulations Maddie on your performance and selection to Symphony. We’re so proud of you.

Dad, Mom, Max and Minnie

For Andrew Corkery: Andrew, we are so proud of you. To watch you grow as a musician through the years is a true journey, and to experience sharing your gift of music has been a blessing. From your brother, Johnathan

Great job, Kieran. We love the way you bring music into your life and ours! We’re so very proud of you! Mom, Dad and Meera

We are so very proud of you, Jacob. Continue to shine and reach for the stars. Love, Dad, Mom and Noah

Congratulations Hizkiah! We are so proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad, ate Khaye, Mama and tita Bedette

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**Congratulatory Messages**

Oliver, We are all so proud of you and your 11 years in OYO. Your senior year is bittersweet. We love you! Mom, Dad, and Amelia

Congratulations to the class of 2023 and the best of luck for the future!

Emma, Congratulations on achieving symphony orchestra; we are amazed by your talents. Enjoy your final year with OYO! Love, Mom, Dad, Papa

Congratulations, Michael Howard! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, Miranda and Charlotte

Bravo Avni, nothing is more exciting than seeing you on the stage! Keep up the good work!

Dear Ania, we are proud of your dedication to music and achievements! Let music fill your heart and life! Love you so much, Mama & Tato

Riley, We are so proud of you! We love hearing you play! Thank you for making our lives so musical! Love, Mom, Dad

Catherine, we’re so proud of all you have accomplished! – Mom, Dad, Amelia & Andy

Eliza! We love hearing you practice and play. You always do your part to help create beautiful music. Congratulations on another great musical season.

Congratulations Lily Bug on your 10th season with OYO! We are proud of you. Can’t wait to see what the future brings! Love, Daddy Mommy Hope & Anna

We are so proud of you, Jaden! We love you so much!

Bobby K, May your music always bring you peace and may your journey create beautiful memories. We are so very proud! Mom, Daddy B, Jacob and Alexa

We are so proud of you Beanzoes! It’s been a fun ride! And, I still don’t know if your strings are in tune. Love, Mom and Dad

Dear Callie, we are so proud of you! Keep up the hard work, we love you! Daddy and Mommy

Congratulations Sweet Caroline, excellent performance from years of practice - from Mom, Dad, Laura Fernandes

Ana Sofia, keep up with the hard work! You are doing it great! We love you! A & D.

Isabella L., we love hearing you play the viola, guitar, and piano. It has been great watching you perform live and even greater hearing you at home.

Kevin, we are very proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad

For Andrew Corkery: Congratulations Andrew! Never stop dreaming big! John

Jacqueline - Congratulations on moving up to String Orchestra!

Thank you, OYO!
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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 Oakland Youth 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.

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

Oakland Youth Orchestras
The Jessica K. Rogers Fund

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“The passionate and skilled guidance provided by Professor Belen has not only deepened my musical maturity, but also invited me to become a musician that brings powerful artistry to the stage. I’ve been incredibly lucky to be a part of the welcoming community SMTD offers. It feels like a second home.”

– Angela Lee (BM ’25, Violin) Troy, MI

Spring Concert
April 27, 2023
Oxford Fine Arts Center

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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.

Dear OYO Community,

Every year I reflect on the season as it comes to a close. This is my 20th and final year as Executive Director.

Over the last 24 years I have watched not only my five children grow up in OYO but also countless other musicians. As Executive Director it has been my privilege to work together with the Board, conductors, members, families, teachers, and donors - past and present - to grow and build OYO into a vibrant and thriving music community. Thank you everyone for your well wishes. Remember that I won’t be a stranger to OYO. I look forward to helping plan OYO’s 50th anniversary season coming up in 2024-25!

Tonight I’m privileged to introduce OYO’s newest team members: Executive Director, Genevieve Pamel, and Administrative Assistant and Music Librarian, Nicole Shogren. Over the last few weeks as we’ve been transitioning our roles, I’ve enjoyed getting to know Genevieve more. Genevieve is an enthusiastic and hard-working person that I know will fit right into the OYO Community. Welcome Genevieve! Nicole is no stranger to OYO. Not only is she an OYO parent, she also maintains a private cello studio and is an avid freelance musician in the community. Welcome Nicole!

Tonight I want to publicly thank two people. First, Jenni Shier, outgoing Administrative Assistant and Music Librarian. About 10 years ago when she was Music Librarian, Jenni noticed how busy I was. This was at a time of incredible growth in the OYO program. Thus, the role of Administrative Assistant was born! Jenni is an incredibly humble person who has worked tirelessly at my side to coordinate music, volunteers, the Solo Competition, Merit Scholarships, and much, much more! Thank you Jenni for all that you have given to me and the OYO program, but also for the friendship that has grown as a result of working together!

Secondly, I need to thank Jamison Sivak, a previous Philharmonia manager, and current Symphony Manager. Jamison has been an incredible asset - dedicating herself week after week to helping Mr. M and the students, setting up for rehearsals, taking attendance and taking the time to get to know our students. I am especially grateful for her dedication during last season as we emerged from Covid. Jamison, you will be missed!

Thank you to our Orchestra Managers for their dedication to arrive early each and every week of rehearsals to help set up and tear down the orchestras, keeping attendance, and helping each of their conductors and students!

We are saying goodbye to many seniors. Some that have been part of OYO for only one year, others that have ‘grown up’ spending Thursday evenings with us for as many as TEN years. As one senior says: “My favorite memory of OYO is when one time the room was so cold during the winter but from our laughter and playing, we seemed to warm up the room in no time.”

Seniors, thank you for choosing to spend your Thursdays with OYO! I wish you all the very best and hope you take the memories and experiences that OYO has given you, applying them in your future careers and life’s pursuits. Remember the music and the friends you made in your time with us. Most of all, keep music in your lives.

Lastly, thank you OYO students! You are what keeps the conductors and board members motivated and excited about OYO. Our days are busy, but as adults it is truly a joy to listen to you come together to make music every Thursday evening. Thank you for your dedication and hard work to make each of your ensembles the best they can be!

I wish all of our OYO families a restful and safe summer.

With gratitude,

Joanne Walle

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It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2022/23 Spring concert! All four orchestras are here tonight promising an evening of exceptional performances and amazing talent. This concert is also special as it is the transition marking my succession as the Executive Director of OYO and the final concert for Joanne Walle. Please join me in thanking Joanne for 20 years of service and leadership. Her dedication and spirit are truly inspiring. We wish Joanne a most happy and healthy retirement!

About Genevieve:

Genevieve has a background in vocal performance, clarinet, and piano. She initially attended university to pursue a degree in Vocal Performance and Music Therapy. After pivoting to earn her B.S. degree in Organizational Communications and International Business, she began her career overseas working and living in both Sweden and France. In the late 90’s, Genevieve moved to Michigan to reorganize and develop the Architectural and Design Relations Department for the largest Steelcase Dealership in Michigan. Following much success, she was promoted to work for Steelcase Corporation. She managed the relationships with executive management at various architectural and design firms. Today, Genevieve focuses her professional life in the non-profit humanitarian aid sector. She has over 20 years of non-profit experience working for and with non-profit organizations serving on various committees and boards. She is a past member of the Board of Directors for the Detroit Skating Club, and led the development and implementation of Detroit Skating Club's internal organizational model in addition to chairing several committees.

Genevieve is the proud mother of daughter, Pelagia. During high school she had success in violin, musical theater, vocal performance, and competitive figure skating. Next fall, Pelagia begins her last year at the University of Michigan pursuing a dual degree in Voice Performance and International Studies. She is actively pursuing a career as an opera singer.

Genevieve strongly believes that extra curricular involvement in music, the arts, and athletics offers a unique development opportunity for our youth. It is with great pride that over the last 20 years she has supported so many of our youth in their hard work, focus, discipline, and perseverance to become true champions of life. Genevieve holds steadfast to the belief that having strong, dedicated commitments outside of the classroom offers the opportunity to learn powerful skills that will last a lifetime.

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Oakland Youth Orchestras
Spring 2023 Concert

Studio String Orchestra
Nick Karpinsky, Conductor

Finale from Symphony No. 12 .............................................Joseph Haydn; arr. Gruselle
Music from Sing ................................................................. arr. James Kazik
Drag Me Down ............................................................................. arr. Larry Moore

String Orchestra
John Kennedy, Conductor

Overture to the Wind ................................................................. Kirt Mosier
Aiden Yang, violin soloSophia Xydas, cello solo
O Fortuna from Carmina Burana ........................................Carl Orff; arr. Bulla and Kennedy

Philharmonia Orchestra
Wendy Stuart, Conductor

Danse Negre, Op. 35, No. 4 from the African Suite..................Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
Blue Tango ................................................................................. Leroy Anderson
Dream Theme and Variations ...................................................... Ethan McMurray
Selections from E.T. (The Extra-Terrestrial) .........................John Williams ; arr. Cacavas

Symphony Orchestra
Zeljko Milicevic, Conductor

An Outdoor Overture ............................................................... Aaron Copeland
Afro-American Symphony ..................................................... William Grant Still
I. Moderato assai (Longings)
II. Adagio (Sorrows)
III. Animato (Humor)
IV. Lento, con risoluzione (Aspirations)
OYO 2023 Competition Winners

**Studio String Orchestra Solo Competition**

Gus Kish, violin – 1st Place  
Honorable Mention  
Sarah Cho, cello  
Riley Tenbusch, violin

**String Orchestra Solo Competition**

Hayun Jeong, violin – 1st Place  
Raphael Yarnall, violin – 2nd Place  
Maya Mohan, violin – 3rd Place  
Honorable Mention  
Sihyeon Jun, violin  
Jun Kim, violin  
Aiden Yang, violin

**Philharmonia Orchestra Solo Competition**

Hannah Oh, cello – 1st Place  
David Collier, violin – 2nd Place  
Michael Cho, violin – 3rd Place  
Kathleen Padula, trumpet – Jessica Rogers Memorial Award

**Honorable Mention**

Derek Han, cello  
Andrea Li, violin  
Brian Zhang, violin

**Symphony Concerto Competition**

Kyra Shogren, violin – 1st place, Teresa Schuster Memorial Award  
Karen Jin, violin – 2nd Place  
Ben Drummelsmith, violin – 3rd Place  
Arthur Kim, clarinet – Jessica Rogers Memorial Award

**Honorable Mention**

Gabriela da Silva, violin  
Lily Holifield, violin  
Jeheon Lee, clarinet

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**Program Notes**

**Studio String Orchestra**

**Finale from Symphony No. 12**  
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809); arr. Carrie Lane Gruselle

**Music from Sing**  
arr. James Kazik

**Drag Me Down**  
arr. Larry Moore

Welcome to OYO's spring concert! I can't believe the Studio String Orchestra is wrapping up it's 14th concert season! I'd like to thank all of the incredible students and parents for an amazing year! Your dedication to this organization is what makes it so incredible!

The Studio String orchestra will be performing a variety of different songs on this concert including a mix a of classical, pop, and movie themes. Our first piece is the Finale from Symphony No. 12 by Haydn, arranged by Carrie Lane Gruselle. Haydn is one of the most famous classical composers and has even been referred to as "the father of the symphony." He composed over 100 symphonies in his lifetime and was a master of the classical symphonic form. This Finale movement contains many challenging passages for the students, giving them experience with accidentals, counting, and style. You will hear the piece sound like it has changed key signatures, but the movement is just transitioning through chord progressions to follow the classical sonata-allegro form. This is where the students get the opportunity to read new accidentals, because the piece never actually changes key signatures, it remains in D major for the entire song. This arrangement also taught students how to play in the correct style for the classical period. It takes a precise control with the bow in order to be able to play this style correctly.

We then move on to Music from Sing, arranged by James Kazik. This energetic arrangement is a rhythmic counting challenge for every section right from the get go! The arrangement contains many syncopated rhythms, offbeats, time signatures, and tempo changes. It begins with a syncopated energetic theme that is catchy and fun to play! It also gives every instrument a chance to do some quick glissandos in this opening theme. We then move on to Hallelujah, by Leonard Cohen. This theme is in 6/8 time. This compound time signature is new to most students and requires them all to subdivide and count in groups of three. The piece concludes with more syncopated musical themes and a grand finale!

We will conclude our portion of the concert with the pop piece, Drag Me Down, as performed and made famous by One Direction. This arrangement is well adapted to fit a string orchestra and just a lot of fun to play! It features our cellos and violas with the beginning melody, which later shifts to the violins. The drums and bass guitar keep the heartbeat of this piece going and drive us through all the way to the end!

We hope you enjoy our spring concert and we look forward to seeing you all next year in the fall!
String Orchestra

*Overture to the Wind*  Kirt Mosier

*O Fortuna from Carmina Burana*  Carl Orff (1895-1982); arr. Stephen Bulla and John Kennedy

We start with a dramatic and powerful depiction of a storm by the contemporary composer Kirt Mosier, who writes many works for string orchestras. This very challenging work gives every section of the orchestra a work-out! In the quiet interlude before the storm returns in its full intensity, we hear a beautiful violin and cello solo!

*Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff is one of the most recognizable works of modern classical music – movies, hockey teams, it seems like everyone likes to use this music! The original work is for extremely large orchestra, chorus, and vocal soloists – this string orchestra arrangement captures the drama and intensity of the original.

Philharmonia Orchestra

*Danse Negre, Op. 35, No. 4 from the 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 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 Negre* 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 Negre* 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 Negre* 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, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, percussion, timpani and strings.

Blue Tango  Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) was an American composer of short, light orchestral works. He was born in Massachusetts and began composing at a young age. Anderson studied music at Harvard University and later worked as an arranger and composer for the Boston Pops Orchestra. His compositions, which include works like *The Syncopated Clock*, *Blue Tango*, and *Sleigh Ride*, were often played on the radio and became popular with audiences. Anderson’s music is known for its catchy melodies, use of percussion, and often incorporate sounds from everyday life. Anderson served in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he was assigned to work on music for the military. After the war, he continued to compose and arrange music, including film scores and television themes. Today, Anderson’s music continues to be beloved by audiences around the world.

Leroy Anderson’s *Blue Tango* is a classic American instrumental music piece, composed in 1951. The piece features a catchy tango melody that has a charming and whimsical quality that makes it a favorite of audiences around the world. It quickly became a pop culture phenomenon, reaching the top of the Billboard charts and remaining there for several weeks. It is an excellent example of the composer’s unique style and talent, and remains a beloved classic in the canon of American instrumental music.

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

Dream Theme and Variations  Ethan McMurray

Ethan’s first full orchestra piece, *Dream Theme and Variations*, has a whimsical, exciting sound. His influences include Stephen Sondheim, Alan Menken, and James Newton Howard, who are some of his favorite modern composers. “It was fun to write this piece because I felt like I was telling a story. Each section has a different feel, or color, that represents the different stage of the adventure. I hope that when people hear it, their imagination takes them on a journey.”

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

Ethan McMurray is a senior at Clarkston High School, where he is in choir and orchestra. He also loves musical theatre. In Clarkston, Ethan has been in the cast of The Music Man, Guys and Dolls, Newsies, and most recently Oklahoma as Will Parker. He has been playing violin since he was four and hopes to pursue a career in music composition/education.

Ethan’s first full orchestra piece, Dream Theme and Variations has a whimsical, exciting sound. His influences include Stephen Sondheim, Alan Menken, and James Newton Howard, who are some of his favorite modern composers.

“It was fun to write this piece because I felt like I was telling a story. Each section has a different feel, or color, that represents the different stage of the adventure. I hope that when people hear it, their imagination takes them on a journey.”

Ethan would like to thank Mrs. Stuart, Mr. Peterson, his friends, and family for their knowledge and support!

Selections from E.T. (The Extra-Terrestrial)

John Williams (b. 1932); arr. John Cacavas

John Williams is an American composer, conductor, and pianist born in New York in 1932. He is considered one of the greatest film composers of all time and has composed music for over 100 films. He is best known for his work scoring the Star Wars franchise, Jaws, Indiana Jones, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Schindler’s List, and the Harry Potter series. Williams studied music at Juilliard School and later at UCLA. After completing his studies, he worked as a jazz pianist and session musician in Hollywood. In the 1960s, Williams began his career in film scoring, with his first major score being for the 1965 film Daddy-O. He went on to produce some of the most iconic film scores in history, winning five Academy Awards, four Golden Globe awards, and 25 Grammy awards for his work in music composition. Williams is still active in the film industry today, continuing to produce new scores for both film and television.

The music from E.T. is a cinematic orchestral score composed by John Williams in 1982. The score incorporates a varied range of musical styles and themes, ranging from soaring and emotional orchestral passages, to whimsical and playful melodies, perfectly capturing the mood and tone of the film and its story. At its core, the music from E.T. is a moving and poignant exploration of the bonds of friendship, family, and love. The music from E.T. remains a beloved and timeless classic, emblematic of the magical and emotional power of film music.

The arrange, John Cacavas, remains true to John Williams’s intent and weaves the featured themes seamlessly in a challenging and exhilarating compilation. Some of themes from the original score included in this arrangement are the mysterious Opening Theme, the soaring and uplifting Flying Theme, and the exciting and rhythmic Adventures on Earth.

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

Symphony Orchestra

An Outdoor Overture  Aaron Copeland (1900 - 1990)

As one of America’s most iconic composers, Aaron Copeland etched his mark in the American musical landscape both literally and figuratively with his ability to write music that evokes a sense of open grandeur. This idiomatic quality is most notable in one of his many famous works, Four Dance Episodes from the ballet Rodeo. Listening to the music of Copland is like having a sense of seeing the wide open west with one’s ears. Unlike the programmatic nature that led to the titling of his other compositions, the open-air quality of an early piano version of the overture is what led to the title for the work.

The inspiration for the piece is credited to his friend Alexander Richter, head of the Music Department of the High School of Music and Art in New York City. Richter and Copland collaborated in a campaign for the slogan “American Music for American Youth”. The overture would serve as the “opening gun” for the ad. Copland immediately suspended his current project, music to the ballet, Billy the Kid (also performed by the OYO Symphony Orchestra in May 2009) to promptly engage in composing the piece in 1938. In December of that year, its successful premier has led to it becoming regularly programmed by orchestras all over the world since.

In Copland’s own words, the extract below best describes “play by play” what is happening in the piece:

The piece starts in a large and grandiose manner with a theme that is immediately developed as a long solo for the trumpet with a string pizzicato accompaniment. A short bridge passage in the woodwinds leads imperceptibly to the first theme of the allegro section, characterized by repeated notes. Shortly afterwards, these same repeated notes, played broadly, give us a second, snappy march-like theme, developed in a canon form. There is an abrupt pause, a sudden decrescendo, and the third, lyric theme appears, first in the flute, then the clarinet and finally, high up in the strings. Repeated notes on the bassoon seem to lead the piece in the direction of the opening allegro. Instead, a fourth and final theme evolves another march theme, but this time less snappy, and with more serious implications. There is a build-up to the opening grandiose introduction again, continuing with the trumpet solo melody, this time sung by all the strings in a somewhat smoother version. A short bridge section based on steady rhythm brings a condensed recapitulation of the allegro section. As a climactic moment all the themes are combined. A brief coda ends the work on the grandiose note of the beginning.
Afro-American Symphony
I. Moderato assai (Longings)
II. Adagio (Sorrows)
III. Animato (Humor)
IV. Lento, con risoluzione (Aspirations)
William Grant Still (1895-1978)

William Grant Still grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas and had a circuitous path of training in his earlier years that began at Wilberforce College and Oberlin. Following college his schooling continued in the form of on the job training as both an oboist and composer. At first, his exposure to composition consisted of writing for commercial music. But upon studying with Edgar Varese, he was encouraged to explore further his lyrical voice in composition. Through further encouragement and experimentation, Still developed a unique voice that was shared on International Composers Guild concerts where he met conductors who would become his champions.

Most of the composer's formative time was spent in New York City where he was entrenched as a working arranger on Broadway and on radio programs. It was there that three of his major works including Africa, the ballet Sahdji and tonight's feature work, Symphony No. 1 known as the Afro-American Symphony were performed. But in 1934 he earned a Guggenheim fellowship enabling him to depart from New York and move to Los Angeles where he developed connections in Hollywood and composed eight operas as well as a wealth of orchestral and chamber music.

Still's Symphony No. 1 is not only the composer's most famous piece, but one of the most popular American symphonies of all time. Early sketches of work began in 1924 just after he had finished playing on Broadway for Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle's Shuffle Along, a musical comedy that launched the careers of many performing artists and inaugurated the Harlem Renaissance. Other projects took the composers attention from finishing the symphony until several years later. In the composers words, "It was not until the Depression struck that I went jobless long enough to let the Symphony take shape. In 1930 I rented a room in a quiet building not far from my home in New York and began to work." That motivation to create resulted in a symphony that was completed in just two months.

The symphony utilizes the blues as the unifying element. At the time, this style was by some considered immoral and trivial. But Still reimagined the blues as a classical art form that expressed the hopes and yearnings of a lowly people working toward a better life. It was the composers ability to demonstrate the inherent dignity of black folk music as an act of racial vindication in contrast to being critiqued as inferior.

The symphony opens in sonata form, a common three-part framework where themes are introduced, developed and brought back over the course of the movement. To start, a 12-bar blues pattern forms the harmonic backdrop. Laid over the top of the blues line are showcased groups of instruments playing themes reminiscent of a Black spiritual.

The two middle movements capture distinct moods with melodic motifs taken from the beginning movement only they are developed in new contexts. The second movement casts a clear expression of sadness whereas the third movement jumps for joy with a flair for local color with the incision of the banjo. The last movement features a heartbreaking opening that ultimately gives way to a return of the original blues theme bringing the symphony to an energetic and stately close.

According to Douglas Shadle, Assistant Professor of Musicology at Vanderbilt University:

"Today, Still's daughter Judith believes that "the First Symphony shows him recognizing, with joy, that God had given him a gift that would change the thinking of the public."

William Grant Still became the first African American to have his music performed on the largest concert stages in America and abroad and was the first African American conductor to direct a top level American symphony orchestras and opera companies.

Corrections to Season Program
Jihyo Yoo (not Jiahn Yoo) - 2nd Flute in Symphony Orchestra
Tae Kim - Flute in Philharmonia Orchestra

We apologize for these oversights.

Welcome New Students

Symphony Orchestra
Michael McMartin - trumpet
String Orchestra
Shoken Han - violin

Special thanks to our volunteer photographers!
Sam Dao
Christophe Gaillard
Ch Zhou
Becky Zielinski

Auditions for returning and new students will be held through May 21, 2023.
For more information or to sign-up for an audition, visit oyomi.org.
Congratulations 2023 OYO Seniors!

Kendall Allen has played Violin in OYO for four years, enjoys playing soccer, running cross country, and playing video games. Kendall will be attending Purdue University to study aerospace engineering. Kendall’s favorite moment during OYO is the feeling you get when you hear the final note ring at a concert, and the pride of creating something beautiful together.

Matthew Allen has played Trombone in OYO for one year, joining OYO because he wanted to try something new. Matthew has been in band since 6th grade, participating in Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and State Solo Ensemble. He also enjoys fishing and playing video games with his friends. Matthew plans on majoring in fisheries and wildlife management and will be marching DCW with Spirit of Atlanta over the summer. His favorite memory is joking with his friends in the back instead of counting 81 rests.

Alena Bajcz has played Violin in OYO for five years, first joining in 7th grade after a friend told them about the orchestra. Alena enjoys playing violin, cooking, and reading. Alena plans to attend college to study chemical engineering and will never forget the first imperson concert after Covid.

Makenzie Barber has played Trombone in OYO for three years, having joined OYO in order to play different pieces outside of band. She enjoys hanging out with friends, hiking, and playing other instruments. Makenzie plans on majoring in music education next year and her favorite memory is the first in-person OYO concert.

Van Bellomo has played Tuba in OYO for two years after his friend initially encouraged him to audition and is looking forward to camping with his family this summer. Van is planning to attend music school and will always remember performing In The Steppes of Central Asia, composed by Alexander Borodin.

Celeste Chan has played Violin in OYO for eight years after being introduced to the orchestra by her violin teacher when she was 9 years old. She enjoys playing piano and violin in her free time, along with running for her school’s track team. Celeste plans to attend Michigan State University where she will study Biology. She enjoyed meeting new people and playing a different variety of music every cycle. The feeling of the orchestra coming together after weeks of practice was very rewarding.

Daniel Choi has played Violin in OYO for six years. He has had interest in writing his own music, but OYO has helped him realize that the joy of working together in an orchestra with friends in order to play a perfect piece will never be topped. Daniel plans on joining the orchestra at the University of Michigan to continue his interest in music. His favorite memory was actually the first year of the pandemic. “Everyone felt weird and uncomfortable but recording ourselves and uploading was a cool experience.”

Kayla Cole has played Violin in OYO for four years, enjoys baking, spending time with her horse, and reading. Kayla plans to attend Albion College, where she will play softball and study pre-veterinary medicine. She will always remember how Ms. Stuart would explain the music through interpretative dance, their fun rehearsals full of jokes, and the concert where nearly all the pieces were from musicals.
Michael Collier has played Cello in OYO for six years and enjoys a number of outdoor activities, from hiking to mountain biking. Michael plans to pursue a pre-med track at Hillsdale College while staying active in the music community. He will always remember what a privilege it was to play great music with his similarly passionate peers every week.

James Colling has played violin in OYO for one year and enjoys music, photography, and writing. James plans to study music education or music performance to pursue his passion and expose people to the world of music. His favorite memories of OYO are making friends and performing in the concerts.

Andrew Corkery has played Violin in OYO for one year, having always heard great things about OYO from his older brother and a Farmington High classmate, who both spoke very highly of Mr. M. Andrew will be attending Wayne State University, planning to major in history and minor in music. He enjoyed performing with all the orchestras and seeing the results of all the hard work. “It was a truly great experience!”

Sophia Dobbie has played Flute and Piccolo in OYO for two years, enjoys hanging out with friends, working out, traveling, and playing music. Sophia will be attending the University of Tennessee to major in Flute Performance. She will always remember her first concert with OYO, which confirmed for her that music is what she wants to do with the rest of her life.

Missole Doe has played Violin in OYO for ten years and never realized how much it would impact her life, which has been enriched by the people she has met and the various experiences the organization has provided her. She enjoys playing violin and tennis in her free time along with spending time picking up new hobbies and interests. Missole plans on attending the University of Michigan to study business. Her favorite memory is when one time the room was so cold during the winter but from all of the laughter and playing the room seemed to warm up in no time.

Phillip Duong has played Violin in OYO for four years. Music and the arts have always been an important part of Phillip’s life as he spends much of his time practicing his violin, listening to music, or watching movies. He feels that the arts allow him to express and explore himself in ways he never could have imagined. Phillip plans to continue his music studies at SFSU in music education and hopes to become a high school music teacher one day. Phillip’s favorite memory in OYO was when he swore by accident, and everyone heard him because he did it during a rest.

Ian Frisch has played Bass in OYO for six years and is looking forward to leading a life of adventure. Ian plans on either attending college in the Netherlands or enlisting in the US Air Force. His favorite memory is zipping himself up in his case with the other basses.

Jessica Glidden has played Violin in OYO for four years, joining OYO because it allowed her to grow her skills and love for music. She enjoys swimming, weight lifting, photography, and art. Jessica plans on attending Oakland University to pursue business and marketing. Jessica’s favorite memories are performing in the concerts.

Stephany Guevara has played Violin in OYO for four years, enjoys reading anything from Rory Gilmore’s list, photographing weekly outings with friends, and listening to her favorite artist Lana Del Ray. Stephany plans to major in psychology and will always remember performing “America” from West Side Story and the suite from Video Games Live. She loves everything about the experience of playing music for a live audience, from the rush of adrenaline when walking onstage to the fulfillment of the applause that culminates a performance well done.

Lily Holifield has played Violin in OYO for ten years. She started playing violin at the age of 7 and joined OYO in third grade to meet other kids interested in music. Outside of her many music activities she enjoys gaming with friends and checking out all the local Boba Tea shops! Lily plans to attend Oakland University to study instrumental music education and violin performance. Her favorite memory in OYO was being part of Symphony of the Ages, playing in the aisle surrounded by hundreds of other musicians.

Grace Hwang has played Violin in OYO for three years, enjoys cooking and ice skating. Grace plans to attend college to study psychology. She will always remember the concerts as her favorite part of OYO.

Keigo Iwao has played Violin in OYO for three years, enjoys hanging out with friends, traveling, and trying new foods. Keigo is planning to study marketing while staying active in music and will always remember Ms. Stuart’s story times during rehearsals and the feeling of everyone playing the last note at the concerts and ending together.

Eunho Jung has played Cello in OYO for seven years, enjoys playing tennis, going on long walks, and listening to music. Eunho plans to attend Vanderbilt University to study cello performance and biology. Performing Dvorak Cello Concerto with the orchestra was a highlight of her time with OYO, and she appreciated being able to broaden her musical experiences through the years.

Oliver Kayi has played Violin in OYO for nine years, being first introduced to OYO because his school did not offer orchestra, and it has become one of his favorite outlets for “de-stressing through creative expression”. During his free time he runs a small landscaping business. Oliver plans on studying civil engineering at the University of Michigan, but he also plans on continuing his involvement in a community orchestra. His favorite memory of OYO was when for one concert, the group had not been able to get through one of the pieces in rehearsals without stopping, but in the performance, everything came together more beautifully than he ever thought was possible! His friends got to witness a great performance!

Emma King has played Violin in OYO for five years, enjoys drawing and gaming in her free time. For the past ten years, she has also participated in an all-year-round competitive swim club. Emma plans on attending college, majoring in graphic design, and working towards her dream of becoming a concept artist at Nintendo. Her favorite memory of OYO was her first symphony concert. She enjoyed playing Symphony No.2 in C Minor by Tchaikovsky because of its energy and will never forget how exciting it was to perform it on stage.
Lucy Lee has played French Horn in OYO for two years, brought to orchestra for the love of playing, which has kept her involved. In her free time, she enjoys playing soccer. Lucy plans to play French horn for Western Michigan University and major in the Multimedia Arts and Technology program where she will learn to be an audio engineer. She will never forget when she and another French horn player decided to rip a horn melody so loud that they ended up laughing till they missed all their next entrances in practice.

Soomin Lee has played B-flat Clarinet in OYO for five years, joining to meet musicians who were as passionate about music as she was. She enjoys listening to music, singing, drawing, and playing PC games. After high school, she hopes to successfully graduate college, go to graduate school, and buy herself an apartment, which she will fill with plants and a cat. Soomin plans to study biology in college and explore other interests, such as psychology, continuing to play music and possibly join a marching band. Her favorite memory in OYO was when she played In the Hall of the Mountain King in Philharmonia Orchestra. It was her first year of OYO, and it showed her what fun and challenging music she would play.

Brendan Lockhart has played Clarinet in OYO for two years and fills up much of his time with music. He is drum major in his marching band, works as a collaborative pianist, and intern with the Rackham Choir. Brendan plans to attend college for music and major in music education and vocal performance, hoping to pursue a career in conducting, be an artistic director, and lead programs for the development of young musicians. His favorite memory in OYO was playing Rimsky-Korsakov’s Capriccio Espagnole in Symphony.

Ethan McMurray has played Violin in OYO for two years, enjoys participating in choir, dance, drama, musical theater, and seeing Broadway musicals. Ethan has performed in Beauty and the Beast, The Music Man, Guys and Dolls, Newsies, and Oklahoma! He plans to pursue a career in music composition or education and will always remember the stories and metaphors shared by Ms. Stuart during rehearsals.

Katelynn Miller has played Bassoon and Alto Saxophone in OYO for four years, enjoys hanging out with friends, and playing with her two cats. She served as the drum major, student assembly secretary, and National Honor Society president at her high school. Katelynn plans to study music education and bassoon performance at Michigan State University and will always remember her first OYO rehearsal serving as her introduction to orchestra.

Helen-Rose Pangilinan has played Violin in OYO for one year and enjoys lacrosse, walks with her dog, and reading. Helen-Rose plans on studying chemical engineering at the University of Kentucky with aspirations of doing research in either biofuels or chemotherapy. Her favorite memory was practicing until 10 pm.

Michelle Peng has played French Horn in OYO for two years, joining OYO for the challenge, and very grateful for the opportunity. In her free time, she enjoys making art and reading. Michelle plans to study math at the University of Michigan. Her favorite memory from OYO was performing the horn solo in Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 2 at the first concert of the 2022-2023 season.

Jacqueline Pletta has played Violin in OYO for six years, enjoys traveling, being with friends and family, and listening to music, as well as performing chamber music. Jacqueline plans to study music performance at Oakland University. Her favorite memory from OYO was playing the Polovtsian Dances.

Nicholas Pochmara has played Viola in OYO for four years, joined OYO through his older brother, and enjoys working out and playing sports, like tennis. Nicholas wants to go to Michigan State University for business and marketing and one day start his own business. He will always remember all of the wild stories that Ms. Stuart has.

Leah Sival has played Bass in OYO for seven years, enjoys orchestra friends, visual art, and playing challenging music. Leah plans to study creative design for video games while staying active in the music community at Michigan State University. They will always remember how fun it was to perform with three of the orchestras for the final OYO concert in 2022.

Teodor Vujic has played Bassoon in OYO for three years, joining OYO so he could play more interesting pieces. In his free time, he enjoys making reeds and reading. Teodor plans on attending the University of Michigan to study bassoon performance. His favorite memory of OYO is playing The Barber of Seville Overture because it really pushed his abilities.

Jiahn Yoo has played Flute in OYO for three years. She loves to bake in her free time and post on her food Instagram account. Jiahn will be attending the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan next year, where she hopes to continue to play in campus clubs or organizations. Her favorite memory was playing The Golden Spinning Wheel by Dvorak for the Winter concert. “It was a challenging but also such a beautiful piece and I am glad I got the chance to play it!”

Additional Seniors:
Lauren Jin, Hyejin Song, Emerson Tomaszewski

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